



The Parliament Prize Teacher notes

Preparing a Member's Statement

Each sitting day, any day that parliament meets, Members of Parliament (MPs) can make a Member's Statements. This is a 90-second speech on any topic or issue they consider important. MPs often use this time to speak about individual constituents or organisations in their electorate. One of the great things about member statements is the range of topics and issues that are addressed, meaning member statements can vary a lot depending on who the MP is, what area they represent, and what they and their constituents are interested in.

There is no set structure to a member statement. The only requirement is that the speech is no longer than 90 seconds and that the language is respectful

It may be useful for students to read and explore some examples of Members' Statements from the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Example statements from both chambers have been included at the end of the document (Appendix A and Appendix B).

If you would like more examples of member statements, you can [search Hansard](#) on the Parliament of Victoria website. Search for 'Members' Statements' in the "Search Hansard" bar at the top of the page.

Some questions that you might like students to consider, include:

- What sort of topics do the Members of Parliament talk about?
- Are there any words or phrases that are used consistently between the different Members' Statements?
- What sort of examples do they use?
- How might students use or incorporate some of words and phrases or types of examples into their member statement?

Alternatively, the Teaching and Learning Cycle (Victorian Department of Education's Literacy Teaching Toolkit and the VicTESOL website) provides a framework for drafting writing while researching and investigating different topics and text types, as well as how to use model texts to help students develop their own piece of work. Students can use one or several of the member statements provided (or find their own) as model texts as they research and develop their understanding of their topic.

- [Teaching and learning cycle, Literacy Teaching Toolkit, Victorian Department of Education and Training.](#)
- [The teaching and learning cycle, VicTESOL](#)

Research

Below are some strategies that students might find useful to help initially focus their research and then select material to use in their Member's Statement. If using the teaching and learning cycle, these strategies support the 'building the context or field' stage of the cycle.

'Generating research questions' provides some question starters through the Question Matrix that maybe useful to create different types of research questions. The sections, 'Finding credible sources' and 'Selecting information', provide students with some guidance for their research and using their research in their Members' Statements.

Generating research questions

The question matrix provides some question starters that maybe useful to create different types of questions. Below are a few different ways the question matrix can be used. Students can:

- Pick 5 question starters and write some questions that they find interesting.
- Use the question starters to brainstorm as many questions about their topic as possible
 - Choose their two favourite questions to start their research
- Pick one question starter from each row
 - Put these question starters into an order that they think makes sense and see if they can answer each of the questions in that order. (This can be used as a 'think-slow' approach to writing and research)
- Write a question on their chosen topic using every box
 - Questions they already know the answer to, they colour green and then try to write new questions that they are not sure how to answer
 - Questions they are not sure how to answer, they colour orange
 - For boxes where students can't think of a question, they colour red
 - When students are doing their research, they concentrate on answering the questions in the orange boxes.

?	Event	Situation	Choice	Person	Reason	Means
Present	What is?	Where/when is?	Which is?	Who is?	Why is?	How is?
Past	What did?	Where/when did?	Which did?	Who did?	Why did?	How did?
Possibility	What can?	Where/when can?	Which can?	Who can?	Why can?	How can?
Probability	What would?	Where/when would?	Which would?	Who would?	Why would?	How would?
Prediction	What will?	Where/when will?	Which will?	Who will?	Why will?	How will?
Imagination	What might?	Where/when might?	Which might?	Who might?	Why might?	How might?

Wiederhold, C.W. (2007). Cooperative learning & higher-level thinking: the Q-matrix Heatherton, Vic. Hawker Brownlow Education.

Finding credible sources

Below are some questions to help you think about the source of your information and its credibility.

- Who wrote it?
 - What is their background? What experiences might they have that makes them knowledgeable?
- What are the key points they are making?
 - A great way to do this is to read a paragraph or a page, and then write down what you remember reading. This will help you to write down the different ideas in your own words. You can always go back and double check any dates, statistics, or any other facts.
- Where is it published?
 - If it is on the internet, is it a reliable site. Things to look for:
 - https: - the 's' means the website is secure
 - .vic.gov.au – government website, including funded agencies
 - .asn – association
 - .org – organisation (but check to see who the organisation is)
 - .au – Australian website
 - Is it a secondary source (re-published or shared by different people on different platforms) or is it the primary source (original)? Always try to find the original primary source where you can.
 - Where are they getting their information from? If they use some evidence or quote someone, check out where they got the information from; are they using reliable sources?
 - Books are often more reliable because they are usually checked multiple times before they are published, just check how old the information is.
- When was it published?
 - When was the article or website written?
 - If it was something that hasn't been updated in the last couple of years, is it the most up-to-date information that we have?
- Why are they writing this?
 - What is the purpose of the article?
 - Is the author being paid by outside organisations to write the article? Do they have sponsorships or advertising groups that have an interest in the topic?
- How many other sources say the same thing?
 - Looking for multiple sources that have the same or similar information is useful. But make sure that they are reliable sources, otherwise you could be confirming the wrong or inaccurate information.

Selecting information

Sometimes when we do research, we can end up with too much information. You can use a table like the one below to help select which bits of the research you keep and what might keep for something else. The information in the “interesting to know” column might not be high on your list of things to include but there may be a story or fact that can help demonstrate your point, add variety to your arguments, or create additional interest.

Necessary to know	Good to know	Interesting to know	Not relevant for now

Researching can be frustrating if you can't find what you're looking for and take a lot of time if you find lots of information or new and interesting ideas. The different questions and tables above might be useful to help you focus on your topic.

Once you have undertaken your research speak to a teacher, friend or family member about the research and information you have discovered. They might ask you questions which you may then need to follow up or learn more about.

Appendix A

Members' Statements, Legislative Assembly, Parliament of Victoria Extract from Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) Legislative Assembly Fifty-Ninth Parliament Wednesday, 3 March 2021, pp. 738 – 747

MADELINE DOSSIS

Mr CARROLL (Niddrie—Minister for Public Transport, Minister for Roads and Road Safety) (09:37): I rise to celebrate the life of Madeline Elise Dossis. In the historic sitting of the Victorian Parliament at the Royal Exhibition Building in a moving speech the Premier of Victoria spoke about a local girl named Madeline, an intelligent and articulate young woman who we had the privilege of meeting at Essendon Keilor College in 2014. To quote the Premier:

... Madeline was a bright and shining star ... who deserved a bright and shining future.

Through different hospital and community services, her journey represented the fractured approach that just has not kept the most vulnerable Victorians safe, including Madeline. Madeline's family wants our Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System to mark a turning point in mental health care in Victoria, and by accepting all 65 recommendations we are going to make a dramatic difference in getting those with mental health challenges the support they need when they need it.

I want to take this occasion to thank Madeline's family: Karen, Vi, Michael, Stephanie, Katherine and Matt. I want to thank them for their bravery in coming forward and telling Madeline's story. I also want to acknowledge Stephanie for the wonderful service we had at Woodlands Park recently and the \$20 000 that she raised for the Reach Foundation to support young individuals just like Madeline. The landmark royal commission will not bring Madeline back or heal their heartache, but I hope they can find some comfort in the knowledge we are absolutely committed to rebuilding our broken mental health system. Their experience will shape a new system. We owe it to Madeline, that bright and shining star.

AUSTRALIAN STREET ART AWARDS & LOCH SPORT

Mr D O'BRIEN (Gippsland South) (09:39): Congratulations to Yarram for last night winning the gold award in the highly coveted Best Street Art Trail category at the 2020 Australian Street Art Awards on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Yarram has transformed itself into a mural town in the past 12 months, engaging Mongolian street artist Heesco Khosnaran to so far produce 17 outdoor murals. These murals tell the story of the town, its people and its history. Dubbing itself 'Heesco Town', Yarram has attracted attention from around the country with the murals, which can now be described as 'award-winning'. A national panel of judges described Yarram as 'Australia's newest and hottest art destination'. That much of the work was done in the early stages of the pandemic was also a credit to the town. The judges said:

We love that Yarram pulled up its socks, strapped on its thinking cap and turned to street art as a secret weapon during this period.

Along the way they created hope, joy, a blaze of colour and an Australian first. Congratulations to Heesco and the forces behind the win, Eric Greenaway, Wayne Tindall, Paul Frost and many others that helped make it work, including the business owners who allowed their walls to become canvases. I invite all members, indeed all Victorians, to get down to Yarram and see this fantastic new streetscape.

Loch Sport is another town moving ahead in leaps and bounds. It was great to recently attend the official opening of the new synthetic bowling green at the bowls club, while the newly rebuilt golf club clubhouse will be opened this weekend. These upgrades, which provide new facilities for the town's growing population, along with the boom in house sales and the redevelopment of the commercial centre around the supermarket, Loch Sport is certainly a town on the move.

WILLIAMSTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB & PAULA BENSON

Ms HORNE (Williamstown—Minister for Ports and Freight, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, Minister for Fishing and Boating) (09:40): I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Williamstown Football Club, the Seagulls, and meeting the VFL women's team at their training facility, newly developed thanks to a \$1.2 million investment from this government.

It is fitting for me to also mention that Monday will be International Women's Day. Ordinarily I would be delighted to welcome female leaders from schools in my electorate to this place on International Women's Day, an event I know that my friend the Minister for Women has enjoyed joining in the past. While the pandemic has put that on hold this year, I want to take the opportunity to recognise some incredible women from my community in Williamstown. The Seagulls VFLW players are extraordinary leaders in our community and champions for young women and girls to look up to. The club should be commended for its effort in the accelerated football program, giving young girls access to the training and resources to become better footy players and level the playing field.

There can be no gender equality, though, without the leadership of women like this or Williamstown resident Paula Benson, who was recently awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to people living with ovarian cancer and to business. Paula has served as a chair of Ovarian Cancer Australia and has been absolutely pivotal in changing the lives of so many Australian women touched by ovarian cancer. From the first national action plan for ovarian cancer research to securing millions of dollars in funding for research programs, Paula's own personal experience and the incredible positive change effected by her speaks volumes to her strength. (Time expired)

MYANMAR & R JOSEPH XIN LU

Mr HODGETT (Croydon) (09:42): I rise today to speak on the situation still taking place in Myanmar. Since 1 February Myanmar has been without a democratically elected government, as the nation lives under a military coup. The state counsellor, president and a number of leaders have been detained for nearly a month now. Also detained is Australian academic Sean Turnell, whose whereabouts are still unknown.

The situation is deeply concerning to Australia, which is a great supporter of returning democracy to Myanmar. Myanmar is a nation which struggled under military rule for many years following its independence in 1948. The democratic election of 2015 brought hope to a nation that was and still is desperately seeking democracy. There turn to military rule is a step back from that goal. The Australian government has called for the release of the unlawfully detained leaders and for the military to respect the rule of law. The impact of this coup is being felt around the world, including by those of the Chin community in my electorate and the Australia Chin Communities Council. We must stand with and offer our support to the people of Myanmar and the Burmese communities here in Australia during these tough times.

On another matter, I wish to congratulate Father Joseph Xin Lu on his 20th year anniversary of ordination into the priesthood. Father Joseph is our parish priest at the St Peter Julian Eymard Catholic church in Mooroolbark. He has spent more than half of his time as a priest with us, going into his 11th year at the Mooroolbark parish. Thank you, Father Joseph, for all your service and spiritual leadership and your service to the Mooroolbark parish. We are blessed to have you and wish you well as you continue your religious and faith journey.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, LABOUR DAY & MODERN SLAVERY

Ms THOMAS (Macedon—Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional Development) (09:43): On Monday we celebrate International Women's Day and Labour Day. Born of the women's equality and labour movements, these two days are extremely significant for me, for all my colleagues and for those who share our Labor values—equality, justice and an abiding commitment to improving the lives of working people.

It is this week that my electorate team and I have committed to learn more about modern slavery and to support awareness raising and action in my electorate. Modern slavery is an umbrella term that includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, deceptive recruitment for labour or services, forced marriage and child labour. While often hidden from view, modern slavery denies humans their inherent dignity through exploitation, degradation and control. Poverty, discrimination, civil disruption, weak rule of law and natural disasters are all drivers of modern slavery. According to Anti-Slavery Australia 40.3 million people live in slavery globally— a truly shocking figure—while here in Australia, Anti-Slavery Australia estimates, over 1900 people are victims of modern slavery. It is a wake-up call to all of us in this place to open our eyes, stand up, speak out and make change. A big thanks to my constituent Marg Leahy through her work with ACRATH, Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans, which is affiliated with Anti-Slavery Australia. Marg has been a passionate advocate and is at the forefront of raising awareness of this issue in the community I represent.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Mr MORRIS (Mornington) (09:45): There have been repeated claims about the support that the government has provided to assist small businesses to weather the COVID storm. Yet despite these claims we know many Victorian businesses are in trouble, and this morning we learned that the number of business collapses had doubled in February in Victoria. Why? Because the government has totally failed to deliver on their promises.

Angela, the proprietor of a Mornington retail outlet, applied for business support in September. The website clearly indicated that \$10 000 was available for businesses in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell shire and \$5000 for regional businesses. On 1 October the business received \$5000. Upon making inquiries, Angela was told that Mornington was not in the metropolitan area. The department claimed the program had told her that was the case and she was only eligible for the smaller payment. It is a pity the program was not managing the lockdown. Eventually in mid-October the department conceded that Mornington was part of metropolitan Melbourne and indicated they would hear back in a few days. Needless to say, that did not happen. After the involvement of my office, the Mornington Peninsula shire, the Mornington Chamber of Commerce and even the Victorian Ombudsman, and thanks to Angela's tenacity, things started to move, but it was only during the last sitting week in February, more than 4½ months after the application, that the final \$5000 was received.

Clearly the government has no conception of the financial pressures faced by small business. This delay could have been terminal for that business. No thanks to the government it was not, but how many more businesses face closure because the government just does not get it?

KANGAROO FLAT LIBRARY

Ms EDWARDS (Bendigo West) (09:46): Last week I was delighted to join in the official opening of the new Kangaroo Flat Library. This \$1.6 million project is a great example of what can be achieved when state government and local government come together and invest in the community. I am proud that through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program we provided \$400 000 towards this project. We invest in libraries for several reasons: first, because Victorians in fast-growing communities like Kangaroo Flat deserve the best possible facilities; second, because we know the lifelong benefits children and families can get from libraries; and third, because every investment we make helps to employ local people and keep the economy moving. This is more important than ever as we look to recover from COVID-19.

Libraries are about so much more than books. They strengthen and enrich our communities. They enable learning, personal development and relaxation, and they remain a vibrant, inclusive and much-loved part of our society. Under stages 3 and 4 COVID restrictions, libraries across the state were closed, but they displayed ingenuity, resilience and commitment to their communities, and no less so than at the Goldfields Library Corporation.

This new library is just across the road from my office, so I am very excited that I have seen many people using it already. Whether they are there to read, study, use the internet or just relax, this upgrade caters for the whole community. It is accessible, and there is more room for books and other collection items. We are very pleased to be able to support our libraries with our November state budget— \$56.9 million for our Living Libraries program. This will ensure Victorians can continue to benefit from everything libraries can offer.

BRUNSWICK ELECTORATE CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr READ (Brunswick) (09:48): It is heartening to see an increase in walking and bike riding in the wake of the pandemic. Sadly, the roads are choked with cars again, but active transport still seems to be popular. It is not surprising in my area because more people rode to work from Brunswick than from any other Australian suburb at the last census. But they are increasingly forced onto the roads because the shared paths on the Upfield line and along the Merri Creek are crowded with pedestrians and bikes, and they are narrow paths.

VicTrack's Upfield shared path has been blocked by construction around Jewell station for two years now and blocked by the level crossing project further north for almost a year. Construction at Anstey station makes the Upfield path too narrow for bikes, so it barely exists as a viable route. I am seeing more people risking the ride down Sydney Road heading for the safer Royal Parade but also threading their way between the cars and trams on Lygon Street.

The City of Melbourne is installing more separated bike lanes, as is the state government, on several roads around Melbourne but none in Brunswick. Moreland council is giving Brunswick its first separated bike lane—just half a kilometre on Dawson Street. So I call on the Minister for Transport Infrastructure and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety to urgently improve cycling routes in the Brunswick electorate.

Appendix B

Members' Statements, Legislative Council, Parliament of Victoria Extract from Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) Legislative Council Fifty-Ninth Parliament Thursday, 4 March 2021 pp. 863-868

ANIMAL SHELTERS

Mr MEDDICK (Western Victoria) (10:30): Last year we passed in this place a motion to reform the animal pound and shelter systems in Victoria. I was very pleased to be asked to lead a task force to work out the details of how best we can improve the welfare and survival of cats and dogs requiring rehoming. As well as animals being released from research, this task force will consider the new regulatory frameworks required, processes, systems and reporting methods. Despite the difficulties and delays in the state due to the Christmas holidays, the situation with the current pandemic and a change of ministers, I am pleased to update the house that this effort is progressing apace. The terms of reference of the task force are being finalised now, and I look forward to consulting widely with stakeholders, including shelters, rehoming groups, vets, charities, local governments, research bodies and others. I look forward to the work of the task force commencing and will keep the house updated on its progress.

RENEE MCLENNAN

Ms BATH (Eastern Victoria) (10:31): On the eve of International Women's Day on 8 March, I pay tribute to our women around the nation. In particular I would like to pay tribute to a strong, dynamic constituent of mine—a fighter, a champion and a lovely person to boot. Eight years ago Renee McLennan was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer—an extremely serious prognosis requiring aggressive and sustained treatment. While Renee had tremendous support from family and friends, ultimately she had her own personal battle to contend with. Renee focused on the elements that she could control: mental positivity, keeping fit and eating well. Exercise and cycling became one of her drivers for wellness—a success story we can celebrate. In 2018 Renee completed the Tour de Cure in Far North Queensland, raising funds for cancer research. This week she just completed the VIC Discovery Tour. Together with other participants, collectively they raised half a million dollars for the Olivia Newton-John Foundation. With the support of many donors, Renee smashed her own personal target again. An inspiration for others, Renee is also caringly remembering and honouring those who have not won this terrible battle. With International Women's Day just around the corner, let us all applaud women and reflect on our personal challenges, our successes and our battles to come.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Ms WATT (Northern Metropolitan) (10:33): Last week I had the privilege of attending the launch of the hospital outreach post-suicidal engagement, or HOPE, service at the Royal Melbourne Hospital with the Minister for Mental Health. The HOPE service provides vital follow-up and after-care services for those who attend hospital emergency departments in crisis or following a suicide attempt. The service provides a 12-week program of holistic care to support individuals and their personal support networks. Over the next 12 months the HOPE program will grow from 12 to 21 service

locations, fulfilling a key interim report recommendation from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. The HOPE program's focus on home and community-based recovery generates positive outcomes in a high-risk group of individuals, with 96 per cent of respondents surveyed in an independent evaluation of the program feeling extremely or very supported through the program.

As we heard on Tuesday in the final report of the royal commission, too many vulnerable Victorians fall through the cracks of the mental health system. Any Victorian falling through the cracks is too many. We need to overhaul our mental health system to meet the needs of those in crisis and to prevent them from reaching crisis point. That is why the Andrews Labor government committed to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and committed to implementing every single recommendation from its final report. The recommendations include that mental health emergencies should be responded to by ambulances rather than by police. We have got to get it right.

NORTHERN VICTORIA REGION VOLUNTEERS

Ms MAXWELL (Northern Victoria) (10:34): I rise today to speak to the fact that north-east Victoria is still recovering from the 2019–20 bushfires which devastated many farming properties and is still having an impact on these farming communities' livelihoods. Volunteer organisations, who are still working tirelessly to help with the recovery, are the unsung heroes here. I recently became aware of a member of the Benalla Rotary group, Mr Alan Stafford, who led a team of Rotarians into the Corryong region over the previous winter months, working on refencing many properties impacted by these horrendous bushfires. Alan has been volunteering for many years, including after the 2009 Black Saturday fires and the 2013 fires around Boho and Warrenbayne.

Thousands of dollars have been raised by local Benalla volunteer groups and individuals to purchase equipment, including a large tractor equipped with a post rammer, an ATV, four fencing-equipped trailers and a troop carrier to transport the volunteers to and from these fencing jobs. I would like to thank the Benalla volunteer groups, Rotary, the Uniting Church and the CWA for all the work they have done in helping farmers in the Corryong area get back on their feet and also all the volunteer organisations across my electorate for the wonderful work they do time and time again.

SHEPPARTON EDUCATION PLAN

Ms LOVELL (Northern Victoria) (10:36): On 4 February I raised with the Minister for Education the failure of the Andrews Labor government to meet designated time lines for the completion of the Shepparton Education Plan. The plan was originally divided into four stages—early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education—but later became three stages with the combining of early years and primary education together. Planning for the secondary stage has resulted in the closing of four public secondary schools and the creation of the largest single-campus secondary school in Australia. The other two stages of the plan are still incomplete, with the minister failing to meet his original time line for completion of the early childhood and primary stage of December 2018 and completion of the tertiary stage of June 2019.

When I raised this with the minister in 2019 he created new time lines for the completion of both stages, stating the early childhood and primary stage would be completed and published in early 2020 and the tertiary stage completed and published in mid-2020. This new time line was again missed and my contribution on 4 February again sought an explanation as to why. The minister's excuse was that consultations were impacted by COVID-19 during 2020, and he completely ignored the fact that one of the reports was due before COVID-19 even hit Victoria and the other one should have been largely completed. The minister then put forward a third time line, being early childhood and primary plans released by the end of March 2021 and the tertiary stage plan released by the end of May 2021. The people of Greater Shepparton are anxious about the future of education and what it will look like for their children and grandchildren, and they deserve answers from this minister.

FAMILY DRUG SUPPORT AUSTRALIA

Mr LIMBRICK (South Eastern Metropolitan) (10:40): Last Friday I had the honour of being asked to speak at Family Drug Support Day. Family Drug Support is an organisation that helps the people who are often forgotten when people have substance dependence issues, and that is the families themselves. These are the groups of people that often wonder why this is happening to them. I was honoured to hear stories from everyday people who thought of drug issues as something that happens to someone else or is something that they read about in a newspaper, but it happened to their families. They did not know what to do, and organisations like Family Drug Support were able to provide them with some advice and support on how to keep that vital connection to the family member that has these issues with drug dependence. One of the things I heard that I would like to continue on is that one of the barriers to users of drugs is getting a criminal record. I would like in the future this Parliament to work towards families, health professionals and community groups helping people with drug issues rather than police, the court system and the prisons.

TROLLING

Ms CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (10:41): I would like to just make a few comments in relation to some of the commentary around the attacks on and trolling of MPs. Whilst we are recognising International Women's Day, which needs to be recognised, I pay tribute to all those women who have gone before me who have led in so many ways. They need to be celebrated and all those issues that members have spoken out about. But I am fortunate that I have had the support of both men and women to get me to this position, for which I am very grateful. I am also very grateful for the support that I have received in relation to the trolling, the abuse and the vile and disgraceful sexist language from anonymous letters and security issues from Victoria Police, who have been particularly supportive in protecting my security.

I want to actually just mention that it is not just one side of politics or any side of politics that is subject to vicious trolling. When my office is being targeted by Trades Hall, when I am being targeted by Trades Hall on Twitter and when I am calling out on Twitter for Trades Hall to stop, they do, which I am grateful for. But with the abuse that I am getting in my office from people and the emails that my staff are getting, I suggest that the Minister for Health, the Premier and members of the Labor Party call out those people too, because that trolling and abuse needs to stop. The anonymous comments that are coming out on this Twitter platform and other social media need to stop. Respect needs to happen and all of this needs to be addressed.

VICTORIAN HEART HOSPITAL

Mr TARLAMIS (South Eastern Metropolitan) (10:43): The Andrews Labor government is getting on with the construction of Australia's first-ever specialist heart hospital. The Victorian Heart Hospital will be Australia's first state-of-the-art specialist cardiac hospital, providing innovative, holistic and patient-centred care as well as world-leading research and education. Located on the Monash University Clayton campus, the hospital will integrate clinical cardiology services, research and education to create a centre of excellence, raising the profile of cardiovascular research, treatment and training and enabling patients with heart disease to access world-class cardiac care and groundbreaking research all under the one roof. It will bring together Monash Health and Monash University, both leaders in the field of cardiac research, treatment and education, as well as building upon the achievements of Monash Heart, which is now the largest provider of cardiac care in Victoria.

Currently cardiovascular disease is the biggest killer in Australia, accounting for around 30 per cent of all deaths, with recent statistics showing one Australian dies every 12 minutes from cardiovascular disease. When opened, the hospital will have capacity for up to 206 beds to provide up to 2150 cardiac surgeries, 13 500 cardiac laboratory procedures and 108 000 consultations each year. It will play an important role in training our future heart specialists and nursing and allied health professionals. Construction is on track, with the hospital expected to open its doors in 2022. Ninety per cent of the construction materials have been sourced from local suppliers, and more than 1700 construction jobs have been created. Once completed, it will employ more than 850 people across clinical care and research and will be just one of the projects the Labor government has delivered or will deliver as part of its unprecedented \$7 billion health infrastructure build program.