

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Tuesday, 23 June 2009**

**(Extract from book 9)**

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## **The Governor**

Professor DAVID de KRETZER, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

## **The ministry**

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
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| Minister for Gaming, Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs . . . . .                          | The Hon. A. G. Robinson, MP  |
| Minister for Housing, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs . . . . .   | The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP     |
| Cabinet Secretary . . . . .   | Mr A. G. Lupton, MP          |

## Legislative Council committees

**Legislation Committee** — Mr Atkinson, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, Mr Drum, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Pulford.

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. Davis, Mr Drum, Mr Jennings, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Rich-Phillips.

**Select Committee on Train Services** — Mr Atkinson, Mr Barber, Mr Drum, Ms Huppert, Mr Leane, Mr O'Donohue and Mr Viney.

**Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mr Guy, Mr Hall, Mr Kavanagh, Mr Rich-Phillips and Mr Viney.

**Standing Orders Committee** — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney.

## Joint committees

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Jennings, Mr Lenders and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Mr Batchelor, Mr Cameron, Mr Clark, Mr Holding, Mr Lupton, Mr McIntosh and Mr Walsh.

**Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Coote, Mr Leane and Ms Mikakos. (*Assembly*): Ms Beattie, Mr Delahunty, Mrs Maddigan and Mr Morris.

**Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Atkinson, Mr D. Davis and Mr Tee. (*Assembly*): Ms Campbell, Mr Crisp, Mr Lim and Ms Thomson.

**Education and Training Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elasmarr and Mr Hall. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Dr Harkness, Mr Herbert, Mr Howard and Mr Kotsiras.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Broad, Mr P. Davis and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Campbell, Mr O'Brien, Mr Scott and Mr Thompson.

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Petrovich and Mr Viney. (*Assembly*): Ms Duncan, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Ingram, Ms Lobato, Mr Pandazopoulos and Mr Walsh.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Ms Kairouz, Mr Noonan, Mr Perera, Mrs Powell and Ms Wooldridge.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Atkinson, Ms Darveniza, Mr Drum, Mr Eideh and Ms Hartland. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Mr Delahunty, Mr Howard, Mr Kotsiras, Mr Scott and Mr K. Smith.

**Law Reform Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Kronberg and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Mr Clark, Mr Donnellan, Mr Foley and Mrs Victoria.

**Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elasmarr, Mr Guy and Ms Hartland. (*Assembly*): Ms Green, Mr Hodgett, Mr Nardella, Mr Seitz and Mr K. Smith.

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva, Ms Huppert, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Rich-Phillips. (*Assembly*): Ms Munt, Mr Noonan, Mr Scott, Mr Stensholt, Dr Sykes and Mr Wells.

**Road Safety Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Koch and Mr Leane. (*Assembly*): Mr Eren, Mr Langdon, Mr Tilley, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller.

**Rural and Regional Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Darveniza, Mr Drum, Ms Lovell, Ms Tierney and Mr Vogels. (*Assembly*): Ms Marshall and Mr Northe.

**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Eideh, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Peulich and Ms Pulford. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Mr Carli, Mr Jasper, Mr Languiller and Mr R. Smith.

## Heads of parliamentary departments

*Assembly* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

*Council* — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Dr S. O'Kane

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**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

Mr GAVIN JENNINGS

**Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr DAVID DAVIS

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

Ms WENDY LOVELL

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr PETER HALL

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr DAMIAN DRUM

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| Barber, Mr Gregory John               | Northern Metropolitan      | Greens | Lenders, Mr John                       | Southern Metropolitan      | ALP    |
| Broad, Ms Candy Celeste               | Northern Victoria          | ALP    | Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann                   | Northern Victoria          | LP     |
| Coote, Mrs Andrea                     | Southern Metropolitan      | LP     | Madden, Hon. Justin Mark               | Western Metropolitan       | ALP    |
| Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon    | Eastern Metropolitan       | LP     | Mikakos, Ms Jenny                      | Northern Metropolitan      | ALP    |
| Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary               | Northern Victoria          | ALP    | O'Donohue, Mr Edward John              | Eastern Victoria           | LP     |
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| Drum, Mr Damian Kevin                 | Northern Victoria          | Nats   | Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee               | Northern Victoria          | LP     |
| Eideh, Mr Khalil M.                   | Western Metropolitan       | ALP    | Peulich, Mrs Inga                      | South Eastern Metropolitan | LP     |
| Elasmr, Mr Nazih                      | Northern Metropolitan      | ALP    | Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee                  | Western Victoria           | ALP    |
| Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.            | Western Metropolitan       | LP     | Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth       | South Eastern Metropolitan | LP     |
| Guy, Mr Matthew Jason                 | Northern Metropolitan      | LP     | Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel               | Eastern Victoria           | ALP    |
| Hall, Mr Peter Ronald                 | Eastern Victoria           | Nats   | Smith, Hon. Robert Frederick           | South Eastern Metropolitan | ALP    |
| Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred          | Western Metropolitan       | Greens | Somyurek, Mr Adem                      | South Eastern Metropolitan | ALP    |
| Huppert, Ms Jennifer Sue <sup>1</sup> | Southern Metropolitan      | ALP    | Tee, Mr Brian Lennox                   | Eastern Metropolitan       | ALP    |
| Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne              | South Eastern Metropolitan | ALP    | Theophanous, Hon. Theo Charles         | Northern Metropolitan      | ALP    |
| Kavanagh, Mr Peter Damian             | Western Victoria           | DLP    | Thornley, Mr Evan William <sup>2</sup> | Southern Metropolitan      | ALP    |
| Koch, Mr David Frank                  | Western Victoria           | LP     | Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne                 | Western Victoria           | ALP    |
| Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan            | Eastern Metropolitan       | LP     | Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw                 | Eastern Victoria           | ALP    |
|                                       |                            |        | Vogels, Mr John Adrian                 | Western Victoria           | LP     |

<sup>1</sup> Appointed 3 February 2009

<sup>2</sup> Resigned 9 January 2009



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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 Council.  
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.*

**Tuesday, 23 June 2009**

**Regional and rural development: Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Development**

- 797. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August, 2007, what support was provided for Ms Kaye Darveniza, MLC and at what cost, in her capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development for —
- (a) telephone and other communication support;
  - (b) car hire and rental car access including dates, destination and purpose;
  - (c) air flights, where to, on what date and how much did each flight cost;
  - (d) meal and entertainment costs;
  - (e) staff assisting him, their effective full time number and cost to the department; and
  - (f) any other support or reimbursement provided including details of the nature and cost of the support or reimbursement.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development provided the following support to Ms Kaye Darveniza, in her capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development, between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007:

- (a) telephones and mobiles were provided to Ms Kaye Darveniza at the cost of \$780;
- (b) no car hire or rental car access was provided;
- (c) no air flights were provided;
- (d) no meal or entertainment costs were provided;
- (e) no staff assistance was provided by the Department; and
- (f) other support provided was printing and stationery costs of \$165.

**Environment and climate change: ministerial expenses**

- 972. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007 what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister for:
- (a) staff salaries and on-costs;
  - (b) number of Ministerial staff (including driver);
  - (c) any other Ministerial office operating costs (recurrent expenses);
  - (d) Minister's and/or office international flights;
  - (e) Minister's and/or office domestic flights;

- (f) Minister's and/or office charter flights;
- (g) travel related expenses (international);
- (h) travel related expenses (domestic);
- (i) entertainment/hospitality expenses; and
- (j) alcohol costs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

To provide details as requested would be an unreasonable diversion of my Department's resources.

**Veterans' affairs: ministerial expenses**

**991. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Veterans' Affairs): Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007 what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister for:

- (a) staff salaries and on-costs;
- (b) number of Ministerial staff (including driver);
- (c) any other Ministerial office operating costs (recurrent expenses);
- (d) Minister's and/or office international flights;
- (e) Minister's and/or office domestic flights;
- (f) Minister's and/or office charter flights;
- (g) travel related expenses (international);
- (h) travel related expenses (domestic);
- (i) entertainment/hospitality expenses; and
- (j) alcohol costs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As Premier and Minister for Veterans' Affairs the costs of my private office are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts for my office are not managed in such a way as to separate expenditure as Premier and as Minister for Veterans' Affairs and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Multicultural affairs: ministerial expenses**

**992. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Multicultural Affairs): Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007 what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister for:

- (a) staff salaries and on-costs;
- (b) number of Ministerial staff (including driver);
- (c) any other Ministerial office operating costs (recurrent expenses);
- (d) Minister's and/or office international flights;
- (e) Minister's and/or office domestic flights;
- (f) Minister's and/or office charter flights;

- (g) travel related expenses (international);
- (h) travel related expenses (domestic);
- (i) entertainment/hospitality expenses; and
- (j) alcohol costs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs the costs of my private office are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts for my office are not managed in such a way as to separate expenditure as Premier and as Minister for Multicultural Affairs and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Regional and rural development: ministerial expenses**

**1002. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007 what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister for:

- (a) staff salaries and on-costs;
- (b) number of Ministerial staff (including driver);
- (c) any other Ministerial office operating costs (recurrent expenses);
- (d) Minister's and/or office international flights;
- (e) Minister's and/or office domestic flights;
- (f) Minister's and/or office charter flights;
- (g) travel related expenses (international);
- (h) travel related expenses (domestic);
- (i) entertainment/hospitality expenses; and
- (j) alcohol costs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Due to the nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the resources of the Department. All overseas travel is published quarterly on the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development website.

**Skills and workforce participation: ministerial expenses**

**1003. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007 what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister for:

- (a) staff salaries and on-costs;
- (b) number of Ministerial staff (including driver);
- (c) any other Ministerial office operating costs (recurrent expenses);
- (d) Minister's and/or office international flights;
- (e) Minister's and/or office domestic flights;

- (f) Minister's and/or office charter flights;
- (g) travel related expenses (international);
- (h) travel related expenses (domestic);
- (i) entertainment/hospitality expenses; and
- (j) alcohol costs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Due to the nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the resources of the Department. All overseas travel is published quarterly on the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development website.

**Skills and workforce participation: workforce program**

**1021. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): In relation to the Workforce Participation Partnership Program:

- (1) Against what criteria are program grants assessed.
- (2) Has the program been considered a success —
  - (a) if so, will it continue in 2007–08;
  - (b) if not, what has the Government identified from the program's failure.
- (3) Will the program continue in 2007–08 as an ongoing program —
  - (a) if so, will previously participating organisations have their funding continued;
  - (b) if not, what further criteria need to be met before the Government can determine the success of the program.
- (4) How much money will be allocated to the program in 2007-08.
- (5) Will previously participating organisations have their funding renewed and when will they be advised.
- (6) Will previously participating organisations be advised if their funding is not renewed.
- (7) Will previously participating organisations be able to re-apply for funding under the new program if their funding is not renewed.
- (8) When will previously participating organisations be invited to re-apply for funding.
- (9) How many organisations were funded by the program.
- (10) How many people were registered with organisations funded by the program.
- (11) How many people who registered with organisations funded by the program gained employment.
- (12) How many people who gained employment through organisations funded by the program maintained employment for more than four months.
- (13) How many organisations focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants were funded by the program.
- (14) How many newly arrived migrants were registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants.
- (15) How many newly arrived migrants who registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants gained employment.
- (16) How many newly arrived migrants registered through organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants maintained employment for more than four months.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

**(1) Against what criteria are program grants assessed?**

The guidelines for assessment are published on the website: [www.employment.vic.gov.au](http://www.employment.vic.gov.au).

**(2) Has the program been considered a success?**

The program was very successful with 112 approved projects. Over 2,000 outcomes were achieved.

**(a) if so, will it continue in 2007–08?**

Yes.

**(b) if not, what has the Government identified from the program’s failure.**

Not applicable.

**(3) Will the program continue in 2007–08 as an ongoing program?**

The program did continue in 2007–08.

**(a) if so, will previously participating organisations have their funding continued.**

Funded organisations were contracted to achieve a specified number of employment outcomes. Further funding was subject to available funding and a competitive application process. Previously participating organisations were eligible to apply.

**(b) if not, what further criteria need to be met before the Government can determine the success of the program.**

Not applicable.

**(4) How much money will be allocated to the program in 2007–08.**

A further \$5 million was allocated to the program in 2007-08.

**(5) Will previously participating organisations have their funding renewed and when will they be advised.**

Organisations were contracted to achieve a specified number of employment outcomes. Further funding was subject to available funding and a competitive application process. Previously funded organisations were eligible to apply.

**(6) Will previously participating organisations be advised if their funding is not renewed.**

Organisations were advised if their application for further funding was not successful.

**(7) Will previously participating organisations be able to re-apply for funding under the new program if their funding is not renewed.**

All previously participating organisations were able to submit a new application for funding in accordance with the program guidelines.

**(8) When will previously participating organisations be invited to re-apply for funding.**

Previously participating organisations were advised of the opportunity to submit a new funding application in December 2007.

**(9) How many organisations were funded by the program.**

As at 1 January 2008, 85 organisations were funded for 112 projects.

**(10) How many people were registered with organisations funded by the program.**

As at 1 January 2008, over 9,800 participants were registered.

**(11) How many people who registered with organisations funded by the program gained employment.**

As at 1 January 2008, over 4,000 participants were placed into employment.

**(12) How many people who gained employment through organisations funded by the program maintained employment for more than four months.**

As at 1 January 2008, over 3,000 participants had maintained employment for 16 or more weeks.

**(13) How many organisations focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants were funded by the program.**

The Workforce Participation Program guidelines combine recently arrived migrants and refugees with other Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups. The number of organisations funded by the program providing employment services to these groups was 57.

**(14) How many newly arrived migrants were registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants.**

As at 1 January 2008, over 2000 recently arrived migrant participants were registered with an organisation targeting CALD groups.

**(15) How many newly arrived migrants who registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants gained employment.**

As at 1 January 2008, over 1,000 recently arrived migrant participants were placed with an organisation targeting CALD groups.

**(16) How many newly arrived migrants registered through organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants maintained employment for more than four months.**

As at 1 January 2008, over 800 recently arrived migrant participants were employed for 16 weeks or more through an organisation targeting CALD groups.

**Environment and climate change: departmental staff — travel expenses**

**1040. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to expenditure on domestic air travel by the Department of Sustainability and Environment in 2006-07: What proportion of expenditure was related to carriage by —

- (a) Jetstar;
- (b) Qantas;
- (c) Regional Express;
- (d) Virgin Blue;
- (e) other scheduled carriers; and
- (f) chartered flights.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

All flights taken by staff members of the Department of Sustainability and Environment are purchased through a contracted, government appointed booking agency, who determines the appropriate flight carrier. To retrieve this

information would require a manual search of all invoices and would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

**Environment and climate change: departmental staff — travel expenses**

**1041. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to expenditure on international air travel by the Department of Sustainability and Environment in 2006-07: What proportion of expenditure was related to carriage by —

- (a) Air China;
- (b) Air New Zealand;
- (c) Air Pacific;
- (d) Cathay Pacific;
- (e) China Eastern;
- (f) Emirates;
- (g) Garuda Indonesia;
- (h) Jetstar;
- (i) Malaysia Airlines;
- (j) Qantas;
- (k) Singapore Airlines;
- (l) Thai Airways International;
- (m) United Airlines;
- (n) Vietnam Airlines; and
- (o) other scheduled carriers.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

All flights taken by staff members of the Department of Sustainability and Environment are purchased through a contracted, government appointed booking agency, who determines the appropriate flight carrier. To retrieve this information would require a manual search of all invoices and would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

**Health: Monash Medical Centre**

**1645. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): What was the exact number of patients staying in the Monash Medical Centre Emergency Department for more than 12 hours during the hospital reporting periods ending —

- (a) March 1999;
- (b) December 2004;
- (c) December 2005;
- (d) June 2006;
- (e) December 2006; and
- (f) June 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Data relating to emergency departments is collected in order to report publicly on a six monthly and annual basis.

The *Your Hospital* publication gives details of the total number of emergency department attendances by individual hospital. It also shows the proportion of admitted patients who are transferred to a bed within eight hours.

The current report as well as copies covering previous years of *Your Hospitals* is available at [www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/)

### Health: Dandenong Hospital

**1646. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): What was the exact number of patients staying in the Dandenong Hospital Emergency Department for more than 12 hours during the hospital reporting periods ending —

- (a) March 1999;
- (b) December 2004;
- (c) December 2005;
- (d) June 2006;
- (e) December 2006; and
- (f) June 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Data relating to emergency departments is collected in order to report publicly on a six monthly and annual basis.

The *Your Hospital* publication gives details of the total number of emergency department attendances by individual hospital. It also shows the proportion of admitted patients who are transferred to a bed within eight hours.

The current report as well as copies covering previous years of *Your Hospitals* is available at [www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/)

### Health: Casey Hospital

**1647. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): What was the exact number of patients staying in the Casey Hospital Emergency Department for more than 12 hours during the hospital reporting periods ending —

- (a) December 2005;
- (b) June 2006;
- (c) December 2006; and
- (d) June 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Data relating to emergency departments is collected in order to report publicly on a six monthly and annual basis.

The *Your Hospital* publication gives details of the total number of emergency department attendances by individual hospital. It also shows the proportion of admitted patients who are transferred to a bed within eight hours.

The current report as well as copies covering previous years of *Your Hospitals* is available at [www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/)

**Health: Frankston Hospital**

**1648. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): What was the exact number of patients staying in the Frankston Hospital Emergency Department for more than 12 hours during the hospital reporting periods ending —

- (a) March 1999;
- (b) December 2004;
- (c) December 2005;
- (d) June 2006;
- (e) December 2006; and
- (f) June 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Data relating to emergency departments is collected in order to report publicly on a six monthly and annual basis.

The Your Hospital publication gives details of the total number of emergency department attendances by individual hospital. It also shows the proportion of admitted patients who are transferred to a bed within eight hours.

The current report as well as copies covering previous years of Your Hospitals is available at [www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/yourhospitals/)

**Roads and ports: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — red light camera**

**1706. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): In relation to correspondence dated 3 January 2008 from the Minister to the Member for Sandringham concerning the amber time settings for right turn arrows at the intersection of Nepean Highway, Bay Road and Karen Street Cheltenham:

- (1) Noting that the Minister advises that the amber phase for the right hand turn arrows at this intersection have not been changed recently, when was the timing last changed.
- (2) What have been the other time phases allowed for the amber light at this intersection during the years 2006 and 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

All traffic signals managed by VicRoads are maintained to a consistent standard, with routine inspections and maintenance undertaken regularly. The vast majority, including the signals at the intersection of the Nepean Highway and Karen Street, are monitored 24 hours a day to ensure they are functioning properly and faults are fixed as quickly as possible. The remaining few sites are monitored by regular inspections.

The time setting for the amber phase for the right turn from the Nepean Highway into Karen Street is safe and appropriate for this intersection and is a similar arrangement to many other intersections around Melbourne.

VicRoads' main focus is keeping traffic flowing on the Nepean Highway. If the length of the amber light was changed even slightly at this intersection, it would impact on the light sequence along the length of the Nepean Highway, causing further congestion on this busy road.

**Environment and climate change: stress leave**

- 2231. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s administration for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2006-07: What are the details of all stress related leave, including —
- (a) the number of days taken;
  - (b) the estimated cost; and
  - (c) the total number of staff in the section.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department does not record the information sought where sick leave is taken.

Staff members of the Department of Sustainability and Environment are required to provide a medical certificate from a registered practitioner for any sick leave absence in excess of 38 hours of duty in each year of employment, or for any continuous period exceeding 22.8 hours. However, due to medical practitioner-patient confidentiality, the reason for or nature of sick leave taken is not advised to the employer.

**Health: legal expenses**

- 2363. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): In relation to legal expenses incurred by each department, agency or authority within the Minister’s administration for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2006-07:
- (1) What expenses were incurred.
  - (2) What was the purpose for engaging legal representation in each case.
  - (3) What were the names of legal counsel engaged.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Justice administers the General Legal Services Panel of 10 law firms, and the Specialist Legal Services Panel of 25 law firms.

All Victorian Government departments and participating Victorian statutory bodies are required to select their legal counsel and services from these two panels or from the Victorian Government Solicitor’s Office.

Expenditure on legal expenses is publicly available in the Government Legal Services Annual Report <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/> (Government Legal Services Annual Report). To ascertain the purposes for engaging legal representation and the names of legal counsel engaged for every matter involving the Department of Human Services and its portfolio agencies for the requested time period would be an unreasonable diversion of my department’s resources.

**Mental health: women — boards, councils and committees**

- 2405. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to each department, agency or authority within the Minister’s administration: How many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, indicating in respect of each board, council or committee the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

Refer to the response to Question No. 2403.

[*Hansard reference: Legislative Council, 24 June 2008, page 2685*]

**Community services: women — boards, councils and committees**

**2406.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to each department, agency or authority within the Minister's administration: How many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, indicating in respect of each board, council or committee the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

As Minister for Community Services, I am supported in part by the Department of Human Services. I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Daniel Andrews for the response to LC 2403.

As Minister for Community Services, I am supported in part by the Department of Planning and Community Development. I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, for LC 2393.

[*Hansard reference: Legislative Council, question 2403, 24 June 2008, page 2685; question 2393, 10 June 2008, page 2333*]

**Senior Victorians: women — boards, councils and committees**

**2407.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Senior Victorians): In relation to each department, agency or authority within the Minister's administration: How many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, indicating in respect of each board, council or committee the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

As Minister for Senior Victorians, I am supported in part by the Department of Human Services. I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Daniel Andrews for the response to LC 2403.

As Minister for Senior Victorians, I am supported in part by the Department of Planning and Community Development. I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, for LC 2393.

[*Hansard reference: Legislative Council, question 2403, 24 June 2008, page 2685; question 2393, 10 June 2008, page 2333*]

**Environment and climate change: legal expenses**

**2547.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to legal expenses incurred by each department, agency or authority within the Minister's administration for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2006-07:

- (1) What expenses were incurred.
- (2) What was the purpose for engaging legal representation in each case.
- (3) What were the names of legal counsel engaged.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Justice administers the General Legal Services Panel of 10 law firms, and the Specialist Legal Services Panel of 25 law firms.

All Victorian Government departments and participating Victorian statutory bodies are required to select their legal counsel and services from these two panels or from the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office.

Expenditure on legal expenses is publicly available in the Government Legal Services Annual Report <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/> (Government Legal Services Annual Report). To ascertain the purposes for engaging legal representation and the names of legal counsel engaged for every matter involving the Department of Sustainability and Environment and its portfolio agencies for the requested time period would be an unreasonable diversion of my Department's resources.

**Health: legal expenses**

**2559. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): In relation to legal expenses incurred by each department, agency or authority within the Minister's administration for each financial year from 2000-01 to 2006-07:

- (1) What expenses were incurred.
- (2) What was the purpose for engaging legal representation in each case.
- (3) What were the names of legal counsel engaged.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Justice administers the General Legal Services Panel of 10 law firms, and the Specialist Legal Services Panel of 25 law firms.

All Victorian Government departments and participating Victorian statutory bodies are required to select their legal counsel and services from these two panels or from the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office.

Expenditure on legal expenses is publicly available in the Government Legal Services Annual Report <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/> (Government Legal Services Annual Report). To ascertain the purposes for engaging legal representation and the names of legal counsel engaged for every matter involving the Department of Human Services and its portfolio agencies for the requested time period would be an unreasonable diversion of my department's resources.

**Environment and climate change: alcohol purchases**

**3012. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: Since the Minister's appointment, what are the details of all alcohol purchased by the Minister or the Minister's office, indicating, in respect of each purchase —

- (a) the date;
- (b) the value; and
- (c) the items.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The records held by the Department of Sustainability and Environment do not indicate any alcohol expenditure incurred by myself or my office.

Limited alcohol costs may have been included in some general catering purchases for official hospitality events, but the research required to identify any possible expenses would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

**Veterans affairs: alcohol purchases**

**3031. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Veterans' Affairs): Since the Minister's appointment, what are the details of all alcohol purchased by the Minister or the Minister's office, indicating, in respect of each purchase —

- (a) the date;
- (b) the value; and
- (c) the items.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

As Premier and Minister for Veterans' Affairs the costs of my private office are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts for my office are not managed in such a way as to separate expenditure as Premier and as Minister for Veterans' Affairs and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Environment and climate change: staff attrition rate**

**3091. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration: What was the staff attrition rate for each of the financial years 2000–01 to 2006–07.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The research required to provide this information for each department, agency and authority under my administration would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

However, the following staff separation rates are provided for the former department of Natural Resources and Environment (2000-01) and the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

The staff separation rate represents the number of staff employed on an ongoing (open-ended) basis that separated employment divided by the average number of staff employed on an ongoing basis in the financial year.

In all instances, the separation rates exclude staff that moved from the department:

- under a Machinery of Government program in 2002–03 when the former NRE was abolished;
- to join VicForests, a new State Government Agency in 2004–05; and
- when the Information Technology function and staff transferred to Department of Infrastructure in 2005–06.

The increase in 2003–04 rate was due to the Department operating a Voluntary Departure Program associated with organisational changes. If the exits under this managed program were excluded, the staff separation rate would be 8%.

The separation rates are:

| Year    | Separation rate |
|---------|-----------------|
| 2000–01 | 5%              |
| 2001–02 | 7%              |
| 2002–03 | 8%              |
| 2003–04 | 10%             |
| 2004–05 | 7%              |
| 2005–06 | 7%              |
| 2006–07 | 7%              |

**Sport, recreation and youth affairs: adjournment debate responses**

**3270. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs): What is the usual length of time it takes the Minister to respond to matters raised in the Adjournment debate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The adjournment debates in the Legislative Council play an important role where members raise matters for Ministers which they consider require attention.

If there is a particular adjournment debate matter which relates to my portfolio that you are seeking a response to please feel free to contact me.

**Environment and climate change: vehicles**

**3528. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to car usage by employees of the Department of Sustainability and Environment: What model vehicles made by the following manufacturers are currently in use, and how many of each model are in use:

- (a) Ford;
- (b) Holden;
- (c) Toyota;
- (d) Subaru;
- (e) Mazda;
- (f) Mitsubishi; and
- (g) other manufacturers.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

|               |           |           |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>Ford</b>   |           |           |
|               | Courier   | 1         |
|               | Fairmont  | 1         |
|               | Falcon    | 65        |
|               | Territory | 15        |
|               |           | <b>82</b> |
| <b>Holden</b> |           |           |

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 23 June 2009

COUNCIL

3449

|                            |                      |            |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------|
|                            | Adentra              | 1          |
|                            | Astra                | 2          |
|                            | Berlina              | 7          |
|                            | Commodore            | 50         |
|                            | Rodeo                | 12         |
|                            | Statesman            | 2          |
|                            |                      | <b>74</b>  |
| <b>Mitsubishi</b>          |                      |            |
|                            | MTT                  | 3          |
|                            | Pajero               | 6          |
|                            | Triton               | 35         |
|                            |                      | <b>44</b>  |
| <b>Subaru</b>              |                      |            |
|                            | Forester             | 15         |
|                            |                      | <b>15</b>  |
| <b>Toyota</b>              |                      |            |
|                            | Aurion               | 3          |
|                            | Camry                | 63         |
|                            | Hilux                | 111        |
|                            | Landcruiser          | 307        |
|                            | Landcruiser Prado    | 75         |
|                            | Prius Hybrid         | 37         |
|                            | RAV4                 | 1          |
|                            |                      | <b>597</b> |
| <b>Mazda</b>               |                      | <b>NIL</b> |
| <b>Other Manufacturers</b> |                      |            |
|                            | Nissan Patrol        | 33         |
|                            | Nissan Navara        | 6          |
|                            | Nissan Pathfinder    | 1          |
|                            | Nissan XTRAIL        | 5          |
|                            | Land Rover Discovery | 1          |
|                            | Rover Discovery 3    | 1          |
|                            |                      | <b>47</b>  |

**Consumer affairs: defaulters**

**5177. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs): In relation to capped cost recovery amounts from defaulters for small businesses:

- (1) What is the maximum amount awarded through mediation from defaulters to small businesses.
- (2) What is the maximum amount awarded through court from defaulters to small businesses.
- (3) Is the government currently reviewing capped cost amounts for businesses from defaulters.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

This question falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Small Business.

**Sport, recreation and youth affairs: Kilsyth electorate**

**5185. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs): In relation to Sport and Recreation Victoria funding for Recreational clubs and organisations in the electorate of Kilsyth: What was the exact dollar amount funded in the financial years 2006–07 and 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Data is not gathered separately for sporting clubs versus recreational clubs as they often overlap in their goals and the opportunities they provide to the community.

The electorate of Kilsyth lies within the local government areas of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

For these two Local Government areas combined, the expenditure was as follows:

- (1) **2006–2007** = 26 Clubs totalling \$ 25,548.80
- (2) **2007–2008** = 29 Clubs totalling \$ 28,889.00

**Sport, recreation and youth affairs: Kilsyth electorate**

**5186. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs): In relation to Sport and Recreation Victoria funding for sporting clubs and organisations in the electorate of Kilsyth: What was the exact dollar amount funded in the financial years 2006–07 and 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Data is not gathered separately for sporting clubs versus recreational clubs as they often overlap in their goals and the opportunities they provide to the community.

The electorate of Kilsyth lies within the local government areas of Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

For these two Local Government areas combined, the expenditure was as follows:

- (1) **2006–2007** = 26 Clubs totalling \$ 25,548.80
- (2) **2007–2008** = 29 Clubs totalling \$ 28,889.00

**Skills and workforce participation: Croydon TAFE — ministerial visit**

**5548. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation):

- (1) When was the last time the Minister visited Croydon TAFE.
- (2) When is the Minister's next scheduled visit to Croydon TAFE.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

I have not yet visited the Croydon Campus of Swinburne University of Technology TAFE, however I have committed to visiting all Victorian TAFEs to brief staff and students on the Victorian Government's skills reform policy *Securing Jobs for Your Future—Skills for Victoria*. Staff and students from all campuses will be invited to attend these briefings.

**Environment and climate change: Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board — media and communications staff**

**6035. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to the Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board, for each financial year from 2000–01 to 2006–07:

- (1) What was the number and cost of staff working in the office.
- (2) What was the number of staff working in each public relations/communications unit; indicating —
  - (a) the total operating budget; and
  - (b) the total promotional budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This question is one of more than 311 questions (many of which contain up to a further seven sub-questions) asked by Mr Dalla-Riva regarding the operations of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, its agencies and authorities going back over the past eight years.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or related to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agencies or authorities and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Environment and climate change: land monitoring unit — legal expenses**

**6053. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to legal expenses incurred by the Land Monitoring Unit, for each financial year from 2000:

- (1) What expenses were incurred.
- (2) What was the purpose of engaging legal representation in each case.
- (3) What were the names of legal counsel engaged.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This question is one of more than 311 questions (many of which contain up to a further seven sub-questions) asked by Mr Dalla-Riva regarding the operations of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, its agencies and authorities going back over the past eight years.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or related to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agencies or authorities and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Major projects: Australian Synchrotron**

**6277.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Acting Minister for Major Projects): In relation to the Australian Synchrotron: What was the expected completion date in 2007, specifying day, month and year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

This question is one of many asked regarding the operation of the Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development, its agencies and authorities.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agency or authority which is publicly available

**Major projects: projects — progress**

**6289.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Major Projects): What are all the major projects currently in progress under the Minister’s responsibility.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

I have been nominated under the *Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994* as having responsibility for the following current projects:

- Melbourne Convention Centre development
- Melbourne Rectangular Stadium
- Parkville Gardens
- Biosciences Research Centre

Through other administrative arrangements I am also responsible for:

- Geelong Future City Masterplan–Cultural Precinct stage 1  
(Cultural Precinct Geelong Performing Arts Centre and Geelong Library / Heritage Centre business cases)
- Princes Pier restoration
- State Sports Facilities project
- Southbank Cultural Precinct redevelopment
- Melbourne Wholesale Markets relocation

**Major projects: projects — costs**

**6302.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Major Projects): For each major project currently in progress under the Minister’s responsibility, what is the projected cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Projects are nominated to me under the *Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994*.

The budget allocation for each project is available in the Budget papers.

**Major projects: projects — completion date**

**6327. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Acting Minister for Major Projects): For each major project currently in progress under the Minister’s responsibility, what is the projected completion date.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Projects are nominated to me under the *Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994*.

Project completion dates can be found on the MPV website at <[www.mpv.vic.gov.au](http://www.mpv.vic.gov.au)>

**Skills and workforce participation: vocational education and training — funding**

**6429. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): In relation to the package of changes to Vocational Education and Training (VET) announced by the Premier on the 26 August 2008 and detailed in the ministerial statement “Securing Jobs for Your Future—Skills for Victoria”:

- (1) With reference to page 16 of the statement under the heading “Exemptions” which states “The government will reserve funding of \$10 million for exemptions over two years” —
  - (a) how many course places is this funding estimated to provide in each year; and
  - (b) what is the reason for providing funding over just two years when the package has a four year time frame.
- (2) With reference to the table at page 33 of the statement which shows an itemised breakdown of funding for the package including an amount of \$39 million dollars for “System development and implementation support” under the heading “Responsive Providers”, for what functions or purposes is this allocation intended.
- (3) With reference to page 23 of the statement which states “The government will work closely with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) to uphold system quality and maintain the high reputation of the Victorian training system” and further states that “providers will be subject to an enhanced training audit regime” —
  - (a) does this represent an additional workload for the VRQA; and
  - (b) will extra funding be provided to the VRQA to meet these requirements for auditing and monitoring training providers.
- (4) With reference to page 27 under the heading “World Class TAFE facilities” —
  - (a) does the Minister still intend to use the PPP model to fund additional TAFE facilities and services;
  - (b) in detail, what are the principal terms and conditions that will apply to TAFEs that seek “access to restricted managed credit”;
  - (c) will the funds realised by “land rationalisations and asset sales” be for the exclusive use of the TAFE institution that owns the land or other asset; and

- (d) will TAFE institutions continue to enjoy full discretionary control over their reserve funds arising from retained earnings or other revenue sources.
- (5) With reference to the Premier's media release which states that "the Commonwealth has agreed to extend its FEE-HELP structure to cover Victoria's training sector" —
  - (a) does the Commonwealth currently have the statutory authority to proceed with this undertaking;
  - (b) will the 20% loan fee (which applies to current users of FEE-HELP) also apply to Victorian TAFE students seeking loans through this scheme; and
  - (c) will applications be made by students directly to the relevant Commonwealth scheme operator or via a Victorian state delegated or appointed agent.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The funding allocation of \$10 million over two years for places for people eligible by exemption is expected to fund about 880 average duration places at Diploma and Advanced Diploma level in 2009 and 2010 across all providers. Only people undertaking Diploma or higher level qualifications or undertaking training in other courses through the *Skills for Growth* program will be affected by the new eligibility requirement in 2009 and 2010.

The exemption allocation is a limited measure to ensure that providers have the flexibility to target additional training capacity to occupations in critical shortage areas, and to provide strategic support to individuals who require retraining at the same level to access employment. The two-year time frame provides additional resources during transition, without compromise to the overall policy intent of Skills Reform, which is to increase the number of Victorians participating in training and at progressively higher qualification levels.

The funding allocation of \$39 million for system development and implementation support provides for the analysis, design, delivery, training and support for systems required to initiate and manage the training system reform outlined in *Securing Jobs for Your Future — Skills for Victoria*.

The change from a training-purchase model to a contestable system has significant systems impact for Skills Victoria. In particular, Skills Victoria needs to develop new systems and to upgrade existing systems to support the collection, validation, collation, processing (including payment), management and dissemination of information on training activity that providers will be required to provide to Skills Victoria on a monthly basis. Implementation of Skills Reform will require a slight change to the range of data items to be submitted by training providers and will also require changes in how Skills Victoria uses the information provided.

Systems are also being developed to ensure that potential students, employers and industries have ready access to detailed training information to assist potential students and employers make informed training decisions. Systems will also assist in promoting training and related initiatives and help generate the levels of demand required by Victorian industry.

The Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (VRQA) has funded the establishment of a 'Training Advisory Register' by the Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET) to be made available to all Victorian RTOs. The service will provide potential and existing Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) with access to high quality training advisers. These advisers will be monitored by ACPET, be required to adhere to a strict 'code of conduct' and will be supported by the VRQA through training and information.

In addition, from 1 January 2009, only independent auditors will be able to assess RTO compliance with the Australian Quality Training Framework.

RTOs requesting extensions to scope for higher-level VET courses that will attract government funding, and if they are adding such courses for the first time or seeking to enter fields of training outside of their current scope, will continue to be identified and subject to site audit before approval.

In respect of the World Class TAFE facilities announcement the Government identified a number of potential additional funding sources that it is reviewing. The process for accessing the potential funding is subject to the normal Government budget review and is still being considered.

The Commonwealth Government has undertaken to extend the current FEE-HELP arrangements to government subsidised Diploma and Advanced Diploma students in Victoria. Commonwealth legislative amendments will be made to the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* to support the establishment of the Victorian income contingent loan scheme.

In relation to government subsidised students seeking FEE-HELP loans, the Commonwealth Government has agreed to remove the 20 per cent loan fee for this student cohort. The 20 per cent loan fee currently applies to FEE-HELP debts for full fee-paying students.

Applications for a FEE-HELP loan are made by students directly to DEEWR via their training provider. Eligible students complete a *Request for VET FEE-HELP assistance* form and submit this to their training provider.

**Roads and ports: Hoddle Street, Abbotsford — traffic**

**6650.** MR GUY — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): How many of the following occurred on Hoddle Street, Abbotsford, during the 2007–08 financial year —

- (a) traffic accidents;
- (b) injuries; and
- (c) fatalities.

**ANSWER:**

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

This is one of 53 similar Questions on Notice asked by Mr Guy on 30 October 2008.

This information is available to the public on the VicRoads' website ([www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch)).

**Roads and ports: Burnley Street, Richmond — traffic**

**6707.** MR GUY — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): In relation to Burnley Street, Richmond:

- (1) What were the traffic volume statistics for 2006–07 and 2007–08.
- (2) What are the projections for traffic volume from 2008–09 to 2013–14.
- (3) What plans are there for upgrades, and when will they be done.

**ANSWER:**

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

This question is one of 54 similar questions asked by the Member on 30 October 2008.

2006–07: 19,000 vehicles per day (near Victoria Street); 2007–08: traffic volumes are not available.

The traffic volume from 2008–09 to 2013–14 is estimated to rise.

Any upgrades will be considered and evaluated on a region-wide and state-wide basis having regard to factors such as safety, amenity and environment.

**Roads and ports: Frankston bypass**

**7371. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): Was a comparative cost benefit analysis conducted between the construction of the proposed Frankston bypass and upgrades of existing arterial roads and/or public transport upgrades.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding the benefits of the Peninsula Link project can be found in the Frankston Bypass Environment Effects Statement (EES), which is available online at [www.seita.com.au](http://www.seita.com.au). Various bypass routes and alternate transport options were considered as part of the EES development process.

**Public transport: Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council — stress leave**

**8135. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, for each financial year from 2000–01 to 2006–07, what are the details of all stress related leave, including —

- (a) the number of days taken;
- (b) the estimated cost; and
- (c) the total number of staff in the section.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question is one of more than 130 questions (many of which contain further sub-sections) asked regarding the operation of the Department of Transport, its agencies and authorities going back a seven year period commencing from 2000–01.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist or does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or relates to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agency or authority and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Public transport: Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council — legal expenses**

**8136. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to legal expenses incurred by the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, for each financial year from 2000–01 to 2006–07:

- (1) What expenses were incurred.
- (2) What was the purpose of engaging legal representation in each case.
- (3) What were the names of legal counsel engaged.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question is one of more than 130 questions (many of which contain further sub-sections) asked regarding the operation of the Department of Transport, its agencies and authorities going back a seven year period commencing from 2000–01.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist or does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or relates to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agency or authority and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Public transport: Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council — advertising**

**8137. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, what are the details of all advertising undertaken for each financial year from 2000–01 to 2006–07, indicating —

- (a) the date of approval for each contract;
- (b) the cost of each contract;
- (c) the purpose of the advertisement;
- (d) the duration of the advertisement;
- (e) where and when each advertisement was published or broadcast; and
- (f) to whom each contract was awarded.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question is one of more than 130 questions (many of which contain further sub-sections) asked regarding the operation of the Department of Transport, its agencies and authorities going back a seven year period commencing from 2000–01.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist or does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or relates to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agency or authority and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Public transport: Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council — entertainment expenses**

**8138. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, for each financial year from 2000–01 to 2006–07, what are the details of all entertainment expenses incurred, indicating —

- (a) total costs incurred by each section; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
  - (i) date incurred;
  - (ii) cost;
  - (iii) number of guests;
  - (iv) purpose; and
  - (v) name of service provider.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question is one of more than 130 questions (many of which contain further sub-sections) asked regarding the operation of the Department of Transport, its agencies and authorities going back a seven year period commencing from 2000–01.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist or does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or relates to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agency or authority and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Public transport: Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council — media and communications staff**

**8139.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, for each financial year from 2000–01 to 2006–07:

- (1) What was the number and cost of staff working in the office.
- (2) What was the number of staff working in each public relations/communications unit; indicating —
  - (a) the total operating budget; and
  - (b) the total promotional budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question is one of more than 130 questions (many of which contain further sub-sections) asked regarding the operation of the Department of Transport, its agencies and authorities going back a seven year period commencing from 2000–01.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist or does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or relates to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agency or authority and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Public transport: Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council — trade union grants**

**8140.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, what are the details of all grants for each financial year from 2000–01 to 2006–07 made to trade union groups.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question is one of more than 130 questions (many of which contain further sub-sections) asked regarding the operation of the Department of Transport, its agencies and authorities going back a seven year period commencing from 2000–01.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist or does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or relates to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agency or authority and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Public transport: Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council — board representatives**

- 8141. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Victorian Road Based Public Transport Advisory Council, what provision has been made for elected representatives or trade union nominated representatives on its boards, indicating —
- (a) the basis of their representation and when it was established;
  - (b) the names of current trade union representatives and who held the positions previously; and
  - (c) fees or remuneration paid to the representatives.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

This question is one of more than 130 questions (many of which contain further sub-sections) asked regarding the operation of the Department of Transport, its agencies and authorities going back a seven year period commencing from 2000–01.

These questions seek information regarding the Department, agencies or authorities which, in many cases, either does not exist or does not exist in the form requested, is not relevant to the Department or specified agency or authority, is already publicly available or relates to expenses that could not have been incurred.

In all cases, the expense and time involved in compiling the answers would represent an unreasonable and unnecessary burden on the Department, agency or authority and, therefore, the Victorian taxpayer.

**Major projects: Princes Pier**

- 8396. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Major Projects): What is the estimated completion date for the Princes Pier to be open to the public.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government recognises Princes Pier as an important part of Victoria's maritime history and is committed to its restoration. The demolition of the deck and pier restoration is expected to be complete in 2011.

**Children and early childhood development: Crown land**

- 8400. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): What are the locations of State Government controlled, residentially zoned land which is currently vacant in the —
- (a) City of Port Phillip;
  - (b) City of Glen Eira;
  - (c) City of Stonnington;
  - (d) City of Bayside; and
  - (e) City of Boroondara.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

All land acquired for the purpose of the Act by a Minister administering the Act is vested in the Minister for Education.

**Children and early childhood development: Crown land**

**8409.** **MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): What is the total area, in square metres, of State Government controlled, residentially zoned land which is currently vacant in the —

- (a) City of Port Phillip;
- (b) City of Glen Eira;
- (c) City of Stonnington;
- (d) City of Bayside; and
- (e) City of Boroondara.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

All land acquired for the purpose of the Act by a Minister administering the Act is vested in the Minister for Education.

**Children and early childhood development: Crown land**

**8418.** **MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): What are the locations of State Government controlled land currently being used by water authorities in the —

- (a) City of Port Phillip;
- (b) City of Glen Eira;
- (c) City of Stonnington;
- (d) City of Bayside; and
- (e) City of Boroondara.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

All land acquired for the purpose of the Act by a Minister administering the Act is vested in the Minister for Education.

**Children and early childhood development: Crown land**

**8427.** **MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): What is the total area, in square metres, of State Government controlled land currently being used by water authorities in the —

- (a) City of Port Phillip;
- (b) City of Glen Eira;

- (c) City of Stonnington;
- (d) City of Bayside; and
- (e) City of Boroondara.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

All land acquired for the purpose of the Act by a Minister administering the Act is vested in the Minister for Education.

**Children and early childhood development: Crown land**

**8436.** **MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): What is the total area, in square metres, of State Government controlled land that is currently being used by power companies in the —

- (a) City of Port Phillip;
- (b) City of Glen Eira;
- (c) City of Stonnington;
- (d) City of Bayside; and
- (e) City of Boroondara.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

All land acquired for the purpose of the Act by a Minister administering the Act is vested in the Minister for Education.

**Children and early childhood development: Crown land**

**8445.** **MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): What are the locations of State Government controlled land that is currently being used by power companies in the —

- (a) City of Port Phillip;
- (b) City of Glen Eira;
- (c) City of Stonnington;
- (d) City of Bayside; and
- (e) City of Boroondara.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

All land acquired for the purpose of the Act by a Minister administering the Act is vested in the Minister for Education.

**Public transport: level crossing safety — Hurstbridge line**

**8646.** **MR GUY** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): On the Hurstbridge railway line:

- (1) How many level crossing faults occurred during each of the financial years 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08.
- (2) For each year, what was the average length of time taken for each fault to be fixed.
- (3) For each year, how many faults occurred at each level crossing.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) There are 14 level crossings on the Hurstbridge line and 43 faults occurred in 2005/06, 18 faults in 2006/07 and 43 faults in 2007/08.
- (2) 64.1 minutes, 83.2 minutes, 72.7 minutes.
- (3) For 2005/06: Westgarth Street–5, Victoria Road–1, Station Street–8, Grange Road–2, Yarralea Street–1, Marshall Street–2, Lower Plenty Road–5, Ruthven Street–2, Diamond Street–3, Railway Road–3, Wattletree Road–5, Allandale Road–1, Hurstbridge Road–5, Wilson Road–0.

For 2006/07: Westgarth Street–1, Victoria Road–3, Station Street–4, Grange Road–2, Yarralea Street–1, Marshall Street–1, Lower Plenty Road–2, Ruthven Street–0, Diamond Street–1, Railway Road–1, Wattletree Road–0, Allandale Road–0, Hurstbridge Road–1, Wilson Road–1.

For 2007/08: Westgarth Street–1, Victoria Road–4, Station Street–5, Grange Road–4, Yarralea Street–2, Marshall Street–2, Lower Plenty Road–1, Ruthven Street–2, Diamond Street–3, Railway Road–5, Wattletree Road–1, Allandale Road–5, Hurstbridge Road–6, Wilson Road–2.

**Public transport: level crossing safety — Epping line**

**8647. MR GUY** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): On the Epping railway line:

- (1) How many level crossing faults occurred during each of the financial years 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08.
- (2) For each year, what was the average length of time taken for each fault to be fixed.
- (3) For each year, how many faults occurred at each level crossing.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) There are 18 level crossings on the Epping line and 33 faults in 2005/06, 48 faults in 2006/07 and 43 faults in 2007/08.
- (2) 52.5 minutes, 97.1 minutes, 94.4 minutes.
- (3) For 2005/06: Ramsden Street–5, Charles Street–1, Arthurton Road–2, Beavers Road–1, Woolton Avenue–0, Hutton Street–2, Oakover Road–2, Bell Street–1, Cramers Street–0, Murray Road–0, Regent Street–8, High Street–4, Keon Parade–0, Settlement Road–1, Heyington Avenue–1, Mann’s Crossing–1, Paschke Crescent–3, Child’s Road–1.

For 2006/07: Ramsden Street–0, Charles Street–3, Arthurton Road–3, Beavers Road–3, Woolton Avenue–1, Hutton Street–3, Oakover Road–3, Bell Street–4, Cramers Street–5, Murray Road–4, Regent Street–6, High Street–2, Keon Parade–3, Settlement Road–4, Heyington Avenue–0, Mann’s Crossing–1, Paschke Crescent–2, Child’s Road–1.

For 2007/08: Ramsden Street–4, Charles Street–1, Arthurton Road–3, Beavers Road–1, Woolton Avenue–0, Hutton Street–3, Oakover Road–0, Bell Street–2, Cramers Street–5, Murray Road–0, Regent Street–4, High

Street–4, Keon Parade–7, Settlement Road–0, Heyington Avenue–0, Mann’s Crossing–5, Paschke Crescent–1, Child’s Road–3.

**Public transport: level crossing safety — Upfield line**

**8648. MR GUY** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): On the Upfield railway line:

- (1) How many level crossing faults occurred during each of the financial years 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08.
- (2) For each year, what was the average length of time taken for each fault to be fixed.
- (3) For each year, how many faults occurred at each level crossing.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) There are 21 level crossings on the Upfield line and 42 faults in 2005/06, 40 faults in 2006/07 and 36 faults in 2007/08.
- (2) 78.5 minutes, 78.1 minutes, 77.1 minutes.
- (3) For 2005/06: Poplar Road–1, Park Street–2, Brunswick Road–0, Union Street–1, Dawson Street–2, Albert Street–0, Victoria Street–1, Hope Street–0, Albion Street–0, Moreland Road–6, Reynards Street–1, Munro Street–4, Bell Street–0, O’Hea Street–1, Gaffney Street–3, Bakers Road–1, Bakers Road–2, Cemetery Entrance–1, Box Forrest Road–8, Camp Road–7, Barry Road–1.

For 2006/07: Poplar Road–5, Park Street–1, Brunswick Road–1, Union Street–0, Dawson Street–0, Albert Street–1, Victoria Street–0, Hope Street–1, Albion Street–0, Moreland Road–1, Reynards Street–1, Munro Street–3, Bell Street–3, O’Hea Street–1, Gaffney Street–3, Bakers Road–4, Bakers Road–5, Cemetery Entrance–0, Box Forrest Road–1, Camp Road–7, Barry Road–2.

For 2007/08: Poplar Road–2, Park Street–4, Brunswick Road–2, Union Street–0, Dawson Street–2, Albert Street–0, Victoria Street–8, Hope Street–1, Albion Street–1, Moreland Road–4, Reynards Street–1, Munro Street–1, Bell Street–0, O’Hea Street–0, Gaffney Street–1, Bakers Road–2, Bakers Road–0, Cemetery Entrance–0, Box Forrest Road–0, Camp Road–3, Barry Road–4.

**Public transport: level crossing safety — Broadmeadows line**

**8649. MR GUY** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): On the Broadmeadows railway line:

- (1) How many level crossing faults occurred during each of the financial years 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08.
- (2) For each year, what was the average length of time taken for each fault to be fixed.
- (3) For each year, how many faults occurred at each level crossing.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) There are 10 level crossings on the Broadmeadows line, and 29 faults in 2005/06, 20 faults in 2006/07, and 28 faults in 2007/08.
- (2) 42.6 minutes, 51.4 minutes, 55.3 minutes.

- (3) For 2005/06: Macaulay Road–10, Puckle Street–4, Park Street–5, Buckley Street–1, Gaffney Street–0, Devon Road–2, Glenroy Road–3, Somerton Road–3, Summerhill Road–1, Donnybrook Road–0.

For 2006/07: Macaulay Road–1, Puckle Street–0, Park Street–2, Buckley Street–0, Gaffney Street–5, Devon Road–2, Glenroy Road–8, Somerton Road–1, Summerhill Road–1, Donnybrook Road–0.

For 2007/08: Macaulay Road–0, Puckle Street–4, Park Street–4, Buckley Street–2, Gaffney Street–2, Devon Road–4, Glenroy Road–11, Somerton Road–Level Crossing Grade Separated, Summerhill Road–0, Donnybrook Road–1.

**Skills and workforce participation: vocational education and training — funding**

- 8711. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): In relation to the Victorian Government’s vocational education and training reform statement “Securing Jobs for Your Future”, released in late August 2008, which states that TAFE providers will receive Government funding additional to the funding outlined on pages 34–35 of the statement “as a base to assist with their costs as full service providers”: How much additional funding will be provided.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Included in funding for TAFE institutes for the 2009 calendar year is an amount of \$74.3 million to assist with their costs as full service providers. This acknowledges the broader range of services that TAFE provides such as community service obligations and reporting requirements.

In addition to this amount TAFE institutes will receive additional funding during the year for the costs involved in delivering programs such as Apprenticeship Field Officers, Curriculum Maintenance Managers and the Koorie Liaison Officers Indigenous Program on behalf of the state.

**Major projects: Australian Synchrotron**

- 8713. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Major Projects): In relation to the Australian Synchrotron:
- (1) How much of the \$157.3 million of tax-payer money spent on the construction of this project went to local Victorian owned businesses.
  - (2) How much of the \$157.3 million spent on the construction of this project went to foreign owned businesses.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is committed to its Victorian Industry Participation Policy.

The scope and details required in this question would constitute an unreasonable commitment of resources and costs associated with its preparation.

**Major projects: Parliament House**

- 8714. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Major Projects): How much of the \$5 million of taxpayer money spent on the Parliament House catering upgrade project went to Australian appliance and whitegoods manufacturers.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is committed to its Victorian Industry Participation Policy.

The scope and details required in this question would constitute an unreasonable commitment of resources and costs associated with its preparation.

**Housing: affordability**

**9007. MS LOVELL** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Housing): In relation to the Victorian Government’s commitment to work in partnership with local councils to develop plans for affordable housing in their municipalities:

- (1) How many councils has the Victorian Government worked with to develop plans for affordable housing in their municipalities and what is the name of each council.
- (2) How many of the councils have generated affordable housing policies as a result of the partnership with the Government and still have these policies in place, and what are the names of these councils.
- (3) Which councils have achieved tangible results demonstrating an improvement in affordable housing in their municipality as a result of developing plans for affordable housing, and has any assessment been completed.
- (4) How has the development of plans for affordable housing in municipalities assisted the Victorian Government with its policy and planning and what strategies or initiatives have been implemented as a result of this project.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government is working with six councils to develop affordable housing action plans as part of the Local Action on Affordable Housing (LAAH) project. The councils participating in the project are Darebin City Council, Manningham City Council, Maribyrnong City Council, Surf Coast Shire Council, Swan Hill Rural City Council and Wodonga City Council.

All six of the councils have either developed new affordable housing policies, refined existing policies and/or are considering inclusion of affordable housing in high level council documents such as Council Plans and Municipal Strategic Statements.

There is a lead time in the delivery of new housing development and it is too early in the project to measure impacts through the number of affordable housing dwellings constructed.

**Major projects: Commonwealth Games Athletes Village — social housing**

**9009. MS LOVELL** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Major Projects): In relation to the Victorian Government’s commitment to build 200 social housing units as part of the Commonwealth Games Athletes’ Village:

- (1) How many units within the Commonwealth Games Athletes’ Village site have been —
  - (a) fitted out for long-term social and community housing; and
  - (b) allocated to public housing tenants.
- (2) How many other housing units were generated from the Commonwealth Games Athletes’ Village, and what is the location and ownership of each unit

- (3) How many of the public housing units generated from the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village currently have a minimum five-star energy rating, rainwater harvesting capabilities, grey water treatment and gas-boosted solar hot water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1a) There have been 82 units within the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village site that have been fitted out for long-term social housing. A further 18 units of the total of 100 social housing units are yet to be completed.
- (1b) All 82 units within the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village site were allocated to social housing clients that were eligible under Housing Association allocation policies.
- (2) There will be 61 further housing units generated from the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village, via funds leveraged by Housing Associations on the original units. These units will be based in Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong and surrounding areas. All development sites have been acquired, planning applications have been lodged, and construction is scheduled to commence between June and August 2009. These units are scheduled to be delivered by December 2010, by Loddon Mallee Housing Services Ltd.
- (3) All buildings fitted out for long-term social housing within the Commonwealth Games Athletes village have minimum five-star rating and gas-boosted solar hot water. Two buildings have grey water treatment and three have rainwater harvesting capabilities.

**Housing: Commonwealth Games Athletes Village — social housing**

**9010.** **MS LOVELL** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Housing): In relation to the Victorian Government's commitment to build 200 social housing units as part of the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village:

- (1) How many units within the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village site have been —
- (a) fitted out for long-term social and community housing; and
- (b) allocated to public housing tenants.
- (2) How many other housing units were generated from the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village, and what is the location and ownership of each unit
- (3) How many of the public housing units generated from the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village currently have a minimum five-star energy rating, rainwater harvesting capabilities, grey water treatment and gas-boosted solar hot water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government's commitment was that the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village development would provide 100 social housing homes and a 100 bed aged care facility, as per the announcement of 11 May 2005.

- (1) There have been 82 units within the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village site that have been constructed by the developer, and fitted out for long-term social housing. As was indicated at the time of the announcement, a further 18 social housing units are being constructed as part of later stages of the overall development. The aged care development is currently undergoing commissioning and is expected to be complete by the end of 2009.
- (b) All 82 units within the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village site that have been handed over have been allocated to social housing clients that were eligible under Housing Association allocation policies.

- (2) There will be 61 further housing units generated from the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village, via funds leveraged by Housing Associations on the original units. These units will be based in Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong, and surrounding areas. All development sites have been acquired, planning applications have been lodged, and construction is scheduled to commence between June and August 2009. These units are scheduled to be delivered by December 2010, by Loddon Mallee Housing Services Ltd.
- (3) All apartment buildings fitted out for long-term social housing from the Commonwealth Games Athletes' Village have minimum five-star energy rating and gas-boosted solar hot water. In addition, 14 townhouses also have a minimum five-star energy rating. A total of 51 units have grey water treatment, while the other 31 units have rainwater harvesting capabilities.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions**

**9016.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in Victoria:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions in Victoria were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions in Victoria were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in Victoria:

- (1) 71.9 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 68.1 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — central east area**

**9038.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Central East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Central East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 84.5 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 76.9 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Dandenong area**

**9039. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Dandenong Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Dandenong Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 72.2 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 66.4 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — inner south-east area**

**9040. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Inner South East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Inner South East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 79.0 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 78.4 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — inner urban east area**

**9041. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Inner Urban East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Inner Urban East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 73.6 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 72.4 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — inner west area**

**9042.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Inner West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Inner West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 66.7 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 67.0 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — mid-west area**

**9043.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Mid West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Mid West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 76.9 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 64.8 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — middle south area**

**9044.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Middle South Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.

- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Middle South Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 76.3 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 79.0 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — north-west area**

**9045.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the North West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the North West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 73.4 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 71.2 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — north-east area**

**9046.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the North East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the North East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 85.1 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 78.7 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — northern area**

**9047. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Northern Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Northern Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 79.9 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 70.7 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — outer east area**

**9048. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Outer East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Outer East Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 77.5 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 69.1 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — peninsula area**

**9049. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Peninsula Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Peninsula Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 63.3 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 62.0 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — south-west area**

**9050. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the South West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the South West Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 86.4 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 75.5 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Barwon area**

**9051. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Barwon Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Barwon Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 55.3 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 63.2 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Gippsland area**

**9052. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Gippsland Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Gippsland Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 77.1 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 72.2 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Glenelg area**

**9053.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Glenelg Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Glenelg Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 63.5 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 55.8 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Goulburn and southern area**

**9054.** **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Goulburn and Southern Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Goulburn and Southern Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 72.8 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 67.3 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Grampians area**

**9055. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Grampians Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Grampians Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 59.0 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 56.6 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — Loddon Campaspe-southern Mallee area**

**9056. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Loddon Campaspe/Southern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Loddon Campaspe/Southern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 72.6 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 61.3 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — north-eastern Hume area**

**9057. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the North Eastern Hume Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the North Eastern Hume Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 60.6 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 54.3 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Mental health: acute involuntary inpatient admissions — northern Mallee area**

**9058. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to involuntary admissions in the Northern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2005.
- (2) What percentage of acute inpatient admissions were involuntary in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to involuntary admissions in the Northern Mallee Adult Mental Health Service Area:

- (1) 55.2 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2005.
- (2) 47.8 per cent of acute inpatient admissions had involuntary status at some point during the admission in the calendar year 2008.

**Public transport: trams — Toorak Road**

**9069. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): What percentage of trams travelling along Toorak Road, in the City of Stonnington, between 3.30 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. weekdays, ran to schedule in —

- (a) January 2001;
- (b) February 2001;
- (c) March 2001;
- (d) April 2001;
- (e) May 2001;
- (f) June 2001;
- (g) July 2001;
- (h) August 2001
- (i) September 2001;
- (j) October 2001;
- (k) November 2001;
- (l) December 2001;
- (m) January 2002;
- (n) February 2002;
- (o) March 2002;
- (p) April 2002; and
- (q) May 2002.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised, the answer is:

- (a) 68.5%
- (b) 65.0%
- (c) 67.7%
- (d) 65.6%
- (e) 69.3%
- (f) 67.6%
- (g) 72.6%
- (h) 67.6%
- (i) 71.3%
- (j) 70.4%
- (k) 64.8%
- (l) 65.9%
- (m) 61.0%
- (n) 64.3%
- (o) 64.0%
- (p) 63.3%
- (q) 67.4%

**Skills and workforce participation: Experience Counts program**

**9072.** **MR HALL** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): In relation to the Government's 'Experience Counts' program:

- (1) How many mature age people have re-entered the workforce as a result of the program.
- (2) How much has been spent on the program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) To date Experience Counts has assisted 125 mature age people.

More than 90 mature age people have received training and 27 participants of the Experience Counts program have achieved an employment outcome.

- (2) The Experience Counts program has currently contracted community organisations to deliver 120 employment outcomes at a cost of \$600 000, of which \$308 000 has been expended to date.

Departmental officers are currently reviewing a number of additional Experience Counts applications that were submitted in March and April 2009.

**Skills and workforce participation: skilled migration strategy**

**9073.** **MR HALL** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): In relation to Victoria’s Skilled Migration Strategy:

- (1) How many people have entered Victoria’s workforce as a result of this program over the last two years.
- (2) What new overseas postings have been made to assist recruitment of skilled migrants.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Victoria’s Skilled Migration Strategy, *Global Skills for Victoria*, is a demand driven strategy targeting skills required by Victorian industries that cannot be met by local jobseekers.

In the past two years (2006-07 and 2007-08), Victoria attracted around 28 000 skilled and business migrant permanent additions (primary applicants)

Within the total figure of around 28 000, Victoria has sponsored approximately 2500 skilled migrants (primary applicants).

- (2) Postings have been made in London and Bangalore.

**Skills and workforce participation: pre-apprenticeship programs**

**9074.** **MR HALL** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): How many young people have been enrolled in pre-apprenticeship programs over the last five years.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- The cumulative number of reported pre-apprenticeship course enrolments by young people (those aged 15 to 24) in Victoria over the last five years (2003 to 2007) is 26 783.
- The number of reported pre-apprenticeship course enrolments by young people (those aged 15 to 24) in Victoria in 2007 is 10 592. Figures for 2008 will not be available until mid 2009.
- Pre-apprenticeship course enrolments in Victoria have been growing over the 2003 to 2007 period.

**Skills and workforce participation: access grants**

**9076.** **MR HALL** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation): In relation to the Government’s “Returning to Earning Community Access Grants”, how many parents have been provided with assistance under this program over the last five years.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Returning to Earning — Community Access Grants has been in operation since 2007–08 and has to date allocated 1235 individual grants across 41 community organisations. These organisations assist parents to enter education or training that will facilitate their return to earning.

Departmental officers are currently reviewing a number of additional Returning to Earning — Community Access applications that were submitted in March and April 2009.

Returning to Earning — Universal Access is also available to assist parents to enter education or training and has to date allocated more than 3550 grants, resulting in over 4800 grants allocated under the Returning to Earning Program since its inception in 2007-08.

NB: (Prior to Returning to Earning the Parents Returning to Work Program was in operation through Skills Victoria.) The Parents Returning to Work Program assisted more than 9000 parents to the workforce between 2003 and 2007.

**Roads and ports: Port of Melbourne Corporation — channel deepening project**

**9078. MR VOGELS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): In relation to the advertising campaign conducted by the Port of Melbourne Corporation regarding the Channel Deepening Project, how much was spent between 1 July 2008 and 31 March 2009 on —

- (a) radio advertising;
- (b) television advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This advertising campaign has been fully funded by the Port of Melbourne Corporation.

**Environment and Climate Change: BushTender project**

**9083. MS LOVELL** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to the State Government’s BushTender project:

- (1) How many applications have been received to date.
- (2) How many applications have been successful to date.
- (3) What were the names of the panel members who decided which applications were successful.
- (4) What other factors were considered apart from the “value for money” concept.
- (5) What criteria are used to assess “value for money”.
- (6) How much funding has been allocated.
- (7) As the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is now seeking applicants in another locality, will these applicants benefit from any appraisal of the efficiency of the northern Mallee experience.
- (8) Will a new panel be formed to assess the merits of the new round of applications.
- (9) What are the merits of the BushTender project for land-holders and the DSE.
- (10) What are the merits of the BushBroker project for land-holders and the DSE.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) A total of 477 land-holders have submitted tenders in the seven BushTender auctions implemented since 2001.
- (2) 310 land-holders were successful in these auctions.
- (3) DSE convened different panels for the tender evaluation of each of the seven BushTender auctions since 2001. Each panel consisted of representatives from the relevant Catchment Management Authority (e.g. Biodiversity Manager, Board/Committee member), Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)

Statewide Services (e.g. Team Leader Biodiversity, DSE Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Division (e.g. Native Vegetation Program Manager). An independent Probity Adviser was also present at each evaluation. Each evaluation was conducted in accordance with an independently prepared Probity Plan.

- (4) In designing BushTender, DSE considered the need to:
- Recognise the diversity of land-holders and biodiversity values (vegetation type, threatened species present etc.) across the landscape
  - Recognise that each land-holder has a different cost structure and view of public and private benefits
  - Ensure the measure for ranking alternative investments includes a value for money component
  - Invest in only those land-holder services over and above existing obligations established under legislation
  - Be consistent with government policies, particularly with respect to existing duty of care, public land management and the probity of investment processes
  - Incorporate competitive bidding between land-holders and target areas
  - Measure and report on biodiversity and financial outcomes using standard methods
  - Reduce the risk of government agencies not ‘following through’ with incentive arrangements
- See DSE 2008 BushTender: Rethinking investment for native vegetation outcomes. The application of auctions for securing private land management agreements. State of Victoria, DSE, East Melbourne.*

- (5) In order to differentiate between proposals, the Biodiversity Benefits Index is used to assess value for money. This standard index which assesses bids individually uses parameters such as the diversity of land-holders and biodiversity values across the landscape, the diversity of actions, the range of outcomes generated by these, the length of agreement and the security of the site (e.g. permanent protection).

Depending on the combination of current site size, and quality, the threats impacting on the site and existing land use entitlements, that different land-holder commitments on different sites will result in different amounts of gains.

The Index also considers the type of native vegetation present and its conservation status in the bioregion, the occurrence and status of flora and fauna species present and the position of the site with respect to broader landscape requirements for key mobile fauna species.

The land-holder determines the payment they require to undertake the proposed management actions over the proposed period and then submits a sealed bid for this amount.

*See DSE 2008 BushTender: Rethinking investment for native vegetation outcomes. The application of auctions for securing private land management agreements. State of Victoria, DSE, East Melbourne.*

- (6) \$8,360,000 has been allocated to direct payments to land-holders.
- (7) Yes, at the end of each project, BushTender is fine-tuned and the lessons learned are captured and incorporated into the approach, such as the provision of further information on what land-holders could consider when developing their bid.
- (8) A new panel will be formed to assess the tenders.
- (9) BushTender provides a streamlined process for the investment of public funds. It provides an efficient mechanism for the investment of public funds and enables better investment decisions to be made and a record of where, when and for what outcome funds have been invested.

It maximises the opportunity of the site visit to engage the land-holder in biodiversity conservation and to collect valuable data. These data not only provide the basis for ranking bids in the auction evaluation, but contribute to improving the current knowledge on rare and threatened species, pest plants and animals and vegetation type and condition across the target areas.

In BushTender, land-holders establish their own price for the management services they are prepared to offer to better protect and improve their native vegetation.

Successful land-holders receive periodic payments for their services under management agreements signed with DSE. Land-holders are involved in the development of the management plan, which leads to agreement on actions that are set at a level the land-holder is comfortable in implementing. The agreements are easy to understand and specify actions which the land-holder needs to carry out at different times of the year.

The flexible approach of BushTender, allowing land-holders to choose their commitments and management actions, results in a high rate of acceptance of management agreements offered.

- (10) Improving the quality and amount of native vegetation in Victoria is fundamental to fulfilling our expectations of a healthy and productive environment. A ‘whole of landscape’ approach has been adopted to protect and restore native vegetation to ensure better biodiversity outcomes and achieve greater certainty and economic efficiency.

As part of this approach, BushBroker has been introduced, providing a system to establish, register and trade native vegetation credits. In most cases, the clearing of native vegetation that requires planning approval must be offset by a gain elsewhere. Offsets are permanently protected and linked to a particular clearing site.

BushBroker facilitates the location of sites that could potentially be used as offsets on different properties to where the native vegetation is being cleared (this is called a third party offset).

BushBroker represents an opportunity for land-holders to improve biodiversity on their property, as well as generate a potentially new income stream from their native vegetation.

There are no price structures set by DSE so landowners can take into consideration any factors they wish such as management costs, lost opportunity costs, desirable profit and land value when developing a price. Negotiations take place between the landowner and the buyer, independent of DSE. Landowners are also able to access expert advice on land management.

### **Racing: jumps events**

- 9103.** **MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Racing): In relation to horse falls, injuries and deaths in Victorian jumps racing, and following the 2008 review of Judge David Jones into the safety of Victorian jumps racing which recommended improved training of jumps jockeys, trainers and horses as well as modified hurdles and better preparation of tracks for the 2009 season, what systems has the Minister established for monitoring the 2009 jumps racing season to ensure that the recommendations of the review are implemented.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

I refer the honourable member to my response to question LC9105.

### **Racing: jumps events**

- 9104.** **MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Racing): In relation to statistics for 2008 indicating approximately 70 horses failed to reappear after a jumps racing incident, 12 of 173 horses were killed on the track during a jumps race, one was killed in a trial and many other injured horses were ‘retired’ without monitoring or information on their welfare or whereabouts:
- (1) Has the Minister provided for a mechanism to determine the true casualty rate of jumps horses.
  - (2) Will the Minister be monitoring the welfare of all jumps horses —
    - (a) if so, how; and

- (b) if not, why not.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

I refer the honourable member to my response to question LC9105.

**Racing: jumps events**

**9105. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Racing): In relation to high levels of horse death, fall and injury in jumps racing, and the Minister’s statement in a media release of 4 December 2008 that “The industry has been put on notice that the events of the 2008 jumps racing season cannot be repeated and that if jumps racing is to continue to have a long-term future in Victoria, all stakeholders must understand that everything humanly possible must be done to make it safe.”

- (1) What does the Minister mean by “put on notice” and what criteria or standards has the Minister put in place with which the racing industry must comply.
- (2) Has the Minister developed a reporting plan, including provision for a report of incidents during the 2009 jumps racing season in order to determine the effectiveness of reforms.
- (3) Has the Minister provided for sanctions in the event of breaches of rules during the 2009 jumps racing season.
- (4) If injuries and deaths continue to occur during this season in the same way that serious falls have continued, including 11 falls reported this year, has the Minister devised a point at which the Government will intervene to suspend the 2009 season.
- (5) If, despite reforms and regulations and “everything humanly possible” being done to make jumps racing safe, falls, deaths and injuries continue to occur, at what point does the Minister consider that jumps racing should be discontinued in Victoria as it has been in every other state except South Australia.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The findings of Judge Jones’ report have put the industry on notice—that is, the events of the 2008 jumps season cannot be repeated. It is now up to the jumps racing fraternity to implement the recommendations contained in the report immediately to ensure that the safety and welfare of horse and rider remain at the forefront of the Victorian racing industry.

Racing Victoria Limited (RVL) maintain statistics of incidents which occur throughout the course of the jumps race season and is also responsible for overseeing the implementation of the new safety measures recommended in Judge Jones’ report. RVL has committed to provide the Government with regular updates throughout the current season which will keep the Government informed of the ongoing safety performance of jumps racing.

RVL is an independent body established under the Corporations Act and is charged with the responsibility of governing thoroughbred racing in Victoria. This role includes oversight of the rules of racing and the implementation of appropriate sanctions in the event of any breach of the rules.

It is not appropriate for the Government to speculate regarding the number of incidents which might occur in the current season other than to reiterate that the events of the 2008 cannot be repeated if jumps racing is to continue to have a long-term future in Victoria.

**Children and early childhood development: Crown land**

**9110. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): In relation to land under the control of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development that has been sold to a private entity in the past five years:

- (1) On what date was the land sold.
- (2) What was the total acreage of the land.
- (3) What was the address of the land.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

All land acquired for the purpose of the Act by a Minister administering the Act is vested in the Minister for Education.

**Health: Crown land**

**9111. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): In relation to land under the control of the Department of Human Services that has been sold to a private entity in the past five years:

- (1) On what date was the land sold.
- (2) What was the total acreage of the land.
- (3) What was the address of the land.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There are over one hundred agencies in the health portfolio. Each provides an annual report tabled in Parliament. I refer the member to the annual reports of the relevant health agencies for the broad details of the information she is seeking. For my department to provide a detailed response to this question would be too voluminous and an unnecessary diversion of the department's resources.

**Roads and ports: Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal — roadside collection**

**9119. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): Has a directive or otherwise been issued by the Minister's Department banning the collection of monies for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal at all intersections, unless the intersection is administered by traffic lights.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Roadside collection of monies for charities is governed by the *Road Safety (Road Rules) Regulations 1999*, pursuant to which a person intending to hold a highway collection must make a written application to hold the collection to the Chief Commissioner of Police. An application form and guidelines is available at <http://www.police.vic.gov.au>

**Police and emergency services: Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal — roadside collection**

**9120. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Has a directive or otherwise been issued by the Minister's Department banning the collection of monies for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal at all intersections, unless the intersection is administered by traffic lights.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The Road Safety Act 1986 and associated Road Rules provides that organisations wishing to raise contributions by collecting funds through 'highway collections' must obtain permission from the Chief Commissioner of Police and must conduct all highway collections at intersections where there are traffic signals. These requirements are included so that the safety of collectors is not compromised.