

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
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FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

26 and 27 February 2008

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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, 26 February 2008

Treasurer: second-hand motor vehicles — duty

17. **Mr WELLS** to ask the Treasurer — how much duty was paid in respect of the transfer of second-hand motor vehicles in each of 2004–05 and 2005–06.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

At the date the question was asked duty on motor vehicle transfers is collected by Vic Roads. This question is best directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

Health: hospitals — operating theatre closures

140. **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the closure of Victorian hospital operating theatres due to risk of infection —
- (1) In 2006–07 —
 - (a) how many hospital operating theatres closed down and for what period of time was each closed;
 - (b) what was the cost to Victorian tax payers for each closure.
 - (2) In the case of the Sandringham Memorial Hospital, where the operating theatres were closed in February and March 2007 due to the risk of infection, what was the cost of replacement surgical equipment and supplies.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1)
 - (a) Whenever hospitals are conducting works (such as: building, renovations, installing or removing equipment, maintenance) a risk assessment for patient safety is conducted. When these works are to be conducted in patient areas, such as the operating suite, then part or all of the area is quarantined or closed.
The measures implemented are to reduce the risk of infection or complications to patients, visitors and staff as a result of the works.
 - (b) Building and maintenance works are planned and are generally conducted when hospital activity is low (Christmas, Easter, school holidays). Hospitals flex their surgical lists and staffing levels to allow these essential works to be conducted.
- (2) Any costs associated with replacing or re-processing consumables and surgical stocks are covered by insurance.

Aboriginal affairs: Shannons Way Pty Ltd

249aa. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs — with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There was one contract with Shannon’s Way P/L for the purpose of interviews recording the experience of Commonwealth Games volunteers.
- (2) The cost of the contract was \$9,600
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contract was not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer the contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

Local government: Shannons Way Pty Ltd

249o. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Local Government — with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There was one contract with Shannon’s Way P/L for the purpose of interviews recording the experience of Commonwealth Games volunteers.
- (2) The cost of the contract was \$9,600
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contract was not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer the contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

Aboriginal affairs: Growth Solutions Group

250af. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs — with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There were two contracts with the Growth Solutions Group.
- (2) \$907 and \$1,815.
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contracts were not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer a contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

Community services: Growth Solutions Group

250m. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In relation to contracts entered into by departmental divisions responsible to the Minister for Community Services with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000:

- (1) The department did not enter into any contracts with Growth Solutions Group in my area of portfolio responsibilities.

Local government: Growth Solutions Group

250r. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Local Government — with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There were two contracts with the Growth Solutions Group.
- (2) \$907 and \$1,815.
- (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) The contracts were not offered for public tender.
- (5) There is no requirement to offer a contract for public tender as the total cost was below the public tender threshold under the VGPB policy guidelines.

Mental health: Growth Solutions Group

250s. **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In relation to contracts entered into by departmental divisions responsible to the Minister for Mental Health with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000:

- (1) The department did not enter into any contracts with Growth Solutions Group in my area of portfolio responsibilities.

Environment and climate change: alpine accommodation

254. **Ms ASHER** to ask the Minister for Community Development (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change) — with reference to the Minister’s use of alpine accommodation at Falls Creeks, Lake Mountain, Mt Baw Baw, Mt Buller, Mt Stirling and Mt Hotham —

- (1) What was the total number of occasions and the total number of days the Minister stayed free of charge in accommodation, providing the name of the accommodation for each instance, in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;

- (e) 2007.
- (2) Did the Minister receive any meals, alcohol, ski passes, ski lift passes or ski hire free of charge; if so, what was received in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;
 - (e) 2007.
- (3) How many times did the Minister stay free of charge with his staff in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;
 - (e) 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have not stayed at any of the above accommodation facilities in my capacity as Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Environment and climate change: state and national park accommodation

255. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Community Development (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change) — with reference to the Minister’s use of accommodation in State and National Parks —

- (1) What is the total number of occasions and days the Minister has stayed free of charge in any State or National Park region in Victoria, in each case providing the name of the accommodation and the Park, in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;
 - (e) 2007.
- (2) Did the Minister receive any meals or alcohol free of charge; if so, what was received in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;
 - (e) 2007.
- (3) How many times did the Minister stay free of charge in accommodation in State and National Park regions with his staff in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;

(e) 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the answer to the question is as follows -

- (1) None
- (2) No
- (3) None

Children: Children's Services Regulations

262. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Children with reference to the review of the *Children's Services Regulations 1998* —

- (1) Will the review be completed by the date the current regulations are due to expire on 30 May 2008; if not, what are the reasons for the delay.
- (2) In the event of the review not being completed by 30 May 2008 will the expiration date of the current regulations be extended.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's review of the current children's services regulations, preparation of amendments to the enabling legislation and development of options for the new regulations is progressing.

The Department received representations from the children's services sector for a substantial period of consultation following the release of draft regulations and the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS).

It is important for individuals and organisations to have ample time to review materials, attend forums and respond to the RIS and draft regulations.

I have therefore decided that the period of the current regulations should be extended to May 2009 to allow for a more substantial consultation with the sector and I have advised peak bodies accordingly.

The outcome of the recent Federal election has brought new opportunities for greater coordination between the State and Commonwealth Governments in children's services. The proposed extension of the current regulations also recognises the need to work closely with the new Commonwealth Government to ensure the minimum standards outlined in Victoria's regulations complement the proposed quality improvement measures of the Child Care Quality Assurance system.

Public transport: Connex — public information display systems

272. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference Connex Public Information Display (PID) systems —

- (1) Since what date have the three PIDs on platform three at Richmond Station been defective.
- (2) When will the three defective PIDs on platform three at Richmond Station be replaced with the new design which shows the next two trains due to arrive on the platform.
- (3) What is the cost of a new design PID.
- (4) As at 18 July 2007 how many old-style PIDs were installed at —

- (a) Flinders Street Station platforms 1 to 13;
 - (b) Southern Cross Station platforms 9 to 14;
 - (c) North Melbourne Station platforms 1 to 6;
 - (d) Flagstaff Station platforms 1 to 4;
 - (e) Melbourne Central Station platforms 1 to 4;
 - (f) Parliament Station platforms 1 to 4;
 - (g) Richmond Station platforms 1 to 10.
- (5) As at 18 July 2007 how many new design PIDs were installed at —
- (a) Flinders Street Station platforms 1 to 13;
 - (b) Southern Cross Station platforms 9 to 14;
 - (c) North Melbourne Station platforms 1 to 6;
 - (d) Flagstaff Station platforms 1 to 4;
 - (e) Melbourne Central Station platforms 1 to 4;
 - (f) Parliament Station platforms 1 to 4;
 - (g) Richmond Station platforms 1 to 10.
- (6) In what month and year will each platform that currently has older-style PIDs receive the new design.
- (7) What amount was spent in 2006–07 for replacement of the older-style PIDs with the new design of PIDs.
- (8) What amount has been allocated in 2007–08 for replacement of the older-style PIDs with the new design.
- (9) Will the program of installation of new design PIDs be complete by 30 June 2008; if not, how many older-style PIDs will still require replacement at that date.
- (10) What is the font size used on the older-style PIDs for listing the —
- (a) train terminating station;
 - (b) individual station stopping conditions.
- (11) What is the font size used on the new design PIDs for listing the —
- (a) train terminating station;
 - (b) individual station stopping conditions.
- (12) What testing was done on the visibility of the new design PIDs for outdoor installations at —
- (a) Flinders Street Station;
 - (b) Richmond Station;
 - (c) North Melbourne Station.
- (13) How does the visibility of new design PIDs compare with the older-style PIDs in strong summer sun at —
- (a) Flinders Street Station;
 - (b) Richmond Station;
 - (c) North Melbourne Station.
- (14) How does the visibility of new screens compare with the older-style in weaker winter sun at —
- (a) Flinders Street Station;
 - (b) Richmond Station;
 - (c) North Melbourne Station.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Connex has advised that this information is not readily available and would require an unnecessary diversion of resources to answer.
- (2) All PID TV screen platform monitors at Richmond are currently working as intended. Richmond Station is currently being scoped for a potential PID upgrade program.
- (3) There are several types of PIDs currently used. The new back to back PID monitors at Flinders Street Railway Station cost approximately \$30,000.
- (4) Connex has advised that the requested information is not readily available and manual interrogation of the data to respond to the question would require an unnecessary diversion of resources.
- (5) Connex has advised that the requested information is not readily available and manual interrogation of the data to respond to the question would require an unnecessary diversion of resources.
- (6) The PID upgrade program at Flinders Street Railway Station was completed in September 2007. It is currently intended that all metropolitan PIDs at Southern Cross Station will also be in operation by the end of December 2007. The PIDs on the regional platforms have been operating for sometime. All platform PIDs at North Melbourne Railway Station will be upgraded as part of the North Melbourne Station Redevelopment which is scheduled to be completed in 2010. No further information is available at this time.
- (7) \$2.86 million was spent in the 2006/07 financial year on the PID upgrade at Flinders Street Station.
- (8) \$1.1 million has been allocated in 2007/08 for replacement of older style PIDs.
- (9) Refer to response (6).
- (10) As there are a number of different PID monitors used throughout the network, the question has been interpreted as referring to the traditional platform monitors at Flinders Street Railway Station.
 - (a) 30mm font size for train terminating station
 - (b) 15mm font size for individual station stopping conditions
- (11) The font size of the new design PIDs at Flinders Street Railway Station is:
 - (a) 40mm for train terminating station
 - (b) 20mm for individual station stopping conditions
- (12) The new PID screens at Flinders Street Station have been thoroughly tested for a range of outdoor conditions and are compliant with Disability Discrimination Act requirements. New PIDs have not yet been chosen for North Melbourne or Richmond stations.
- (13) I am advised that visibility and clarity of the new screens at Flinders Street Station will be greatly improved in all light conditions.
- (14) Refer to response (13).

Health: individual patient care plans

357. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health with reference to individual care plans —

- (1) What are the guidelines for requiring hospitals to prepare individual care plans for senior Victorians aged 65 and over.
- (2) What percentage of senior patients obtain an individual care plan upon being discharged from hospital.
- (3) What follow up procedures are put in place upon the patient being discharged from hospital.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are a number of programs in place that facilitate and support the development of care plans for older people who require them:
 - The **Victorian Service Coordination Practice Manual** outlines practice standards for care planning
 - **Aged Care Assessment Services**
 - The **Hospital Admission Risk Program - Chronic Disease Management (HARP-CDM)**
 - The **Australian Council for Health Care Standards**.
- (2) It is not practicable to determine the percentage of senior patients who obtain a care plan as not all people over 65 years have complex care needs.
- (3) Follow up procedures, which are put in place following discharge from hospital, are identified through the discharge planning process. Patients who are identified as requiring further support and services upon discharge, will be assessed by a multidisciplinary team. A discharge plan may include Post Acute Care services, Sub-acute Ambulatory Care Services, Transition Care, or Home and Community Care Services.

Roads and ports: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham — red-light cameras

375. **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the red light cameras monitoring right hand turns at the intersection of Nepean Highway, Bay Road and Karen Street —

- (1) Were any or all of the red light cameras at the intersection serviced immediately following the publication of complaints.
- (2) Were any irregularities identified with the intersection's cameras.
- (3) Were any changes made to the sequencing of any of the cameras when serviced.

ANSWER:

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

The Department of Justice is responsible for the operation of red light cameras. As such, this question would be more appropriately answered by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

Community services: aged-care service delivery

426a. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services — in relation to aged care direct service delivery — for each of 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08 what is the detailed financial breakdown of —

- (1) The total budget for aged care and Senior Victorians.
- (2) Geriatric care in total and for —
 - (a) inpatient geriatric evaluation and management;
 - (b) inpatient geriatric respite;
 - (c) continence clinic;
 - (d) cognitive, dementia and memory clinics.
- (3) Rehabilitation in total and for —
 - (a) inpatient rehabilitation;
 - (b) community rehabilitation centres.

- (4) Palliative care in total and for —
 - (a) inpatient hospice care;
 - (b) community palliative care.
- (5) Assessment services and home community care assessments.
- (6) Independent living in total and for —
 - (a) VICPAC personal alarms;
 - (b) delivered meals through home and community care;
 - (c) personal care;
 - (d) property maintenance;
 - (e) flexible service response.
- (7) Social support in total and for —
 - (a) day centres;
 - (b) social support services that come under the home and community care program.
- (8) Respite in total and for respite delivered under the —
 - (a) home and community care program;
 - (b) carers program.
- (9) Complex community care in total and for —
 - (a) linkages packages;
 - (b) the acquired brain injury program.
- (10) Nursing and allied health in total and for —
 - (a) home and community care;
 - (b) non-home and community care;
 - (c) low cost eye scheme.
- (11) Prevention and promotion in total and for —
 - (a) fall prevention;
 - (b) elder abuse prevention;
 - (c) seniors card;
 - (d) seniors week;
 - (e) community grants;
 - (f) other promotional or preventative initiatives.
- (12) Training, research and development programs, individually itemised.
- (13) An itemised list of programs or initiatives, other than those in (1)–(12), funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Department of Human Services for aged care services and senior Victorians.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Total budgets for Aged Care and Senior Victorians, as shown in BP3 are:

Aged Care (Aged and Home Care Output and Small Rural Services Outputs)	\$1021.6m
Seniors and Veterans Output	\$11.2m
(Note: includes veterans which is not part of Senior Victorians portfolio)	

Further budget details about Aged Care and Senior Victorians is available in the 2007-08 Service Delivery BP3.

(2) – (13)

The information requested is not in recognised program budget areas for direct service delivery only.

Senior Victorians: aged-care service delivery

426b. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — in relation to aged care direct service delivery — for each of 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06, 2006–07 and 2007–08 what is the detailed financial breakdown of —

- (1) The total budget for aged care and Senior Victorians.
- (2) Geriatric care in total and for —
 - (a) inpatient geriatric evaluation and management;
 - (b) inpatient geriatric respite;
 - (c) continence clinic;
 - (d) cognitive, dementia and memory clinics.
- (3) Rehabilitation in total and for —
 - (a) inpatient rehabilitation;
 - (b) community rehabilitation centres.
- (4) Palliative care in total and for —
 - (a) inpatient hospice care;
 - (b) community palliative care.
- (5) Assessment services and home community care assessments.
- (6) Independent living in total and for —
 - (a) VICPAC personal alarms;
 - (b) delivered meals through home and community care;
 - (c) personal care;
 - (d) property maintenance;
 - (e) flexible service response.
- (7) Social support in total and for —
 - (a) day centres;
 - (b) social support services that come under the home and community care program.
- (8) Respite in total and for respite delivered under the —
 - (a) home and community care program;
 - (b) carers program.
- (9) Complex community care in total and for —
 - (a) linkages packages;
 - (b) the acquired brain injury program.
- (10) Nursing and allied health in total and for —
 - (a) home and community care;
 - (b) non-home and community care;
 - (c) low cost eye scheme.
- (11) Prevention and promotion in total and for —
 - (a) fall prevention;
 - (b) elder abuse prevention;
 - (c) seniors card;
 - (d) seniors week;

- (e) community grants;
- (f) other promotional or preventative initiatives.
- (12) Training, research and development programs, individually itemised.
- (13) An itemised list of programs or initiatives, other than those in (1)–(12), funded by the Department of Planning and Community Development and the Department of Human Services for aged care services and senior Victorians.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Total budgets for Aged Care and Senior Victorians, as shown in BP3 are:

Aged Care (Aged and Home Care Output and Small Rural Services Outputs) \$1021.6m

Seniors and Veterans Output \$11.2m

(Note: includes veterans which is not part of Senior Victorians portfolio)

Further budget details about Aged Care and Senior Victorians is available in the 2007-08 Service Delivery BP3.

- (2) – (13)

The information requested is not in recognised program budget areas for direct service delivery only.

Treasurer: Land Tax Hardship Relief Board — entertainment expenses

456. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Land Tax Hardship Relief Board's entertainment expenses for 2006–07 —

- (1) What was the total cost incurred.
- (2) What are the itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500 including —
 - (a) date incurred;
 - (b) cost;
 - (c) number of guests;
 - (d) purpose;
 - (e) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

No entertainment expenses were incurred by the Land Tax Hardship Relief Board in 2006-2007.

Treasurer: second-hand motor vehicles — duty

462. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — how much duty was paid in respect of the transfer of second-hand motor vehicles in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

At the date the question was asked duty on motor vehicle transfers is collected by Vic Roads. This question is best directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

Treasurer: property transfers — duty

464. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — in 2006–07 —

- (1) On how many property transfers was duty paid.
- (2) How many property transfers had values for duty of —
 - (a) up to \$20,000;
 - (b) \$20,001–\$115,000;
 - (c) \$115,001–\$200,000;
 - (d) \$200,001–\$300,000;
 - (e) \$300,001–\$400,000;
 - (f) \$400,001–\$500,000;
 - (g) \$500,001–\$600,000;
 - (h) \$600,001–\$870,000.
- (3) What was the aggregate amount of duty paid in respect of transfers with property values of —
 - (a) up to \$20,000;
 - (b) \$20,001–\$115,000;
 - (c) \$115,001–\$200,000;
 - (d) \$200,001–\$300,000;
 - (e) \$300,001–\$400,000;
 - (f) \$400,001–\$500,000;
 - (g) \$500,001–\$600,000;
 - (h) \$600,001–\$870,000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Duty was paid on 167,105 property transfers in 2006-07.
- (2) SRO data is not published in the requested ranges.
- (3) SRO data is not published in the requested ranges.

Skills and workforce participation: workforce participation partnership program

471. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation with reference to the Workforce Participation Partnership Program —

- (1) Against what criteria are program grants assessed.
- (2) Has the program been considered a success; —
 - (a) if so, will it continue in 2007–08;
 - (b) if not, what has the Government identified from the program’s failure.
- (3) Will the program continue in 2007–08 as an ongoing program; —
 - (a) if so, will previously participating organisation have their funding continued.

- (b) if not, what further criteria need to be met before the Government can determine the success of the program.
- (4) How much money will be allocated to the program in 2007–08.
- (5) Will previously participating organisations have their funding renewed and when will they be advised.
- (6) Will previously participating organisations be advised if their funding is not renewed.
- (7) Will previously participating organisations be able to re-apply for funding under the new program if their funding is not renewed.
- (8) When will previously participating organisations be invited to re-apply for funding.
- (9) How many organisations were funded by the program.
- (10) How many people were registered with organisations funded by the program.
- (11) How many people who registered with organisations funded by the program gained employment.
- (12) How many people who gained employment through organisations funded by the program maintained employment for more than four months.
- (13) How many organisations focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants were funded by the program.
- (14) How many newly arrived migrants were registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants.
- (15) How many newly arrived migrants who registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants gained employment.
- (16) How many newly arrived migrants registered through organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants maintained employment for more than four months.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

(1) Against what criteria are program grants assessed?

The guidelines for assessment are published on the website: www.employment.vic.gov.au.

(2) Has the program been considered a success?

The program has been very successful with 112 approved projects involving over 1,500 individual private employers. Over 3,000 sustainable employment outcomes have been achieved to date.

(a) if so, will it continue in 2007–08?

yes

(b) if not, what has the Government identified from the program's failure.

Not applicable

(3) Will the program continue in 2007–08 as an ongoing program?

The program will continue in 2007-08.

(a) if so, will previously participating organisations have their funding continued.

WPP supports development of local partnerships which link employers and disadvantaged jobseekers. Funded organisations are contracted to achieve a specified number of employment outcomes. Further funding is subject to available funding and a competitive application process. Previously participating organisations are eligible to apply.

(b) if not, what further criteria need to be met before the Government can determine the success of the program.

Not applicable.

(4) How much money will be allocated to the program in 2007–08.

A further \$5 million has been allocated to the program in 2007-08.

(5) Will previously participating organisations have their funding renewed and when will they be advised.

Organisations are contracted to achieve a specified number of employment outcomes. Further funding is subject to available funding and a competitive application process. Previously funded organisations are eligible to apply.

(6) Will previously participating organisations be advised if their funding is not renewed.

Organisations will be advised if their application for further funding is not successful.

(7) Will previously participating organisations be able to re-apply for funding under the new program if their funding is not renewed.

All previously participating organisations are able to submit a new application for funding in accordance with the program guidelines.

(8) When will previously participating organisations be invited to re-apply for funding.

Previously participating organisations were advised of the opportunity to submit a new funding application in December 2007.

(9) How many organisations were funded by the program.

As at 1 January 2008, 85 organisations were funded for 112 projects.

(10) How many people were registered with organisations funded by the program.

As at 1 January 08, over 9,800 participants were registered.

(11) How many people who registered with organisations funded by the program gained employment.

As at 1 January 2008, over 4,000 participants have been placed into employment.

(12) How many people who gained employment through organisations funded by the program maintained employment for more than four months.

As at 1 January 2008, over 3,000 participants have maintained employment for 16 or more weeks.

(13) How many organisations focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants were funded by the program.

The Workforce Participation Program guidelines combine recently arrived migrants and refugees with other Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) groups. The number of organisations funded by the program providing employment services to these groups is 57.

(14) How many newly arrived migrants were registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants.

As at 1 January 2008, over 2000 recently arrived migrant participants have been registered with an organisation targeting CALD groups.

(15) How many newly arrived migrants who registered with organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants gained employment.

As at 1 January 2008, over 1,000 recently arrived migrant participants registered with an organisation targeting CALD groups were placed into employment.

(16) How many newly arrived migrants registered through organisations that were focused on providing employment services to newly arrived migrants maintained employment for more than four months.

As at 1 January 2008, over 800 recently arrived migrant participants were employed for 16 weeks or more through an organisation targeting CALD groups.

Community services: mental illness services — youth facilities

477. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to services for inmates with a mental illness at Melbourne Youth Remand Centre, Parkville Youth Remand Centre and Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre —

- (1) What is the current inmate population at each centre.
- (2) What procedures are in place to screen new inmates to see if they suffer from a mental illness.
- (3) How many inmates at each of these facilities suffer from a mental illness.
- (4) What specific services are available for inmates with a mental illness at each centre.
- (5) What state funding was allocated to each specific service for inmates with a mental illness at each centre in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2001–02;
 - (c) 2002–03;
 - (d) 2003–04;
 - (e) 2004–05;
 - (f) 2005–06;
 - (g) 2006–07;
 - (h) 2007–08 to date.
- (6) What procedures are in place to link prisoners with a mental illness to relevant treatment upon their release.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 1 November 2007, the client populations at each of the centres were as follows:
 - Melbourne Youth Justice Centre: 62
 - Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre: 85
 - Parkville Youth Residential Centre: 16
- (2) A comprehensive health assessment is completed for each young person by a qualified health practitioner.
- (3) Latest research indicates approximately one in five Victorians are likely to have a mental illness.
- (4) The focus of custodial health services is the improvement of the health of the youth justice client group through the provision of a comprehensive range of services. A full range of mental health services is provided at all centres, including assessment, medical treatment and medication by psychiatrist or general practitioner, and counselling for psychological needs. The development of behaviour plans, in consultation with health staff, ensure a consistent approach and response to behaviour associated with mental illness.

- (5) The overall budget for youth justice health services is established in such a way as to ensure the most integrated approach to health services and to allow for flexibility of service provision.
- (6) Extensive transition and exit planning occurs for each young person in custody; this allows for case management of the client during their stay in custody and plans for their release into the community. With the input of youth justice staff, a comprehensive health discharge plan is developed, ensuring linkage and referral to community services appropriate for their health needs, including ongoing mental health treatment.

Community services: drug and alcohol services — youth facilities

478. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to services for inmates with a drug or alcohol problem at Melbourne Youth Remand Centre, Parkville Youth Remand Centre and Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre —

- (1) What procedures are in place to screen new inmates to see if they suffer from a drug or alcohol problem.
- (2) How often does each centre drug test inmates and on what grounds, such as on admission, randomly or post-incident.
- (3) What type of sample is taken when inmates are tested for drug or alcohol use at each centre, such as urine, saliva or blood.
- (4) What drugs or other substances are inmates at each centre tested for.
- (5) How many drug tests of inmates were taken in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2001–02;
 - (c) 2002–03;
 - (d) 2003–04;
 - (e) 2004–05;
 - (f) 2005–06;
 - (g) 2006–07.
- (6) How many drug tests of inmates returned a positive result in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2001–02;
 - (c) 2002–03;
 - (d) 2003–04;
 - (e) 2004–05;
 - (f) 2005–06;
 - (g) 2006–07.
- (7) What specific services are available for inmates with a drug and alcohol problem.
- (8) What state funding was allocated to each specific service for inmates with drug or alcohol problems at each centre in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2001–02;
 - (c) 2002–03;
 - (d) 2003–04;
 - (e) 2004–05;
 - (f) 2005–06;
 - (g) 2006–07;
 - (h) 2007–08.

- (9) What procedures are in place to link inmates with a drug or alcohol problem to relevant treatment upon their release.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) A comprehensive health assessment is completed for each young person by a qualified health practitioner.
- (2) Assessment of the various drug and alcohol health issues faced by clients are conducted upon admission and as required.
- (3) The type of samples required for drug tests are dependent on individual circumstances, the purpose of the test and the substance being tested for.
- (4) Assessment of the various drug and alcohol health issues faced by clients are conducted upon admission and as required.
- (5) Detailed information about drug test histories is not available.
- (6) Detailed information about drug test histories is not available.
- (7) A range of alcohol and other drug services are routinely provided at each of the three youth justice centres, including:
 - Health promotion and education programs;
 - Alcohol and other drug counselling and treatment services; and
 - Referrals to community based alcohol and other drug treatment agencies to ensure ongoing treatment.
- (8) The focus of custodial health services is the improvement of the health of the youth justice client group through the provision of a comprehensive range of services. The budget allows for a range of drug and alcohol services, mental health, and primary health services.
- (9) Extensive transition and exit planning occurs for each young person in custody. A comprehensive health discharge plan is developed, ensuring linkage and referral to community services appropriate for their health needs, including ongoing alcohol and other drug treatment.

Health: hospital beds

- 483.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health — how many of the total 145,214 patients admitted to a hospital bed from an emergency department between July 2006 to December 2006 were admitted within eight hours.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The total number of patients admitted to a hospital bed from an emergency department from July to December 2006 was 145,224. The number admitted within 8 hours was 105,317.

Health: private hospital funding

- 484.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health — between 1999 and 2007 to date what has been the level of Government funding provided to each private hospital and private hospital group and for what purpose on both a yearly and quarterly basis.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) In terms of the financial data requested, this information is not routinely collated in the format requested and to provide these details would be an unreasonable diversion of my Department's resources.

Multicultural affairs: Victorian Multicultural Commission

490. Mr KOTSIRAS to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what are the details of the decrease in funding to the Victorian Multicultural Commission as part of Labor's Financial Statement savings for —

- (1) 2007–08.
- (2) 2008–09.
- (3) 2009–10.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As committed in the Government's 2006 election policy statement Promoting Diversity: Strengthening Multiculturalism in Victoria and in Labor's Financial Statement, savings from the multicultural affairs portfolio were made from the 2007-08 financial year. This saving is being returned to the community in the form of additional grants, as was announced in the policy statement and subsequently in the 2007-08 State Budget.

Taking into account the other commitments pledged for the multicultural affairs portfolio, including in the 2007-08 State Budget, the overarching budget for the Victorian Multicultural Commission has actually increased from \$9,324,000 in 2006-07 to:

- \$10,508,000 in 2007-08;
- \$13,686,000 in 2008-09; and
- \$12,426,000 in 2009-10.

Roads and ports: Wellington Road, Rowville — maintenance

530. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the uneven surface of the southern section of Wellington Road, Rowville —

- (1) Has VicRoads scheduled repairs to the section of road in the vicinity of Nos 1059–63; if so, when will they be carried out.
- (2) How many road repairs are considered to be of greater priority than repairs to the section of road in the vicinity of Nos 1059–63.
- (3) Given that the road was constructed within the last 12 months, why are large repairs necessary.
- (4) Was the initial construction work carried out incorrectly.
- (5) Was the initial design work carried out incorrectly.
- (6) Was a repair/maintenance clause compelling the construction company to repair faults arising from road use negotiated as part of the original duplication contract.

ANSWER:

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

The Contractor will repair the damaged surfacing in late January 2008, as the 24 month Contract Defects Liability Period requires the construction company to undertake the necessary road repairs.

The pavement was constructed correctly and was designed in accordance with relevant procedures, standards and guidelines.

Public transport: Metlink advertising campaign

545. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the Metlink Better Way advertising campaign —

- (1) What was the total cost of the campaign.
- (2) On what date was the contract for the campaign signed.
- (3) Who produced the campaign and for what amount.

ANSWER:

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

The total cost to date for the “A Better Way” campaign is \$763,000. This figure includes both the cost to produce the television, radio, print, outdoor and online advertisements, as well as the media buy.

Metlink retains the services of advertising company Marmalade Melbourne Pty Ltd (Marmalade) in relation to all its advertising. Marmalade produced the “A Better Way” campaign. There was no separate contract signed for the “A Better Way” campaign.

Community development: save energy campaign

546. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Development (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change) — with reference to the Save Energy television advertising campaign —

- (1) What was the total cost of the campaign.
- (2) On what date was the contract for the campaign signed.
- (3) Who produced the campaign and for what amount.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The total cost of the Victorian Government’s Energy Savings (black balloons) campaign is \$3,738,423.00
- (2) The contract for the Victorian Government’s Energy Savings (black balloons) campaign was signed on 9 October 2006.
- (3) George Patterson Y&R (GPY&R) produced the Energy Savings (black balloons) campaign and have received payment of \$560,667.67.

Public transport: rail — syringes

565. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — between 1 January 2007 and 31 October 2007 —

- (1) Did Connex or V/Line cleaners or other staff sustain any needlestick injuries from handling syringes; if so —

- (a) on how many occasions were injuries sustained;
 - (b) at what depot did the cleaners or other staff sustain injury;
 - (c) on what date was each injury sustained;
 - (d) was any sick or other leave taken as a result of each injury; if so, how much;
 - (e) what was the cause of each injury;
 - (f) have any changes been made to handling of syringes by cleaners or other staff as a result;
 - (g) have any claims been submitted to WorkCover;
 - (h) have any claims been accepted by WorkCover; if so, how many and what arrangements have been made for the employee or employees concerned.
- (2) Have any complaints been made by Connex or V/Line passengers or staff regarding discarded syringes on trains; if so —
- (a) how many complaints were made to each operator;
 - (b) on what lines were the trains that were the subject of the complaints.
- (3) How many syringes were estimated to have been emptied from Connex —
- (a) on-train disposal bins;
 - (b) platform or platform toilet disposal bins.
- (4) How many syringes were estimated to have been emptied from V/Line —
- (a) on-train disposal bins;
 - (b) platform or platform toilet disposal bins.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Neither, Connex or V/Line staff/cleaners sustained any needle stick injuries between 1 January 2007 and 31 October 2007.
- (2) Complaints from Connex or V/Line passengers or staff regarding discarded syringes on trains between 1 January 2007 and 31 October 2007 were:

	<i>Connex</i>	<i>V/Line</i>
<i>how many complaints were made to each operator</i>	<i>Two complaints</i>	<i>One complaint</i>
<i>on what lines were the trains that were the subject of the complaints</i>	<i>Frankston Line and Sandringham Line</i>	<i>Eastern Line (Traralgon corridor)</i>

- (3) Syringes estimated to have been emptied from Connex:
- (a) on-train disposal bins
No records are kept on the number of syringes removed from trains.
 - (b) platform or platform toilet disposal bins.
No records are kept on the number of syringes removed from platform or platform toilet disposal bins.
- (4) Syringes estimated to have been emptied from V/Line:
- (a) on-train disposal bins and
 - (b) platform or platform toilet disposal bins.
No records are kept on the number of syringes removed from trains, platforms or platform toilet disposal bins.

Roads and ports: Victoria–King streets, East Doncaster — traffic lights

603. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — what is the final total cost of the installation of traffic lights at the corner of Victoria Street and King Street, East Doncaster.

ANSWER:

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

In June 2006, the then Minister for Transport announced that \$600,000 would be invested to install traffic signals at this intersection. The final cost of the project was within this budget allocation.

Health: Frankston Hospital — maternity services

614. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) Will the Frankston Hillview maternity ward and the Frankston maternity ward be merged.
- (2) Does the Government have plans to reduce the number of midwives employed at the Frankston Hillview maternity ward, and Frankston maternity ward; if so, what are the details for each facility.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Peninsula Health has committed to maintain the Hillview model of maternity care and to extend this model to women who utilise Peninsula Health maternity services.
- (2) There are no plans to reduce the number of midwives employed at Peninsula Health.

Attorney-General: magistrates — appointment

619. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Attorney-General — what are the names of each panel member who has presided over the recommendation of magistrates for the appointment rounds in each year between 2000 and 2007 inclusive.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

For the period 1 January 2000 to 20 November 2007 membership of the selection panels for Magistrates has varied. Included below is a list of those persons who have at one time or another been on the selection panel during this period. The list includes position titles at the time of each person's membership of the selection panel:

- Michael Adams QC, Chief Magistrate;
- Jennifer Coate, Deputy Chief Magistrate;
- Professor Peter Sallman, Crown Counsel;
- Fiona Hanlon, Deputy Secretary Legal, Department of Justice;
- Brian Barrow, Acting Chief Magistrate;
- Ian Gray, Chief Magistrate;
- Elizabeth Eldridge, Deputy Secretary Legal, Department of Justice;
- Karen Cleave, Director, Office of Departmental Services, Department of Education & Training;
- Colleen Pearce, Director, Victims Support Agency;
- John Griffin, Executive Director, Courts;

- Gabrielle Levine, Director, Court Services;
- Roslyn Kelleher, Executive Director, Strategic Projects & Planning; and
- Lyn Slade, Chief Executive Officer, Judicial College of Victoria.

For the selection of the Magistrate for the Neighbourhood Justice Centre, the selection committee also comprised two members of the Neighbourhood Justice Centre Community Liaison Committee.

Attorney-General: training

620. **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Attorney-General with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Attorney-General between 1 July 2007 and 20 November 2007 —

- (1) What training has the Attorney-General received.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity providing the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

No expenses were incurred for training for the Attorney-General between 1 July 2007 and 20 November 2007.

Public transport: railway land — rubbish

627. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to complaints made about accumulated rubbish between railway stations on VicTrack land leased to Connex Melbourne between 1 January 2007 and 20 October 2007 —

- (1) How many complaints were received by —
 - (a) Metlink Melbourne;
 - (b) Connex Melbourne;
 - (c) the Department of Infrastructure's 1800 help line;
 - (d) the Public Transport Ombudsman;
 - (e) the Department of Infrastructure via letters or emails;
 - (f) the Minister for Public Transport;
- (2) At what location was each complaint in regard to.
- (3) How many complaints were assessed as possible safety risks, such as a supermarket trolley that had been pushed onto a railway line.
- (4) What action did Connex Melbourne or its subcontractors take as a result of any complaints.
- (5) Is removal of rubbish that does not pose a safety risk between stations or in the station pits limited to when Mainco Melbourne undertakes reballasting, resleepering or station pit cleaning of metropolitan rail tracks.

ANSWER:

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

(1)

- (a) Metlink is unable to provide the specific data requested as it only reports on an industry wide basis.

- (b) Connex Melbourne received 229 complaints.
 - (c) Department of Infrastructure's 1800 help line received no complaints.
 - (d) The Public Transport Ombudsman received one complaint.
 - (e) Letters and emails received by the Department of Infrastructure (DOI) are not recorded to a level that would readily identify complaints made about accumulated rubbish between railway stations.
 - (f) Letters and emails received by the Minister for Public Transport are not recorded to a level that would readily identify complaints made about accumulated rubbish between railway stations.
- (2) The complaint received by the Public Transport Ombudsman related to the Broadmeadows Line. Complaints received by Connex related to various locations throughout the system.
 - (3) Four complaints received were assessed as possible safety risks.
 - (4) Rubbish was removed within 24 hours by Mainco track staff
 - (5) No. Connex are required to remove all potentially hazardous rubbish within 2 days of notification and dumped rubbish which adversely impacts the visual amenity of nearby residents within 14 days.

Community services: psychogeriatric services

628. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to psychogeriatric services —

- (1) What amount of funding have these services received in —
 - (a) 2003–04;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2005–06;
 - (d) 2006–07;
 - (e) 2007–08.
- (2) What programs and services are the 2007–08 psychogeriatric funds allocated to.
- (3) How will the Minister address the growing demand for psychogeriatric services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1-3) Information on mental health funding to services can be found in the Public Hospitals and Mental Health Services Policy and Funding Guidelines at the following website: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg/>.

Names and locations of services can be found on the mental health web site:
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/services/index.htm>.

The Victorian Government has commenced the development of a Planning Framework for Specialist Aged Persons Mental Health to consider service needs for the next ten years.

Public transport: Skybus

631. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the Skybus service —

- (1) What percentage of revenue does the Government take from passenger fares collected on the Skybus route, providing increments if it is a sliding scale.
- (2) How many tickets issued by Skybus —
 - (a) in 2006–07 were —

- (i) adult single;
 - (ii) adult return;
 - (iii) family 1 single;
 - (iv) family 1 return;
 - (v) family 2 single;
 - (vi) family 2 return;
 - (vii) weekly tickets.
- (b) between 1 July 2007 and 30 September 2007 were —
- (i) adult single;
 - (ii) adult return;
 - (iii) family 1 single;
 - (iv) family 1 return;
 - (v) family 2 single;
 - (vi) family 2 return;
 - (vii) weekly tickets.
- (3) How many single journey trips were made on Skybus —
- (a) in 2006–07;
 - (b) between 1 July 2007 and 30 September 2007.
- (4) What months are typically the six busiest for Skybus, from highest to lowest.
- (5) What month has had the highest patronage and how many single trips were taken during it.
- (6) Will Skybus offer a five or 7.5 minute frequency seven days a week or on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays once Tiger Airways commences operations; if not, when will service frequency enhancements occur.
- (7) What percentage of current Skybus users have to stand.
- (8) What is the —
- (a) seated capacity of the Skybus coaches;
 - (b) seated plus standee capacity of the Skybus coaches.
- (9) Have there been any claims for injuries sustained on Skybus services since 1 January 2006 lodged against —
- (a) the Department of Infrastructure; if so —
 - (i) how many;
 - (ii) on what dates did each alleged incident occur;
 - (iii) were any as a result of people standing up whilst travelling;
 - (b) Skybus; if so —
 - (i) how many;
 - (ii) on what dates did each alleged incident occur;
 - (iii) were any as a result of people standing up whilst travelling;
 - (c) other parties; if so —
 - (i) how many;
 - (ii) on what dates did each alleged incident occur;
 - (iii) were any as a result of people standing up whilst travelling.
- (10) What is the projected percentage growth rate, if any, for the Melbourne Airport–Southern Cross route in —
- (a) 2007–08;
 - (b) 2008–09.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Under the provisions of the Public Transport Competition Act Service Contract (the Contract) the revenue to the Government depends upon the total Skybus revenue throughout any given financial year.
- (2-3) The Contract does not require Skybus to report on ticket sales or single journey trips. The Department of Infrastructure (DOI) does not have the data to respond to these questions.
- (4) Patronage fluctuates depending on a range of factors.
- (5) The Contract does not require Skybus to report on the number of single trips.
- (6) The Contract requires Skybus to meet minimum service level standards. DOI does not require Skybus to increase the level of service beyond these requirements; this decision lies with Skybus.

Skybus is contractually obligated to ensure that sufficient capacity is available for each service to enable all passengers to be properly transported.

- (7) This information is not available.

(8a,b) The Skybus fleet comprises:

- 2 x 52 seat vehicles - seated plus standee capacity 103
- 8 x 45 seat vehicles - seated plus standee capacity 91
- 2 x 41 seat vehicles - seated plus standee capacity 67
- 10 x 17 seat vehicles - no standee's
- 1 x 22 seat vehicle - no standee's

- (9a) No claims have been lodged against DOI for injuries sustained on Skybus services since 1 January 2006.

(b,c) This information is not available.

- (10) DOI does not have information on the projected growth rate for the Melbourne Airport – Southern Cross route.

Education: schools — illicit substance abuse

640. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Education with reference to measures to tackle illicit substance abuse in schools —

- (1) Are Government school teachers subject to a drug policy.
- (2) What measures are taken if a government school teacher is —
 - (a) caught in possession of an illicit substance;
 - (b) suspected to be under the influence of an illicit substance;
 - (c) proven to be under the influence of an illicit substance;
 - (d) suspected to be under the influence of alcohol;
 - (e) proven to be under the influence of alcohol.
- (3) Is drug testing ever used by the Department of Education in relation to drug and alcohol use by government school teachers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has as its paramount obligation its duty of care to students.

Teachers in government schools are required to abide by the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector employees, the Standards for Professional Practice and Ministerial Order 165 (Conduct and Duties) which includes clauses relating to unacceptable alcohol and drug use.

Breaches of these requirements are dealt with in accordance with the Department's *Procedures for Managing Complaints, Unsatisfactory Performance or Serious Misconduct* which provide that the principles of natural justice must be observed. Depending on the nature and severity of the breach a range of actions is available to deal with the matter including a reprimand, a fine or termination of employment. The *Procedures* require that suspected criminal conduct be reported to the police.

The Department also has an obligation to ensure the safety and well-being of its employees and provides assistance through its Employee Assistance Program.

The Employee Assistance Program provides a short term solution focused counselling service consisting of up to four sessions for any work related or personal issue which may be used as part of an intervention and support for an employee when alcohol or illicit drug use has been identified.

Public transport: rail — graffiti

681. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to exterior graffiti attacks to Connex suburban carriages 707M, 773M, 1069T, 1649T and 1666T —

- (1) Have the carriages recently been subject to exterior graffiti attacks; if so are remnants of the graffiti still visible.
- (2) How much did the most recent graffiti attack on each carriage cost to clean in —
 - (a) labour;
 - (b) materials.
- (3) On what date was graffiti last removed from the exterior of the carriages.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Yes, all have had recent external graffiti attacks. Remnants of some graffiti are still visible, but no removable graffiti remains.
- (2)
 - (a & b) Graffiti tagging and outlining removal is part of normal cleaning duties, and costing is built into the general carriage cleaning rate. As the size and type of graffiti is not known, specific costs for each of the nominated carriages is not available.
- (3) Records show external graffiti was last removed for carriages 707M on 2/12/07, 773M on 30/11/07, 1069T on 3/12/07, 1649T on 5/12/07 and 1666T on 5/12/07.

Roads and ports: Victoria–King streets, East Doncaster — traffic lights

715. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — what was the final cost of works carried out for the installation of traffic lights on the corner of Victoria Street and King Street, East Doncaster.

ANSWER:

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

The final cost of the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Victoria Street and King Street, Doncaster East was within the allocated budget of \$600,000.

Public transport: bus route 301

718. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 301 The Pines Shopping Centre—City (via Thompsons Road and Eastern Freeway) — in 2006–07 —

- (1) What were the patronage figures on —
 - (a) weekdays;
 - (b) weekends.
- (2) How many times was the service cancelled.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The patronage figures in 2006/07 for weekdays and weekends on bus Route 301 were as follows:

	<i>(a) weekdays</i>	<i>(b) weekends</i>
<i>2006/07</i>	<i>320,048</i>	<i>11,788</i>

Note: These figures are based on ticket validations.

- (2) Information on the number of bus services cancelled is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Infrastructure with monthly service cancellations and on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: bus route 304

719. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 304 City—Warrandyte (via the Eastern Freeway and Blackburn Road) — in 2006–07 —

- (1) What were the patronage figures on —
 - (a) weekdays;
 - (b) weekends.
- (2) How many times was the service cancelled.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The patronage figures in 2006/07 for weekdays and weekends on bus Route 304 were as follows:

	<i>(a) weekdays</i>	<i>(b) weekends</i>
<i>2006/07</i>	<i>406,928</i>	<i>25,349</i>

Note: These figures are based on ticket validations.

- (2) Information on the number of bus services cancelled is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Infrastructure with monthly service cancellations on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: bus route 307

720. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 307 City-Mitcham (via the Eastern Freeway and Doncaster Road) — in 2006–07 —

- (1) What were the patronage figures on —
 (a) weekdays;
 (b) weekends.
 (2) How many times was the service cancelled.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The patronage figures in 2006/07 for weekdays and weekends on bus Route 307 were as follows:

	<i>(a) weekdays</i>	<i>(b) weekends</i>
<i>2006/07</i>	<i>521,162</i>	<i>44,853</i>

Note: These figures are based on ticket validations.

- (2) Information on the number of bus services cancelled is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Infrastructure with monthly service cancellations on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: V/Line — Seymour line

750. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to V/Line trains on the Seymour line delayed between Broadmeadows and Craigieburn between 1 November 2007 and 4 December 2007 —

- (1) How many trains were delayed travelling —
 (a) to —
 (i) Seymour local;
 (ii) Albury;
 (iii) Shepparton;
 (b) from —
 (i) Seymour local;
 (ii) Albury;
 (iii) Shepparton.
 (2) What was the median number of minutes delay for trains travelling —
 (a) to —
 (i) Seymour local;
 (ii) Albury;
 (iii) Shepparton;
 (b) from —
 (i) Seymour local;

- (ii) Albury;
- (iii) Shepparton.
- (3) How many delays were attributed to Connex trains blocking the down platform at Craigieburn.
- (4) What was the median number of minutes delay for train delays attributed to Connex trains blocking the down platform at Craigieburn.

ANSWER:

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

(1-2) A comprehensive report on the performance, punctuality and reliability of Victoria's public transport services is released quarterly. Copies of Track Record can be found at www.doi.vic.gov.au/trackrecord.

A supplementary bulletin providing line-by-line punctuality and reliability information is released monthly.

- (3) Unknown – V/Line does not record this level of detail.
- (4) Unknown – V/Line does not record this level of detail.

Health: Metropolitan Ambulance Service

756. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Metropolitan Ambulance Service —

- (1) What are the specific details on the KPIs that have been agreed to with the CEO to justify the CEO's 19.2 per cent pay increase.
- (2) Have the CEO's 2006–07 KPIs been met or exceeded.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Under the Ambulance Services Act 1986 the functions of the Board of Directors of the ambulance services include:

- appointment of the Chief Executive Officer
- determining the CEO's remuneration and terms and conditions; and
- monitoring the performance of the CEO each financial year

The Government Sector Executive Remuneration Panel sets the parameters within which the Board exercises these functions.

Public transport: V/Line — Seymour line

758. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — on 3 December 2007 —

- (1) Did locomotive N473 for the 4.32 pm service from Southern Cross Station to Seymour dock late at Southern Cross; if so —
 - (a) why;
 - (b) what time did it dock;
 - (c) did it fail at the platform when it was docked; if so, was the failure due to problems with head end power (HEP); if not, what was the reason for the failure;
 - (d) was the train then cancelled.
- (2) Was the 5.10 pm service from Southern Cross Station to Seymour two Sprinter railcars coupled together; if not, what formed the train.

- (3) How many passengers did the 5.10 pm service from Southern Cross Station to Seymour leave with from —
- (a) Southern Cross Station;
 - (b) North Melbourne Station;
 - (c) Broadmeadows Station.
- (4) How many passengers on the 5.10 pm service from Southern Cross Station to Seymour were estimated to be standing upon departure from —
- (a) Southern Cross Station;
 - (b) North Melbourne Station;
 - (c) Broadmeadows Station.

ANSWER:

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

(1-4) During December 2007, the Seymour line experienced a high level of reliability. 99.1 per cent of services were operated. Of 738 services, 7 were cancelled. 86.5 per cent of services met punctuality standards. 633 services ran on time. There were 3 days of heat restrictions during the month.

During 2006-07 there were 1.15 million passenger trips on the Seymour line, a 9 per cent increase on the previous year.

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.

Wednesday, 27 February 2008

Health: hospitals — infection

139. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the serious complications and danger to life caused by infections present in Victorian hospitals —

- (1) In each of December 2006, January 2007, February 2007 and March 2007.
 - (a) How many cases of infection to patients have occurred at Melbourne hospitals;
 - (b) How many hospital operating rooms have been forced to close and for what time frames.
- (2) What procedures and protocols are followed as a result of the need to address the discovery of a perceived or actual infection risk.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1)
 - (a) The number of infections that have occurred at Melbourne private and public hospitals has been collated using the Victorian Admitted Episodes Database (VAED).

The number of infections recorded for the requested months:

	Infection Separations	Patient Separations	Percentage
December 2006	458	129,297	0.35
January 2007	420	120,409	0.35
February 2007	402	130,391	0.31
March 2007	496	143,413	0.34

The VAED counts the total number of infections not the total number of patients. The data from the VAED does not distinguish infections that were acquired outside the hospital as apposed to being acquired as a result of their hospital admission.

Aggregated infection rates for surveillance activities are publicly reported in the VICNISS annual reports, which can be found at <http://www.vicniss.org.au/>.

- (b) One health service closed theatres to elective surgery as a precautionary measure in February 2007 for seven days, due to high relative humidity levels, not as a result of hospital acquired infections.
- (2) Infection Control staff routinely assess hospitals for potential infection risks. When there is a perceived or actual risk of infection, control measures are put in place to minimise the risk. This may include:
 - Modifying procedures, protocols and work practices
 - Engineering controls
 - Monitoring compliance with infection control procedures
 - Providing health care workers with information about personal health conditions that may place them or patients at risk

- Providing information/education and training to patients and health care workers
- Using appropriate personal protective equipment.

Hospital processes ensure the event or risk is communicated between infection control teams, risk managers, hospital executive and other relevant stakeholders.

Health: hospitals — infection

- 141.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Health in reference to the serious infection to a patient operated on at Sandringham Hospital on 3 March 2007 — how many cases of infection to patients occurred at Sandringham Hospital during March 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of infections that have occurred at Sandringham Hospital have been collated using the Victorian Admitted Episodes Database (VAED). The VAED has identified that for March 2007, six patients were identified as having infections at Sandringham Hospital. However the data from the VAED does not distinguish infections that were acquired outside the hospital as apposed to being acquired as a result of their hospital admission.

Mental health: service access

- 581.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to each of the 13 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Areas, 21 Adult Specialist Mental Health Service Areas and 17 Aged Persons' Mental Health Services Areas —

- (1) How many consumers are currently registered as waiting for a service.
- (2) How many consumers were registered as waiting for a service at the beginning of —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2001–02;
 - (c) 2002–03;
 - (d) 2003–04;
 - (e) 2004–05;
 - (f) 2005–06;
 - (g) 2006–07;
 - (h) 2007–08.
- (3) How many consumers attempted to gain a service but were unable to do so in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2001–02;
 - (c) 2002–03;
 - (d) 2003–04;
 - (e) 2004–05;
 - (f) 2005–06;
 - (g) 2006–07;
 - (h) 2007–08.
- (4) How many consumers gained access to a service in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2001–02;

- (c) 2002–03;
- (d) 2003–04;
- (e) 2004–05;
- (f) 2005–06;
- (g) 2006–07;
- (h) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1-3) While the Department funds the provision of mental health services, operational matters are the responsibility of the health service providers. All services provide a 24 hour triage function in order to ensure appropriate access to services. The Department does not maintain waiting lists for mental health services.
- (4) Client and service contact information is reported in the Budget Papers and in the National Mental Health Report. These can be found at the following addresses:

<http://www.budget.vic.gov.au/>

and <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/wcms/publishing.nsf/content/mental-pubs-n-report05>

Public transport: rail — coach replacement

675. Mr MULDER to ask Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) What range of rates has V/Line paid per kilometre between 1 July 2007 and 21 November 2007 for hire of —
 - (a) toilet equipped coaches to replace trains;
 - (b) non-toilet equipped coaches to replace trains.
- (2) What is a typical per kilometre rate that V/Line has paid between 1 July 2007 and 21 November 2007 for the hire of coaches to replace trains.
- (3) What is V/Line's —
 - (a) budget in 2007–08 for coach hire for —
 - (i) scheduled track work;
 - (ii) unscheduled events such as locomotive failures;
 - (b) forecast expenditure in 2007–08 for coach hire for —
 - (i) scheduled track work;
 - (ii) unscheduled events such as locomotive failures.

ANSWER:

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

(1&2)

This information is commercial in confidence and disclosure of the rates paid by the operator may impede V/Line's ability to negotiate future arrangements.

(3) V/Line's:

(a) budget in 2007–08 for coach hire for:

- (i) scheduled track work

All costs associated with scheduled track work are project related. There is no budget line item specific to coach hire for scheduled track works.

- (ii) unscheduled events such as locomotive failures;

The current forecast / budget for road coach hire during 2007/08 financial year for unscheduled events is \$2.45m.

- (b) forecast expenditure in 2007–08 for coach hire for:

- (i) scheduled track work

All costs associated with scheduled track work are project related. There is no budget line item specific to coach hire for scheduled track works.

- (ii) unscheduled events such as locomotive failures;

The current forecast / budget for road coach hire during 2007/08 financial year for unscheduled events is \$2.45m.

Public transport: rail — graffiti

- 685.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — how many Connex services were cancelled due to graffiti between 1 July 2007 and 22 November 2007.

ANSWER:

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

151 Connex services were cancelled between 1 July 2007 and 22 November 2007 due to graffiti.