

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS – BUDGET ESTIMATES
MARCH 2025**

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND TREATY, GAMING AND RACING,
VETERANS, MEDICAL RESEARCH AND THE CENTRAL COAST

Questions from the Hon Mark Latham MLC

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 1

How much does it cost:

- (a) GWIC and
- (b) Greyhound Racing NSW each year to use Barton Deakin as its lobbyist?

Isn't this a waste of money as surely these bodies don't need to pay a third party to make their views known to Members of Parliament and Ministers?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has not engaged Barton Deakin in any capacity. Costs to Greyhound Racing NSW are a matter for that organisation.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 2

What action is the Minister taking to deal with the problem of favouritism at Racing NSW? I gave the example of Tim Martin outside the clique.

- (a) Will the Minister now examine an example of a stable inside and favoured by the clique?
- (b) Will he undertake to watch a replay of Race 1 at Canterbury on 13 December 2024 when the Chris Waller runner Tempestry wore bell boots (which are banned), giving it no hope, running 2nd last? Tempestry eased in the market from \$16 to \$21 while the other Waller runner Great White Shark firmed from \$1.75 to \$1.40 and won what appeared to be a 'boat race'.
- (c) Will the Minister also examine the Racing NSW Steward's report for that race, which made no mention of the bell boots, market fluctuations or questionable riding tactics? That is, Waller off scot-free.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The *Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996* (the **Act**) establishes Racing NSW as the controlling body for thoroughbred racing in NSW. Enforcement of the Rules of Racing is a matter for Racing NSW. The Act provides that Racing NSW is not subject to the direction or control of the Government.

Any concerns relating to integrity in the thoroughbred racing industry may be raised with the Investigation and Surveillance Unit of Racing NSW via racingintegrity@racingnsw.com.au.

Any complaints relating to integrity and the exercise of functions by a racing official relating to horse racing may be made to an Integrity Assurance Committee, in accordance with section 23A of the Act.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 3

When will the Minister report back to the Committee on the Cooke \$1 land deal at Bathurst?

ANSWER:

See response to Budget Estimates Questions on Notice, pages 5-6 of transcript.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 4

If the \$985,000 used in the property purchase was paid to Saranne Cooke from a third party, such as Racing NSW or the Bathurst Race Club, did she declare it to the ATO for taxation purposes?

ANSWER:

See response to Budget Estimates Questions on Notice, pages 5-6 of transcript.

Questions from the Hon Jeremy Buckingham

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 5

Gambling companies must take reasonable steps to identify the physical location of the person making a bet. A NSW bet is made by a person who is located in NSW when the bet is made.

- (a) How is the physical location of a person placing a bet audited?
- (b) Who audits records held by betting operators of the physical location of persons placing bets?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Section 13L of the *Betting Tax Act 2001* (**BT Act**) requires a betting service provider (BSP) to take 'reasonable steps' to identify the location of a customer placing a bet. The BT Act provides that a betting operator may rely on an individual's residential address, or principal place of residence or a business, to be the person's location. Audit activity is based on the requirement of the BT Act for a BSP to take 'reasonable steps'. Based on this requirement L&GNSW audits the reasonable steps taken, for example whether the BSP undertakes ID verification.

Liquor & Gaming NSW conducts audits of betting service providers' (BSP) compliance with the requirements of the BT Act. This activity is undertaken using powers delegated by the Chief Commissioner of State Revenue. This audit includes assessing whether such reasonable steps have been taken.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 6

Has Liquor & Gaming NSW undertaken any compliance activities to ensure that the gambling customer's addresses are accurate.

(a) Financial year 2020-21?

- i. If yes, how many and how were the compliance activities implemented?
- ii. Were any inaccurate details discovered?
- iii. If yes, what penalties were implemented and against which betting operators?

(b) Financial year 2021-22?

- i. If yes, how many and how were the compliance activities implemented?
- ii. Were any inaccurate details of residency discovered?
- iii. If yes, what penalties were implemented, and against which betting operators?

(c) Financial year 2022-23?

- i. If yes, how many and how were the compliance activities implemented?
- ii. Were any inaccurate details of residency discovered?
- iii. If yes, what penalties were implemented, and against which betting operators?

(d) Financial year 2023-24?

- i. If yes, how many and how were the compliance activities implemented?
- ii. Were any inaccurate details of residency discovered?
- iii. If yes, what penalties were implemented, and against which betting operators?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Liquor & Gaming NSW has commenced audit activity into betting service providers' compliance with their obligations under the *Betting Tax Act 2001 (BT Act)* to pay the Point of Consumption Tax (PoCT), including the requirements in relation to the location of a person placing a bet. The audits cover the period FY19-24.

To date, L&GNSW has completed three pilot audits and has recently commenced a period of rolling audit activity and is currently auditing nine betting service providers.

Observations made in the pilot audits found that those betting service providers employ different processes and systems to identify the location of a person placing a bet and did meet the requirements of the BT Act. For example, through the use of ID verification software to validate a residential address. The requirements imposed on betting service providers around the location of a person placing a bet will remain a focus of L&GNSW's audit activity.

Questions from Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 7

In the context of the design of operations for the future statewide exclusion register, one way for a person to potentially put on that register is if the police apply to do so. The police currently have these powers in relation to the casino. How many police-initiated exclusions have occurred in the last 3 years at the casino?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for the NSW Police, with section 81 of the *Casino Control Act 1992* providing the Commissioner of Police with exclusion powers in relation to casinos.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 8

Section 37A of the Gaming Machine Act allows a club, if it is in a new development area which the Authority is satisfied “does not have the full benefit of the services and facilities of the kind provided by a club”, may open their doors with up to 150 poker machines with no community consultation required and no community benefit fee payable. What is the rationale for allowing 150 poker machines?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Section 37A of the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* aims to encourage the establishment of registered clubs in areas of new residential growth and where there is a need for the type of community services and facilities that they provide.

This special provision applies to local statistical areas that can accommodate the additional machine numbers.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 9

Recent research shows that 44% of veterans with gambling problems report suicidal ideation.

- (a) What specific spending has the government dedicated to address this?
- (b) Please provide a breakdown as to how this money is being spent, year on year, to which programs and what organisations or agencies.

ANSWER:

I am advised:

GambleAware services are funded from the Responsible Gambling Fund to provide free gambling information and support services across NSW.

GambleAware providers do not have dedicated services for veterans. However, the Office of Responsible Gambling has undertaken capacity building with GambleAware providers to support the provision of safe, appropriate and effective support and community engagement services for veterans and their families.

The Office of Responsible Gambling has also provided information and education to veteran support services to build their capacity to identify and respond to veterans experiencing gambling harm.

The Office of Responsible Gambling is also developing specific information resources for veterans and their families, which will be launched in 2025.

In 2024-25, \$19.19 million was allocated to funding gambling information and support services from the Responsible Gambling Fund. There is no specific funding allocation for veteran specific gambling services.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 10

How many poker machines in NSW are located in smoking areas?

- (a) Where this occurs, please provide a list of venues where smoking occurs in poker machine rooms?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government does not hold this information.

Questions from the Hon Chris Rath MLC

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 11

What percentage of NSW Government contracts in 2023-24 were awarded to Aboriginal-owned businesses?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This question is better asked of the Treasurer.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 12

How many Aboriginal business roundtables have been held, and what policy changes have resulted from them?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

There have been seven Aboriginal Business Roundtables since its inception, specific outcomes and further information can be found at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/aboriginal-affairs-nsw/national-agreement-on-closing-gap/aboriginal-business-roundtable>.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 13

What support exists for First Nations entrepreneurs beyond procurement targets?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

NSW is the only state or territory in Australia that has Closing the Gap Priority Reform Five - a dedicated commitment to deliver Aboriginal Economic Prosperity.

The NSW Government has implemented a wide range of measures to the Aboriginal business Sector, as detailed in the Closing the Gap 2022-24 [Implementation Plan](#).

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 14

Why hasn't the economic participation data for 2023-24 been published?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This question is better asked of the Treasurer.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 15

How will the Commissioners be held accountable to Aboriginal communities, and what role will those communities have in assessing their work?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

I am advised: Commissioners are holding themselves accountable to communities, and giving communities the opportunity to assess their work, through several avenues:

- Discussions with community members and Aboriginal organisations in the pre-consultation phase, which is informing consultation design and implementation.
- Ongoing communication back to communities by Commissioners about progress and the themes and priority issues emerging from consultation
- Communities will be able to make submissions in various formats to the consultation process at any point, which will include the ability to respond to the program of rolling feedback.
- Commissioners have committed to holding multiple rounds, and types, of consultation across the 12 months period where possible, which will allow community members and organisations the opportunity to engage with Commissioners at multiple points.
- Consultation planning will be responsive to community sentiment and responses as it progresses, to ensure Commissioners continue to be held accountable for delivering an approach to consultation which actually meets the needs and priorities of Aboriginal people.
- Public Reporting and Transparency: The Treaty Commissioners are expected to deliver a public report on their findings and progress. This reporting ensures that Aboriginal communities are informed about developments and can provide feedback, an additional option for community accountability of Commissioners.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 16

Minister, how much of the allocated Treaty consultation funding has actually been spent?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

As of 4 March 2025, \$375,436 has been spent from the \$5 million allocated to Treaty consultations. This is inclusive of operational expenses and Treaty Commissioner salaries.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 17

Before the election, the government wanted all pubs and clubs with gaming machines to install facial recognition. We've had some major cyber and data breaches since that time and there's certainly a higher level of public caution about their information security. Has the Government properly considered the privacy impacts and costs of this policy?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government has conducted extensive consultation on facial recognition technology (**FRT**), including releasing a public consultation paper. The paper seeks feedback on the key elements of a FRT model, including safeguards designed to mitigate key risks, including cyber, privacy and data breaches.

This consultation paper can be found at: <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/facial-recognition-technology>. Consultation closes on 28 March 2025.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 18

Is it really necessary or proportionate for a country pub or regional bowlo with 5 gaming machines to spend tens of thousands of dollars to install facial recognition technology?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Feedback is being sought as part of the public consultation on the intention to require all hotels and clubs with gaming machines to install FRT about whether FRT should be rolled out uniformly across all venues or specific considerations should be provided to certain venue types.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 19

In 2024 the minister issued a Ministerial Direction to the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority requiring them to consider the Government's agenda when making decisions. Is it your assessment that the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority is following that Direction?

(a) Is the Authority's approach in line with the Government's 24-hour economy agenda?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority (**ILGA**) is required to follow this Ministerial Statement of Expectations, which includes a direction for ILGA to consider the objectives of the Acts it administers in exercising its functions, including facilitating the balanced development in the public interest of the live music, entertainment, tourism and hospitality industries.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 20

Why is the Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority only focussing on harm minimisation when they consider gaming applications and not the other objects of the Act?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority is required to consider the objectives of the Acts it administers when considering applications, including minimising harm and facilitating the balanced development in the public interest of the liquor, gaming, live music, entertainment, tourism and hospitality industries.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 21

In the context of the design of operations for the future statewide exclusion register, one way for a person to potentially put on that register is if the police apply to do so. The police currently have these powers in relation to the casino. So that we can understand the scale of the problem – and without getting into any of the operational matters around why the policy might apply for an exclusion – how many police-initiated exclusions have occurred in the last 3 years at the casino?

ANSWER:

See response to Supplementary Question 7.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 22

Section 37A of the Gaming Machine Act allows a club, if it is in a new development area which the Authority is satisfied “*does not have the full benefit of the services and facilities of the kind provided by a club*”, the applicant club may open their doors with up to 150 poker machines – no community consultation required and, crucially, no community benefit fee payable. What is the rationale for this 150-machine largesse, when Western Australian clubs, in new development areas or older suburbs, can manage without a single poker machine, and existing clubs pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees for additional machines?

ANSWER:

See response to Supplementary Question 8.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 23

Recent research shows that 44% of veterans with gambling problems report suicidal ideation. Given this alarming relationship, what specific spending has the government dedicated to address that extra, dangerous, link between veterans and gambling?

ANSWER:

See response to Supplementary Question 9.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 24

How many poker machines in NSW are located in smoking areas, requiring venue staff to be exposed to passive smoking in order to serve customers?

ANSWER:

See response to Supplementary Question 10.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 25

Wesley Mission has been advocating for venue by venue loss data to be published 6 monthly as it is done in Victoria. Liquor and Gaming advise that legal advice over privacy prevents that in NSW, but has not been more specific. Wesley Mission has provided research suggesting that the privacy provisions relate to the publication of tax information, and so if no tax data is published, why can't venue by venue loss data be made available, so that MPs and councillors can more accurately determine the losses in their electorates or LGAs?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government is committed to providing detailed and transparent data on gaming machines so the community can be kept well informed about gaming activity in the State.

Secrecy provisions contained in the *Gaming Machines Act 2001*, the *Tax Administration Act 1996* and the *Gaming and Liquor Administration Act 2007* limit the scope for the Government to release information obtained from the centralised monitoring system that collects information from gaming machines. This includes the publication of individual venue profit data.

Gaming machine information is available on a quarterly basis on the Liquor & Gaming NSW website and includes reporting on local government areas and state rankings for gaming machine net profit, including per gaming machine.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 26

The Casino Control Amendment Regulation 2024 that the minister made in August last year imposed regulations requiring casinos to enable patrons to set deposit limits and loss limits. They also impose time limits on how long someone can gamble in a single day or week. Do these rules apply in pubs and clubs?

(a) If no, why not?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

These regulations do not apply to hotels and clubs in NSW.

The *Casino Control Regulation 2019* applies specifically to casinos and does not extend to gaming machines in hotels and clubs, which are regulated separately under the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and *Gaming Machines Regulation 2019*.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 27

How many people took part in the cashless gaming trial?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Across all venues 243 people signed up for the trial and of these 105 people used the technology at least once. The trial research found that as of the end of August 2024 there were 14 users that had used the technology for at least two or more days.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 28

What was the cost of the cashless gaming trial?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

\$3.4 million of the \$100 million Harm Minimisation Fund was allocated for the Independent Panel on Gaming Reform to run and evaluate the cashless gaming trial, including for trial research, technical advice, cyber assurance and uplift, communication, and administrative costs. \$664,000 was spent in 2023-24 and \$1.54 million has been spent in 2024-25 to 31 January 2025, a total of \$2.2 million.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 29

What is the timeline for the government's response to the Independent Panel for Gaming Reform's recommendations?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Independent Panel on Gaming Reform delivered its Roadmap for Gaming Reform Report to Government in November 2024, with the full report published in December 2024. The Government is now considering the three volume, 530-page Roadmap report and its 30 recommendations, and is undertaking analysis to inform its response.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 30

What will be done to preserve the jobs of the Star Casino's 3,000 employees?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Star is a public listed commercial entity and holds the responsibility of maintaining the financial viability of its business.

The Government has provided support to The Star where reasonable and appropriate to protect the best interests of the community.

The NSW Government continues to monitor the situation at the Star.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 31

What is being done to monitor and enforce compliance at the Star Casino in the future?

(a) Will the powers and scope of the NSW Independent Casino Commission be increased?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

In September 2022, the NSW Independent Casino Commission (**the Commission**) was established, with all casino-regulatory functions transferred from the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority to the Commission. The Commission's extensive powers and scope are prescribed in the *Casino Control Act 1992*.

The Commission, as the independent, standalone casino regulator, has the sole responsibility for determining suitability issues. This includes taking any remediation or disciplinary action against an unsuitable casino operator as the Commission sees fit.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 32

Given the Star Casino's failure to address issues of the inquiry into the Star, will the minister cancel the license of the Star?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Independent Casino Commission (**the Commission**) found The Star unsuitable to hold a casino licence and suspended its licence in October 2022. The licence remains suspended as The Star has been unable to satisfy the Commission it has regained suitability to hold the licence.

Casino licensee suitability decisions are solely in the Commission's power to make.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 33

Minister, if I want to play pokies at The Star, I have to sign up for a membership card, prove who I am, and I can only use up to \$5,000 per day in cash. But if I walk 400 metres up the road to the Pymont Bridge Hotel, I don't have to prove who I am, don't need to go to the trouble of getting a card and can use as much cash I want - Why are there different rules for using the same product?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The *Casino Control Regulation 2019*, which imposes these requirements, applies specifically to casinos and does not extend to gaming machines in hotels and clubs, which are regulated separately under the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and *Gaming Machines Regulation 2019*.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 34

Concerning the recommendations of the Bell Inquiry into The Star, Recommendation 231 stipulated that rules put in place for The Star, must be put in place for other venues because otherwise the policy objective of harm minimization is undermined. Bell also said “there are related reasons of commercial fairness.” – Why have the recommendations of the Bell Inquiry not been heeded?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The report of the Bell Inquiry into The Star does not include a Recommendation 231.

Regulatory reforms were a necessary and adequate response to the overwhelming evidence of wrongdoings and failures by casino operators.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 35

In the third quarter of 2024, gaming losses in clubs were up nearly 6% whilst gaming losses in pubs were up nearly 11% - in just three months. This coincided with new rules coming into place at The Star requiring customers to use cards and be subject to cash limits - Can you explain the reason behind these changes?

(a) Isn't it a fact that the lack of regulatory parity is a key reason for Star's financial Challenges?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The carded play and cashless gaming reforms for casinos are managed separately to those for other licensed venues in NSW, as the policy settings between casinos and hotels and clubs are different. The regulatory arrangements for gaming in hotels and the clubs are distinct from casinos and set out in the *Gaming Machines Act 2001* and *Gaming Machines Regulation 2019*.

Regulatory reforms were a necessary and adequate response to the overwhelming evidence of wrongdoings and failures by casino operators.

The Star is a publicly listed commercial entity and is responsible for maintaining the financial viability of its business.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 36

Last year the Australian Financial Review reported that Crown Sydney has asked your government for permission to operate gaming machines. Have you made a decision on the Crown's request?

(a) If the request is under consideration:

- i. How will you be making that decision?
- ii. What factors will you consider?
- iii. And have you commissioned any research on how this proposal may exacerbate harm?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The *Casino Control Act 1992* does not allow Crown Sydney to operate electronic gaming machines at the Barangaroo Restricted Gaming Facility.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 37

On the 22nd of November 2021, Gosford Racecourse received \$8 million in Racing for the Regions funding to support the construction of 200 stables. Why is it that after four years of this being announced no construction has taken place for the new stables?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

A Development Application (**DA**) was formally lodged with Central Coast Council on 7 March 2025. DA Approval is pending.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 38

Can you confirm whether Racing NSW has required Gosford Racecourse to sell parcels of land—2, 4, 8, and 10 Faunce Street, as well as 5 Blakett Street—to Racing NSW themselves to provide the site for the stables' construction?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Gosford Race Club and Racing NSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 39

Does this mean that Racing for the Regions funding has been used by Racing NSW to build stables owned by Racing NSW on land also owned by Racing NSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Funding under the Racing for the Regions Program is allocated for the development of racing infrastructure at nine regional racecourses, with Racing NSW as the sole funding recipient. The Deed in place between the Department and Racing NSW does not include any requirements in relation to the ownership of land.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 40

What agreements and provisions have been made to ensure Gosford Racecourse has access to and benefits from these facilities set to be owned by Racing NSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Gosford Race Club and Racing NSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 41

Do you think it is appropriate for Racing NSW to use taxpayer funds to force a regional race club to sell them land to build infrastructure which will be owned by Racing NSW rather than the Regional Club?

(a) If yes, why?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Funding under the Racing for the Regions Program is allocated for the development of racing infrastructure at nine regional racecourses, with Racing NSW as the sole funding recipient. The Deed in place between the Department and Racing NSW does not include any requirements in relation to the ownership of land.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 42

When will there be a permanent, fully staffed veteran support centre in Western NSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Support for veterans and their families is a responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. The NSW Government supports the Commonwealth in the roll-out of its 'Hub and Spoke' model of veterans care in many ways including sitting on the Commonwealth, States and Territories committee under the Veterans Ministerial Council.

The Commonwealth is in Partnership with RSL Lifecare (RSLLC) to deliver Veterans Wellbeing Centres across NSW. I recommend any questions regarding future 'Hubs' be directed to RSLLC and the Commonwealth.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 43

Why is per-capita funding for veteran support services in regional NSW significantly lower than in metropolitan areas?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Funding for veteran support services is a responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, any questions regarding veterans support funding should be directed to the Commonwealth Minister for Veterans Affairs.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 44

Will the minister publicly commit to increasing veteran support funding for regional NSW to be proportional to the number of veterans living there?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Funding for veteran support services is a responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, any questions regarding veterans support funding should be directed to the Commonwealth Minister for Veterans Affairs.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 45

What pressure has the minister placed on the federal government to deliver more support for regional veterans?

ANSWER:

Part of my responsibilities as Minister for Veterans is to represent NSW at the Veterans Ministerial Council meetings. Current and future funding arrangements between the Commonwealth and States/Territories has been a subject of constant discussion in previous meetings. The NSW Government is committed to advocating on behalf of veterans across NSW for better services and support.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 46

Given that veterans in rural and remote NSW face higher rates of PTSD, depression, and suicide risk when compared to their urban counterparts, why is there no dedicated state-funded veteran-specific mental health services west of the Great Dividing Range?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Funding for veteran support services is a responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, any questions regarding veterans support funding should be directed to the Commonwealth Minister for Veterans.

NSW has the National Centre for Veterans Health located at Concord Repatriation Hospital, the only facility of its kind in Australia. The Centre is under the remit and is funded through the Ministry for Health.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 47

Was the minister consulted in the development of the 2025 Parliamentary Sitting Calendar, specifically with the scheduling of a sitting on Remembrance Day?

- (a) Did the minister raise any concerns over the inclusion of this day?
- (b) Is the minister aware of any intended compromise for the date to allow Members to attend Remembrance Day services within their electorate?
 - i. If not, is this something the Minister will commit to advocating for?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The former coalition government scheduled sitting days on Remembrance Day in 2014, 2015, 2020 and 2021

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 48

Minister, does translational research remain a top priority for medical research in NSW?

- (a) What indicators will be monitored to ensure the goal of translational research is being achieved outside of organisations involved in the Translational Research Grant Scheme?
- (b) Is translational research between independent research funds and public organisations a priority for the upcoming 2025-2026 budget?

ANSWER:

Translational research remains a top priority for medical research in NSW.

All applications for research grant programs administered through the Office for Health and Medical Research are required to include information regarding:

- the long-term goal and clinical significance of the research
- expected pathway for this to occur
- how the researchers will engage with 'next users', i.e. research partners and other stakeholders who will take the research to the next step on the translation pathway.

This requirement is outlined in each respective Grant Guideline.

A range of indicators are collected for funded projects such as publications. On completion, funded research projects also report on knowledge advancement and their research impact on healthcare policy and practice.

A range of programs and initiatives will support translational research in 2025-26 including research grant programs administered through the Office for Health and Medical Research.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 49

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

Ministers are not required to disclose details of the following meetings:

- meetings involving Ministers, ministerial staff, parliamentarians or government officials (whether from NSW or other jurisdictions)
- meetings that are strictly personal, electorate or party political
- social or public functions or events
- meetings held overseas (which must be disclosed in accordance with regulation 6(1)(b) of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 and Attachment B to the Premier's Memorandum), and
- matters for which there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. Ministers' diary disclosures are published quarterly on The Cabinet Office's website (<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 50

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

In accordance with the Premier's Memorandum M2015-05 Publication of Ministerial Diaries and Release of Overseas Travel Information, all Ministers publish extracts from their diaries, summarising details of scheduled meetings held with stakeholders, external organisations, third-party lobbyists and individuals.

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(<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/the-cabinet-office/access-to-information/ministers-diary-disclosures>)

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 51

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) requires Ministers to make certain disclosures to the Premier and the Secretary of The Cabinet Office.

I comply with my obligations under the Ministerial Code.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 52

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?
- (c) On what page are redundancies published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Redundancies are published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) Annual Reports under employee related expenses.

Published Annual reports can be accessed on respective Departmental websites.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 53

On what date were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio published?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The annual reports were tabled in accordance with the requirements of the Government Sector Finance Act 2018.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 54

Were the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio printed?

- (a) If yes, what was the printing cost(s) for each department / agency?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Annual reports should be prepared in accordance with the NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements. TP23-10 also requires that an agency's annual report contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including printing costs.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 55

Did the annual report(s) from 2023-24 for each department / agency in your portfolio use in part or full an external production / body / consultant to draft?

(a) If yes, what was the cost(s) for each department / agency?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

In accordance with the Treasury Policy and Guidelines TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements, an agency's annual report must contain the total external costs incurred in the production of the report, including fees for consultants.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 56

In what month will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for each department / agency in your portfolio be published?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The annual report of a reporting GSF agency is to be prepared, submitted and tabled in accordance with requirements under the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 and Treasurer's Direction 23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 57

Will the 2024-25 annual report(s) for the department / agency in your portfolio include a printed copy?

(a) If yes, how much is budgeted for printing in 2024-25 for each department / agency?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The annual report of a reporting GSF agency is to be prepared, submitted and tabled in accordance with requirements under the Government Sector Finance Act 2018 and Treasurer's Direction 23-11 Annual reporting requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 58

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?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Ministers' Office Handbook provides guidance in relation to recordkeeping obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

The Cabinet Office also provide guidance, advice, training and support on these obligations for Ministers' offices.

Further information is available on State Records NSW's website (www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/state-records-nsw)

My Ministerial office complies with its obligations under the State Records Act 1998.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 59

On what page is advertising published in the respective Department(s)/Agency(s) annual report(s)?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Annual reports are published on the website of the relevant department or agency and are also held by the Parliamentary Library.

Department and agency expenditure is also published at data.nsw.gov.au

Agency expenditure must be reported in accordance with TD23-11 Annual reporting requirements and TPG23-10 Annual Reporting Requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 60

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 website URL?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Department of Premiers Department's gifts and hospitality register is available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/gifts-and-hospitality-register>

The Department of Communities and Justice's gifts and hospitality register is available at:

<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/resources/policies/gifts-benefits-and-bequests.html>

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport gifts and benefits register is managed and held centrally, and the Department is currently considering the publication of the information on the Department's website. The Department's gift and benefit policy is publicly available at: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/policies-plans-and-procedures/gifts-benefits-and-hospitality>

All NSW Health Organisations must maintain a Gifts and Benefits Register under the mandatory requirements of the NSW Health policy directive Conflict of Interest and Gifts and Benefits (PD2015_045). Registers are available on request to the Right to Information contact at the relevant NSW Health Organisation.

A list of contacts for all organisations is provided at the following URL:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gipaa/Pages/table-of-contacts.aspx>

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 61

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

(a) If yes, what is the website URL?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff attached to the Ministers' Office Handbook and available on the NSW Government website.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 62

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?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All Ministerial staff are required to comply with their disclosure obligations under the Gifts, Hospitality and Benefits Policy for Office Holder Staff and I expect them to do so.

A breach of the Policy may be a breach of the Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct. The Policy includes disclosure obligations for Ministerial staff in respect of gifts, hospitality and benefits over \$150.

If a Ministerial staff member is required by their role to accompany their Office Holder at an event that the Office Holder is attending as the State's representative, or where the Office Holder has asked the staff member to attend, then attendance at that event would not constitute a gift or benefit for the purposes of the Policy.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 63

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

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

All Ministers are expected to comply with their obligations under the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct (Ministerial Code) at all times.

The Ministerial Code sets the ethical standards of behaviour required of Ministers and establishes practices and procedures to assist with compliance. Among other matters, the Ministerial Code requires Ministers to:

- disclose their pecuniary interests and those of their immediate family members to the Premier
- seek rulings from the Premier if they wish to hold shares, directorships, other business interests or engage in secondary employment (known as 'prohibited interests')
- identify, avoid, disclose and manage conflicts of interest disclose gifts and hospitality with a market value over \$500.

A substantial breach of the Ministerial Code (including a knowing breach of any provision of the Schedule) may constitute corrupt conduct for the purposes of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 64

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?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Ministers and Ministerial Staff are not eligible to receive Departmental credit cards except in the case of overseas travel. In cases of overseas travel short-term cards will be issued and returned at the completion of official travel together with a travel diary for fringe benefit tax purposes.

Where a NSW Government-issued credit card is provided the credit card must only be used for official overseas business trips and official business purposes, this includes for transport to/from the airport when departing/returning from the trip. NSW Government-issued credit cards for official business trips overseas will be held with government contract bankers and used within credit limits imposed.

Credit cards are a useful means of expenditure control, but their use should never be for personal purposes.

Costs associated with overseas travel are published on the NSW Government website in line with M2015-05.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 65

Do public servants in your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) been issued with department/agency credit cards?

- (a) If yes, what is the website URL of the credit card policy?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The use and management of purchasing (credit) cards for official purposes is in accordance with standard procurement arrangements of the NSW Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 66

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

I make use of an office in 52 Martin Place, NSW Parliament and my Electorate office.

When travelling, Ministers may make ad hoc arrangements to work for periods in Departmental offices.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 67

As at 1 February 2025, how many senior executives in your portfolio department(s) / agency(s) have a driver?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

No senior executives employed by the Premier's Department, the Department of Communities and Justice, the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport and the Ministry of Health have a driver.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 68

Has your Ministerial Office received a GIPA Application(s) since 28 March 2023?

(a) If yes, how many?

(b) If yes, what is the website URL of the disclosure log?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

GIPA statistics for Ministers' offices are published in the annual reports of the Department of Communities and Justice.

My Ministerial Office disclosure log is available on the Premier's Department website.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 69

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)?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009:

An agency is not subject to the direction or control of any Minister in the exercise of the agency's functions in dealing with a particular access application.

The office of the Premier complies with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 70

What is the website URL for the GIPA Act disclosure log each of your portfolio department(s) / agency(s)?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Department of Premiers Department's disclosure log is available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/premiers-department/access-to-information/premiers-department-disclosure-log>

The Department of Communities and Justice's disclosure log is available at is available at:

<https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/about-us/gipa/disclosure-log.html>

The Ministry of Health's Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport register is available at:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gipaa/Pages/disclosure-log-table.aspx>

The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dciths/policies-plans-and-procedures/access-to-information/disclosure-log>.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 71

Are you on TikTok?

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

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Circular DCS-2025-01 Cyber Security NSW Directive - Restricted Applications List advises how NSW Government agencies are required to appropriately manage risks to NSW Government information on government-issued devices, or personal devices that are used for government business.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 72

Are you and/or your ministerial staff on Signal?

(a) If yes, do you and/or your ministerial staff access Signal from a NSW Government device?

(b) If yes, does Signal comply with the State Records Act?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Like the former Coalition Government, a range of communications are used by the NSW Government.

I comply with the *State Records Act 1998* and I expect all staff members to comply with their obligations under the *State Records Act 1998*.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 73

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?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Ministers have undertaken a program of Ministerial induction training. Ministers have undertaken training on the Respectful Workplace Policy.

Members of Parliament are provided with a Skills Development Allowance that may be used in a manner consistent with the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal Annual Determination.

Ministerial Office Budgets are managed in accordance with the Ministers' Office Handbook.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 74

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

ANSWER:

I do not have a Parliamentary Secretary.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 75

Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?

ANSWER:

I refer to Supplementary Question 74.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 76

Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?

ANSWER:

I refer to Supplementary Question 74.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 77

Has your Parliamentary Secretary ever used your Ministerial Vehicle?

ANSWER:

I refer to Supplementary Question 74.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 78

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?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Department of Customer Service (DCS) is responsible for managing www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases and the publication of media releases.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 79

As Minister, do you approve overseas travel for public servants from your portfolio department(s)/agency(s)?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Government Travel and Transport Policy provides a framework for NSW Government travelling employees and covers official air and land travel by public officials using public money. Section 2.1 of that Policy sets out approvals required in relation to overseas travel. Further information in relation to the Policy can be found here: <https://www.info.buy.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/travel-and-transport-policy>

NSW Treasury Policy and Guidelines – Annual Reporting Requirements (TPG-10) requires agencies to include information on overseas visits by officers and employees in agency annual reports.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 80

Does your portfolio department(s)/agency(s) keep a register of data breaches in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection (PPIP) Act?

(a) If yes, what is the website?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Premier's Department, Department of Communities and Justice, Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport and the Ministry of Health each keep an internal register of eligible data breaches as required by section 59ZE, Part 6A of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act).

Agencies are required by section 59ZD to prepare, publish and make publicly available a data breach policy. The PPIP Act does not provide for the internal register to be made public.

Under clause 17, of Schedule 1 to the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, it is conclusively presumed that there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of information contained in a document prepared for the assessment of an eligible data breach under the PPIP Act, Part 6A, if the information could worsen a public sector agency's cyber security or lead to further data breaches.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 81

As Minister, do you have a discretionary fund?

- (a) If yes, what department(s) / agency(s) administer it?
- (b) If yes, what is the website URL detailing expenditure?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Treaty, I have a discretionary fund that is administered by Aboriginal Affairs NSW and is available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/2024-2025-ministers-discretionary-fund>

As Minister for Veterans, I have a discretionary fund that is administered by the Office for Veteran Affairs and is available at:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/minister-for-veterans-discretionary-fund>

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 82

Are you a member of the Qantas Chairmans Lounge?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Constitution (Disclosures by Members) Regulation 1983 (Regulation) sets out Members' obligations to disclose relevant pecuniary and other interests in periodic returns to Parliament.

The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Parliamentary Privilege and Ethics Report on Review of the Code of Conduct, Aspects of Disclosure of Interests, and Related Issues (December 2010) notes that:

"Advice has been received from the Crown Solicitor that use of the Chairman's Lounge by invitation is not a "gift" for the purposes of clause 10 of the Regulation, as it does not involve disposition of property. However, when the membership leads to an upgrade valued at more than \$250, it becomes disclosable as a contribution to travel and should be reported under clause 11 of the Regulation."

Clause 16 of the Regulation allows a Member to, at their discretion, disclose any direct or indirect benefit, advantage or liability, whether pecuniary or not. Relevant disclosures have been made to The Cabinet Office and to the NSW Parliament.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 83

How many of your Ministerial staff is a local government councillor(s)?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Ministerial staff are employed by Ministers, on behalf of the State, in their capacity as "political office holders" under Part 2 of the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013. All Ministerial staff are required to comply with the NSW Office Holder's Staff Code of Conduct, including obligations to seek approval for secondary employment, and to take reasonable steps to avoid, and in all cases disclose, any actual or potential conflicts of interest (real or apparent).

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 84

In your answer in relation to funding for the Anzac Memorial in Hyde Park you said: "The envelope is currently adequate. The builders are actually funding a lot of work under the contract."

- (a) What is the value of the total funding 'envelope' that has been provided for this project?
- (b) Why are the builders funding a lot of the work under this contract?
- (c) Will they be reimbursed?
- (d) Could you explain how this contract works in relation to builder and government contributions and who pays for what specifically and how much?

ANSWER:

In 2014 the NSW Government committed \$20.3 million to the Centenary Extension as the centrepiece of the NSW Centenary of Anzac Commemorative Program. In early 2015 the Commonwealth Government recognised the project as one of national significance and committed \$19.6 million from the Anzac Centenary Public Fund. The City of Sydney also spent \$7.5 million towards the upgrade of the existing Pool of Reflection and associated works in the southern part of Hyde Park.

The builders continue to honour the contractual requirement that they rectify all defects with the building. A final payment and bond is still being held against the completion of the defect works.

The contract for the build of the Centenary Extension is a design/construct contract for a lump sum value. The builders are responsible for rectifying the few outstanding defects to the building and are continuing to work cooperatively with the Anzac Memorial to this end.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 85

When did the Office of Veterans' Affairs complete the strategy & deliver it to the Minister?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The NSW Office for Veterans' Affairs has been working collaboratively with my office to ensure that the Veterans Strategy 2025-30 reflects the recommendations of the Royal Commission into defence and Veteran Suicide since the Commission term ended in September 2024.

My office received the final Veterans Strategy 2025-30 in March 2025.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 86

During the hearing the Minister corrected his answer regarding complaints against the Greyhound NSW Board by saying: "For the avoidance of doubt, I received both anonymous and identified." – Could the Minister please clarify who made the 'identified' complaints regarding the board?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

It would not be proper to divulge the personal information of individuals or organisations that have made complaints to me regarding the Greyhound Racing NSW Board without communicating to those individuals first.

If I was to divulge the personal information of such individuals, it would discourage other individuals or organisations to make complaints to me in relation to any matters to do with my portfolios.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 87

How many thoroughbred racehorses were killed in NSW in the 2023-24 racing season during racing or race training?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Racing NSW.

Questions from Ms Abigail Boyd MLC

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 88

Will the Minister request Racing NSW to make amendments to the Rules of Racing to specify that all injuries (not only 'major' fractures) that require veterinary treatment must be reported to the Stewards by nomination time for a race, trial or jump-out?

- (a) Will the Minister request Racing NSW to make amendments to the Rules of Racing to require that reporting, including treatment plans, must be made by the attending veterinarian directly?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

- The Rules of Racing are administered by Racing Australia and adopted by Principal Racing Authorities (**PRAs**) in each jurisdiction, including Racing NSW as the NSW PRA
- Racing NSW is established by the *Thoroughbred Racing Act 1996* (the **Act**) as the controlling body for thoroughbred racing in this State
- The Act provides that Racing NSW is not subject to direction or control by or on behalf of the Government.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 89

Answers provided to my questions in the August Budget Estimates supplementary questions advised that in 2023-24, 428 NSW-registered greyhounds were exported to the US for rehoming as companion animals. Can you clarify the total number of NSW greyhounds that were issued with passports to the US in 2023-24?

- (a) How many NSW greyhounds were exported to the US in 2023-24? Please break this down into how many were rehomed as companion animals, working dogs, died during transportation, other?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**). GRNSW reports greyhound rehoming numbers, including in relation to the US rehoming program, in its annual report. Export numbers are also a matter for GRNSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 90

Can you advise the date that the US greyhound export program re-commenced?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 91

Given significant public concern regarding the program in 2024, did GWIC conduct any review of the program prior to its re-commencement to measure the program's ongoing compliance with the NSW Greyhound Industry Animal Welfare Committee's Best Practice Guidelines for Greyhound Rehoming Organisations.?

(a) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

That the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has no statutory jurisdiction in relation to the management or operation of greyhound rehoming programs. The rehoming programs are a matter for Greyhound racing NSW

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 92

In October 2023, GWIC conducted an audit of the program at the request of the Minister. At the time of the audit, approximately 450 greyhounds had been exported. Given that the number of greyhounds that have now been exported or enrolled to be exported has increased significantly, will the Minister request that GWIC conduct another audit that addresses additional concerns and properly assesses compliance of the program?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (**Commission**) does not have jurisdiction in relation to the management of greyhound rehoming programs by Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**)

The Commission was not required to undertake a review of the GRNSW 'Aussie Mates in the States' program but did so in October 2023 at the invitation of GRNSW (and not at the request of the Minister's Office as inadvertently indicated during the Budget Estimates hearing on 4 March 2025).

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 93

How many total greyhounds have been exported through this program since it was first initiated?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**). GRNSW reports greyhound rehoming numbers, including in relation to the US rehoming program, in its annual report.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 94

In the July to September 2024 life cycle report, 4 greyhounds were euthanised because they were behaviourally unsuitable. What exactly happened with each of these 4 dogs?

- (a) Can you provide details of why this determination was made in each of these cases, and who made it?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

That the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission's (the **Commission**) Greyhound Rehoming Policy restricts the circumstances in which registered greyhounds may be euthanised. Each of the four greyhounds failed a temperament assessment conducted in accordance with that Policy, due to aggressive behaviour, with the owners electing to have the greyhounds euthanised. All four greyhounds were euthanised at veterinary clinics.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 95

In the July to September 2024 life cycle report, of the 755 greyhound retirements 1 had a destination as "other". What happened to this greyhound, and where are they now?

ANSWER:

I am advised

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the **Commission**) has advised that:

- the greyhound was retired to the Wingecarribee Animal Shelter in August 2024
- the Commission does not have jurisdiction in respect of greyhounds kept by people who are not registered greyhound racing industry participants and can therefore provide no further information regarding subsequent ownership of the greyhound.
- Greyhounds rehomed outside the racing industry are placed on the NSW Companion Animals Register and are protected under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 96

On how many occasions has GWIC recorded a breach in this policy?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

No answer provided due to the lack of specificity in this question.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 97

According to GWIC's policy, during warmer months (November, December, January, February, March) regular recordings must be noted in a register with the date, time and location (track/kennel). How does GWIC monitor and oversee compliance with this?

(a) Where is this recorded?

ANSWER:

I am advised

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the **Commission**) has advised that:

- race day kennels at licensed racecourses are equipped with a thermometer which records ambient room temperature
- the role of the Commission's Stewards and On Track Veterinarians in supervising race meetings includes monitoring of kennel temperature

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 98

According to GWIC's policy, if the temperature in the race kennels reaches 24°C, the OTV is to inspect each greyhound after it has been removed from the race kennel and prior to competing in an event. How does GWIC monitor and oversee compliance with this?

(a) Where is this recorded?

ANSWER:

See response to Supplementary Question 97.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 99

According to GWIC's policy, if the temperature in the race kennels reaches 26°C, the steward and OTV are to consult with club officials and if the temperature cannot be reduced promptly then the upcoming events for that meeting may be abandoned or postponed at the direction of the steward in charge of the meeting. How many races have been abandoned or postponed following temperatures exceeding 26 degrees?

(a) How does GWIC monitor and oversee compliance with this?

(b) Where is this recorded?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

That the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission has advised that:

- no race meetings have been abandoned or postponed as a result of kennel temperatures in recent years
- the temperature in race kennels is only likely to rise above 26°C where race kennels are not air conditioned or air conditioning fails.

See response to Supplementary Question 97 for measures for monitoring and overseeing compliance.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 100

Can Liquor and Gaming please provide an update on the progress of developing new mandatory sexual violence training under the RSA course?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Liquor & Gaming NSW is currently working with advocacy groups such as Full Stop Australia to finalise sexual harassment and sexual violence prevention content in Responsible Service of Alcohol training.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 101

In March 2021, NSW trainer Kim Waugh and jockey Serg Lisnyy were charged with 6 separate counts of alleged serious cruelty involving the registered racehorse 'Tarsus'. This cruelty involved the excessive use of spurs during training. Tarsus was then listed as "retired". Can you confirm where the horse 'Tarsus' is now, including whether this horse is still alive?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Racing NSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 102

What oversight and enforcement measures are in place to protect harness horses from the practice of them being attached to the rear of a moving vehicle and dragged around the track for 'training'?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Racing NSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 103

Does the Minister or his office ever receive updates from GWIC about the activities of the Animal Welfare Committee and whether this committee is having any impact on greyhound welfare?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Animal Welfare Committee publicly reports on its activities as part of annual reporting by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 104

Can GWIC or the Minister advise how many GAP NSW dogs are under the care of GRNSW participants?

(a) If this information is not held, does GWIC have the ability to request this data from GRNSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**). Requests for access to information held by GRNSW may be made to that organisation.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 105

Can GWIC or the Minister advise how many GAP NSW dogs are with GAP NSW foster carers?

(a) If this information is not held, does GWIC have the ability to request this data from GRNSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**). Requests for access to information held by GRNSW may be made to that organisation.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 106

Can GWIC or the Minister advise how many GAP NSW dogs are in GAP NSW kennels?

(a) If this information is not held, does GWIC have the ability to request this data from GRNSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**). Requests for access to information held by GRNSW may be made to that organisation.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 107

GWIC or the Minister advise how many GAP NSW dogs are at Hanrob kennels?

(a) If this information is not held, does GWIC have the ability to request this data from GRNSW?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**). Requests for access to information held by GRNSW may be made to that organisation.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 108

How does GWIC manage, account for or report on whether extra greyhounds appear at GRNSW participant properties?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019 and the Greyhound Racing Rules require registered greyhound racing industry participants to notify the Commission of a change in the premises where a greyhound is ordinarily kept, and of any transfers of greyhounds. The Commission does not report on transfers of individual greyhounds.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 109

Since GWIC's establishment, how many complaints has GWIC and GRNSW received about their handling of animal welfare matters from the public or vets or others?

- (a) Who investigates these complaints?
- (b) What has been the outcome of each complaint?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Complaints are forwarded to the Commission's Compliance Team for assessment. Where appropriate, the matter may be referred for an independent investigation. The Commission does not report on complaints received from the public.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 110

How many tracks in NSW do not have safety rails?

- (a) Given that the Taree track recently suspended racing, will racing also be suspended at those tracks?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- The Commission is aware of two currently operating tracks (Nowra and Grafton) that do not have safety rails installed.
- The Commission understands that a safety rail is currently being installed at the Nowra track.

Matters relating to the Taree track are a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 111

Was GWIC aware there was no safety rail at the Taree track prior to the greyhound deaths in January 2025?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

The Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the **Commission**) was aware there was no safety rail at Taree.

Compliance with minimum track standards is ultimately a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW (**GRNSW**) under the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* and the GRNSW Operating Licence.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 112

In December 2024, GWIC suspended 17 GRNSW participants all of which involved matters of multiple missing greyhounds. Can you confirm what is being done to locate these missing dogs?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- suspensions imposed on 6 of the 17 industry participants have been lifted
- in these cases, participants adequately accounted for their greyhounds – either presenting them for check-in or providing the relevant notification
- the remaining 11 cases were referred to the Commission's Compliance Team. As investigations remain ongoing, it would be inappropriate to comment further.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 113

There continues to be widespread concerns about GRNSW participants and third party rehoming where neither GRNSW or GWIC is taking responsibility and when "rehomed" these dogs fall off the radar. Can you explain the process and how the safety and welfare of these dogs is recorded and tracked?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Retired greyhounds kept by industry participants remain registered by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission, are protected by the provisions of the *Greyhound Racing Act 2017* and continue to be tracked via eTrac.

Greyhounds rehomed in NSW, outside the racing industry, are placed on the NSW Companion Animals Register and are protected under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*. The RSPCA and animal welfare organisations have jurisdiction over these animals.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 114

My office has received some concerning information about two former racing industry greyhounds who have now thankfully found safety in a NSW greyhound rescue group. One dog was almost killed after a serious injury in spite of the industry's Care2 scheme where funding for surgery and care is available and the second was a former GAP NSW greyhound with a number of serious injuries. If I provide the details to the Minister's office, will you investigate these cases?

ANSWER:

I refer these cases to the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 115

How does GWIC validate the accuracy of eTrac data, specifically regarding the details of greyhounds?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- its eTrac system tracks greyhounds that are in the care of registered industry participants
- as part of eTrac system protocols, participants are required to check-in racing greyhounds every six months, and other greyhounds every 12 months
- 'checking in' a greyhound involves presenting the greyhound to a specified check-in location, where the greyhound's microchip is scanned acting as 'proof of life'
- check-in data includes the date and time of the scan as well as GPS coordinates. This data is uploaded directly into eTrac, providing accurate information regarding the greyhound's whereabouts
- check-in locations include racetracks and veterinary clinics that treat large numbers of greyhounds
- where a participant does not meet check-in requirements, the Commission's Traceability Team follows up to determine the status and whereabouts of a greyhound. The Commission may also take disciplinary action against participants who fail to meet check-in requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 116

What is GWIC's policy regarding amputation of broken legs rather than euthanasia?

(a) Can GWIC advise how many greyhounds underwent amputation in FY 23-24?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- the Commission's On Track Veterinarians are the primary decision makers in relation to the initial management of greyhound race injuries
- in their treatment of injured greyhounds, veterinarians have regard to the Commission's *Guidelines for the management of serious injuries at Racetracks*. These Guidelines in turn refer to relevant legislation and policies such as the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*, the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2013*, and the *Australian Veterinary Association Euthanasia Policy*.

I am advised by the Commission that it does not collect data on the number of greyhounds that undergo amputation. Where performed, limb amputation is performed by a private veterinarian off track.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 117

Can GWIC confirm the number of greyhounds injured and killed in trials in FY 23-24?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- In FY23-24, the following injuries were recorded at stewards trials:
 - Category A: 1
 - Category B: 13
 - Category C: 13
 - Category D: 21, of which 2 were subsequently euthanised off-track by private veterinarians
 - Category E: 0.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 118

Can GWIC confirm the number of greyhounds that were scratched due to injury in FY 23-24?

(a) How many were late scratchings?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the **Commission**) that:

- 623 greyhounds were scratched due to injury in FY2023-24, of which 41 were scratched more than once.

I am advised by the Commission that 110 of the greyhounds were a 'late scratching'.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 119

Can GWIC confirm the details for the 1,046 greyhounds that died in FY 23-24, particularly the over 300 greyhounds that died due to injuries/accidents?

(a) Of the 1,046 deaths, how many were self-reported by participants?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- A breakdown of the 1,046 mortalities is provided in the Commission's FY2023-24 Annual Report, including the number of greyhounds euthanised and greyhound deaths in the absence of euthanasia (this includes for dogs that died due to injuries and accidents).

The Greyhound Racing Regulation 2019 requires a registered industry participant to notify the Commission of the death of a greyhound. With the exception of five greyhounds that were euthanised at licensed racetracks and one greyhound which died suddenly at a racetrack, all notifications of greyhounds deaths were received from registered participants.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 120

According to the GWIC steward's report for 29 January 2025, the injury sustained by greyhound Rema's Blue was given a 7 day stand down, which was later verified in the 31 January 2025 GWIC steward's report as a 28 day stand down. How many dogs in FY 23-24 had their injury categories updated following initial reporting?

(a) How many were recorded as such in GWIC steward's reports?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- 38

The Commission does not collect this data. Amendments to an injury stand down may be made before or after an event and are not necessarily reflected in relevant steward's reports.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 121

How many unnamed greyhounds died in FY 23-24?

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

In FY2023-24, the Commission was notified of 215 mortalities involving unnamed greyhounds, including 90 that were euthanised and 125 that died without euthanasia.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 122

Can GWIC confirm the status of the Appin trial track and whether it will be closing?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

This is a matter for Greyhound Racing NSW.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 123

Has GWIC investigated reports of greyhounds being physically forced into starting boxes at the Gosford track in February 2025?

- (a) If yes, what were the outcomes of GWIC's investigations?
- (b) If no, will GWIC do so now?

ANSWER:

See response to Budget Estimates Questions on Notice, page 57 of transcript.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 124

How many vets has GWIC reported or referred to the NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board since 2018?

- (a) How many of those were followed up with by GWIC?

ANSWER:

I am advised by the Greyhound Welfare & Integrity Commission (the **Commission**) that it referred one veterinary practitioner.

The Commission further advises that, as it does not have jurisdiction in respect of the conduct of veterinarians registered in accordance with the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003*, the Commission was not able to take further action.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION 125

In relation to the Minister's Aboriginal Affairs portfolio, does the Minister have any involvement whatsoever in relation to domestic and family violence, including any engagement in the development of the NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan?

- (a) If not, why not?

ANSWER:

I am advised:

Yes, domestic and family violence is a priority for all of the NSW Government. Minister Harrison has responsibility for this portfolio, however I have assisted her in bringing an Aboriginal focus to the Government's response.

Aboriginal Affairs NSW has ongoing involvement in the NSW Aboriginal Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Plan which is currently under development. The Department of Communities and Justice is leading the work on the Plan and any specific questions should be directed to the Minister.