

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

13, 14 and 15 June 2006

(Extract from book 8)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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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, 13 June 2006

Commonwealth Games: ministerial staff

1026(p). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Commonwealth Games with reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) I do not employ Ministerial staff.
- (2) Costs for the engagement of Ministerial staff are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (3) Nil.

Sport and recreation: ministerial staff

1026(r). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Sport and Recreation with reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) I do not employ Ministerial staff.
- (2) Costs for the engagement of Ministerial staff are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (3) Nil.

Women's affairs: ministerial staff

1026(ap). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Ministerial staff are employed and managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (2) Costs for the engagement of Ministerial staff are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (3) Nil.

Environment: credit cards

1027(n). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment — does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Neither I nor my staff hold any credit cards issued by the Victorian Government.

Racing: credit cards

1027(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.

- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Government Credit Cards are not issued to Ministers or their staff.

Water: credit cards

1027(ao). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Water — does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Neither I nor my staff hold any credit cards issued by the Victorian Government.

Environment: land holdings

1031. Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment — has the Minister answered the calls of the Auditor-General and properly accounted for all government land holdings either controlled by the Department of Sustainability and Environment or other agencies under the Minister's administration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Sustainability & Environment has commenced a project to ensure government crown land holdings are appropriately accounted for. Prior to the end of this financial year, all Departments, statutory authorities and other agencies will be provided a listing of their crown land holdings. Given the substantial number of crown land records and the number of Departments, statutory authorities and other agencies that need to be involved, it is expected that this process will take some time before it is fully completed.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Wednesday, 14 June 2006

Consumer affairs: minister's private office

1017(g). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer Affairs — what furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of all such items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, no costs were incurred in 2004–05.

Racing: minister's private office

1017(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — what furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of all such items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, the answer is nil.

Finance: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(ak). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.
- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

ANSWER:

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

The Victorian Government and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior Departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games. These entertainment expenses form part of the whole of Games budget. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Major projects: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.
- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

ANSWER:

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

The Victorian Government and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior Departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games. These entertainment expenses form part of the whole of Games budget. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Gaming: international travel

1022(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming — what was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, there were no expenses incurred in my capacity as Minister for Gaming or by my ministerial staff in relation to international travel in 2005.

Gaming: interstate travel

1023(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming — what was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, there were no expenses incurred in my capacity as Minister for Gaming or by my ministerial staff in relation to interstate travel in 2005.

Gaming: intrastate travel

1024(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming — what was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses, of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Ministers and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, there were no expenses incurred in my capacity as Minister for Gaming or by my ministerial staff in relation to intrastate travel in 2005.

Consumer affairs: ministerial staff

1026(g). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer Affairs with reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Ministerial Staff are employed by the Premier.
- (2) Ministerial Staff are employed by the Premier.
- (3) There were no public servants on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006.

Gaming: ministerial staff

1026(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming with reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (2) This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (3) The number of public servants on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and not counted within the ministerial staffing budget was 0.5.

Racing: ministerial staff

1026(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing with reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (2) This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (3) The number of public servants on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and not counted within the ministerial staffing budget was 0.5.

Consumer affairs: leasing arrangements

1034(g). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer Affairs — as at 1 March 2006 what is the total cost of leasing arrangements over the term of each contract for head office accommodation that has been entered into by all departments, agencies and authorities under the Minister's administration.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

In relation to the head office accommodation of Consumer Affairs Victoria and each statutory agency under the Minister's administration, as at 1 March 2006, all lease agreements are entered into by the Minister for Finance.

Consumer affairs: stress leave

1035(g). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer Affairs with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister's administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and resources to answer the question in its current form. Please specify a time frame for the information with which you would like to be provided.

Gaming: stress leave

1035(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister's administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and resources to answer the question in its current form. Please specify a time frame for the information with which you would like to be provided.

Racing: stress leave

1035(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister's administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and resources to answer the question in its current form. Please specify a time frame for the information with which you would like to be provided.

Consumer affairs: workers compensation costs

1037(g). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer Affairs with reference to each department, agency and authority within the Minister's jurisdiction, including the Ministerial Office — how many employees, both permanent and non-permanent, are currently on workers compensation as a result of workplace injury and what is the estimated cost resulting from these claims.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were no employees of Consumer Affairs Victoria, or any agencies under the Minister's administration, who were on workers compensation as at 28 March 2006.

Please also note that ministerial staff members are employed by the Premier.

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Thursday, 15 June 2006

Aboriginal affairs: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(o). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.
- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior Departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games. These entertainment expenses form part of the whole of Games budget. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Multicultural affairs: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(aa). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.
- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior Departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games. These entertainment expenses form part of the whole of Games budget. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Aboriginal affairs: ministerial staff

1026(o). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs with reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) I do not employ Ministerial staff.
- (2) Costs for the engagement of Ministerial staff are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- (3) Nil.

Agriculture: credit cards

1027(b). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture — does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Minister for Agriculture and his staff have not been issued with Government credit cards.

Agriculture: training expenditure

1028(b). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture with reference to expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses or like events by each department, agency or authority within their administration for the period 1 January 2004 to 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What was the name of each conference, course seminar, workshop or like event attended indicating —
 - (a) the locality;
 - (b) the venue;
 - (c) the purpose;

- (2) What was the cost of each event including —
 - (a) accommodation;
 - (b) entertainment;
 - (c) meals and refreshments;
 - (d) travel;
 - (e) taxis and hire cars;
 - (f) other expenses.
- (3) Was the event was externally organised; if so, by which company and at what cost.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Primary Industries is committed to the ongoing training and development of its entire staff.

Providing a consolidated response detailing expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses by the Department of Primary Industries and each individual agency and authority within my administration would place an undue strain on Departmental resources.

Agriculture: departmental publications

1029(b). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister's administration from 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 — what are the details of all publications produced indicating in each case —

- (1) The title.
- (2) The date of issue.
- (3) Details of distribution.
- (4) The numbers printed.
- (5) The cost of production.
- (6) The purpose of production.
- (7) Who it was printed by.
- (8) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Primary Industries takes very seriously the promotion and marketing of the state's primary industries. One method for achieving this is through publications.

Providing a consolidated response providing details of all publications produced by the Department of Primary Industries and each individual agency and authority within my administration would place an undue strain on Departmental resources.

Agriculture: government surveys

1030(b). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture with reference to all surveys commissioned and conducted by all government departments, agencies or authorities under the Minister's administration between 1 March 2004 and 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What is the total number of surveys that have been commissioned or conducted.

- (2) What is the total cost of the surveys including —
- (a) Production costs.
 - (b) The cost of the contracted firms conducting the surveys.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Providing a consolidated response providing details of all surveys commissioned and conducted by the Department of Primary Industries and each individual agency and authority within my administration would place an undue strain on departmental resources.

Agriculture: leasing arrangements

- 1034(b).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture — as at 1 March 2006 what is the total cost of leasing arrangements over the term of each contract for head office accommodation that has been entered into by all departments, agencies and authorities under the Minister's administration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Providing a consolidated response detailing the total cost of leasing arrangements for head office accommodation by the Department of Primary Industries and each individual agency and authority within my administration would place an undue strain on Departmental resources.

Agriculture: web site costs

- 1038(b).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture — what is the total number of websites currently owned, operated or administered by each department, agency or authority within the Minister's jurisdiction what has been the total cost for the design, administration and maintenance of each web site from 1 March 2004 to 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Providing a consolidated response detailing the total number of websites owned, operated and administered by the Department of Primary Industries, my ministerial office and each individual agency and authority within my administration would place an undue strain on Departmental resources.