

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**12 and 13 March 2008**

**(Extract from book 3)**

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.  
 Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Assembly.  
 Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.  
 The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Wednesday, 12 March 2008**

**Attorney-General: drug diversion programs**

**345.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Attorney-General —

- (1) How many offenders were diverted from the courts into compulsory drug treatment in —
  - (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
  
- (2) How many offenders who were diverted into the program satisfactorily completed the treatment in —
  - (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
  
- (3) What measure is used by the government to determine satisfactory completion of compulsory drug treatment.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

In Victoria, no offenders can be diverted from the courts in the way suggested by the question.

Courts may instruct a person to attend or engage in alcohol and drug treatments. Failure to participate in or complete treatment programs may result in breach of associated Court orders.

**Attorney-General: drug diversion programs**

**346.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Attorney-General with reference to offenders diverted from the courts into compulsory drug treatment through the Criminal Justice Diversion Program —

- (1) How many offenders were diverted in —
  - (a) 2000–01;

- (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
- (2) How many offenders who were diverted into the program satisfactorily completed the treatment in —
- (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
- (3) What measure is used by the Government to determine satisfactory completion of the treatment.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

In Victoria, no offenders can be diverted from the courts in the way suggested by the question.

Courts may instruct a person to attend or engage in alcohol and drug treatments. Failure to participate in or complete treatment programs may result in breach of associated Court orders.

**Attorney-General: drug diversion programs**

**347.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Attorney-General with reference to offenders diverted from the courts into compulsory drug treatment through the CREDIT program —

- (1) How many offenders were diverted in —
- (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
- (2) How many offenders who were diverted into the program satisfactorily completed the treatment in —
- (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.

- (3) What measure is used by the Government to determine satisfactory completion of the treatment.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

In Victoria, no offenders can be diverted from the courts in the way suggested by the question.

Courts may instruct a person to attend or engage in alcohol and drug treatments. Failure to participate in or complete treatment programs may result in breach of associated court orders.

**Attorney-General: drug diversion programs**

**348.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Attorney-General with reference to offenders diverted from the courts into compulsory drug treatment through the Drug Court —

- (1) How many offenders were diverted in —
- (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
- (2) How many offenders who satisfactorily completed the compulsory treatment were diverted in —
- (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
- (3) What measure is used by the government to determine satisfactory completion of the treatment.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

In Victoria, no offenders can be diverted from the courts in the way suggested by the question.

Courts may instruct a person to attend or engage in alcohol and drug treatments. Failure to participate in or complete treatment programs may result in breach of associated court orders.

**Public transport: V/Line coach hire**

**673.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to coaches replacing V/Line train services —

- (1) Between 1 July 2007 and 21 November 2007 how much did V/Line spend in total on hiring coaches due to —
- (a) scheduled maintenance works on —
    - (i) V/Line leased sections of track;

- (ii) Connex leased sections of track;
- (b) unscheduled events such as locomotive failures.
- (2) How much was spent hiring coaches between 1 July 2007 and 21 November 2007 on each —
  - (a) long distance corridor identified in V/Line’s monthly performance report that appears on the V/Line website and in V/Line Voice;
  - (b) short distance corridor identified in V/Line’s monthly performance report that appears on the V/Line website and in V/Line Voice.
- (3) How many separate services were replaced between 1 July 2007 and 21 November 2007 on —
  - (a) long distance corridor identified in V/Line’s monthly performance report that appears on the V/Line website and in V/Line Voice;
  - (b) short distance corridor identified in V/Line’s monthly performance report that appears on the V/Line website and in V/Line Voice.
- (4) Were coaches used to replace the 4.35 pm service from Albury to Melbourne on 19 November 2007; if so —
  - (a) were separate coaches provided for Albury to Wodonga and Wodonga to Southern Cross Station;
  - (b) how many coaches were provided for —
    - (i) Albury to Wodonga;
    - (ii) Wodonga to Southern Cross Station;
  - (c) how many people used each coach from —
    - (i) Albury to Wodonga;
    - (ii) Wodonga to Southern Cross Station.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1)
  - (a) The cost of providing replacement coaches for the train passenger business due to scheduled maintenance works between 1 July 2007 and 21 November 2007 for:
    - (i) V/Line leased sections of track - \$380,000
    - (ii) Connex leased sections of track - \$59,000.
  - (b) The cost of providing replacement coaches for unscheduled events such as locomotive failures between 1 July 2007 and 21 November 2007 was \$948,000.
- (2) Information on a corridor by corridor basis is not readily available and V/Line has advised that the resources required to manually extract the data cannot be justified at this time.
- (3) Information on a corridor by corridor basis is not readily available and V/Line has advised that the resources required to manually extract the data cannot be justified at this time.
- (4) Detailed performance information, including service details, can be found in V/Line’s Monthly Performance Reports which can be downloaded at [www.vline.com.au](http://www.vline.com.au).

**Public transport: family weekend special tickets**

**686. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to family weekend special tickets —

- (1) How much was spent advertising the tickets through —
  - (a) the V/Line Internet site;
  - (b) internet media other than the V/Line internet site;
  - (c) Melbourne metropolitan daily newspapers;
  - (d) Melbourne suburban newspapers;
  - (e) Victorian rural print media;
  - (f) Melbourne AM radio stations;
  - (g) Melbourne FM radio stations;
  - (h) Victorian rural AM radio stations;
  - (i) Victorian rural FM radio stations;
  - (j) Melbourne metropolitan television stations;
  - (k) Victorian rural television stations;
  - (l) magazines;
  - (m) posters at V/Line railway stations;
  - (n) posters at Connex Melbourne railway stations.
- (2) What were the three biggest individual outlets used for advertising and how much was spent at each place advertising the tickets.
- (3) How many total passenger journeys using the tickets were made by —
  - (a) adults;
  - (b) concession ticket holders (non-child).
- (4) How many children are estimated to have travelled on the tickets on —
  - (a) 9 June 2007;
  - (b) 10 June 2007;
  - (c) 11 June 2007;
  - (d) 16 June 2007;
  - (e) 17 June 2007;
  - (f) 23 June 2007;
  - (g) 24 June 2007;
  - (h) 30 June 2007;
  - (i) 1 July 2007;
  - (j) 7 July 2007;
  - (k) 8 July 2007;
  - (l) 14 July 2007;
  - (m) 15 July 2007.
- (5) Why were the tickets only available for part of winter 2007.
- (6) Will the tickets be offered in the future; if so, when.
- (7) What seat occupancy ratios did V/Line project for each of the 11 short or long distance rail lines for each day on which the tickets were available for —
  - (a) passengers with tickets;
  - (b) passengers without tickets.

- (8) What seat occupancy ratios did V/Line achieve for each of the 11 short or long distance rail lines for each day on which the tickets were available.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) (a-n) \$53,000 (excluding GST) was the total cost for advertising the *Family Weekend Special* ticket. To provide the break-down of advertising costs as requested in the question would require a significant use of resources and has therefore not been provided.
- (2) To provide the break-down of advertising costs along with the ranking of outlets would require a significant use of resources and has therefore not been provided.
- (3) During the period of the promotion, 4,147 *Family Weekend Special* tickets were sold. The break-down of patronage data into Adult and Child as requested is not available as the break down of people travelling on each ticket is not collected.
- (4) During the period of the promotion, 4,147 *Family Weekend Special* tickets were sold. The patronage data for children travelling on specific days as requested is not viable as the breakdown of people travelling on each ticket is not collected.
- (5) The *Family Weekend Special* ticket was a special promotion for travel on V/Line over a period of six weekends, designed to gauge customer support of the ticket.
- (6) In January 2008, V/Line promoted a similar family ticketing product, the Family Special ticket. The promotion ran from 1 January to 31 January 2008.
- (7) The data requested is not available.
- (8) The data requested is not available.

**Environment and climate change: fire operations plan**

**785.** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to the Fire Operations Plan for 2007–08 to 2009–10 — was burn number W41 conducted as scheduled; if not —

- (1) Why did it not occur;  
 (2) When will the burn take place.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Burn number W41, was ignited and burnt on 8 November 2007.

**Corrections: prisoners — drug treatment**

**805.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Corrections — how many episodes of intensive drug treatment for prisoners before and after the release, as promised in a media release on 28 November 2000, were delivered in the three years from the date of the press release.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Collation of information in the specific format sought by the Honourable member represents an unreasonable diversion of resources by Corrections Victoria.

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**Thursday, 13 March 2008**

**Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — staff**

**32.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) — how many officers in the State Trustees Limited are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations as at 30 June 2006, and —

- (1) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (2) What is the job title for each of these officers.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As at 30 June 2006 State Trustees Limited had two officers engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.

- (1) The salary band for each of these officers is \$60,001 to \$70,000; and \$110,001 to \$120,000.
- (2) The job title for each of these officers is ‘Manager, Corporate Relations’ and ‘Communications and Corporate Communications Manager’.

**Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: government vehicles**

**60.** Mr WELLER to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission — does the Whole of Government Standard Motor Vehicle Policy now specify that, where practical, the Government only purchase vehicles meeting an Australian New Car Assessment Program four star rating as recommended by Recommendation 12 of the Road Safety Committee’s Report on the Country Road Toll.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Section 17.1.3 of the Whole of Government Standard Motor Vehicle Policy states:

“The employer shall exceed the requirements of the vehicle Australian Design Rules by fitting vehicles with manufacturer-approved options, so far as is practicable, to provide vehicles that are safe and without risk to health. Wherever practicable, only vehicles with an Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) 4 star rating or better should be considered for procurement. It is highly recommended that all new Government vehicles be procured with the following safety equipment fitted:

- daytime running lights
- driver and front passenger airbags
- side and curtain airbags where available
- cargo barriers as required
- electronic stability control (or equivalent technology)

- an over-speed warning device
- a centre rear lap-sash seatbelt
- reverse sensors.”

**Health: legislation implementation cost**

**223.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to advice offered to the Minister on the calculated cost to the 12 health boards in Victoria to implement the *Health Professions Registration Act 2005* — what are the details of the advice.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department advised that the reform proposals contained in the Health Professions Registration Act did not require a Business Impact Assessment (BIA) as they were not expected to impose an appreciable burden on businesses.

The department also provided advice on the projected costs associated with transfer of the hearing of serious misconduct matters from the registration boards to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. This information was published on the department’s website.

**Senior Victorians: Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd**

**249(c).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised I was supported as then Minister for Aged Care, by the then Department for Victorian Communities. I am informed that:

- (1) There was one contract with Shannon’s Way P/L for the purpose of interviews recording the experience of Commonwealth Games volunteers.
- (2) The cost of the contract was \$9,600
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contract was not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer the contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Multicultural affairs: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**249(q).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There was one contract with Shannon's Way P/L for the purpose of interviews recording the experience of Commonwealth Games volunteers.
- (2) The cost of the contract was \$9,600
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contract was not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer the contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Sports, recreation and youth affairs: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**249(x).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There was one contract with Shannon's Way P/L for the purpose of interviews recording the experience of Commonwealth Games volunteers.
- (2) The cost of the contract was \$9,600
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contract was not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer the contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Veterans' affairs: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**249(ab).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There was one contract with Shannon's Way P/L for the purpose of interviews recording the experience of Commonwealth Games volunteers.
- (2) The cost of the contract was \$9,600
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contract was not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer the contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Women's affairs: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**249(ad).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There was one contract with Shannon's Way P/L for the purpose of interviews recording the experience of Commonwealth Games volunteers.
- (2) The cost of the contract was \$9,600
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contract was not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer the contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Senior Victorians: Growth Solutions Group**

**250(c).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised I was supported as then Minister for Aged Care, by the then Department for Victorian Communities. I am informed that:

- (1) There were two contracts with the Growth Solutions Group.
- (2) \$907 and \$1,815.
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contracts were not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer a contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Multicultural affairs: Growth Solutions Group**

**250(t).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There were two contracts with the Growth Solutions Group.
- (2) \$907 and \$1,815.
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contracts were not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer a contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Sports, recreation and youth affairs: Growth Solutions Group**

**250(ab).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There were two contracts with the Growth Solutions Group.
- (2) \$907 and \$1,815.
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contracts were not offered for public tender.

**Veterans' affairs: Growth Solutions Group**

**250(ad).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There were two contracts with the Growth Solutions Group.
- (2) \$907 and \$1,815.
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contracts were not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer a contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Women's affairs: Growth Solutions Group**

**250(ai).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There were two contracts with the Growth Solutions Group.
- (2) \$907 and \$1,815.
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contracts were not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer a contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

**Treasurer: Treasury and Finance — expenditure**

**455.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — in 2006–07 what was the Department of Treasury and Finance’s —

- (1) Advertising expenditure.
- (2) Credit card expenditure.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) In 2006-07 the advertising expenditure for the department was \$389,269. This includes advertising expenditure for recruitment, tenders and management and statutory notices.
- (2) Credit card expenditure is not readily available for the 2006/07 financial year.

**Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — staff**

**513.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — how many officers in the State Trustees Limited were engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations, as at 30 June 2007 and —

- (1) What is the salary band for each.
- (2) What is the job title for each.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As a result of staff turnover, there were no officers engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations as at 30 June 2007.

**Roads and ports: Napoleon Road, Rowville**

**527. Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports —

- (1) How many cars, on average, use the next most prioritised road to Napoleon Road (or the least-prioritised road being considered for duplication if Napoleon Road is not being considered for duplication) during —
  - (a) weekdays prior to 7.30 am;
  - (b) weekdays between 7.30 am and 8.30 am;
  - (c) weekdays between 8.30 am and 9.00 am;
  - (d) weekdays between 9.00 am and 9.30 am;
  - (e) weekdays between 9.30 am and 3.00 pm;
  - (f) weekdays between 3.00 pm and 4.00 pm;
  - (g) weekdays between 4.00 pm and 5.00 pm;
  - (h) weekdays between 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm;
  - (i) weekdays between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm;
  - (j) weekdays after 7.00 pm.
  
- (2) How many motor vehicle accidents have occurred in the last five years on —
  - (a) Napoleon Road;
  - (b) the next most prioritised road to Napoleon Road;
  - (c) the least-prioritised road to Napoleon Road being considered for duplication, if Napoleon Road is not.
  
- (3) Are there plans to duplicate Napoleon Road between Wellington Road, Rowville and the site of the Dorset Road extension; —
  - (a) if so, when will duplication commence;
  - (b) if not —
    - (i) when will the Government investigate the duplication of Napoleon Road;
    - (ii) against what criteria will the Government assess the need for the duplication of Napoleon Road;
  
- (4) How many roads being considered for duplication have a higher priority than Napoleon Road.
  
- (5) Over the last five years how many roads have been duplicated per year in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1) The question lacks the requisite specificity which would enable a meaningful answer to be provided as proposals for road improvements are considered and evaluated on a region and statewide basis, taking into account many different factors, such as potential safety benefits, population trends, congestion impacts and freight considerations for each potential section of any road improvement. You may also be interested to note that while the section of Napoleon Road between Kellebys Road and Lysterfield Road is a state arterial road, the section between Wellington Road and Kellebys Road is a municipal road.
  
- (2) It is noted that casualty crash data is available via the crash database ‘CrashStats’, which is publicly available on VicRoads’ website ([www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)).
  
- (3) As part of the Victorian Government’s *Meeting Our Transport Challenges* action plan, \$1.3 billion has been allocated to our outer metropolitan road program. Any proposals for road improvement projects, such as upgrading Napoleon Road, under this program must be considered and evaluated against similar projects across metropolitan Melbourne.

- (4) Refer to the answer to question 1.
- (5) Since coming into office in 1999, the Victorian Government has invested around \$5.8 billion into building better, safer roads across the state. This includes more than \$1 billion invested into 43 significant road projects in outer metropolitan areas, with the Brumby Government committed to a further 20 new outer metropolitan projects at a cost of more than \$420 million.

**Public transport: rail — early morning patronage**

**578. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — on 30 October 2007 —

- (1) How many passengers used Metcards valid for zones one and two to enter —
- (a) Flinders Street station between —
- (i) 5.00 am and 5.59 am;
  - (ii) 6.00 am and 6.59 am;
  - (iii) 7.00 am and 7.59 am;
  - (iv) 8.00 am and 8.59 am;
- (b) Melbourne Central station between —
- (i) 5.00 am and 5.59 am;
  - (ii) 6.00 am and 6.59 am;
  - (iii) 7.00 am and 7.59 am;
  - (iv) 8.00 am and 8.59 am;
- (c) Parliament station between —
- (i) 5.00 am and 5.59 am;
  - (ii) 6.00 am and 6.59 am;
  - (iii) 7.00 am and 7.59 am;

**ANSWER:**

In responding to this question it is assumed that ‘valid for zones one and two’ means valid in the metropolitan area. On the basis of this interpretation and at the date the question was raised the answer is:

The number of passengers that used Metcards valid for zones one and two to enter Flinders Street, Melbourne Central and Parliament Railway Stations on 30 October 2007:

	(i) Between 5.00am and 5.59am	(ii) Between 6.00am and 6.59am	(iii) Between 7.00am and 7.59am	(iv) Between 8.00am and 8.59am
a) Flinders Street	51	280	1,280	1,668
b) Melbourne Central	29	82	222	456
c) Parliament	10	51	254	

Notes

- The table shows all entry validations of valid Metcards.
- Some passengers with valid Metcards will have passed through open barriers without validating their tickets.

**Community services: supported residential services**

**609.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to pension level supported residential services (SRS), as defined in the SAVVI initiative, in the Barwon South West Region, the Loddon Mallee Region, the Grampians Region, the Hume Region, the Gippsland Region, the North West Region, the Southern Region and the Eastern Region — based on the 2006 census for each region —

- (1) How many people lived in pension level SRS.
- (2) How many people under the age of 20 lived in pension level SRS.
- (3) How many people with a disability, including a mental illness and psychiatric disability, (excluding a primary disability of frailty) lived in pension level SRS.
- (4) How many people with a primary disability of frailty lived in pension level SRS.
- (5) How many people aged 70 or over lived in pension level SRS.
- (6) How many people who were previously homeless lived in pension level SRS.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- There was no SRS data collected in the 2006 census.
- Data from 2006 census is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website at the following address:  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/>

**Community services: supported residential services**

**610.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to pension level supported residential services (SRS), as outlined in the SAVVI initiative based on the 2006 census —

- (1) How many people lived in pension level SRS.
- (2) How many people under the age of 20 lived in pension level SRS.
- (3) How many people with a disability, including a mental illness and psychiatric disability, (excluding a primary disability of frailty) lived in pension level SRS.
- (4) How many people with a primary disability of frailty lived in pension level SRS.
- (5) How many people aged 70 or over lived in pension level SRS.
- (6) How many people who were previously homeless lived in pension level SRS.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- There was no SRS data collected in the 2006 census.
- Data from 2006 census is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics website at the following address:  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/>

**Mental health: drugs — local programs**

**634.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to local programs involving traders and the community as referred to in Labor’s ‘Plan to tackle the drug crisis’ released in July 1999 to deal with drug use — in 1999–2000, 2000–01, 2001–02 and 2002–03 —

- (1) How many local programs involving traders and the community, were established in each year.

- (2) What was the name and location of each program.
- (3) How much funding was allocated to each program in each year.
- (4) How much funding was expended on each program in each year.
- (5) Were funds ongoing to each program; if so, how much was spent in each of the subsequent years.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1–4) Municipal Drug Strategy funding was \$4m over three years (2000–2001 to 2002–2003). This funding was provided to five municipalities to implement local programs incorporating prevention and community strengthening initiatives and projects that focused on public space management. The five municipalities were the Cities of Yarra, Port Phillip, Maribyrnong, Melbourne and Dandenong. Funding was expended fully over the three years.
- (5) Recurrent funding of \$803k per annum (to be indexed annually) has been allocated to continue the Municipal Drug Strategy from 2006–2007.

**Mental health: funding**

**635.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to \$19 million worth of funding for new initiatives announced by the Government on 28 November 2000 — in 2000–01, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04 —

- (1) How many new initiatives were funded.
- (2) What was the name and location of each program funded.
- (3) How much funding was allocated to each program in each year.
- (4) How much funding was expended on each program in each year.
- (5) Were funds ongoing to each program; if so, how much was spent in each subsequent year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1–3) The Government announced \$19m of alcohol and drug initiatives on the 25 September 2001 to be funded over two years (2001–02 to 2002–03). Initiatives were funded in Prevention (\$4.8m), Treatment (\$7.545m) and Sustainability and Quality Assurance (\$7.12m).
- (4–5) Funding was fully expended over the two years and a number of programs funded under Prevention, Treatment and Sustainability and Quality Assurance were funded in an ongoing capacity through the approval of the ongoing Victorian Drug Strategy in 2007–2008.

**Mental health: funding**

**636.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to funding announced on 24 January 2001 for out of hours support at the Eastern Drug and Alcohol Centre —

- (1) On what date did the service commence.
- (2) How much funding was allocated to the service between January 2001 and June 2003.
- (3) How much funding was expended on the program between January 2001 and June 2003.
- (4) Was funding ongoing to the service; if so, how much was spent in each subsequent year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The service commenced operation in 2000/2001.
- (2) \$185k was allocated to operate an extended hours service at Eastern Drug and Alcohol Service.
- (3) Funding was fully expended between January 2001 to June 2003.
- (4) The program was funded in an ongoing capacity at \$72,139 per annum (subject to annual indexation).

**Mental health: parent support program**

**637.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to funding announced on 24 January 2001 for Anglicare to establish a Parent Support Program —

- (1) On what date did the service commence.
- (2) How much funding was allocated to the service between January 2001 and June 2003.
- (3) How much funding was expended on the program between January 2001 and June 2003.
- (4) How many families received therapeutic support from the program in 2001, 2002 and the first half of 2003.
- (5) Was funding ongoing to this service; if so, how much was spent in each subsequent year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The service commenced operation in 2000/2001.
- (2) \$21k per annum was allocated to establish a Parent Support Program operated by Anglicare.
- (3) Funding was fully expended between January 2001 to June 2003.
- (4) The number of families that received therapeutic support from the program in the specified time frame was in excess of the target of 50 parents per annum.
- (5) The program was funded in an ongoing capacity at \$23,400 per annum (subject to annual indexation).

**Mental health: funding — family counselling programs**

**638.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Family Counselling programs funded in the 2001–02 Budget —

- (1) How many Family Counselling Services were established in community based organisations in 2001–02 and on what date did each commence.
- (2) What was the name and location of each program.
- (3) How much funding was allocated to each program in 2001–02.
- (4) How much funding was expended on each program in 2001–02.
- (5) Were funds ongoing to each program; if so, how much was spent in each subsequent year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1-2) Funding for family counselling services was provided to each DHS region which in turn determined the allocation of resources to agencies.
- (3) In 2001-02 funds totalling \$607k was allocated to agencies via the regions.
- (4) In 2001-02 \$607k was expended.
- (5) Recurrent funding of \$671k per annum (subject to annual indexation) has been allocated as part of the Victorian Drug Strategy.

**Mental health: homeless support programs**

**639.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Homeless Persons Support programs funded in the 2001-02 Budget —

- (1) On what date did this service commence.
- (2) How much funding was allocated to the program in 2001-02.
- (3) How much funding was expended to the program in 2001-02.
- (4) Was funding ongoing to the service; if so, how much was spent in each subsequent year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Homeless and Drug Dependency Trial commenced operation in July 2001.
- (2) \$2.619m was allocated in 2001- 2002.
- (3) \$2.619m was fully expended in 2001-2002.
- (4) From 2006-2007, the program was funded in an ongoing capacity for a further four years at \$2.68m per annum (to be indexed each year).

**Community services: disability services — shared supported accommodation**

**641.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to people with disabilities in Shared Supported Accommodation in 2006-07 —

- (1) What was the total funding allocated to Shared Supported Accommodation.
- (2) How much of the funding was for Department of Human Services managed accommodation.
- (3) How much of the funding is the amount of Capital Asset Charge attributed to Secretary-owned accommodation.
- (4) How much of the funding is a proportion of statewide corporate infrastructure costs attributed to Secretary-owned accommodation.
- (5) How much of the funding is revenue offsets applied to support the accommodation of residents.
- (6) How many people were residents in Department of Human Services managed accommodation.
- (7) How much of the funding was for non-government managed accommodation.
- (8) How many people were residents in non-government managed accommodation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) \$402.6M.

- (2) The funding for Department of Human Services managed accommodation in 2006-07 is not a standard data set reported by Disability Services Division.
- (3) The funding amount of Capital Asset Charge attributed to Secretary-owned accommodation in 2006-07 is not a standard data set reported by Disability Services Division, as CAC is attributed at an output level (e.g. Residential Accommodation Services).
- (4) This is not a standard data set reported by Disability Services Division.
- (5) This is not a standard data set reported by Disability Services Division.
- (6) This is not a standard data set reported by Disability Services Division.
- (7) The funding for non-government managed accommodation in 2006-07 is not a standard data set reported by Disability Services Division.
- (8) This is not a standard data set reported by Disability Services Division.

**Community services: peak organisations — funding**

**652.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to organisations that were funded as peak organisations for people with a disability — in 2006-07 —

- (1) Which organisations were funded.
- (2) What was the funding for each organisation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The following organisations were funded as peak organisations in 2006-07:
  - ACROD Limited–Victorian Division (changed its name to National Disability Services Limited)
  - Council of Intellectual Disability Agencies (Vic) Inc
  - VICRAID Inc

Late in 2006-07, both the Council of Intellectual Disability Agencies (Vic) Inc and VICRAID Inc merged with National Disability Services Limited.

(2) The funding in 2006-07 for each organisation was:

National Disability Services Limited	\$320,286
Council of Intellectual Disability Agencies (Vic) Inc	\$ 42,120
VICRAID Inc	\$ 20,848

**Community services: foster care**

**687.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services —

- (1) How many foster carers received financial reimbursement from the Department of Human Services in each Departmental region during —
  - (a) 2000-01;
  - (b) 2001-02;
  - (c) 2002-03;
  - (d) 2003-04;

- (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
- (2) How many children and young people received foster care in each Department of Human Services region in —
- (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2001–02;
  - (c) 2002–03;
  - (d) 2003–04;
  - (e) 2004–05;
  - (f) 2005–06;
  - (g) 2006–07.
- (3) How many foster carers currently receive reimbursement from the Department of Human Services in each Departmental region.
- (4) How many children and young people currently receive foster care in each Department of Human Services region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Around 2,000
- (2) Approximately 3,000 to 5,000
- (3) The number of foster carers fluctuates on a day to day basis.
- (4) The number of children and young people who received foster care fluctuates on a day to day basis.

**Community services: residential out-of-home care**

**688.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to residential home care facilities for children and young people who have been in contact with child protection —

- (1) How many facilities are operated by the Department of Human Services.
- (2) What is the location of each facility.
- (3) How many beds does each facility have.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Seven.
- (2) Across Melbourne's north and west.
- (3) Between three and eight.

**Community services: staffing levels**

**689.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to staffing levels at 1 July in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 —

- (1) How many equivalent full-time vacancies were there in Child Protection Services.
- (2) What was the title, role and location of each vacant position in Child Protection Services.
- (3) What was the total number of the active workforce, equivalent full-time, in Child Protection Services.
- (4) How many equivalent full-time vacancies were there in Family Services.
- (5) What was the title, role and location of each vacant position in Family Services.
- (6) What was the total number of the active workforce, equivalent full-time, in Family Services.
- (7) How many equivalent full-time vacancies were there in Youth Justice Services.
- (8) What was the title, role and location of each vacant position in Youth Justice Services.
- (9) What was the total number of the active workforce, equivalent full-time, in Youth Justice Services.
- (10) How many equivalent full-time vacancies were there in Disability Services.
- (11) What was the title, role and location of each vacant position in Disability Services.
- (12) What was the total number of the active workforce, equivalent full-time, in Disability Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) This data is not routinely collected across Child Protection Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (2) This data is not routinely collected across Child Protection Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (3) Workforce data is published in Departmental Annual Reports for the period 2000- June 2007. This data combines both Youth Justice and Child Protection Workforce.
- (4) This data is not routinely collected across Family Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (5) This data is not routinely collected across Family Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (6) Workforce data is published in Departmental Annual Reports for the period 2000- June 2007. This data combines both Child Protection and Family Services Workforce.
- (7) This data is not routinely collected across Youth Justice Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (8) This data is not routinely collected across Youth Justice Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (9) Workforce data is published in Departmental Annual Reports for the period 2000- June 2007. This data combines both Youth Justice and Child Protection Workforce.
- (10) This data is not routinely collected across Disability Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (11) This data is not routinely collected across Disability Services as it is subject to change on a frequent basis
- (12) Workforce data is published in Departmental Annual Reports for the period 2000- June 2007.

**Community services: child protection workers**

**690.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the child protection worker orientation program for newly recruited workers —

- (1) On what date did the program commence.
- (2) How much money was allocated to the program in 2000–01.

- (3) How much money was expended on the program in 2000–01.
- (4) In what locations was the program delivered.
- (5) Was the program ongoing; if so —
  - (a) how much money was expended on the program in —
    - (i) 2000–01;
    - (ii) 2001–02;
    - (iii) 2002–03;
    - (iv) 2003–04;
    - (v) 2004–05;
    - (vi) 2005–06;
    - (vii) 2006–07;
  - (b) how many staff went through the program in —
    - (i) 2000–01;
    - (ii) 2001–02;
    - (iii) 2002–03;
    - (iv) 2003–04;
    - (v) 2004–05;
    - (vi) 2005–06;
    - (vii) 2006–07.
- (6) Has an evaluation of the program been carried out; if so, is it publicly available.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) An orientation program for new recruits to the Child Protection workforce has been provided since 1990.
- (2) \$0.3m
- (3) \$0.3m
- (4) Department of Human Services Head Office.
- (5) Yes.
  - (a) In the range of \$0.25m to \$0.3m annually.
  - (b) Up to 200 participants per year.
- (6) Yes.

**Community services: child protection workers**

- 691. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the leadership development program for child protection team leaders —
- (1) On what date did the program commence.
  - (2) How much money was allocated to the program in 2000–01.
  - (3) How much money was expended on the program in 2000–01.
  - (4) In what locations was the program delivered.
  - (5) Was the program ongoing; if so —

- (a) how much money was expended on the program in —
  - (i) 2000–01;
  - (ii) 2001–02;
  - (iii) 2002–03;
  - (iv) 2003–04;
  - (v) 2004–05;
  - (vi) 2005–06;
  - (vii) 2006–07;
- (b) how many staff went through the program in —
  - (i) 2000–01;
  - (ii) 2001–02;
  - (iii) 2002–03;
  - (iv) 2003–04;
  - (v) 2004–05;
  - (vi) 2005–06;
  - (vii) 2006–07.

(6) Has an evaluation of the program been carried out; if so, is it publicly available.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Professional development activities for new Child Protection team leaders have been offered since 1990.
- (2) Actual funding allocated to the program is not able to be discreetly determined for 2000 -01.
- (3) Actual expenditure on the program for 2000-01 is not able to be discreetly determined.
- (4) Leadership programs are centrally coordinated and delivered from central, residential and regional locations.
- (5) (a) For earlier years, it is not possible to discretely determine expenditure. In Latter years, up to \$120,000 has been expended annually.
- (b) For earlier years, it is not possible to determine attendance due to manual data storage constraints. In latter years, up to 40 participants have been involved.
- (6) No.

**Community services: project funding**

**692.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funding provided to the Placement and Support Capital Project in the 2000–01 budget —

- (1) How much funding from the 2000–01 budget was spent on high priority projects to improve placement and support residential facilities under the Project.
- (2) How many facilities were upgraded with the funds and what was the —
  - (a) location of each upgraded facility;
  - (b) completion date of each upgrade.
- (3) How many new facilities were purchased with the funds and what was the —
  - (a) location of each facility;

- (b) date each facility was purchased;
- (c) date each facility was ready for use.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) \$5 million
- (2) Three
  - a. Melbourne's north and south
  - b. April 2002
- (3) Ten
  - a. Across Victoria
  - b. December 2001 to March 2003
  - c. All completed by March 2003

**Community services: child protection services — funding**

**693.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the \$7.5 million allocated to child protection services in the 2001–02 budget to improve service provision —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2001–02.
- (2) Which specific services, and in what locations, received funding.
- (3) How much funding did each service receive, and to carry out what function.
- (4) Over what timeframe did each service receive the funding.
- (5) Was funding to services ongoing in 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07; if so, in what amounts.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) \$7.5 million.
- (2) A range of services across Victoria.
- (3) Funding was allocated on the basis of existing targets to:
  - Increase unit prices paid for direct delivery of Residential Care services
  - Introduce payment for case management services
  - Increase Residential Care targets for Hume Region
  - Establish a learning and development fund
- (4) Throughout 2001-2002.
- (5) Yes. Funding was provided on a recurrent basis.

**Community services: kinship and permanent care — funding**

**694.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funding of \$200,000 allocated in the 2001–02 budget to cater for service demands in kinship and permanent care —

- (1) Which services received the funding, and by what date, was the funding received.
- (2) How many additional places were created as a direct result of the allocation of funds in 2001–02 and in which Department of Human Services regions were the places allocated.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Additional funds of \$200,000 were allocated in 2001-02 to cater for service demands in kinship care and permanent care. The funds were allocated to each Department of Human Services region during 2001-02.
- (2) There was an increase of 164 places in kinship care and permanent care from 2001-02 to 2002-03, across all Department of Human Services regions.

**Community services: child protection services — funding**

**695.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to fund of \$1 million allocated in the 2001–02 budget to expand after hours child protection services in regional and rural services —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2001–02.
- (2) Which specific services, and in what locations, received the funding.
- (3) How much funding did each service receive.
- (4) Over what timeframe did each service receive the funding.
- (5) Was funding to services ongoing in 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006-07; if so, in what amounts.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The entire allocation of \$1m.
- (2) Across a range of non-metropolitan regions.
- (3) Each region received up to \$231,000.
- (4) Funding was allocated throughout the course of the financial year.
- (5) Funding was provided on a recurrent basis from 2001-02 onwards.

**Community services: project funding**

**696.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Placement and Support Capital Project — in 2001–02, 2002–03 and 2003–04 —

- (1) How much funding from the 2001–02 budget was allocated to the project.
- (2) How much funding from the 2001–02 budget was expended under the project.
- (3) How many facilities were upgraded with funding from the 2001–02 budget and what was the —

- (a) location of each upgraded facility;
  - (b) completion date of each of upgrade.
- (4) How many new facilities were purchased with the funding from the 2001–02 budget and what was the —
- (a) location of each purchased facility;
  - (b) date each facility was purchased;
  - (c) date each purchased facility was ready for use.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) \$12 million received from the 2001/02 budget for the project.
- (2) The full \$12 million was expended under the project.
- (3) Six existing facilities were refurbished with funding from the 2001/02 budget.
  - (a) The refurbished facilities are located in Warrnambool, Thomastown, Frankston, Seaford, Altona North and Ascot Vale.
  - (b) All refurbishments were completed by December 2003.
- (4) Eleven new facilities were constructed with funding from the 2001/02 budget.
  - (a) The new facilities are located in Warrnambool, Mount Evelyn, Wodonga, Kangaroo Flat, Glenroy, Moe, Ballarat, Reservoir, Dandenong, Frankston and Deer Park.
  - (b) The newly constructed facilities were all completed by March 2004.
  - (c) The newly constructed facilities were all ready for use by March 2004.

**Community services: abused children and young people — therapeutic service**

**697. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$5 million to establish an intensive therapeutic service for abused children and young people in the 2002–03 budget —

- (1) When did the service become operational.
- (2) Where is the service located.
- (3) How much of the funding was expended in 2002–03.
- (4) Was funding to the service ongoing in 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07; if so, in what amount.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) 2004
- (2) In every Department of Human Services region.
- (3) Nil
- (4) Yes. \$5 million or more each financial year.

**Community services: funding — kinship and permanent care — funding**

**699.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funding of \$1.2 million for additional kinship and permanent care places in the 2002–03 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2002–03.
- (2) How many new kinship and permanent care places were created in 2002–03 as a direct result of the funding.
- (3) How many new places, created in 2002–03, were located in each Department of Human Services region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) This funding was fully expended in 2002-03.
- (2) Between 30 June 2002 and 30 June 2003 the number of kinship care and permanent care placements increased by 74.
- (3) The new places were located in each of the Department of Human Services regions.

**Community services: child protection services**

**702.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the funds of \$16.8 million over four years, promised on 4 September 2002, to employ 60 new child protection caseworkers —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —
  - (a) 2002–03;
  - (b) 2003–04;
  - (c) 2004–05;
  - (d) 2005–06.
- (2) How many new full-time equivalent caseworkers were employed with the funding in —
  - (a) 2002–03;
  - (b) 2003–04;
  - (c) 2004–05;
  - (d) 2005–06.
- (3) How many new full-time equivalent caseworkers were employed in total with the funding.
- (4) How many of new full-time equivalent caseworkers were employed in each Department of Human Services region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1)
  - (a) \$4.2m
  - (b) \$4.2m
  - (c) \$4.2m
  - (d) \$4.2m

- (2)
- (a) 60
  - (b) 60
  - (c) 60
  - (d) 60
- (3) As a result of the additional \$4.2m provided by ERC in 2002-03, a total of 60 additional Child Protection workers were employed by the Department
- (4) The staff numbers and locations are as follows: Barwon 5, Eastern 8, Gippsland 3, Grampians 3, Hume 3, Loddon 4, North-West 17, Southern 13 and Head Office 4.

**Community services: home-based carers**

**704.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$16 million allocated in the 2003–04 budget to increase fortnightly reimbursements to home-based carers —

- (1) When did the increase take effect.
- (2) How much on average, per carer per fortnight, were payments increased by.
- (3) What was the average rate of reimbursement prior to the increase.
- (4) What is the average rate of reimbursement since the increase.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The increase took effect from 01/07 2003.
- (2) Payments increased between \$40 and \$231 per fortnight.
- (3) The general rate of carer reimbursement is based on the age and needs of the child.
- (4) The general rate of carer reimbursement is based on the age and needs of the child.

**Community services: care leavers — mentoring**

**705.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$100,000 allocated in the 2003–04 budget to provide mentors to young people leaving care —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.
- (2) How many new mentors were provided in 2003–04 as a direct result of the funding.
- (3) How many young people were provided with mentors in 2003–04 as a direct result of the funding.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- 1. \$100,000 was transferred to the selected service providers in late 2003/2004 for utilisation during 2003/2004 and 2004/2005.
- 2. The first mentors were recruited in early 2004/2005.
- 3. No young people were provided with mentors in 2003/2004. The first matches occurred in 2004/2005.

**Community services: foster care**

**706.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$20.7 million allocated in the 2004–05 budget to increase payments to foster carers —

- (1) When did this increase take effect.
- (2) How much on average, per carer per fortnight, were payments increased by.
- (3) What was the average rate of reimbursement prior to the increase.
- (4) What is the average rate of reimbursement since the increase.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) 1 July 2004.
- (2) Fortnightly payments increased by between \$24 and \$122.  
An additional \$800 per child per year was paid to assist foster carers to meet the educational and health needs of children and young people in care.
- (3) The general rate of carer reimbursement is based on the age and needs of the child.
- (4) The general rate of carer reimbursement is based on the age and needs of the child.

**Community services: adolescent mediation and diversion services**

**707.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$500,000 allocated in the 2004–05 budget to extend adolescent mediation and diversion services —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2004–05.
- (2) Which specific services, in what locations, received the funding.
- (3) How much funding did each service receive.
- (4) Has funding to the services been ongoing in 2005–06 and 2006–07; if so, in what amounts.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) \$500,000
- (2) The funding was allocated to all DHS regions.
- (3) Funding to services varied depending upon a range of funding criteria.
- (4) Yes. Funding levels to centres varies depending upon a range of funding criteria.

**Community services: care leavers — mentoring**

**709.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Leaving Care Mentoring Program — in 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07 —

- (1) How much funding did the program receive.
- (2) How many young people received mentoring through the program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) How much funding did the program receive?

2004-05: \$ 53,332 (In addition to the \$100,000 provided in 2003/2004 for service delivery in 2003/2004 and 2004/2005)

2005-06: \$303,650

2006-07: \$303,650

- (3) In each of these years, how many young people received mentoring through this program.

2004-05: 35 young people

2005-06: 65 young people

2006-07: 65 young people

(service targets)

**Community services: children in care — funding**

- 710.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$27.45 million allocated in the 2006–07 budget to deliver greater stability for children in care —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —

- (a) 2006–07;  
(b) 2007–08 to date.

- (2) Which specific services, in what locations, received the funding and how much funding did each service receive.

- (3) How many families were able to regain custody of their children as a direct result of the funding in —

- (a) 2006–07;  
(b) 2007–08 to date.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1)

- (a) 2006-07 expenditure on this initiative was reported in the 2006-07 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services on page 121.  
(b) 2007-08 expenditure will be reported in the 2007-08 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services

- (2) Funding was allocated to each Department of Human Services region on the basis of the numbers of children in out of home care in each region.

- (3) This question does not relate to the broad purpose of these funds. This funding is to achieve stability of care for children whether this be in the care of their parents or in alternative long term care. In either situation, it is not possible to definitively state whether money, or other factors, have directly resulted in stability being achieved.

**Community services: out-of-home care**

**711. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$22.42 million allocated in the 2006–07 budget to improve the quality of out-of-home care services —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —
  - (a) 2006–07;
  - (b) 2007–08 to date.
- (2) Which specific services, in what locations, received the funding and how much funding did each service receive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) In 2006–07 all of the \$5.4 million was expended. As at 31 December 2007 half of the moneys i.e. \$2.7 million had been expended.
- (2) All Community Service Organisations across the eight regions of the Department of Human Services providing foster care had their funding adjusted through this budget initiative.
- (3) Funding to individual CSOs varied.

**Community services: child protection services**

**712. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$14.7 million allocated in the 2006–07 budget to investigate repeat child protection notifications —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —
  - (a) 2006–07;
  - (b) 2007–08 to date.
- (2) How many repeat notifications were investigated as a direct result of the funding.
- (3) How many repeat notifications were not investigated in —
  - (a) 2006–07;
  - (b) 2007–08 to date.
- (4) How many full-time equivalent extra child protection workers have so far been recruited using the funding.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

1. (a) \$2.3M was expended.  
(b) \$3.54M was allocated, and is expected to be fully expended in 2007-08.
2. Data systems do not enable the attribution of these funds to the specific investigation of repeat notifications.
3. (a) Approximately 15,000.  
(b) Approximately 8,500 in the 6 months from July to December 2007.
4. Data systems do not enable the attribution of these funds to specific child protection workers.

**Community services: care leavers — assistance**

**713. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$2.09 million growing to \$3.73 recurrently allocated in the 2006–07 budget to help young people leaving care make the transition to adulthood —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —
  - (a) 2006–07;
  - (b) 2007–08 to date.
- (2) Which specific services, in what locations, received the funding and how much funding did each service receive.
- (3) How many young people have been supported, in each Department of Human Services region, as a direct result of the funding.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

1. (a) 2006-07 expenditure on this initiative was reported in the 2006-07 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services on page 121.  
 (b) 2007-08 expenditure will be reported in the 2007-08 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services.
2. This funding is primarily provided to regions on the basis of their share of the young people leaving care.
3. The 2006-07 information will be reported in 2008-09 Budget Paper 3 and the 2007-08 information will be reported in the 2007-08 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services.

**Public transport: rail — Cranbourne line**

**749. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) Did a Hi-Rail vehicle operate on part of the closed Cranbourne to Nyora section of the former Leongatha and Yarram lines on 22 November 2007; if so —
  - (a) how far from the South Gippsland Highway crossing at Cranbourne towards Nyora did the vehicle operate on —
    - (i) railway tracks;
    - (ii) public roads;
    - (iii) private roads;
  - (b) was the vehicle operated by Mainco Melbourne; if not, by whom was it operated;
  - (c) did it travel on the tracks near the Narre Warren–Cranbourne Road;
  - (d) was the vehicle conducting an inspection in relation to the installation of stabling sidings at Cranbourne; if not, what was the purpose.
- (2) When will an electrified passenger rail line from Cranbourne to Cranbourne East be —
  - (a) funded;
  - (b) built.
- (3) What is the current estimated cost of —
  - (a) additional stabling sidings at Cranbourne;
  - (b) rebuilding a single track electrified railway from Cranbourne to Cranbourne East;

- (c) building a station at Cranbourne East.
- (4) Who prepared the cost estimate for —
  - (a) additional stabling sidings at Cranbourne;
  - (b) rebuilding a single track electrified railway from Cranbourne to Cranbourne East;
  - (c) building a station at Cranbourne East.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1) Connex, Mainco, VicTrack, V/Line and the tourist railway have advised that they did not operate a Hi-Rail vehicle in that area on 22 November 2007.
- (2) Announcements about changes to the existing network will be made by the Government at the appropriate time.
- (3) Information on the Cranbourne Train Stabling and Station Upgrade project can be found in my Media Release of 18 January, 2008.
- (4) I refer you to the answers outlined for Questions Two and Three.

**Public transport: rail — Stony Point line**

**751. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to freight trains that have failed between Frankston and Long Island Junction between 1 July 2007 and 4 December 2007 —

- (1) How many times have trains failed.
- (2) For each failed train incident what was the —
  - (a) date;
  - (b) location;
  - (c) time.
- (3) Were any Connex Frankston to Stony Point to Frankston services cancelled as a result of failed trains; if so —
  - (a) how many in each direction;
  - (b) what was the scheduled departure time from either Frankston or Stony Point.
- (4) Why is the A Class V/Line locomotive used for the Stony Point passenger trains not used to assist a freight train that have failed.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1-2) I am advised that one Pacific National operated service failed between Frankston and Long Island Junction between 1 July 2007 and 4 December 2007. This failure took place on 18 October 2007 at approximately 1.10pm.
- (3)

Cancelled Service Scheduled Departure Time		
Service Date	Service Direction (*)	Scheduled Departure
18/10/07	Down	2:25 PM

Cancelled Service Scheduled Departure Time		
18/10/07	Up	3:15 PM
18/10/07	Down	4:13 PM
18/10/07	Up	5:18 PM
18/10/07	Down	6:12 PM
18/10/07	Up	7:15 PM

\* Note Down = Services departing Frankston to Stony Point  
Up = Services departing Stony Point to Frankston

- (4) There are a number of operational constraints which preclude the 'A' class locomotive from being used to assist a disabled freight train.

### Education: retention rates

- 761.** Mr RYAN to ask the Minister for Education — what is the reason for the discrepancy between the Minister's statement in the House on 5 December 2007 that 'the numbers of young people completing school is higher than it ever has been' with statistics published by the Department of Education showing year 7–12 retention rates falling every year since 2003.

#### ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Victoria in 2006 at 86.6 per cent had the highest Year 12 or equivalent completion rate of young people aged 20 to 24 years of any State. This result has increased by 3.7 percentage points since 1999 and is the highest since that time.

This measure reflects the focus this Government has on ensuring young people have a range of options available to them to successfully complete a Year 12 or equivalent qualification, leading to pathways such as university, an apprenticeship or full-time employment. This approach will ensure Victoria has a strong and prosperous future built on a diverse and highly skilled workforce.

The Year 7 to 12 apparent retention rate is not used to measure Year 12 completion rates. The nationally comparable measure of apparent school retention is calculated as the proportion of Year 12 full-time enrolments, divided by the number of full-time Year 7 enrolments five years earlier. As such it is influenced by factors such as:

- students who repeat year levels
- students who complete a senior secondary course of study before the end of Year 12
- students who leave school early to complete a TAFE course
- students who leave school early and return later to complete a senior secondary qualification
- interstate and overseas migration
- students who undertake a senior secondary qualification on a part-time basis.

### Public transport: passenger survey

- 762.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — did Connex Melbourne and Metlink conduct a passenger interchange flow survey at Richmond Station on 5 and 6 December 2007; if so —

- (1) Were 26 staff employed on both days to conduct the survey; if not, how many.

- (2) What hours did the survey cover.
- (3) Who paid the survey staff.
- (4) What was the cost of the survey and has Metlink or Connex Melbourne submitted a claim to the Government for reimbursement; if not, will they.
- (5) For each hour the survey was conducted how many passengers, on each day, —
  - (a) entered from the Swan Street barriers;
  - (b) exited from the Swan Street barriers;
  - (c) entered from the Stewart Street barriers;
  - (d) exited from the Stewart Street barriers.
- (6) For each hour the survey was conducted how many passengers on, each day, —
  - (a) entered via the east end ramps at —
    - (i) platforms one and two;
    - (ii) platforms three and four;
    - (iii) platforms five and six;
    - (iv) platforms seven and eight;
    - (v) platforms nine and ten;
  - (b) exited via the east end ramps at —
    - (i) platforms one and two;
    - (ii) platforms three and four;
    - (iii) platforms five and six;
    - (iv) platforms seven and eight;
    - (v) platforms nine and ten;
  - (c) entered via the middle of platform stairs at —
    - (i) platforms one and two;
    - (ii) platforms three and four;
    - (iii) platforms five and six;
    - (iv) platforms seven and eight;
    - (v) platforms nine and ten;
  - (d) exited via the middle of platform stairs at —
    - (i) platforms one and two;
    - (ii) platforms three and four;
    - (iii) platforms five and six;
    - (iv) platforms seven and eight;
    - (v) platforms nine and ten;
  - (e) entered via the west end ramps at —
    - (i) platforms one and two;
    - (ii) platforms three and four;
    - (iii) platforms five and six;
    - (iv) platforms seven and eight;
    - (v) platforms nine and ten;
  - (f) exited via the west end ramps at —
    - (i) platforms one and two;

- (ii) platforms three and four;
  - (iii) platforms five and six;
  - (iv) platforms seven and eight;
  - (v) platforms nine and ten;
- (7) What was the maximum number of passengers observed disembarking from the services to Sandringham.
- (8) What was the date and time of the maximum number of passengers observed disembarking from the service to Sandringham.
- (9) Why was the survey conducted during school and university holidays.
- (10) Will the survey be repeated when school and university students are not on holidays.

**ANSWER:**

As at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (1-10) Surveys are conducted on the public transport system from time to time. Results from surveys are critical in ensuring that transport decisions are reflective of the actual behaviour of Victorians. Decisions in relation to station upgrades will be announced by the Government at the appropriate time.

**Police and emergency services: red light cameras**

- 764(a).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — what repairs and/or modifications were made to the red light camera, sensor and/or operating equipment monitoring right hand turning traffic from Nepean Highway into Bay Road and from Karen Street into Nepean Highway on 23 November 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

No repairs or modifications were made to this road safety camera on 23 November 2007, however regular independent testing was conducted on that date.

**Senior Victorians: housing support**

- 807.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Housing Support for the Aged program —

- (1) How much funding did the program receive in —
  - (a) 2000–01;
  - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How much funding did the service providers receive in 2007–08.
- (3) Are there any plans to expand the program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) In 2000-01, the Housing Support for the Aged program received \$1.3m. In 2007-08, it will receive \$1.59m.
- (2) There are 13 service providers, who will receive a total of \$1.59m in 2007-08.

- (3) There are no plans to expand the Housing Support for the Aged program at this time.

**Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: public land — Doncaster**

**814.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission with reference to publicly owned land in the electorate of Doncaster —

- (1) What are the details and, where available, the addresses of any public land in the electorate.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell or acquire any new land in the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Treasury and Finance is not responsible for any publicly owned land in the Doncaster electorate and is not aware of any intention to sell any publicly owned land or acquire any new land in the Doncaster electorate.