

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

QUESTIONS

No. 200

Tuesday, 27 March 2012

Questions appear according to the date on which notice was delivered.
When a question has been answered it is removed from the postponed list.

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- 5099. Hon Linda Savage to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health
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5349. Hon Linda Savage to the Minister for Energy representing the Minister for Education
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5351. Hon Ed Dermer to the Leader of the House representing the Premier
5352. Hon Ed Dermer to the Minister for Finance

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5354. Hon Ed Dermer to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

5355. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

5356. Hon Sally Talbot to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

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QUESTIONS ASKED TODAY

*Notice Given**Tuesday, 27 March 2012***5357. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development**

I refer to the termination of courses being taken by prisoners at Acacia Prison in Woorooloo through C Y O'Connor College, and I ask -

- (1) What other arrangements, if any, have been made for those prisoners who were part-way through their courses to undertake their study elsewhere?
- (2) How many prisoners would have been undertaking their Diploma this year?
- (3) When will courses through C Y O'Connor be re-instated?
- (4) Have any prisoners based at any other prisons had their training courses terminated due to lack of funds?
- (5) If yes -
 - (a) which prisons have been affected; and
 - (b) how many prisoners have been affected?

5358. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

I refer to the article in the *West Australian* Newspaper on 29 February 2012 about the high number of apprentice dropouts, and I ask what evidence does the Minister have to authenticate his claim that most cancellations of apprentices dropping out is because many of them are lured by big pay packets of unskilled jobs at the mines?

5359. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

I refer to the Minister's plan to bring 150,000 workers to Western Australia from Ireland. Recent figures released by the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia (REIWA) show the vacancy rate for rental properties was only 1.6 per cent in February. On 20 March 2012, REIWA reported that there are currently only around 2,000 rental properties on a market which is considered to be at crisis point. Therefore, I ask where does the Minister expect the 150,000 workers from Ireland to be housed?

5360. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

I refer to the many statements made by the Minister and the Premier of this Government's plan to bring workers from overseas. As these statements immediately prompt a spate of media reports in print, radio and electronic media from Western Australians, both skilled and unskilled, who are continually seeking work in the resource sector, but are unsuccessful, I ask -

- (1) What, if anything, has the Minister done to assist these workers to obtain work in this industry?
- (2) Has the Minister made any approach to the resource industry to ascertain why so many Western Australians keep reporting that they are available to work but are never given the opportunity of gaining a position with this sector?
- (3) If no to (2), why not?

5361. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health

- (1) How many mental health patients died while patients at the Fremantle Hospital or were patients at the Fremantle Hospital up to one month before their deaths in -

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- (a) 2009;
 - (b) 2010;
 - (c) 2011; and
 - (d) to date in 2012?
- (2) How many mental health patients died while patients at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital or were patients at the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital up to one month before their deaths in -
- (a) 2009;
 - (b) 2010;
 - (c) 2011; and
 - (d) to date in 2012?

5362. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

I refer to a report to the new Victorian Government recommending that their TAFE colleges be converted to government business enterprises, and I ask -

- (1) Has the Minister commissioned any investigations into the business models of Western Australia's TAFE Colleges?
- (2) If yes to (1), have those investigations concluded?
- (3) If yes to (1), will the Minister table the results?
- (4) Has the Minister received any advice from either public service or private sector sources recommending changes to the statutory structure of Western Australia's TAFE colleges?
- (5) If yes to (4), will the Minister table that advice?
- (6) If no to (4), why not?
- (7) Will the Minister give an undertaking that Western Australia's TAFE colleges will not be privatised or converted to government business enterprises?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?

5363. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health

I refer to the death of 20 year old Carly Elliott on 31 March 2011 at her home from probable suicide. I have been asked by Carly's parents to raise this matter, and I ask -

- (1) Why, despite an urgent referral by Carly's General Practitioner to Alma Street on the 29 October 2010 due to her severe depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation, was an appointment not made available until 15 November 2010?
- (2) Why, given Carly's non-attendance at both this appointment and at a subsequent one on 25 November 2010, wasn't an urgent follow-up made by the mental health emergency response team?
- (3) Given Carly's known illness history of being uncooperative, not engaging and not attending appointments; why, when on the two occasions she did reach out, phoning Alma Street in distress asking for help, didn't the mental health emergency response team members immediately respond and go out to Carly, instead, leaving it to her to follow through on making and attending appointments?

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*Notice Given**Tuesday, 27 March 2012***5364. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Health**

Given that the Chief Psychiatrist is to be informed as a matter of priority of any death of a patient while under the care of any mental health service and any death that may implicate or involve mental health services or stakeholders, and that this includes voluntary and involuntary inpatients and patients cared for in the community, and is to include people in the community whose death may be related to an untreated mental illness, I ask -

- (1) How many mental health deaths were reported to the Chief Psychiatrist in the last twelve months?
- (2) How many mental health deaths involving the Fremantle Hospital were reported to the Chief Psychiatrist in the last twelve months?
- (3) Did the deaths involving the Fremantle Hospital that were reported include -
 - (a) 18 year old Ruby Nicholls Diver who died on 2 March 2011;
 - (b) 20 year old Carly Elliott who died on 31 March 2011;
 - (c) 27 year old unnamed male who died on 30 April 2011; or
 - (d) 56 year old Michael Thomas who died in early June 2011?
- (4) If no to any of (3)(a) to (d), why not?

5365. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health

I refer to the death of Michael Thomas following his discharge from Fremantle Hospital and the statement read out for the Minister in this place on 8 September 2011, and I ask -

- (1) Did Mr Thomas' discharge planning involve all members of the multi-disciplinary treating team?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Who was on the multi-disciplinary treating team?
- (4) Was Mr Thomas' primary care or support agency included in the process of discharge planning?
- (5) If no to (4), why not?
- (6) Why was Mr Thomas discharged against his families' wishes?
- (7) Has the hospital admitted its systems failed 56 year old Michael Thomas and has it subsequently altered its procedures?
- (8) If no to (7), why not?

5366. Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich to the Minister for Mental Health

I refer to the article 'Suicides Spark Probe' on 6 November 2011 in the *Sunday Times* where South Metropolitan Area Health Services, Mental Health Executive Director Elizabeth Moore is quoted in relation to a 27 year-old patient who committed suicide on 30 April 2011 after being denied treatment at the Fremantle Hospital Alma Street Clinic, that he had received 'appropriate and timely care', and I ask -

- (1) What is the policy governing turning away mental health patients who present saying they feel suicidal?

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- (2) Have any other public hospitals refused to admit mental health patients who present saying they feel suicidal?
- (3) If yes to (2), which hospitals?
- (4) How does turning away a suicidal mental health patient constitute 'appropriate and timely care'?

5367. Hon Lynn MacLaren to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I refer to two separate contracts awarded by the Public Transport Authority (PTA) to APN Outdoor Pty Ltd that provide rights to the contractor to advertise on the Transperth bus and train networks respectively. Could the Minister advise -

- (1) When were these contracts awarded?
- (2) Were Transperth consumers consulted before the decision to lease advertising space was made?
- (3) If yes to (2), please provide details.
- (4) If no to (2), why not?
- (5) How much revenue is expected to be generated from these contracts in a full financial year?
- (6) Where does the revenue generated from this advertising appear in the budget?
- (7) Is this revenue considered income for the PTA?
- (8) If yes to (7), what proportion of the generated revenue will be allocated to the PTA budget?
- (9) If no to (7), why not?
- (10) Do advertising guidelines exist for commercial advertising that appears on Transperth services?
- (11) If yes to (10), what are they?

5368. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Corrective Services

I refer to the answer given to my question on notice No. 5096 on 20 March 2012, and I ask what reason(s) have been identified for decreased offending rates in rural and remote areas?

5369. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

- (1) Will the Minister please table a copy of the numbat recovery plan?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Does the Minister acknowledge that numbats have been seen at the Warrup forest logging coupe?
- (4) Given the statement by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) that 'After a vigorous reintroduction campaign led by DEC, there are now eight self-sustaining populations but probably less than 1000 animals in existence' (<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/5761/1808/>), has there been an assessment of the impact on numbats of -:
 - (a) logging at Warrup; and
 - (b) removal of ground habitat at Warrup?

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- (5) If no to (4)(a) and/or (b), why not?
- (6) If yes to (4)(a) and/or (b) -
 - (a) what is that assessment;
 - (b) will the Minister please table the research supporting that assessment; and
 - (c) if no to (6)(b), why not?
- (7) What studies have been done regarding the effects of the following on numbats -
 - (a) jarrah forest logging;
 - (b) karri forest logging;
 - (c) post logging burns;
 - (d) post logging increased predation by foxes; and
 - (e) post logging increased predation by cats?
- (8) Will the Minister please table these studies?
- (9) If no to (8), why not?
- (10) What is the relationship between the Kingston fauna habitat zone and the species' presence at Warrup forest?
- (11) Will the Minister please table the research supporting this assertion?
- (12) Was the species studied as part of the research into fauna in the Kingston study?
- (13) If no to (12), why not?
- (14) If yes to (12), will the Minister please table the research?
- (15) If no to (14), why not?

5370. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Environment

I refer to the answer given to my question without notice No. 82 on 21 March 2012, and I ask -

- (1) How many mature or over-mature marri trees have been poisoned, cut down or burned as a result of logging or other silvicultural practices since 27 January 2004 (the date of the Fauna Nomination Form)?
- (2) Did the Minister disagree with the principal zoologist's identification (at paragraph 5 of the Fauna Nomination Form) of logging/woodchipping as one of the main reasons for changing the status of Forest Red-Tailed Black Cockatoos from P3 to Threatened Species?
- (3) If yes to (2) -
 - (a) will the Minister please table the research or other evidence supporting your position;
 - (b) why did the application for change of status succeed; and
 - (c) will the Minister please table the documents setting out the reasons why the application for change of status succeeded?
- (4) Does the Minister consider marri trees to be a primary species for -
 - (a) food and nesting habitat for black cockatoo species;
 - (b) protection of black cockatoo species; and
 - (c) protection of biodiversity in the south west forests?

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- (5) If no to (4)(a), (b) or (c), will the Minister please table the research or other evidence supporting your position?
- (6) If yes to any of (4)(a), (b) or (c) -
 - (a) what steps will the Minister take to improve the rate of retention of marri trees in logging and other silvicultural operations; and
 - (b) which of those steps will be implemented before the expiry of the current Forest Management Plan?

5371. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Corrective Services

I refer to the recent report by the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services 'Report of an Announced Inspection of Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre', and I ask -

- (1) What is the timeline for the following reviews by the Department of Corrective Services -
 - (a) the review of the Juvenile Custodial Rules;
 - (b) the targeted review of the *Young Offenders Act 1994*; and
 - (c) the review of the processes for behaviour management of young people at Banksia Hill Juvenile Detention Centre?
- (2) For each review -
 - (a) what is the scope of the review (please provide full details);
 - (b) is the Commissioner for Children and Young People being consulted;
 - (c) if no to (2)(b), why not; and
 - (d) who else has been/will be consulted?
- (3) Regarding the Government's response to recommendation 3, what steps has the Minister taken to increase existing resources at the facility so that the number of scheduled and unscheduled lockdowns of child detainees can be reduced to at least a level no higher than in adult prisons?
- (4) What steps are being taken to increase the number of Aboriginal staff at the facility, including but not limited to exploring the proposal by existing Aboriginal staff that mature Aboriginal men and women be employed in non-custodial care roles as 'aunties' or 'uncles' to the youth in the units?

5372. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Corrective Services

I refer to the Government response to Report 23 of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs 'Inquiry into the Transportation of Detained Persons; The Implementation of the Coroner's Recommendations in Relation to the Death of Mr Ward and Related Matters', and I ask -

- (1) Regarding the response to recommendation 4, what assessment will be made of the competency of police officers in carrying out the functions of deputy registrars? Please provide full details.
- (2) Regarding the response to recommendation 6, what assessment apart from self-assessment will be made of the competency of justices of the peace in carrying out judicial functions? Please provide full details.
- (3) Regarding the response to recommendation 15 -

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- (a) how will roll out of audio visual materials in courts Statewide assist consideration of bail by magistrates outside standard business hours; and
- (b) what further or other steps are being taken to enable bail to be considered by magistrates outside standard business hours?

5373. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Finance representing the Treasurer

Regarding redundancy payments in cases of termination of employment of former employees of the Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB), I ask -

- (1) What termination payment did former GESB chief executive officer Ms Dolin receive?
- (2) How was this payment calculated?
- (3) Who has been working as chief executive officer since Ms Dolin left GESB and at what annual remuneration?
- (4) When has a long term appointment for a new chief executive officer been made?
- (5) What is the annual remuneration for that employee?
- (6) Have any other executive officers left GESB in this or the past financial year or are any about to leave?
- (7) If yes to (6), please provide details as to the name of the person, their position and the respective amount of any pay-out made or to be made.
- (8) If not contained in the answer to question (7), please provide information regarding the termination payments for -
 - (a) Ms Michelle Ahearn;
 - (b) Ms Collene Hansen; and
 - (c) Ms Sharon Hicks.
- (9) Were these termination payments made from the general budget of GESB or were these expenses covered through general revenue?
- (10) Gold State Super is a defined benefit plan where the indexed benefit is based on the years of service multiplied by the final average salary. Given that Ms Ahearn was a former state employee, how has the employment with GESB affected her superannuation benefit and the liability of Gold State Super when she left GESB?
- (11) Section 11(2) of the amended *State Superannuation Act 2000* allows the Board to employ staff outside public service terms and conditions as determined by Board. I ask -
 - (a) how many staff are employed on other terms and conditions;
 - (b) what guidance is provided to the Board for the implementation of this provision;
 - (c) how is the Minister ensuring transparency of the process; and
 - (d) what is the mechanism to ensure that we don't get a repeat of the extraordinary past salaries at GESB?

5374. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Child Protection

I refer to the announcement of an agreement between Western Australia State Training Providers and the Department for Child Protection to waive training course fees for young people in care, and I ask -

- (1) What is the cost of this initiative and which agency is meeting that cost?

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- (2) How were the costs determined?
- (3) How many young people are expected to take up this opportunity in -
 - (a) 2012; and
 - (b) 2013 and beyond?
- (4) Are any courses exempted from the waiver scheme and if so, which ones?

5375. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

I refer to the announcement of an agreement between Western Australia State Training Providers and the Department for Child Protection to waive training course fees for young people in care, and I ask -

- (1) What is the cost of this initiative and which agency is meeting that cost?
- (2) How were the costs determined?
- (3) How many young people are expected to take up this opportunity in -
 - (a) 2012; and
 - (b) 2013 and beyond?
- (4) Are any courses exempted from the waiver scheme and if so, which ones?

5376. Hon Sue Ellery to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for Transport

I have been contacted by a number of residents expressing their concerns about the speeding along Vahland Avenue in Willetton, and I ask -

- (1) What is the most recent data Main Roads has collected about speeds along this road?
- (2) What is the number of vehicles that use this stretch of road on a daily basis?
- (3) When were these latest traffic figures taken?

5377. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Planning

I refer to paragraphs 5.206 and 5.207 of Report No. 10 of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs 'Overview of Petitions' dated 27 September 2007, and to the lack of any model tree policy or compulsion for local governments to protect mature trees in urban areas, and I ask -

- (1) What steps have been taken to address the statements made by the Western Australian Local Government Association that 'the initial opportunity to identify and protect large mature trees is at the approval of subdivision stage. An appropriate consideration of such vegetation that could enhance future streetscapes and public open space does not appear to be a realised opportunity during the subdivisional assessment process, undertaken by the Western Australian Planning Commission' and that 'a much greater emphasis is required by State planning authorities in the identification and incorporation of high value natural assets into the land use planning framework'?
- (2) Please provide full details including tabling relevant documents.

5378. Hon Giz Watson to the Minister for Energy

Regarding trees that may interfere with power transmission, I ask will the Minister please provide full details regarding what Western Power can do to assist local governments to retain such trees (for example installation of covered conductor, undergrounding a power line)?

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5379. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum

I refer to the answer to my question on notice No. 5240 regarding staffing in the petroleum division, and I ask -

- (1) How may full time equivalent (FTE) are assigned to -
 - (a) projects and policy;
 - (b) assessment; and
 - (c) compliance?
- (2) How many of the FTE referred to in each of the three areas in question (1) are staffed?
- (3) How many FTE were -
 - (a) assigned to the petroleum division in November 2011; and
 - (b) how many of those positions were filled?

5380. Hon Alison Xamon to the Minister for Mental Health representing the Minister for Water

I refer to the answer to the revised Wungong Thinning Trial, and I ask -

- (1) Will the Minister please table maps that show -
 - (a) the areas that have been thinned;
 - (b) the areas that are still to be thinned; and
 - (c) identified cockatoo habitat trees?
- (2) What will be the average amount of tree per hectare left after the revised thinning treatment?

MALCOLM PEACOCK

Clerk of the Legislative Council