

APPENDIX 5: RESPONSES TO UNASKED QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE 2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES

Thriving economy vision

Public Transport

QUESTION 5

Details of whether there is proposed to be any increase to the cap on individual trips (currently \$30 per trip) under the Multi Purpose Taxi Program budget allocation, and the budgetary implications of this increase.

The Multi Purpose Taxi Program (MPTP) subsidises 50 per cent of the cost of taxi travel, up to a maximum subsidy of \$30 per trip, for people who have a severe and permanent disability that prevents them from independently accessing other forms of public transport.

The subsidy cap on individual trips was increased from \$25 to the current subsidy of \$30 per trip in September 2005. The average subsidy per trip under the MPTP is currently \$9.

The trip subsidy is being reviewed as part of an overall Victorian Taxi Directorate review of the MPTP and wheelchair accessible taxi services to ensure that the MPTP continues to meet the needs of its members.

QUESTION 6

Details of the amount already spent to date and future budget allocations for country wheelchair accessible taxis.

The Government provides financial assistance in the form of tied grants to subsidise the purchase of wheelchair accessible taxis in regional Victoria.

The grant pays the difference between the cost of a conventional taxi and a wheelchair accessible taxi, up to a maximum of \$44,000 (including GST).

Funding of \$3.3 million has been provided. There is no closing date for applications for this subsidy. The funds will be drawn upon as country wheelchair accessible taxis become due for replacement over the coming years.

As at 31 May 2008, the Department of Transport had approved 18 grants totalling approximately \$400,000.

Skills and Workforce Participation Portfolio

THIS QUESTION WAS REFERRED BY THE MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO MINISTER.

QUESTION 2

Will funding of the New Workforce Partnerships Program continue at least until any Federal funding takes its place?

The Victorian Government announced the New Workforce Partnerships (NWP) program in the 2008-09 Budget and NWP builds on the Workforce Participation Partnerships program. Funding of \$5.0 million was provided for 2008-09.

The Victorian Government has also provided funding of \$2.0 million over four years (2008-09 to 2011-12) for the Indigenous Youth Employment Program. This program will target young Indigenous people and support them into employment, education and/or training.

The Federal Government is currently undertaking a review of their employment services and the changes are expected to take effect in July 2009. At this stage full details of any proposed changes are not yet known. Any future decisions on funding will take account of these changes at the Federal level.

Quality health and education vision

Veterans Affairs portfolio

QUESTION 1

Programs to support veterans attend medical appointments.

I can advise that such programs fall outside of the responsibility of the Victorian Veterans' Affairs portfolio.

The Commonwealth Government, through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), provides support to entitled veterans to attend medical appointments under section 110 of the *Veterans' Entitlement Act 1986*, as well as those entitled to medical treatment under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*.

Caring communities vision

Multicultural Affairs portfolio

QUESTION 1

Is there any provision in the Budget for the creation of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Older Persons' Action Plan, which was described in the ALP 2006 election platform? If so what is that provision?

The Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Older Persons' Action Plan will be an overarching statement of Government actions and intentions to address the issues of the growing number of older people from CALD backgrounds. The Plan will be developed within existing resources.