

ATTACHMENT: QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE AND FURTHER INFORMATION AGREED TO BE SUPPLIED AT THE HEARINGS

Hon Martin Foley MP

HOUSING, DISABILITY AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

- 1. In relation to the funding allocated to the 'Speeding up local government planning decisions' output (Budget Paper No.3, p.19), what performance measures are attached to this funding?**

(Pages 8-9 of the Housing, Disability and Ageing portfolio transcript)

Minister Foley is not the responsible Minister for this question. Please redirect this question to the Minister for Planning to respond.

- 2. Regarding the implementation of the Vacant Residential Property Tax:**

- a) how many houses are forecast to be brought back into the housing rental marketplace?**
- b) what modelling has the Department undertaken to estimate the impact of this initiative?**

(Pages 16-17 of the Housing, Disability and Ageing portfolio transcript)

Minister Foley is not the responsible Minister for this question. Please redirect this question to the Treasurer to respond.

- 3. With respect to the Futures for Young Adults (Budget Paper No.3, p.83), please indicate the location in the current Budget papers for the funding for the 400 beneficiaries announced in the 2016-17 Budget.**

(Pages 19-20 of the Housing, Disability and Ageing portfolio transcript)

Page 78 of Budget Paper No. 3 of the 2017-18 State Budget includes \$19.9 million in output initiatives to provide 256 additional packages for young adults through the Futures for Young Adults (FFYA) program, over two years (2017-18 and 2018-19) in areas of the state that will not transition to the NDIS until 2019.

This funding builds upon the Government's 2016-17 budget investment of \$45.3 million to provide support for up to 400 young people with a disability before the full transition to the NDIS, over three years (\$14.4 million 2016-17, \$15.1 million 2017-18 and \$15.1million 2018-19).

Questions submitted to the Chair from PAEC Members absent from the hearings:

- 4. BP3 p. 20 states "A \$1 billion Social Housing Growth Fund will be established to deliver an ongoing stream of revenue to support social housing. Over the next five years, the Fund will support up to 2 200 new social housing places including the construction of new social housing dwellings and the provision of rental support."**

- a) How will the \$1 billion dollar social housing growth fund be used?**

The \$1 billion Social Housing Growth Fund will deliver additional supply of social housing. The dedicated fund will support innovative partnerships between the Victorian Government and consortia involving the community housing, private, not for profit and local government sectors.

The Fund will provide a long-term financial commitment to support a pipeline of housing development projects on non-Victorian Government land (private, not for profit and local government), and through a program of leasing properties from the private market.

b) Will any of the fund be used to foster private investment in housing for low-income people?

The Fund provides an ongoing mechanism for the Victorian Government to partner with the community, private, not for profit and local government sectors to deliver housing assistance to Victorians.

The Fund will deliver new housing supply in a variety of forms. The construction program will prioritise developments that grow social housing, and the rental subsidy program will utilise existing private dwellings to increase the available supply of subsidised housing.

c) Will any of the fund be used to construct housing that will be publicly owned or managed?

This is a fund for constructing additional social housing.

5. The Budget (BP3, p.20) states that there will be a transfer of the management of 4,000 public housing properties, although not the title of the homes. The budget also outlines that there will be improvement to some high rise housing estates in the metropolitan region as well as specific public housing estates in inner Melbourne.

a) 4,000 is a very specific number, where are these properties located?

The location of the management transfers will be determined later in 2017. The specific dwellings to be offered to community housing agencies will be determined following feedback from a range of stakeholders including the community housing sector, departmental staff and tenant representatives.

b) Will the high rise estates in metropolitan Melbourne that are being improved be transferred to the social housing sector and away from public hands?

The high rise towers will continue to be owned by the Director of Housing.

c) What is being done to meaningfully engage residents in the planning process of the upgrades to the high rise estates?

The continued upgrade of residential high rise apartments by the Director of Housing will be built through a constructive tenant engagement strategy to facilitate the successful delivery of the project.

d) How long will residents be relocated during the upgrades to the high rise estates and will they be able to return to their homes?

There is a rolling program of work upgrading high rise towers floor by floor across the metropolitan region. Residents are relocated for up to 6 months and are able to return when upgrades are complete.

MENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO

6. Of the \$406 million for urgent mental health and \$78 million for urgent substance abuse matters how much funding is being allocated to dual diagnoses facilities?

(Pages 6-7 of the Mental Health portfolio transcript)

Many people experience both mental illness and substance abuse, commonly known as Dual Diagnosis. Victoria does not have specific dual diagnosis facilities; as all services are expected to have the capacity to meet the needs of all clients.

The 2017-18 Victorian Budget includes \$325.7 million in mental health services to further implement Victoria's 10-year Mental Health Plan to save and improve lives, and a further \$78.4 million to treat substance abuse, as part of the ongoing Ice Action Plan.

In 2017-18 funding of \$5.5 million for more mental health staff which was announced as a Government commitment of an additional 128.8 new clinicians across the state (over six years) to address quality and safety issues raised in the Targeting Zero report, and \$2.2 million for weekend medical and allied health capacity in acute inpatient units.

The inclusion of \$10 million of funding for mental health and alcohol and drugs facilities renewal demonstrates the government's commitment to ensure mental health and alcohol and other drug facilities meet contemporary standards regarding physical amenity, space, and safety for patients, staff and carers. This builds on the \$15 million funded over the last two years. In effect, this funding enables health services to enhance access and improve the provision of integrated models of care via targeted improvements to ageing and poor quality facilities.

Question submitted to the Chair from PAEC Member absent from the hearings:

7. Victorians who are ready to end drug habits can find themselves waiting six months for residential rehabilitation beds. However, per head of population, Victoria has significantly fewer residential rehab beds as other states apart from South Australia. The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association believes we need 300 new beds over the next five years, to put us on a par with other states. However, this budget funds 30 extra beds.

a) Does the Government plan to increase the number of beds per head of population?

The government is committed to improving access to alcohol and other drug treatment services. As part of this commitment, the government has already increased the number of state-funded residential rehabilitation beds operating in the system by 15 per cent.

As part of this commitment, the Government has previously made funding allocations to increase the number of state-funded residential rehabilitation beds by 25 per cent; the present budget commits substantial additional funding which will see the bed base in Victoria rise 68 per cent since 2014.

b) If so, what is the target level per head of population, how does the Government plan to provide these beds and when does the Government anticipate the target will be reached?

The government intends to continue expansion of residential rehabilitation capacity through a substantial increase in the number of beds available within Victoria. Funding over the last two State Budgets is contributing to the establishment of 110 additional beds which, when fully operational, will mean that overall residential rehabilitation bed numbers have increased by 68 per cent.

c) If not, why is there no such plan?

Further planning is underway to explore how population changes and other factors are affecting demand for all alcohol and other drug treatment services, including residential rehabilitation which remains a small but important part of the broader treatment system.