

## PAEC 2025–26 Budget Estimates Hearing – Responses to Questions Taken on Notice

### Question 1

#### ***How many logged security incidents have been reported within the last 12 months?***

The Department of Parliamentary Services collects and maintains data on reported security incidents. While specifics of the location of an incident may be recorded in the detail of the report, the data locations are categorised as either the Parliamentary precincts or electorate office\*.

The areas for which DPS collects security data around the Parliamentary precincts include Parliament House, Ministerial Offices, 55 St Andrews Place, 157 Spring Street and Treasury Reserve. The electorate office location includes only security incidents reported at electorate offices and generally not in the broader community.

In the period 1 July 2024 to 31 May 2025 there were 354 security incidents reported:

80 – Parliamentary precincts

274 – electorate offices

\*If an incident occurs at an outside office venue or while traveling home from work or an event (by taxi for example), it may be categorised either as an electorate office incident or a Parliament precincts incident, depending on the circumstances.

### Question 2

#### ***Provide a breakdown of how much was paid to the previous members of Parliament versus the existing members of Parliament?***

On 16 September 2019, pursuant to section 17 of the *Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019* (VIRTIPS Act), the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal issued its first Members of Parliament (Victoria) Determination (No. 01/2019). This inaugural determination established the values for salaries and allowances payable to Members of the Parliament of Victoria.

The 2019 Determination set the base salary for a Member of Parliament at \$168,901 for the financial year ending 30 June 2020. Subsequent annual adjustment determinations have been made by the Tribunal to reflect changes in remuneration. The most recent determination has set the base salary at \$205,798 for the financial year ending 30 June 2025.

In addition to the base salary, Members may receive further remuneration through:

- additional salaries and expense allowances for specified parliamentary office holder roles (e.g., Minister, Committee Chair); and
- work-related parliamentary allowances (e.g. Electorate Allowance, Motor Vehicle Allowance and Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance).

These additional entitlements are determined based on each Member's specific duties and circumstances and consequently are variable in nature.

The aggregate value of Members' remuneration and entitlements — including wages, superannuation, additional salaries and allowances for specific parliamentary office holders, electorate allowance, motor

vehicle allowance, and accommodation allowances — was \$44.931 million for the 2023–24 financial year. For the 11-month period from 1 July 2024 to 31 May 2025, the equivalent aggregate value was \$39.162 million.

### Question 3

#### ***How many former members are on defined benefits?***

The defined benefits superannuation fund is named the Parliamentary Contributory Superannuation Fund (PCSF).

The PCSF is administered by Emergency Services and State Super (ESSS). Data about former members who continue to be members of the PCSF is held by ESSS. The parliamentary departments do not hold this data.

### Question 4

#### ***What is the median cost for the vehicles provided to members of Parliament? Can you provide us with a breakdown of on average – or if not, in the total sum – how much the Parliament pays in terms of the provision of those vehicles, plural, so obviously subtracting the members who do not receive a vehicle?***

The *Parliamentary Salaries, Allowances and Superannuation Act 1968* at section 6 provides that each Member of Parliament is either provided with a motor vehicle or the motor vehicle allowance. Where a Member elects to be provided with a motor vehicle, the motor vehicle is sourced through VicFleet. VicFleet is responsible for operational management of the Motor Vehicles state purchase contract.

The number of Members who are provided with a motor vehicle fluctuates throughout the year. During 2023–24, month on month the number of Members who were provided with a motor vehicle ranged from 92 to 102. Total operating cost for all motor vehicles (lease payments and running costs) was \$1,406,436 (excl. GST). The median annual cost for a motor vehicle was \$14,411.

To date during 2024–25, month on month the number of Members who were provided with a motor vehicle ranged from 86 to 93. Total operating cost to date in (lease payments and running costs) is \$1,220,697 (excl. GST). The median annual cost for a motor vehicle was \$14,800.

### Question 5

#### ***Can you tell us how much the Parliament pays in the WorkCover premium? How many WorkCover claims are currently open?***

The Department of Parliamentary Services holds Workcover for Members of Parliament, all parliamentary officers, electorate officers and parliamentary advisers. The Workcover premium for the 2024/25 year was \$1,456,540 (excl GST).

There is currently a total of 9 open Workcover claims for injuries sustained since 2021.

### Question 6

***Do we have any gauge (data) of what we are now propagating throughout the Annexe?***

Proactive air quality testing is undertaken monthly in the Members' Annexe. Over the last nine (9) months, no mould issues have been identified.

### Question 7

***How many electorate offices are not currently compliant with disability access legislation?***

Five Members are in temporary/serviced offices with active relocation projects in progress to move into electorate offices that will be compliant with disability access requirements.

Of the remaining 123 electorate offices, three have entry areas that are not compliant with accessibility requirements. Of these, one will relocate to new premises in the coming weeks, and the other two offices are prioritised for relocation. There are an additional 33 electorate offices that are not compliant with disability access throughout the internal fit out.

### Question 8

***What is the cost of facade lighting project?***

The current total funding allocation for this project is \$5.7 million. This includes funds held to manage risks as well as contingency funds.

### Question 9

***Certain national employment standards would stipulate that casual workers who have been employed for at least six months can notify their employer in writing of their intention to change to permanent employment, and an employer can only refuse the notice for certain reasons. So if a long-term casual worker provided written notice to the Parliament of Victoria that they intended to change to permanent employment in line with those standards, would Parliament accept it, and if not, what would be the reasons provided?***

Under the National Employment Standards eligible casual employees can request to convert to permanent employment, this is referred to as the 'employee choice pathway'.

An employer may decide not to accept a request, for a casual to convert to permanent on fair and reasonable operational grounds. The Presiding Officers as the employers of electorate offices, through the Department of Parliamentary Services is funded to employ 2.5FTE electorate officers for each Member. DPS is not funded to offer employment to any employee that would create a liability that would exceed this allocation and therefore offers of employment that would exceed the 2.5FTE allocation are not within the discrete operational control of DPS (acting for the employer).

This means that electorate officers employed on a casual basis but working within the 2.5FTE allocation provided to each Member could be considered for conversion as a permanent employee, however electorate officers employed on a casual basis to work hours above the 2.5FTE allocation are funded directly by the respective Member through their Electorate Office and Communication Budget and not within the discrete operational control of DPS.