



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No. 830

MONDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2022

(The Questions and Answers Paper published on Monday to Friday of each week will contain, by number and title, all questions to which answers have been received the previous day and any new questions asked that day. Consequently, the full text of any question will be printed only twice: when notice is given; and, when answered.)

Notice given on date shown.

Publication of Questions	Answer to be lodged by
Q & A No. 815 (Including Question Nos 9401 to 9403)	19 September 2022
Q & A No. 816 (Including Question Nos 9404 to 9405)	20 September 2022
Q & A No. 817 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 818 (Including Question Nos 9406 to 9413)	23 September 2022
Q & A No. 819 (Including Question Nos 9414 to 9508)	26 September 2022
Q & A No. 820 (Including Question Nos 9509 to 9511)	27 September 2022
Q & A No. 821 (Including Question Nos 9512 to 9514)	28 September 2022
Q & A No. 822 (Including Question Nos 9515 to 9520)	29 September 2022
Q & A No. 824 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 825 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 826 (Including Question Nos 9522 to 9525)	6 October 2022
Q & A No. 827 (Including Question Nos 9526 to 9535)	7 October 2022
Q & A No. 828 (Questions—Nil)	-
Q & A No. 829 (Including Question Nos 9536 to 9538)	11 October 2022
Q & A No. 830 (Including Question Nos 9539 to 9542)	12 October 2022

29 AUGUST 2022

(Paper No. 815)

* 9401 SPORT—CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH PROJECT WITH RMIT UNIVERSITY—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning representing the Minister for Skills and Training, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister for Enterprise, Investment and Trade, and Minister for Sport—

- (1) Why has the Office of Sport undertaken a climate change research project with RMIT University?
 - (a) How much is this costing the Office of Sport in:
 - (i) Finances?
 - (ii) Staff time?
- (2) Why aren't these resources being spent on sports facilities in New South Wales instead of a Victorian University?

Answer—

I am advised that:

The Office of Sport is undertaking a project to assess the level of climate action preparedness and adaptation in the sport and active recreation sector in NSW. The project is looking at what could assist the sector to be more prepared and resilient. The cost of the project is \$54,622.70 (including GST).

The research in this area is relatively limited, especially in Australia. RMIT University (with its partners) is seen as a leader in the field and was best placed to assist the Office of Sport deliver the best outcomes for the sport sector.

* 9402 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—BIRRONG GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Has the Principal of Birrong Girls High School used an open letter to families to attack the school community for spreading “inflammatory, inaccurate and defamatory information” regarding last Friday’s Wear It Purple Day?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that parents expect the basics of learning for their children at school, not the unnecessary politically-motivated introduction of various kinds of sexuality promotion for their young children?
- (3) Why has the school leadership used the latest Birrong Bulletin (August 2022) to attack the school’s students as “racist, prejudiced and/or homophobic”?
- (4) Does the Minister agree that the best way of avoiding hostile political responses to sexuality and other forms of identity politics at the school is to stick to the basics of learning and skill development, and not go down the path of constantly politicising the classroom with the beliefs and values of teachers which have nothing to do with education?
- (5) Has the leadership at Birrong Girls High School lost control of discipline and order at Birrong Girls High School, given their complaint that, “We have seen student hostility when others are participating in class conversations and expressing opinions different to theirs”?
- (6) What action is the Minister taking to repair the damage at Birrong Girls High School from teacher political campaigning and to restore classroom discipline at the school?

Answer—

I am advised:

- (1) On 24 August 2022, the Principal at Birrong Girls High School issued a letter to the school community. The letter explained the school was marking Wear It Purple Day on 26 August 2022 and students were given the option to wear a purple accessory. The reference to “inflammatory,

inaccurate and defamatory information” was in regard to social media activity occurring at the time. The comment was directed at the posts, not the school community.

- (2) On 26 August 2022, scheduled classes were conducted as normal.
- (3) The Principal’s address in the August 2022, Birrong Bulletin states “there are students who are engaging in unacceptable behaviour that is racist, prejudiced and/or homophobic”. This is not a reference to all students but to a small minority who were not showing respect to their fellow students.
- (4) Schools provide safe and supportive learning environments that respect and value diversity and are free from violence, discrimination, harassment and vilification for our students. This is critical for the wellbeing of children and young people in order for them to achieve their full potential.
- (5) The leadership at Birrong Girls High School has acted to ensure the school remains a respectful place. Hostility towards other students is not tolerated.
- (6) Birrong Girls High School will continue to work with the community and the Department of Education to ensure the school remains a place that is free from discrimination and prejudice.

* 9403 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—NORTHLAKES HIGH SCHOOL TOILETS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) What signs has Northlakes High School placed on its student toilets?
- (2) Have the traditional boys and girls signs been abandoned?
 - (a) If so, why is the school encouraging boys to use the girls toilet?
- (3) Is the school aware of concerns among parents and the broader Central Coast community about the safety and well-being of 12-13 year old females made to share the same toilets as 17-18 year old males?
 - (a) If so, what is the school doing to address these concerns?

Answer—

- (1) At Northlakes High School, female toilets have a sign stating ‘she/they’. Male toilets have a sign stating ‘he/they’. A unisex, lockable, single cubicle toilet, attached to the school sick bay, has a sign stating ‘he/she/they’.
- (2) Following consultation with the Student Representative Council, school staff, students and the school’s Parent and Citizens Association, toilet signs depicting ‘figures’ have been replaced. The school is not encouraging boys to use the girls’ toilet. Single-sex toilets remain in use.
- (3) Except for one unisex, lockable, single cubicle toilet attached to the school sick bay referred to in (1) above, all other toilets within the school are single sex and not shared by males and females.

19 SEPTEMBER 2022

(Paper No. 830)

9539 EDUCATION AND EARLY LEARNING—QUALITY TEACHING ROUNDS—The Hon. Mark Latham to ask the Minister for Education and Early Learning—

- (1) Could the Minister please advise, for each of the past five years:
 - (a) How much the Department of Education spent on the "Quality Teaching Rounds" (QTR) project at Newcastle university?
 - (b) How many government school teachers have been through the training program element of the QTR?
- (2) What evidence is available to the Department that shows positive impacts of QTR on student academic outcomes?
- (3) How does the Department explain the contradiction between the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE)’s What Works Best emphasis on Explicit Teaching as the most effective form

of teaching and the QTR emphasis on "student direction" and "student self-regulation" (as highlighted in the QTR guide to classroom observation and teacher quality)?

9540 AGRICULTURE—SILVER PERCH—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Regional Transport and Roads representing the Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales—

- (1) What has been the number of silver perch restocked in Dams in 2021-2022?
- (2) What is the current survival rate of silver perch restocking in Dams?

9541 TRANSPORT—WATERWAY FUND—The Hon. Mark Banasiak to ask the Minister for Metropolitan Roads, and Minister for Women's Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Sexual Violence representing the Minister for Transport, Minister for Veterans, and Minister for Western Sydney—

- (1) With reference to section 42(3) of the Ports and Maritime Administration Act 1995, for each of the last five years, what has been the amount paid into the consolidated fund versus the waterway fund?
- (2) Under this Act, remuneration of Transport for NSW staff is also allowed to be paid out of the waterways fund, as such, for each of the last 5 years how much in remuneration has been paid from the waterways fund?
- (3) Under this Act, money can be directed to the waterways fund from other Acts, as such, for each of the last five years, how much money has been directed to be paid from other Acts into the waterways fund?
 - (a) Which Act's directed these payments?

9542 HEALTH—PUBLIC HOSPITAL CATCHMENTS—The Hon. Peter Primrose to ask the Minister for Women, Minister for Regional Health, and Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health—

- (1) Do the following public hospitals in the Western Sydney Local Health District have formal or informal geographical "catchments" for patients?
 - (a) If so, what are the catchment areas for each of the following hospitals:
 - (i) Auburn?
 - (b) Blacktown?
 - (c) Cumberland?
 - (d) Mount Druitt?
 - (e) Westmead?
 - (f) the proposed facility at Rouse Hill?

David Blunt
Clerk of the Parliament