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FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

7 and 9 February 2006

(Extract from book 1)

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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 Assembly.
 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, 7 February 2006

WorkCover and the TAC: Haystac Public Affairs Pty Ltd

247. MS ASHER to ask the Minister for WorkCover —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister’s Department, office or any agency or statutory authority, or any predecessor Department, office, agency or statutory authority, under the Minister’s administration since 1 February 2001, with the exception of the Transport Accident Commission and the Victorian WorkCover Authority where the commencement date should be from 1 July 2002.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) Briefly describe the project for which payment was made.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Victorian WorkCover Authority

Since December 2002, the following payments have been made by the Victorian WorkCover Authority to Haystac Public Affairs Pty Ltd

Amount \$ (Including GST)	Payment Date	Description of project
2,956.25	11 Dec 02	Care Model Consultation & Communications
2,713.84	18 Dec 02	Care Model Consultation & Communications
7,095.00	24 Dec 02	Provision of Senior Communications Resource
4,623.58	22 Jan 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
3,990.94	12 Feb 03	Annual Report 2002 (circulating)
14,190.00	12 Feb 03	Provision of Senior Communications Resource
14,107.22	27 Mar 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
2,660.62	27 Mar 03	Communications for Prevention of Bullying & Violence at Work Guidance Notes
1,182.50	16 Apr 03	Speech writing for regional Stakeholder Forum
5,427.68	01 May 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
4,925.11	21 May 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
11,825.00	19 Jun 03	Supply of Equipment & Logistics to VWA Marketing Division
3,316.50	03 Jul 03	Event management & production
5,500.00	17 Jul 03	Annual Report 2003
4,724.09	17 Jul 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
2,750.00	13 Aug 03	Media Training Project for Fairer, Simpler Premium Project

Amount \$ (Including GST)	Payment Date	Description of project
5,500.00	20 Aug 03	Annual Report 2003
5,500.00	17 Sep 03	Annual Report 2003
4,730.00	17 Sep 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
8,470.00	08 Oct 03	Launch VWA Small Business Campaign
1,330.32	22 Oct 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
2,217.19	22 Oct 03	Care Model Consultation & Communications
11,000.00	29 Oct 03	Annual Report 2003

For information prior to December 2002, I refer the Member to information previously released under FOI to the opposition member.

Transport Accident Commission

In respect of the Transport Accident Commission, I refer the Member to information previously released under FOI to the Member, inclusive of the period in question.

Education services: Truganina South Primary School

302. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education Services with reference to the current plans for the school located north of Werribee —

- (1) On what date is the school proposed to be completed.
- (2) What works have been undertaken; if no works have been undertaken, when will works commence.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

However, you would be aware the Bracks Government has funded 45 new and replacement schools. This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal/National Government who forced schools to close.

Since 1999 the Bracks Government has invested an additional \$5.23 billion into education and training. This investment includes \$1.59 billion for capital works in schools and TAFE institutes.

Truganina South Primary School was a 2002 election commitment and will be funded in this term of government.

Education services: Laurimar Park Primary School

306. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education Services with reference to the current plans for the school located near Yan Yean —

- (1) On what date is the school proposed to be completed.
- (2) What works have been undertaken; if no works have been undertaken, when will works commence.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

However, you would be aware the Bracks Government has funded 45 new and replacement schools. This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal/National Government who forced schools to close.

Since 1999 the Bracks Government has invested an additional \$5.23 billion into education and training. This investment includes \$1.59 billion for capital works in schools and TAFE institutes.

Laurimar Park Primary School was a 2002 election commitment and will be funded in this term of government.

Education services: Epping North Primary School

307. MR PERTON to ask the Minister for Education Services with reference to the current plans for the school —

- (1) On what date is the school proposed to be completed.
- (2) What works have been undertaken; if no works have been undertaken, when will works commence.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

However, you would be aware the Bracks Government has funded 45 new and replacement schools. This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal/National Government who forced schools to close.

Since 1999 the Bracks Government has invested an additional \$5.23 billion into education and training. This investment includes \$1.59 billion for capital works in schools and TAFE institutes.

Epping North Primary School was a 2002 election commitment and will be funded in this term of government.

Education and training: international/interstate travel

315(a). Mr PERTON to ask the Minister for Education and Training —

- (1) What overseas and interstate trips on ministerial business has the Minister undertaken since the 2002 election.
- (2) What were the purposes of each such trip.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Overseas trips undertaken since the 2002 election include a Ministerial Delegation to advance the Government's design initiative and to strengthen Victoria's educational linkages with a number of significant institutions in France and Italy, as well as the promotion and support of the export of education and training, and also to design.

- France, Spain and Italy—5–21 June 2003
- Vietnam—18 to 28 October 2004

- Jordan and the United Arab Emirates—12 to 21 February 2005; and
- Vietnam, Japan and China—25 July to 5 August 2005.

Interstate trips on Ministerial business undertaken since the 2002 election are:

- 29 May 2003—Brisbane—Meeting with the Queensland Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Anna Bligh, MP to discuss MCEETYA
- 10–11 July 2003—Perth—MCEETYA
- 29 September 2003—Sydney—NAVCON 2K3 conference where I was a key note speaker
- 20–21 November 2003—Gold Coast—ANTA MINCO
- 5 December 2003—Canberra—MCEETYA
- 23 April 2004—Sydney—MCEETYA
- 31 March 2004—Perth—Meeting with Western Australian Premier and Minister for Education and Training regarding educational facilities and capital funding
- 14 May 2004—Sydney—Meeting with Education Ministers on MCEETYA regarding national consistent curriculum outcomes.
- 13 May 2005—Canberra—MCEETYA
- 10 June 2005—Sydney—ANTA MINCO

Education and training: truancy data

- 354.** **Mr PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training, with reference to the Minister's comments quoted in *The Age* on 9 May 2003 which said in part: 'The Education Department will also keep more detailed data on truancy. Previously, truancy and absences approved by parents were listed in the one figure. From this year, the department will collect separate data. You do need to get a sense of why the non-attendance has happened and whether it's sporadic days or whether it's groups of days' — what detailed data has been collected and what does the data show.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In 2004, the Department of Education and Training initiated the *Student Absence Day Project* to investigate the underlying reasons for student absences.

The results of this project show that well over 90 per cent (99 per cent in the primary year levels and 92 per cent in secondary year levels) of all student absences are due to health related reasons and instances of parental choice. The incidence of truancy (where the student is away from school without the knowledge of the parent or the school) is less than one per cent of all absences.

The Department will continue to conduct the *Student Absence Day Project* to identify changes in the reasons for student absences and to monitor improvements in attendance rates.

Aboriginal affairs: Somerville Secondary College

- 487(c).** **Mr PERTON** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs —
- (1) Has the Government agreed to compensate the Boonerwung and/or Bunrong people for allowing the Somerville Secondary College Campus to be built; if so, what form will this compensation take.
 - (2) What agreement exists between any, and which, representatives of the Boonerwung and/or Bunrong people.

- (3) What payments have been made to any, and which, of these representatives.
- (4) What changes to the school design will be made as a result of any such compensation agreements.

ANSWER:

The construction of the school is the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Educational Services, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP, and I refer the Honourable Member to the response provided to the question by Minister Allan on 12 October 2004.

Premier: electronic elections

- 506.** **MR PERTON** to ask the Premier — has the Premier considered the email dated 27 May 2004 of Anthony van der Craats asking that there be a review into ‘the conduct and scrutiny of electronic elections and the role of Victorian Electoral Commission amidst concerns that its software technology fails to meet basic industry standard’; if so, what is the Premier’s response.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Anthony van der Craats’ email of 27 May 2004 regarding electronic elections and the role of the Victorian Electoral Commission has been referred to the Department of Justice for further consideration by the Attorney General.

Education and training: Traralgon South Primary School

- 557.** **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to the answer to question 492 received on 4 October 2004 relating to the urgently needed capital upgrades for Traralgon South Primary School and the meeting promised by the Minister between the regional staff and the School that did not take place in September —

- (1) When will the meeting take place.
- (2) When will the School get its much needed permanent replacements for its decaying portable classrooms.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The meeting was held on 8 November 2004.

The Department of Education and Training continues to ensure that funds are directed to those schools most in need when future capital works programs are being formulated. The needs of Traralgon South Primary School will be assessed as part of this process.

Energy industries: Haystac Public Affairs Pty Ltd

- 595(ag).** **Ms ASHER** to ask the Minister for Transport for the Minister for Energy Industries with reference to Haystac Public Affairs Pty Ltd —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister’s department or private office or any agency or statutory body under the Minister’s administration since 26 August 2003.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.

- (3) Briefly describe the project for which payment was made.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The Department of Infrastructure made 2 payments to this company, for \$8,062.50 each plus GST. Neither my office nor any of the Statutory Authorities made any payment to the Company
- (2) 3 April 2004 and 12 May 2004
- (3) Payments were in relation to 'Victoria Online', the Victorian Government internet access point for the public.

Energy industries: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd

596(ag). Ms ASHER to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Energy Industries with reference to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office or any agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration since 28 October 2003.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) Briefly describe the project for which payment was made.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) One payment of \$13,300 plus GST was made by the Department of Infrastructure. There have been no payments made to the Company by the Minister's office or any Agency or Statutory Body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) 27 December 2003.
- (3) The payment related to the provision of strategic advice on the multi purpose taxi programme.

WorkCover and the TAC: Social Shift Pty Ltd

597(ao). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for WorkCover — with reference to Social Shift Pty Ltd —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office or any agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration since 28 October 2003.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) Briefly describe the project for which payment was made.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were no payments made to the firm, Social Shift Pty Ltd, in this period.

Transport: V/Locity railcars

644. MR MULDER to ask the Minister for Transport —

- (1) Has the interior of the railcars been redesigned to include drinking water fountains; if not, why not.
- (2) Will V/Line conductors carry or stock free bottles of water to give to dehydrated passengers when the railcars enter service; if so —
 - (a) how many bottles (or litres) will be carried on each trip;
 - (b) what size will any individual water bottles carried by conductors be.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Yes
- (2) Not applicable

Major projects: Melbourne showgrounds

653(b). MS ASHER to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects —

What is the total square metre allocation for pavilion space in the new design for the Showgrounds project.

ANSWER:

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

The proposed 'pavilion area' is 47,754 square metres.

Education and training: refrigeration technicians

659. MR PERTON to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to a shortage of refrigeration technicians in Victoria —

- (1) What is the estimated shortage.
- (2) What is the Government doing to address this particular trade skills shortage.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations produces national and state listings of occupations where there are skill shortages. You will find details of the estimated shortage at www.workplace.gov.au.

Entry to this trade is usually via an apprenticeship. Apprenticeship training is a high priority for the Bracks Government, especially in areas reporting skill shortages. The Government is targeting skill shortages across Victoria by redirecting government funding from low to high priority training.

The Bracks Government has invested a record amount of \$181 million in 2005 in the delivery of apprenticeship and traineeship training through both its TAFE Institutions and private Registered Training Organisations. It has also introduced a Completions Bonus Scheme aimed at increasing the completion rate for apprentices. The current VET Review is looking at ways to further improve and streamline the apprenticeship system in order to meet the

skill needs of Victorian industry. Measures under consideration include shortening the durations of apprenticeships to increase throughput and making trades more attractive to young people.

My Department is also working with industry bodies to extend the number of trades with pre-apprenticeship programs which allow for advanced entry into apprenticeships. This will include advice to the refrigeration industry about how it can identify suitable pre-apprenticeship arrangements to meet its requirements. The Government has made available an additional \$12.5 million in funding for pre-apprenticeship programs over the next four years.

Education and training: Sale College

660. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister Education and Training with reference to the \$300,000 shortfall in funding for the fourth and final stage of the Master Plan for Sale College — will the Minister provide the school with the funds to meet this shortfall.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Bracks Government has funded 45 new and replacement schools. Since 1999 the Bracks Government has invested an additional \$5.23 billion into education and training.

This investment includes \$1.59 billion spent on capital works in schools and TAFE institutes which has seen major projects undertaken in one in three government schools.

\$2,718,000 has been allocated to works at Sale College to date.

Planning for the final stage of the works at Sale College has been approved.

The final stage will be considered for funding in a future State Budget.

Environment: schools water efficiency program

661(b). **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Environment — with reference to *The Age* of 19 April 2005 which stated ‘Water Minister and Acting Premier John Thwaites said the Government would spend \$2 million on the Schools Water Efficiency Program which would focus on doing little things in an attempt to save water. ‘We are going to help schools to save water by installing low-flow devices, making sure that the toilets and taps don’t waste water’ he said. Mr Thwaites said he expected to save from five to 30 per cent of each school’s water use. ‘Schools can save up to 3 million litres a year in water just by taking simple steps,’ he said. ‘Schools would be given the money, which they would repay to the Government with the savings on their water bills. After they pay that back after two years, in the future they will save money on their water bills,’ Mr Thwaites said’ —

- (1) Is the money referred to by the Acting Premier to be taken by schools as a loan; if so, what are the terms of the loan.
- (2) Why cannot a grant be made to achieve this end.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) No, the funding is not a loan. The Government’s Schools Water Efficiency Program is based on a ‘payment by savings’ model. The program is not free to schools, but will be completed at no up-front cost to the school. The school then pays for the service over two to three years in payments approximately equal to the savings in water bills generated by the works undertaken. It is not a loan but payment by instalments and no interest charges apply.

This program will provide significant water savings at minimal costs to the schools and will save the schools money in the longer term.

- (2) It is important to give all schools the opportunity to participate and improve the schools water efficiency, and thus save money. This model of providing the service will deliver the water savings without the need for schools to find the full costs needed to undertake the audits and retrofits and the costs up-front. As the schools pay for the services, the initial funds will be used again to audit and retrofit more schools until all schools have had a chance to participate in the program.

The funding provided for the program also helps to ensure that no school is disadvantaged by its location within the state.

Education and training: performance and development culture accreditation

736. MR PERTON to ask the Minister for Education and Training —

- (1) Which schools have applied for accreditation.
- (2) Which schools have received accreditation.
- (3) Which schools applied for, but failed to receive, accreditation.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The accreditation process consists of two phases, a self assessment phase followed by an external verification phase.

In the first round all schools that undertook both phases were accredited (see attached table).

In the second round thirty four schools undertook both phases and 31 were accredited. Three schools, Sale College, Garfield Primary School and South Gippsland Secondary College were not yet ready for accreditation.

**PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CULTURE
FIRST GROUP OF SCHOOLS ACCREDITED IN 2005**

	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>REGION</i>
1	Corio West PS	Barwon South West
2	Skipton PS	Barwon South West
3	Brentwood SC	Eastern Metropolitan
4	Doncaster Gardens PS	Eastern Metropolitan
5	Milgate PS	Eastern Metropolitan
6	Rangeview PS	Eastern Metropolitan
7	Bairnsdale West PS	Gippsland
8	Stawell West PS	Grampians
9	Kyabram SC	Loddon Mallee
10	Bellfield PS	Northern Metropolitan
11	Broadmeadows PS	Northern Metropolitan
12	Concord School	Northern Metropolitan
13	Fitzroy 7–10 School	Northern Metropolitan
14	St Helena SC	Northern Metropolitan
15	Brighton PS	Southern Metropolitan

	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>REGION</i>
16	Courtenay Gardens PS	Southern Metropolitan
17	Kilberry Valley PS	Southern Metropolitan
18	Lloyd St PS	Southern Metropolitan
19	Essendon North PS	Western Metropolitan

**PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CULTURE
SECOND GROUP OF SCHOOLS ACCREDITED IN 2005**

	<i>SCHOOL</i>	<i>REGION</i>
1	Cobden Technical School	Barwon South West
2	Ocean Grove PS	Barwon South West
3	Torquay PS	Barwon South West
4	Manningham Park PS	Eastern Metropolitan
5	Templestowe Valley PS	Eastern Metropolitan
6	Carrajung South PS	Gippsland
7	Clifton Creek PS	Gippsland
8	Cowes PS	Gippsland
9	Morwell Park PS	Gippsland
10	Newhaven PS	Gippsland
11	Stratford PS	Gippsland
12	Ararat North PS	Grampians
13	Forest St PS	Grampians
14	Wodonga HS	Hume
15	Camp Hill PS	Loddon Mallee
16	Mildura South PS	Loddon Mallee
17	Red Cliffs SC	Loddon Mallee
18	Eltham North PS	Northern Metropolitan
19	Plenty Parklands PS	Northern Metropolitan
20	Preston PS	Northern Metropolitan
21	Roxburgh Homestead PS	Northern Metropolitan
22	Aspendale PS	Southern Metropolitan
23	Baxter PS	Southern Metropolitan
24	Berwick PS	Southern Metropolitan
25	Brighton SC	Southern Metropolitan
26	Chandler PS	Southern Metropolitan
27	Kambrya College	Southern Metropolitan
28	Seaford Nth PS	Southern Metropolitan
29	Flemington PS	Western Metropolitan
30	St Albans South PS	Western Metropolitan
31	Sydenham Hillside PS	Western Metropolitan

Police and emergency services: Sandringham police station

737. MR THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to an earlier Government promise that it would rebuild the Sandringham Police Station in Abbott Street —

- (1) What provision has been made in the 2005–06 Budget for a new police station in Sandringham.
- (2) Will the Minister visit the area to discuss the development of a new police station with local residents.
- (3) What is the Government’s plan for the Abbott Street site under local government priority policing policy.
- (4) What is the expected fulfilment date of the Government’s commitment to build a new police station in Sandringham.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) The Government’s asset investment initiatives for 2005–06 were articulated in the Budget Papers released on 3 May 2005.
- (2) A visit to Sandringham by the Minister is not scheduled.
- (3) Victoria Police will retain the Abbott Street site pending the finalization of the preferred service delivery model for the City of Bayside.
- (4) The Government has shown a strong commitment to upgrading police facilities. The replacement of assets within the City of Bayside will continue to be weighed against all other state wide priorities.

Community services: developmental delay/disabilities funding

751. MRS SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds allocated in the 2005–06 Budget Estimates to assist children aged up to six years with developmental delay/disabilities —

- (1) Have any funds been allocated.
- (2) Under which output group or groups has the funding been allocated.
- (3) How much of the total funding has been allocated from each output group or groups.
- (4) How much of the total funding is from the Commonwealth.
- (5) How much of the funding is for services provided by non-government agencies.
- (6) How many children will the funding assist.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- 1) In the 2005–06 financial year the Department of Human Services (DHS) will allocate an additional \$3.97 million to assist children aged up to six years with developmental delays/disabilities.
- 2) These new funds will be allocated under the Early Childhood Output Group.
- 3) These new funds will all be allocated through the Early Childhood Output Group.

- 4) None of these new funds are Commonwealth funds.
- 5) Non-government agencies will receive approximately \$3.34 million. The remaining funds will be allocated to DHS managed Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) Intake Teams, which are direct service providers of ECIS.
- 6) Approximately 815 children/families will be assisted with this funding.

Community services: kindergartens — special education program

752. MRS SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Special Education Program funding packages for the 2005 kindergarten year — in each region —

- (1) How many children at kindergarten received funding packages.
- (2) How many children applied for but did not received funding.
- (3) What is the regional funding for the Program in kindergartens.
- (4) What is the highest amount of a funding package.
- (5) How many appeals into departmental decisions were received and how many were successful.
- (6) What is the total funding for the Program in kindergartens.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1) How many children at kindergarten received funding packages

As of the start of the 2005 school year, 560 children with severe disabilities were assessed as eligible for inclusion support packages. Additional packages are still being allocated.

(2) How many children applied for but did not receive funding

17.7% of applications were ineligible for funding.

(3) What is the regional funding for the Program in kindergartens

The regional allocation of funds for the SEP Kindergarten Program for 2005 is as follows:

REGION	ALLOCATION \$M
Barwon South West	0.2
Eastern	0.6
Gippsland	0.2
Grampians	0.2
Hume	0.3
Loddon Mallee	0.2
North West	1.0
Southern	0.7

(4) What is the highest amount of a funding package

The SEP funding is supplementary funding and the highest amount of a funding package is \$6,724.

(5) How many appeals into departmental decisions were received and how many were successful

I am informed that 34 appeals were received and 25 of these were upheld.

(6) What is the total funding for the Program in kindergartens

The total funding allocated to the Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services Program for children with severe disabilities in 2005 is \$3.6M.

Community services: acquired brain injury funding

753. MRS SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to acquired brain injury funding transferred from Aged Residential Care —

- (1) How much funding was transferred.
- (2) To which output group was the funding transferred.
- (3) How many people with acquired brain injuries will the funding assist.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The amount of funding transferred was \$5.7m
- (2) The funding transferred to the Disability Services Output Group and was allocated to the Individual Support Output.
- (3) The number of people that the program has allocated ongoing support at the time of transfer was 135.

Community services: shared support accommodation funding

754. MRS SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the 2005–06 Budget Estimates for Disability Services and the target of 4,650 clients in shared support accommodation —

- (1) What is the number of clients in government accommodation.
- (2) How many dwellings are there for government managed accommodation.
- (3) What is the funding allocation for government managed accommodation.
- (4) What is the number of clients in non-government managed accommodation.
- (5) How many dwellings are there for non-government managed accommodation.
- (6) What is the funding allocation for non-government managed accommodation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that with reference to the 2005–06 Budget Estimates for Disability Services and the target of 4,650 clients in shared supported accommodation —

- (1) The number of clients in government accommodation is 2,520.
- (2) As at 31 March 2005, the Quarterly Data Collection identified the number of Government outlets operating shared supported accommodation as 454. It should be noted that more than one dwelling may be assigned to an outlet e.g. units.

- (3) The direct funding allocated for this activity in the 2005–06 budget for the Shared Supported Accommodation activity to fund government managed accommodation was \$233 million.
- (4) The number of clients in non-government managed accommodation is 2,130.
- (5) As at 31 March 2005, the Quarterly Data Collection identified the number of Non Government outlets operating shared supported accommodation as 417. It should be noted that more than one dwelling may be assigned to an outlet e.g. units.
- (6) The direct funding allocated for this activity in the 2005–06 budget for the Shared Supported Accommodation activity to fund non-government managed accommodation was \$146 million.

Community services: state disability plan

756. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the State Disability Plan Implementation Plan 2002–05 and the 1.6.4 initiative to complete redevelopment plans for older, large-scale institutions and congregate care facilities other than Kew —

- (1) For which institutions and facilities have plans been completed.
- (2) For which institutions and facilities are plans under development.

ANSWER:

I am informed that a number of Congregate Care facilities, in addition to Kew, have been or are being redeveloped:

- 1)
 - The redevelopment of Rattray Wood House has been completed through a partnership arrangement between Scope (Victoria) Ltd and the State Government. Four new houses were completed in 2002–03. The remaining 10 residents moved into a purpose built facility on the existing site in August 2004.
 - The redevelopment of the former 42 bed congregate care facility at Flete Avenue, Armadale was completed in 2002. All of the residents have relocated to community-based accommodation, mainly in the southern metropolitan suburbs of Melbourne.
- 2)
 - The 27-bed Newton House facility operated by Newhurst Securities closed in June 2004 with the relocation of residents to interim accommodation. Residents are progressively moving to longer term support options and the 21 remaining residents are in transition to new services with moves expected to be completed by June 2006.
 - The redevelopment of the former 29 bed Redlands, Wandin East Congregate Care facility is nearing completion. The Redlands facility at Wandin East was closed in December 2004. All of the residents have relocated to community-based accommodation, mainly in the outer eastern suburbs of Melbourne. As part of the redevelopment, three of the four new houses are in full operation now and the final house is to be completed in July 2005.

Education and training: Baytec Institute for Learning and Development

773. MR PERTON to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to Baytec Institute for Learning and Development — how long had the Office of Training and Tertiary Education and/or the Department been concerned about the operating status and veracity of Baytec prior to it closing down.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

From time to time, the principals of Baytec brought business activity issues to the attention of the Department. However, there were no financial viability concerns with Baytec at the time the Department entered into any contracts with the organisation.

The Department commissioned an audit of Baytec in June 2003 and on the basis of the audit findings sought further financial information. The information submitted by Baytec on 19 August 2003 indicated that the company was in a satisfactory financial position. However the Department requested that Baytec provide audited financial statements to confirm its position. On 27 August 2003, Baytec advised the Department that the company was experiencing financial difficulties. Baytec ceased operations in September 2003.

Education and training: Baytec Institute for Learning and Development

774. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to Baytec Institute for Learning and Development — did the Office of Training and Tertiary Education (OTTE) and its staff receive indications that Baytec was not compliant with the OTTE and Australian Quality Training Framework standards in the following years —

- (1) 2000; if so, what was done.
- (2) 2001; if so, what was done.
- (3) 2002; if so, what was done.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In 2000, Baytec was audited against the Australian Recognition Framework conditions of registration and against the Government Funded Training Program conditions of funding and was found to be fully compliant.

No audits of Baytec were conducted in 2001.

Baytec was also audited in 2002 against the Australian Quality Training Framework Standards for Registered Training Organisations and Government Funded Training Program conditions of funding. Several minor areas of non-compliance were identified at the audits. These were rectified by Baytec by June 2002.

Education and training: Baytec Institute for Learning and Development

775. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to Baytec Institute for Learning and Development —

- (1) Did an Office of Training and Tertiary Education Australian Quality Training Framework audit pass Baytec less than a month before Baytec closed down; if so, who conducted the audit.
- (2) Is the Minister or the Office of Training and Tertiary Education able to advise whether Baytec was able to gain access to 800 or more 'cap' training places whilst being suspect in its operations; if so, why.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

An audit of Baytec against the Australian Quality Training Framework Standards for Registered Training Organisations was conducted on 12 September 2003 by an auditor engaged by the Department of Education and Training. The audit identified several areas of minor non-compliance.

In April 2003, Baytec was allocated training places for 2003, following an assessment that it was financially viable and met other conditions for funding.

Education and training: Baytec Institute for Learning and Development

776. MR PERTON to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to Baytec Institute for Learning and Development —

- (1) Did any registered training organisation sub-license its New Apprenticeships Centre listing to Baytec.
- (2) Did the Office of Training and Tertiary Education have any role in permitting Baytec to sub-license its New Apprenticeships Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

New Apprenticeships Centres are a Commonwealth responsibility and I am not able to comment on any arrangements between the Commonwealth Government, Baytec and New Apprenticeships Centres. However, I can confirm that the Office of Training and Tertiary Education played no role in any licensing arrangements Baytec may have had for New Apprenticeship Centre operations.

Education and training: Baytec Institute for Learning and Development

777. MR PERTON to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to Baytec Institute for Learning and Development —

- (1) Will the Minister advise on the numbers and status of any trainees who may have been signed up by Baytec incorrectly or illegally from 2000.
- (2) On what grounds did the Office of Training and Tertiary Education issue a Registered Training Organisation licence to Hume Learning given the involvement of its management with Baytec.
- (3) What dealings did Gordon Institute of TAFE have with Baytec from 2000 to date.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As a Registered Training Organisation, Baytec was not able to sign up apprentices and trainees. Since 1998 sign-ups of apprentices and trainees have been the responsibility of Commonwealth New Apprenticeships Centres.

The Office of Training and Tertiary Education, under delegation from the Victorian Qualifications Authority, registers training organisations that meet the requirements of the Australian Quality Training Framework Standards for Registered Training Organisations. Hume Learning was assessed as meeting the requirements for registration.

The Gordon Institute of TAFE was engaged by the Victorian Qualifications Authority after the closure of Baytec to assess the work of former Baytec students with a view to enabling them to complete their training and obtain the appropriate qualifications.

Education and training: Future of Work Foundation

780. MR PERTON to ask the Minister for Education and Training — what role has the Future of Work Foundation played in shaping the State Government’s training and employment industry policy in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In relation to the work of the Department of Education and Training, the Future of Work Foundation has not played any role in shaping the Government's training and employment industry policy.

Education and training: Baytec Institute for Learning and Development

782. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to Baytec Institute for Learning and Development — why did the government and/or the Office of Training and Tertiary Education (OTTE) permit Baytec to enter into a private sponsorship deal against the rules specified by OTTE, the Australian National Training Authority and the Australian Quality Training Framework with the following organisations —

- (1) Geelong Football Club
- (2) City of Greater Geelong

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Office of Training and Tertiary Education does not regulate sponsorship arrangements involving Registered Training Organisations.

Education and training: Baytec Institute for Learning and Development

784. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training with reference to Baytec Institute for Learning and Development — what reports on the financial viability of Baytec were provided to the Office of Training and Tertiary Education from January 1 2000.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department received financial statements relating to Baytec for the years ending June 2000, June 2001, June 2002 and June 2003. The Department also received reports from the Administrator of Baytec following the company's collapse.

Education and training: Mill Park special education

787(b). **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training— what provision has been made for special education in the Mill Park area.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

When the Department of Education and Training acquired land in the Mill Park Lakes development it ensured that there was sufficient area for the provision of a specialist school to be included as part of the education facilities.

Education and training: Merriang Special Development School

788(b). **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training — what plans, if any, are in place to upgrade the facilities for Merriang Special Development School.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department's Northern Metropolitan Region is developing a provision plan in consultation with the Principal of Merriang Special Development School and principals of other special schools, as well as other stakeholders, to meet the requirements of students with special needs in the region.

Education and training: Keilor Primary School

789(a). **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training —

- (1) Why was Keilor Primary School, a high performing state school with a proud 130 year history of serving the local community and with a current student population of 469, after the completion of full documentation and planning, overlooked in the 2005–06 Budget for the erection of a school assembly/physical education/music centre.
- (2) Is Keilor Primary School the only school in the area without a hall for school assembly and physical education; if not, what other schools are in the same situation.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Since coming to office in 1999 the Bracks Government has committed over \$1.59 billion in capital works projects in Victorian schools and TAFE colleges. This has meant major upgrades to 339 schools and funding for 45 new and replacement schools.

In the 2005–06 State Budget \$145.5 million has been allocated for investment in the modernisation of schools from which more than 50 schools across Victoria will benefit.

Keilor Primary School has been included in the planning program. The school will retain its priority for consideration for funding in a future State Budget.

Planning: Summerland estate

790. **Mr THOMPSON** to ask the Attorney-General with reference to the announcement made in 1985 by the then Labor Minister for Conservation that the property owners on the Summerland Estate at Phillip Island would be bought out within 15 years —

- (1) Noting the anxiety and uncertainty encountered by property owners by the non-fulfilment of the commitment, what plans does the Government have to resolve this issue.
- (2) When will the Minister convene a meeting with relevant stakeholders to work through the issues and address the problems resulting from the indecision and inaction of the Government.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question should more appropriately have been asked of me as Minister for Planning and I answer it in that capacity.

- (1) The Summerland Estate Buyback Program is 94 percent completed. However, steeply rising land values, particularly in recent years, have greatly reduced the purchasing power of the available budget. The Department of Sustainability and Environment will continue to purchase properties on a priority basis. A number of properties will be purchased this year.
- (2) DSE will continue to liaise with affected property owners and will communicate any decisions about buyback funding. A meeting with stakeholders would seem unnecessary at this time.

Police and emergency services: lockup escapes

- 817.** **MR THOMPSON** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — how many prisoners have escaped from lockups at police stations and relevant court houses in Victoria over the past five years.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

From 1 January 2000 to 18 August 2005, 9 prisoners escaped from lock ups at police stations and relevant court houses in Victoria.

This record compares extremely favourably to the five years preceding under the previous Government. From 1995 to 1999, 19 prisoners escaped from lock ups at police stations and relevant court houses in Victoria.

Aboriginal affairs: Galeena Beek Cultural Centre

- 824.** **MR THOMPSON** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs with reference to the Galeena Beek Cultural Centre at Healesville — what plans does the Department have for the development of this Centre which will optimise its advantage for Indigenous Victorians.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Galeena Beek Properties Limited is required by its constitution, and the terms of the property grant, to lease its properties for the benefit of the local Indigenous community. Accordingly, it is Galeena Beek Properties Limited that has the responsibility to plan for the development of this property as owner in order to provide the maximum benefit for the local Indigenous community.

I am advised that consideration is being given to a revised lease arrangement which will benefit the local Indigenous community.

Education and training: question on notice 315(a)

- 828.** **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training — why has question number 315a asked on 16 September 2003 not been answered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question has already been answered.

Education and training: question on notice 334

830. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training — why has question number 334 asked on 7 October 2003 not been answered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question has already been answered.

Education and training: question on notice 354

831. **MR PERTON** to ask the Minister for Education and Training — why has question number 354 asked on 16 October 2003 not been answered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This question has already been answered.

Environment: question on notice 735

847. **MR THOMPSON** to ask the Minister for Environment with reference to question number 735 asked on 14 June 2005 — when will the question be answered.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Question number 735 has been answered.

Tourism: international visitor numbers

900. **MR DIXON** to ask the Minister for Tourism — further to the answer to question 815, now that the September figures are available, what were the international visitor numbers to Victoria from —

(1) January 2004 to June 2004.

(2) January 2005 to June 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In the period January 2004 to June 2004, Victoria received 647,000 international visitors.

In the period January 2005 to June 2005, Victoria received 660,000 international visitors. This represents a 2% increase in international visitors to Victoria.

Tourism: Skybus coach service

912. MR MULDER to ask the Minister for Tourism —

- (1) Do the current promotional videos played on Skybus trips between Spencer Street–Melbourne Airport–Spencer Street feature the Minister.
- (2) Does the presenter of the videos state that Skybus operates at 10 to 15-minute intervals.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Yes
- (2) Skybus is currently promoting the 15-minute service in its onboard TV program. The 10-minute service is gradually being introduced however it has not been officially timetabled. Skybus will shortly be seeking comments/feedback from the Department of Infrastructure on the proposed new service and the Department is fully aware and supportive of the proposed changes to the schedule.

Tourism: Skybus coach service

913. MR MULDER to ask the Minister for Tourism — on what days, during what times, does Skybus operate at 10-minute intervals between Spencer Street–Melbourne Airport–Spencer Street; if not, when will this frequency be introduced.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The 10-minute service operates Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Times are:

- Monday, Thursday and Friday: Airport–City–Airport from 0730 to 1630
- Saturday: Airport–City–Airport from 0730 to 1230.

The 15-minute service operates daily:

- Airport–City from 0530 to 2120
- City–Airport from 0600 to 2200

Skybus use ‘Gap’ buses regularly to provide extra services during unexpected peak periods caused mainly by delayed aircraft movements.

Two new buses are scheduled to come into operation in early December. Skybus will re-evaluate the schedule on receipt of these buses.

Planning: Design Advisory Council

933. MR BAILLIEU to ask the Minister for Planning —

- (1) How many times has the Government’s Design Advisory Council met since its inception.
- (2) On what dates did the Council meet.
- (3) How many members attended each meeting

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1) The Victorian Design Advisory Council (VDAC) met 13 times between July 2002 and September 2003.

(2) The VDAC met on the following dates:

- 30 July 2002
- 19 August 2002
- 16 September 2002
- 11 October 2002
- 20 November 2002
- 9 December 2002
- 28 January 2003
- 26 February 2003
- 26 March 2003
- 7 May 2003
- 2 July 2003
- 11 August 2003
- 10 September 2003

(3) All members attended most meeting except for the occasional apology. There were 10 council members in total, the number of people at each meeting were as follows:

Date	Attendees	Apologies
30 July 2002	9	1
19 August 2002	10	0
16 September 2002	9	1
11 October 2002	8	2
20 November 2002	8	2
9 December 2002	9	1
28 January 2003	10	0
26 February 2003	8	2
26 March 2003	9	1
7 May 2003	8	2
2 July 2003	6	4
11 August 2003	8	2
10 September 2003	8	2

Planning: planning scheme amendments

935. MR BAILLIEU to ask the Minister for Planning with reference to requests to the Minister for final approval of planning scheme amendments —

- (1) How many requests remain undetermined by the Minister.
- (2) What is the longest length and average length of delayed approvals.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

– At the end of December 2005 there were 88 amendments submitted by Councils for approval. The department was awaiting further information in relation to 20 matters, and was preparing reports on 68 items. During 2005, 370 amendments were approved.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 7 February 2006

ASSEMBLY

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- The oldest amendment is one from the City of Brimbank (submitted February 2002) which at Council's request has been placed on hold pending further discussions with the landowner.
- Approximately half of the 68 amendments with DSE were received between September and November 2005.
- Under the Kennett Government, at the end of 1998 there were 74 amendments awaiting approval.

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 Assembly.
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.*

Thursday, 9 February 2006

Major projects: international travel

576. Ms ASHER to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects —

- (1) Did the Minister take any international trips in —
 - (a) 2003–2004;
 - (b) 2002–2003.
- (2) If so —
 - (a) what were the dates of travel;
 - (b) what were the destinations of travel;
 - (c) what were the purposes of the travel.

ANSWER:

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

I have not travelled overseas as a Minister in either of the years in question.

Major projects: West Gate Bridge Memorial Park

651. Ms ASHER to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — aside from funding from WorkCover, Parks Victoria, VicRoads and the Community Support Fund, are there any other funding sources for this project; if so, what are they and how much has each source contributed.

ANSWER:

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

I am advised that there were no other direct Government funding sources.

