



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Supplementary questions

Portfolio Committee No. 1 – Premier and Finance

Premier

Hearing: Tuesday 25 October 2023

Answers due by: Wednesday 22 November 2023

Budget Estimates secretariat

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Premier

Questions from the Hon Chris Rath <i>(on behalf of the Opposition)</i>
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PREMIER

Terrorist attack on Israel

1. Did the Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism advise you before signing the open statement issued by the Parliamentary Friends of Palestine that he was intending to do so Sub point?
2. Given that statement includes the expression “We stand with Palestine”, do you have confidence in the Parliamentary Secretary for Multiculturalism to continue in this role?

Local Small Commitments Allocation

3. How many community projects in the electorate of Kogarah did you nominate for funding under the Local Small Commitments Allocation?
4. What were those projects, and for each project:
 - (a) How much funding was promised?
 - (b) How, and what date, you did you communicate the promise of funding to the recipient?
 - (c) When, and how, did you publicly announce an election commitment to fund that project?
5. Did you inform the nominated organisations that the funding was conditional in any way, and if so, how did you describe those conditions?
6. How, and by whom, was the election commitment to fund those projects formally recorded?
7. Did you declare a conflict of interest in relation to any of these community projects?
8. Were you aware of any process for declaring and managing any conflicts of interest in relation to the nomination of community projects as an election commitment?
9. Were there any written criteria given to candidates in relation to:
 - (a) the kind of community projects that could be nominated as an election commitment?
 - (b) the kind of organisations that could be nominated for a project? and
 - (c) the split of funding between more than one project?and, if so please provide the details of the criteria.

10. Did candidates need to seek authorisation from anyone before allocating their \$400,000 to specific community projects? If so, who?
11. How did advisors in your office obtain the list of election commitments for each electorate which was then provide to the Premier's Department?
12. Did your office take any steps to verify that each project had been publicly promised prior to the election?
13. Were any community projects for which funding was not explicitly promised prior to 24 March 2023 included on the list given by advisors in your office to the Premier's Department?
14. Did the member for Newcastle declare any conflicts of interest in relation to the nine community projects which he promised would receive \$400,000 in funding under the Local Small Commitments Allocation before making those promises?
15. What steps been taken to identify any possible undeclared conflicts of interest in relation to any of these nine projects?

Minister for Finance

16. Did the Minister for Finance request you to relieve her of the responsibility for insurance related Acts or was it your initiative to do so?
17. When did the Minister for Finance provide to you a written disclosure of her husband's pecuniary interest as a senior employee of the Insurance Council of Australia as required under section 6 (1) (c) of the Schedule to the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct?
18. On how many occasions between 5 April 2023 and 28 September 2023 did the Minister for Finance give you a written notice under Section 10 of the Schedule to the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct of a conflict of interest in relation to any matter?
19. On how many occasions in meetings of the Executive Council, the Cabinet or a Cabinet Committee held between 5 April 2023 and 28 September 2023 did the Minister for Finance, under Section 11 (2) of the Schedule to the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct, make a disclosure, to those present of a conflict of interest in relation to a matter to be discussed?
20. On how many occasions between 5 April 2023 and 28 September 2023 did you make a ruling under Section 12 of the Schedule to the NSW Ministerial Code of Conduct, authorising the Minister to continue to act on a matter because you were satisfied that "any potential conflict of interest [could] be appropriately managed"?

21. During the period from 5 April 2023 to 28 September 2023, when eleven Acts related to insurance were allocated by you to the Minister for Finance:
- (a) What decisions relating to the Minister's responsibilities under those Acts were taken by the Minister?
 - (b) What progress was made in implementing the recommendations of the MacDougall Review relating to the State Insurance Regulatory Authority?
 - (c) What, if anything, did the Minister for Finance achieve in relation to her responsibilities for insurance related matters?
22. Given the Insurance Council of Australia's pre-election policy proposals relate to several matters which remain the responsibility of the Minister for Finance or of the Minister for Domestic Manufacturing and Government Procurement, including duty on insurance and insurance requirements for government contracts (see https://insurancecouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/20785_ICA_NSW-Election-Report_Final-DoublePageSpread.pdf), what is your plan for managing the Minister's ongoing conflict of interest in relation to these insurance matters?

Public Sector Wage Rises

23. Please provide evidence of any statement made before the election that public sector wage rises beyond the existing provisions in 2022-23 Budget would be covered by "budget savings" rather than entirely covered by productivity improvements as stated in Labor's ALP Wages Policy Costing Request C1689 to the Parliamentary Budget Office.

WILLIAM MURPHY, Acting Secretary, Cabinet Office

Broadmeadow Governance Review

24. The ABC reported (<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-21/review-clears-newcastle-project-linked-to-resignation-of-mp/102756826>) on 21 August 2023 that:

The premier's office has released a statement on the review carried out by the cabinet office.

"The review found undisclosed property holdings relating to the former minister did not impact on decision making processes or governance relating to the Broadmeadow project," the statement read.

Please provide a copy of that full statement.

25. Did the Broadmeadow Governance Review find that “undisclosed property holdings relating to the former minister did not impact on decision making processes or governance relating to the Broadmeadow project”?

Measures Statement

26. For each of these material measures listed in Budget paper No.1 Appendix A5 Measures Statement and assigned to the Cabinet Office please provide a breakdown by dollar value for each financial year from 2022-23 to 2026-27 by expense, revenue and capital for:
- (a) Funding to establish a Special Commission of Inquiry into health funding;
 - (b) Additional funding for the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes;
 - (c) Additional funding for the delivery of the 2024 Local Government elections;
 - (d) Phase 1 re-baseline of the NSW Electoral Commission funding model to ensure its financial sustainability over the long term;
 - (e) Funding to modernise the NSW Electoral Commission’s election systems prior to the 2027 NSW State Election;
 - (f) Additional funding to ensure key online statutory services are available to political parties, elected members, candidates, major donors and other participants ahead of future elections; and
 - (g) Increased funding for the Independent Commission Against Corruption for the workforce, processes and technology required to manage an increasing volume and complexity of complaints and investigations.
27. How many senior executives are employed by the Cabinet Office?
28. Since its establishment how much has been expended or committed to be expended by the Cabinet Office on:
- (a) Labour hire;
 - (b) Consultants;
 - (c) Advertising;
 - (d) Legal;
 - (e) Travel?

29. What contribution, if any, is the Cabinet Office required to make to whole of Government savings measures in relation to:
- (a) Labour hire;
 - (b) Consultants;
 - (c) Advertising;
 - (d) Legal;
 - (e) Travel?

Ms KATE MEAGHER, Deputy Secretary, Community Engagement Group, Premier's Department

Local Small Commitments Allocation

30. In relation to your statement (page 49): “I understand there was a conflict of interest process when projects were nominated.”, how, and from who, did you learn that there was “a conflict of interest process when projects were nominated”, and can you provide any details of that process or advise who in the NSW Government can provide details of that process?
31. What is the process for verifying that a nominated project meets the threshold eligibility criterion of having been nominated as an election commitment made before 25 March 2023?
32. Does this criterion require that the election commitment was made publicly or does it apply also to secret commitments known only to the candidate, the Labor Party and the nominated organisation?

Qantas

33. Are you a Member of the Qantas Chairmans Club?
- (a) Have you ever previously been a member? When did you cease to be a member?
 - (b) When did you initially become a member?
 - (c) When was this declared on the Ministerial gifts register?

Department/Agency Staffing

34. How many senior executive service employees were employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
- (a) 28 March 2023?
 - (b) 23 October 2023?

35. What is the expenditure on senior executive service employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
36. How many individuals were employed as internal legal counsel by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities on:
 - (a) 28 March 2023?
 - (b) 23 October 2023?
37. What is the expenditure on internal legal counsel employees employed by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities 28 March 2023?
38. How many redundancies were processed by each Department/agency 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?
39. Is any former employee from your ministerial office now employed by any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
40. How many staff were dismissed from each Department/agency under your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) Without identifying individuals, what were the reason(s) for each dismissal?
41. What was the total amount each of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
42. How many employees in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities are working in an 'acting' capacity?
43. What is the average number of days worked from home by employees in each Department/Agency within your portfolio responsibilities?
44. Do any senior executive service employees in any of the Departments/agencies under your portfolio responsibilities have a driver that is paid for by the Department/agency?

- (a) If so, what is the number of senior executive service employees that have a driver, and which senior executive service employees have a driver?
 - (b) How much was spent on these drivers since 28 March 2023?
45. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on charter air flights by your portfolio agencies, broken down by agency?
46. 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?
 - (b) Of these, how many flights were taken in first class?
47. Since 28 March 2023, how much has been spent on overseas 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?
48. 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?

Hospitality

49. How much has your ministerial office spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
50. How much have Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities spent on hospitality, including catering and beverages, since 28 March 2023?
51. Have you been the recipient of any free hospitality?
- (a) What was the total value of the hospitality received?
52. 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 publicly?
- (c) Do staff declare their gifts publicly?

Agency Invoices

- 53. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were not paid on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
- 54. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 30 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
- 55. How many invoices to suppliers or contactors from your portfolio agency were paid over 60 days late on time since 28 March 2023, broken down by agency?
 - (a) What was the penalty for paying suppliers or contactors late, broken down by agency?

Car/Driver

- 56. Has your Ministerial car been subject to any traffic or parking fines?
 - (a) If so, please provide details of each fine?
 - (b) Who was driving the car at the time of each incident?
 - (c) Who paid any of the fines?
- 57. Has your Ministerial Car been pulled over by the police?
 - (a) If so, who was driving the car?

Complaints

- 58. Has the Minister been the subject of any workplace complaints, including bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment?

Consultants

- 59. 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 to a competitive tender?
- 60. 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?
- 61. Have any Department/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities engaged any consultants to provide the following services or advice since 28 March 2023:
 - (a) Social media?
 - i. What were the cost of these services?
 - (b) Photography?
 - ii. What were the cost of these services?
 - (c) Videography?
 - iii. What were the cost of these services?
 - (d) Acting training?
 - iv. What were the cost of these services?
 - (e) Ergonomics?
 - v. What were the cost of these services?

Departmental Credit Cards

- 62. For each department, statutory agency and/or other body in the Minister's portfolio please report:
 - (a) How many credit cards are currently on issue for staff?
 - i. 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 and what was the card holder's employment grade?
 - (e) How many credit cards have been reported lost or stolen?
 - i. What was the cost to replace them?
 - (f) How many credit card purchases were deemed to be illegitimate or contrary to agency policy?
 - i. What was the total value of those purchases?

- ii. 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?
- iii. Were all those amounts repaid?
- iv. If no, how many were not repaid, and what was the total value thereof?
- (g) What was the largest purchase that was deemed illegitimate or contrary to agency policy and asked to be repaid, and what was the cardholder's employment grade?
- (h) What amount was repaid, in full?
 - i. What amount was left unpaid?
- (i) Are any credit cards currently on issue connected to rewards schemes?
 - ii. Do staff receive any personal benefit as a result of those reward schemes?
- (j) Can a copy of the staff credit card policy please be provided?

Efficiency Dividends

- 63. Was an efficiency dividend applied to any Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities in the 2023-24 NSW Budget?
 - (a) If so, what was the efficiency dividend applied to each Department/agency?
 - (b) What measures are being considered to achieve this efficiency dividend?

GIPA Applications

- 64. How many GIPA Applications have been received by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
 - (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
 - (c) If so, what were the reasons provided?
 - (d) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
 - (e) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
 - (f) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
 - i. Date received.
 - ii. Date acknowledged.
 - iii. Date responded.

- iv. The description provided for the information sought.
65. How many GIPA Applications have been received by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?
- (a) How many of these Applications have been accepted?
 - (b) How many of these Applications have been rejected?
 - i. If so, what were the reasons provided?
 - (c) How many of these Applications were re-assigned?
 - (d) How many of these Applications had fees waived/reduced?
 - (e) Please provide in table form the following details of each Application received by your office:
 - i. Date received.
 - ii. Date acknowledged.
 - iii. Date responded.
 - iv. The description provided for the information sought.

Labour Hire Firms

66. Have any Departments/agencies within your portfolio responsibilities utilised the services of Labour Hire Firms since 28 March 2023? If yes, please advise in table form:
- (a) The names of the firms utilised.
 - (b) The total amount paid to each firm engaged.
 - (c) The average tenure period for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
 - (d) The longest tenure for an employee provided by a labour hire company.
 - (e) The duties conducted by employees engaged through a labour hire company.
 - (f) The office locations of employees engaged through a labour hire company.
 - (g) The highest hourly or daily rate paid to an employee provided by a labour hire company.

Media and Public Relations

67. How much has your ministerial office 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) WhatsApp
- (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

68. 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) WhatsApp
- (g) X (formerly known as Twitter)

69. Have you had media training or public speaking training?

- (a) If yes, who paid for it?
- (b) If paid by taxpayers, what was the amount paid since 28 March 2023?

70. How many media or public relations advisers are employed for each of your portfolio agencies and what is the total cost to employ these advisers?

71. What is the forecast for the current financial year for the number of media or public relations advisers to be employed in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities and their total cost?

72. What is the total cost of media monitoring services used by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities?

Merchant fees

73. Please provide a list of all transactions where customers need to pay a merchant fee on credit and/or debit card payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.

74. Please provide the percentage and/or amount of the merchant fees applied to all credit and/or debit card payments/transactions payments in each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities.
75. What was the total amount paid in merchant fees on credit and/or debit card payments made by each Department/agency within your portfolio responsibilities since 28 March 2023?

Ministerial disclosures

76. Did you make any updates to your Ministerial disclosure on or after 2 August 2023?
- (a) If yes, what prompted this update to your disclosure?

Office Administration

77. What brand of paper is used in your office?
- (a) Is it recycled paper?
- (b) Is it Australian made paper?
78. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS6 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August
- (f) September
- (g) October
79. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS5 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
- (b) May
- (c) June
- (d) July
- (e) August

(f) September

(g) October

80. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS4 grade for the following months:

(a) April

(b) May

(c) June

(d) July

(e) August

(f) September

(g) October

81. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS3 grade for the following months:

(a) April

(b) May

(c) June

(d) July

(e) August

(f) September

(g) October

82. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS2 grade for the following months:

(a) April

(b) May

(c) June

(d) July

(e) August

- (f) September
 - (g) October
83. How many staff members were employed in your ministerial office at the MS1 grade for the following months:
- (a) April
 - (b) May
 - (c) June
 - (d) July
 - (e) August
 - (f) September
 - (g) October
84. What is the average salary for staff members in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
85. How many DLOs were seconded to your ministerial office for the following months:
- (a) April
 - (b) May
 - (c) June
 - (d) July
 - (e) August
 - (f) September
 - (g) October
86. How many staff in your office are employed as 'caucus liaison officers'?
- (a) What are the responsibilities allocated to 'caucus liaison officers'?
 - (b) Have 'caucus liaison officers' been directed to only work with Government MPs?
 - (c) Do 'caucus liaison officers' contact members of the Australian Labor Party as part of their regular work duties?
87. How many staff members employed in your office under the Members of Parliament Staff Act 2013 have been seconded from a NSW Government Department/agency?

- (a) Please list each Department/agency staff members have been seconded from.
88. What is your ministerial office budget for 2023-24?
- (a) How much of this budget is allocated to staff?
89. How many iPhones/Smart Phones are assigned to staff in your ministerial office?
- (a) For each phone, how much was each bill in 2022-23?
 - (b) How many phones have been lost or replaced due to damage in your office?
 - i. What is the cost of replacing those phones?
90. How many iPads or tablets are assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What was the cost of providing iPads or tablets to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
 - (b) How many iPads or tablets have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
91. How many laptops has the Premier's Department or The Cabinet Office assigned to your ministerial office and to whom have they been issued?
- (a) What was the cost of providing laptops to your ministerial office in 2022-23?
 - (b) How many laptops have been replaced due to lost or damage in 2022-23?
 - i. What was the cost of replacing these devices?
92. Has any artwork been purchased or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What is the cost of this?
93. Have any floral displays or indoor plants been hired or leased for display in your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, what was the cost of these items?
94. What was the total amount your office spent on stationery since 28 March 2023?
95. What was the total cost of all subscriptions by you and your staff to online news services, newspapers, magazines, journals, and periodicals since 28 March 2023?
- (a) What are these services/newspapers/magazines/journals/periodicals?
96. What was the total value of all gifts purchased for use by you and your office since 28 March 2023?

- (a) What were the gifts purchased?
 - i. Who were they gifted to?
- 97. What non-standard features are fitted to your ministerial vehicle?
 - (a) What is the cost of each non-standard feature?
- 98. What is the total spend for your office since 28 March 2023 for:
 - (a) Taxi hire?
 - (b) Ridesharing services?
 - (c) Hire car rental?
 - (d) Limousine/private car hire?
- 99. Were any planes or helicopters chartered by you or your office and paid for with public money since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) If yes, please provide details of the trip including the date of the trip, purpose of the trip, the method of transport and the cost?
- 100. How many people are employed in your ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
- 101. How many women are employed in your Ministerial office as at 1 October 2023?
- 102. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) as at 1 October 2023?
- 103. How many staff employed in your ministerial office identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander as at 1 October 2023?
- 104. How many staff in your office are employed as media advisers or have responsibility for media/social media/communications?
- 105. How many staff in your office are employed as policy advisers or have responsibility for policy work?

Overseas Trips

- 106. Have you had any overseas trips paid for using public funds since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) If yes, did any of your relatives or friends accompany you on these trips?
- 107. Have you undertaken any official overseas travel that was privately funded since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) If yes, what was the nature of these trips?

- (b) Who paid for these trips?

Parliamentary Secretary

108. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have pass access to your ministerial office?
109. Does your Parliamentary Secretary have a desk in your ministerial office?
110. Has your Parliamentary Secretary spoken on any pieces of legislation on your behalf? If so which legislation?
111. What event/meetings has your Parliamentary Secretary attended on your behalf?
- (a) Please provide in table form the date and the purpose of the event/meeting.
112. How often do you meet with your Parliamentary Secretary?
113. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled overseas since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, when, and where?
- (b) If so, what was the cost of:
- i. Airfares?
 - ii. Accommodation?
 - iii. Food and beverage?
 - iv. Transportation?
 - v. Entertainment?
114. Has your Parliamentary Secretary travelled domestically since 28 March 2023?
- (a) If so, when, and where?
- (b) If so, what was the cost of:
- i. Airfares?
 - ii. Accommodation?
 - iii. Food and beverage?
 - iv. Transportation?
 - v. Entertainment?
115. Has your Parliamentary Secretary received training?
- (a) If so, was it speech, voice, or media training?

- i. If yes, who provided this training, on what date and at what cost?

Probity Auditor

- 116. Has your office or department used a Probity Auditor or Probity Advisors, or similar, since 28 March 2023?
 - (a) If so please list the company and/or individual, the project, the engagement dates, and their total remuneration in tabular format.

Training

- 117. Have you received any training since becoming a Minister?
 - (a) If yes, please provide the details of what the training was.
- 118. Have you received any speech, vocal or performance training?
 - (a) If so, what was the cost?
 - (b) Was this cost covered by the taxpayer?

Website Usage

- 119. What were the top 20 most utilised (by data sent and received) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?
- 120. What were the top 20 most accessed (by number of times accessed) unique domain names accessed by your ministerial office since 28 March 2023?

Easy Read for all government information by 2025

121. What is the progress to date of having all government information relevant to people with intellectual disability available in Easy Read by 2025?
- (a) Is NSW on track to meet this target?
 - (b) What mechanisms are in place to ensure this target is met?
 - (c) How much money was spent on making Easy Read information available, in the financial year 2022-23?
122. Which government information is currently available in Easy Read?
123. Which government information is currently not available in Easy Read?

NSW Government response to The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

124. When will the NSW Government provide a whole of government response to the The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability?
125. Will the NSW Public Service Commission be adopting the recommendations from the Disability Royal Commission directed to state and territory public service commissions, in relation to inclusive employment?
- (a) Will recommendations 7.18, 7.19, 7.22 and 7.23 be adopted?

NSW Electoral Commission

126. In the financial year 2022-23:
- (a) How much money did the NSWEC receive in relation to supporting voters with disability?
 - (b) How many FTE staff were employed to carry out this work?
127. Has the NSWEC engaged in any coordination with other jurisdictions to advocate for a nationally consistent technology assisted voting policies and systems?
128. What is being done to ensure that blind and low vision voters are absolutely without a doubt given several options to cast an independent, secret and verifiable vote by the 2027 state election and subsequent state and local government elections?
- (a) When will the Technology Assisted Voting Review be complete and made publicly available?

- (b) If a technology assisted voting system equivalent to the options provided by iVote is not available or sufficiently tested in time for the 2027 state election, will it be deferred?

129. One of the issues identified by Vision Australia in their submission to the NSW Review of Technology Assisted Voting was that blind and low vision voters are not being adequately informed about the availability of voting options. What is being done to ensure that this information is accessible and available for people with disability?

Access at polling places for people with sensory issues

130. Anecdotal evidence indicates that polling places are largely inaccessible for people with sensory issues, especially people with autism and people with social anxiety. What measures and protocols are currently in place in relation to making polling places during NSW elections accessible?

- (a) Has the NSWEC consulted with any disability stakeholders about this issue?
 - i. If yes, what form of consultation was undertaken and with which stakeholders?
 - ii. If no, is there any intention to begin consultation with disability stakeholders?
- (b) What training and or information are NSWEC staff provided with about the nuances of people with disability in the community who are coming to vote?
 - i. Is this training mandatory?

Establishment of a NSW Disability Inclusion Fund

131. Is there any intention to establish a NSW Disability Inclusion Fund?

- (a) If no, why not?
- (b) If yes, what is the timeline for this?
 - i. Can you provide a breakdown of funding allocation?

Get Skilled Access (GSA) initiative for disability inclusion

132. 1. Can the Department provide a funding breakdown of the \$2.4 million partnership between the NSW Government and Get Skilled Access (GSA) for disability inclusion?

- (a) What is the timeline for this initiative to be implemented?
- (b) How much money has been spent on this initiative to date?