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FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 27 May 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, 27 May 2008

Industry and trade: Crown land — Doncaster

92(k). Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Industry and State Development with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) What is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land.
- (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

“There is no Crown land owned nor any intentions to acquire any in the electorate of Doncaster relating to my portfolio responsibilities as the Minister for Industry and Trade”.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham — red light cameras

376(a) Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

With reference to red light cameras monitoring right hand turns at intersections in Melbourne —

- (1) Which intersections have cameras monitoring right hand turns.
- (2) What is the monthly number of infringement notices issued for each intersection.
- (3) How does the number of monthly infringement notices issued for each intersection compare to the Nepean Highway, Bay Road and Karen Street intersection.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) There are 53 intersections in metropolitan Melbourne that use Fixed Digital Safety Cameras to monitor right hand and/or left hand turning lanes. A complete list of Fixed Digital Safety Cameras is available at www.justice.vic.gov.au/roadsafety.
- (2) I am advised that it would be an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources to provide this information.
- (3) The number of infringements issued by each fixed digital camera across the network vary according to differing traffic flows, conditions and driver behaviour.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — red light camera

473. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the red light camera monitoring south bound traffic turning right from the Nepean Highway in a westerly direction into Bay Road —

- (1) When was the camera first installed.
- (2) For each month since the installation of the camera how many infringement notices have been issued to motorists completing the turn.
- (3) Due to the angle and width of the turn, have the additional time and slower speed required been taken into account when issuing infringement notices.
- (4) Due to the physical characteristics of the intersection, is there any plan to adjust the time allowance at which a fine is imposed.
- (5) How does the number of fines issued compare with comparable intersections.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) The Fixed Digital Safety Camera became operational on 5 February 2007.
- (2) I am advised that it would be an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources to provide this information.
- (3) The only relevant consideration in the issuing of a red light infringement is whether the vehicle in question has entered the intersection after the light (in this case, a turn arrow) has turned red.
- (4) See question (3) above. No fine is issued where a vehicle enters an intersection before the relevant light turns red, therefore the physical characteristics of the intersection are not relevant.
- (5) The number of infringements issued by each fixed digital camera across the network vary according to differing traffic flows, conditions and driver behaviour.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham — traffic lights

474. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to the traffic lights at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road and the Nepean Highway and Karen Street —

- (1) When was the red light right turn arrow camera installed.
- (2) What are the various timing allowances for the green, amber and red arrows between 1 June 2007 and 5 September 2007, detailing any adjustments made to the time allowed for the operation of the amber arrow.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) The Fixed Digital Safety Camera became operational on 5 February 2007.
- (2) Timing allowances for green, amber and red arrows are matters that are administered by VicRoads.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — red light camera

509. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — on 19 March 2007, how many infringement notices were issued to south bound vehicles turning right from the Nepean Highway in a westerly direction down Bay Road.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable diversion of the Department’s resources to provide this information.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — traffic accidents

511. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to traffic making a right hand turn from the Nepean Highway in a westerly direction down Bay Road — how many accidents were reported for right turning vehicles colliding with Nepean Highway north bound vehicles in —

- (1) 2002–03.
- (2) 2003–04.
- (3) 2004–05.
- (4) 2005–06.
- (5) 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Victoria Police has provided data which indicates the number of reported collisions, from 2002-2007 on an annual basis, of vehicles making a right hand turn from Nepean Highway west into Bay Road colliding with vehicles travelling north on Nepean Highway. The data is outlined in the table below:

- 2002–2003: 6
- 2003–2004: 4
- 2004–2005: 4
- 2005–2006: 4
- 2006–2007: 1.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham —traffic accidents

512. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to traffic making a right hand turn from Karen Street in a northerly direction along the Nepean Highway — how many accidents were reported for right turning vehicles colliding with Bay Road to Karen Street east bound vehicles in —

- (1) 2002–03.
- (2) 2003–04.
- (3) 2004–05.
- (4) 2005–06.
- (5) 2006–07.

ANSWER:

The Honourable the Minister for Police & Emergency Services: I am advised that:

Victoria Police has provided data which indicates the number of reported collisions, from 2002–2007 on an annual basis, of vehicles making a right hand turn from Karen Street to travel north along Nepean Highway and colliding with vehicles travelling east from Bay Road. The data is outlined in the table below:

- 2002–2003: 3
- 2003–2004: 8
- 2004–2005: 2
- 2005–2006: 2
- 2006–2007: 1.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham — red light cameras

519. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to infringement notices issued to motorists making right hand turns at the intersection of the Nepean Highway and Bay Road, and the Nepean Highway and Karen Street —

- (1) Between the date the cameras were installed and 9 October 2007 —
 - (a) how many motorists have received infringement notices;
 - (b) how much revenue in infringements has been paid to the Government.
- (2) How many motorists have applied to Civic Compliance for internal reviews of infringement notices.
- (3) How many motorists have been successful in obtaining internal reviews of infringement notices.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable diversion of the Department’s resources to provide this information.

Police and emergency services: public transport — crime

538(a). Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services —

With reference to arson, property damage, burglary (aggravated), burglary (other), theft of motor vehicle, theft from motor vehicle, theft of bicycle, theft (other), deception, handling of stolen goods, drugs (cultivate, manufacture or traffic), drugs (possession or use), going equipped to steal, regulated public order, justice procedures, weapons or explosives, harassment, behaviour in public, family incidents, homicide, rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault and abduction or kidnapping offences between 1 July and 30 September 2007 —

- (1) How many of each offence occurred —
 - (a) on public transport vehicles;
 - (b) at railway stations;
 - (c) at tram stops;
 - (d) at bus stops;
 - (e) on land such as commuter car parks owned by VicTrack, the Department of Infrastructure or other public transport stakeholders.

- (2) How many offenders in each offence category were alleged to have been committed by persons aged —
- (a) under 18;
 - (b) 18 to 59;
 - (c) 60 plus.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Since coming to office, the State Government has increased the number of police by over 1,400. With the increase in the number of front line police in every policing area across the state, the capacity of operational members to assist with incidents that take place on the transit system has increased.

The Government's additional support for Victoria Police is showing good results. Victoria's overall crime rate has fallen 23.5 per cent since 2000-01 and the crime rate for offences on public transport has fallen by 30.8 per cent.

Public transport: trains and trams — window damage

755. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) Where does —
- (a) Yarra Trams source each type of window or door glass used;
 - (b) Connex source each type of window or door glass used;
 - (c) V/Line source each type of window or door glass used.
- (2) What is the name and address of each supplier of door and window glass to —
- (a) Yarra Trams;
 - (b) Connex;
 - (c) V/Line.

ANSWER:

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

- (1-2) The train and tram fleets meet Australian Standard AS/NZS 2080—safety glazing for land vehicles.

Women's affairs: refuges

828. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs —

- (1) What are the details of any proposals to regulate or take over the management and operation of women's refuges currently operated by not for profit organisations.
- (2) What are the details of any plans or recommendations to register and centralise the operation of women's refuges.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

I am informed that these questions should be directed to the Minister for Housing.

Community services: disability services — respite care

839. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$3.5 million worth of funding for disability support carers and the \$3.5 million for respite care promised on 10 December 1999 —

- (1) How much of the funding for disability support carers was expended over the period until the end of 2004.
- (2) How much of the funding for respite care was expended over the period until the end of 2004.
- (3) How was the use of the funding evaluated.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for the relevant financial years. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1)
- (3) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation undertaken by the Department.

Community services: disability services — funding

851. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$6.2 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget for demand growth within disability services —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2000–01.
- (2) How was the use of the funds evaluated.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation undertaken by the Department.

Community services: community-based accommodation and support services

852. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$2.5 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget for community based accommodation and support services — in 2000–01 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended.
- (2) How many extra clients received supported accommodation as a result of the funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1).

Community services: Kew Residential Services

853. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$2.9 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget to redevelop Kew Residential Services — in 2000–01 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended.
- (2) How many Kew residents received upgraded accommodation as a result of the funds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) The funding provided to KRS in 2000-01 was to initiate the redevelopment of the site for the relocation of residents into community based accommodation.

Community services: disability services — funding

854. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget to assist parents of children with disabilities — in 2000–01 —

- (1) How much of the funding was provided via the Early Choices program.
- (2) How much of the funding was provided via the Making a Difference program.
- (3) How many extra flexible care packages were provided to children exiting the Early Choices program and transferring to the Making a Difference program.
- (4) How many extra flexible funding packages under the Making a Difference program were provided to parents caring for children and adolescents with challenging behaviours.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1).
- (3) Refer to Question (1).
- (4) Refer to Question (1).

Community services: disability services — home care program

855. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$5 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget for the Home Care Program — in 2000–01 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended.
- (2) How many people with disabilities were able to stay in their homes and communities because of the funds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1).

Community services: disability services — respite care

856. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget for respite care — in 2000–01 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended.
- (2) How many extra episodes of respite care were provided with the funds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1).

Community services: disability services — aids and equipment program

857. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget to expand the aids and equipment program —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2000–01.
- (2) How many families with young children were provided assistance electronic communication devices by way of a \$3,000 government contribution.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1).

Community services: carers — support funding

858. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget to provide support for carers — in 2000–01 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended.
- (2) How many families benefited from the funds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1).

Community services: disability services — community residential units

859. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$15 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget for new community residential units (CRUs) —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2000–01.
- (2) How many new CRUs were online, because of the funding by the end of —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2002–03.
- (3) How many new beds were available, because of the funding by the end of —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2002–03.
- (4) How much of the funding was provided by the end of 2002–03.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Reports for 2000-01 and 2002-03. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1)
- (3) Refer to Question (1)
- (4) Refer to Question (1)

Community services: disability services — priority housing

860. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$7 million worth of funding promised in the 2000–01 budget for priority housing for people with a disability —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2000–01.
- (2) How many extra accommodation places became available by the end of 2000–01 because of the funds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) Refer to Question (1).

Community services: brain injury support services

865. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$800,000 worth of funding promised on 20 September 2000 for brain injury support services —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2000–01.
- (2) How much of the funding was provided by the end of 2002–03.
- (3) How was the use of the funds evaluated.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2002-03. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (3) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation undertaken by the Department.

Community services: Grampians rural access initiative

866. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$330,000 worth of funding promised on 28 September 2000 for the Grampians Rural Access initiative —

- (1) How many Rural Access workers were employed with the funds in 2000–01.
- (2) By what date were four Rural Access workers employed with the funds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

With reference to the \$330,000 worth of funding promised on 28 September 2000 for the Grampians Rural Access initiative —

- (1) Four RuralAccess workers were employed in the Grampians Region with 2000/01 funds.
- (2) The four RuralAccess workers were employed by September 2000.

Community services: disability services — speech and communication therapy

867. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$3 million worth of funding promised on 9 November 2000 for speech and communication therapy —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2000–01.
- (2) How was the use of the funding evaluated.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2000-01. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation undertaken by the Department.

Community services: disability services — purpose-built accommodation

875. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to purpose built accommodation in Clarendon Street in Thornbury —

- (1) What is the total number of beds in this facility.
- (2) How many beds are available for respite care.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are 20 beds at Clarendon Street, Thornbury.
- (2) Ten beds are available for respite.

Community services: Disability Act 2006

894. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — which policies and guidelines have been developed to support the *Disability Act 2006*.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the policies and guidelines developed to support the implementation of the Disability Act 2006 are:

- Access Policy
- Access Policy Implementation Guide
- Guidelines for setting and collection of residential charges
 - Community Service Organisations
- Planning Policy
- Planning Resource Kit and Implementation Guide
- Policy and Information Manual
- Registration of Disability Service Providers
 - Policy Statement
- Residential Treatment Facilities Implementation Guide

- Restrictive Interventions Implementation Guide
- Rights and Accountability: Management of Money Policy
- Strengthening Rights in Residential Service Policy
- Supervised Treatment Orders Implementation Guide

Community services: disability services — respite care

898. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the Disability Services quarterly data collection for 2006–07 — how many carers in the age group of 65 years and above benefited from the respite funding provided by the bilateral agreement under the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement for respite for ageing parent carers.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Victoria does not disaggregate reporting on carers assisted under the Bilateral Agreement for Older Parent Carers by funding source. The information requested is therefore not a standard data set reported by the Disability Services Division.

Community services: commonwealth state/territory disability agreement

899. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to funding from the Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement —

- (1) What funds did the Government receive in 2006–07.
- (2) What funds did the Government contribute to meet its responsibilities under the Agreement in 2006–07.
- (3) What funds does the Government expect to receive in 2007–08.
- (4) What funds does the Government expect to contribute to meet its responsibilities in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Victorian Government received \$139.6M from the Commonwealth under the Agreement in 2006–07.
- (2) The Victorian Government contributed \$1041.5M to meet its responsibilities under the Agreement in 2006–07.
- (3) The Victorian Government expects to receive \$142.9M from the Commonwealth under the Agreement in 2007–08.
- (4) The Victorian Government expects to contribute \$1081.0M to meet its responsibilities under the Agreement in 2007–08.

Consumer affairs: real estate agents — licences

903. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs — with reference to the real estate registration process under mutual recognition allowing interstate agents to obtain an estate agents licence by undertaking a five day course without an obligation to undertake studies on the requirements of the Estate Agents Act 1980 —

- (1) What steps has the Minister taken to ensure the integrity of the real estate industry.

- (2) What steps is the Minister taking to ensure that persons with the responsibility of handling trust moneys have met basic education requirements.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) The *Estate Agents Act 1980* (the Act) comprises a package of measures which promote standards in the estate agency industry with respect to the conduct of agents and their dealing with consumers. All estate agents, regardless of whether or not their licences were obtained through mutual recognition, are monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure their compliance with the Act and its accompanying regulations. Punitive action is taken, where appropriate, to discipline agents and to stop unlawful practices.
- (2) The Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act does not allow jurisdiction licensing authorities to impose further testing or qualifications requirements on mutual recognition applicants.

However, with respect to trust moneys, there is common ground between the regulatory requirements in all jurisdictions. While there may be some differences in the procedural detail, the principles are the same. Furthermore, a knowledge of trust money regulation is a mandatory component of licensing training in all jurisdictions. This means that regardless of the jurisdiction in which a mutual recognition applicant undertook their licensing course or the nature of the course, including the 'fast track' courses available in New South Wales, they have been assessed as being competent in the trust money concepts that underpin the Victorian Act.

If issues were to arise that jeopardised the security of trust moneys, consumers would be protected by a statutory fidelity fund established under the Act and known as the Victorian Property Fund. Therefore, additional measures with respect to licences issued under mutual recognition are not considered necessary at this time.

Attorney-General: Moorabbin justice centre

- 904.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Attorney-General — with reference to the naming of the new court house in Highett as the Moorabbin Justice Centre — are there plans to change the name of the centre to the Highett Justice Centre or the Kingston Justice Centre to avoid confusion with the Moorabbin Police Station.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Moorabbin Justice Centre accommodates a number of Justice entities:

- The Moorabbin Law Courts consisting of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria, the Children's Court and the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
- Community Correctional Services
- The Sheriff's Office, and
- Police Prosecutors, who are temporarily located within the building until a new police station is built adjacent.

The name Moorabbin has a high profile in the area and the Moorabbin Justice Centre better reflects the broader region over which it has jurisdiction.

The Moorabbin Justice Centre sign on the Nepean Highway is 3.0 metres high and very prominent. The community will quickly become accustomed to its location.

The terms Moorabbin Justice Centre and Moorabbin Police Station are sufficiently dissimilar not to require a name change.

Water: Snowy River — natural flows

909. Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Water — in 2007, what was the estimated annual water flow in the Snowy River immediately downstream of its confluence with the Mowamba River and what proportion of estimated natural flows did this represent.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In the 2007/08 water year (1 May 2007 until 30 April 2008) Snowy Hydro Limited expects the annual flow in the Snowy River immediately below its confluence with the Mowamba River to be 42.1 gigalitres. This is estimated to be 4% of the long-term average natural flow at this point.

Environment and climate change: alpine accommodation — former minister

911. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change — with reference to Mr John Thwaites' use of alpine accommodation in State and National Parks —

- (1) What was the total number of occasions and the total number of days Mr Thwaites stayed free of charge in any State or National Park region, 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 Mr Thwaites 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 Mr Thwaites stay free of charge in accommodation in State and National Park regions with staff in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005;
 - (d) 2006;
 - (e) 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Parks Victoria does not provide roofed accommodation in any alpine national or alpine state park in Victoria.

Parks Victoria does own a small 'flat' at Mt Buffalo. This property is occasionally made available to contractors or Parks Victoria staff who are at Buffalo in a work capacity, but is not commercially available. John Thwaites has never stayed at this property.

The Mount Buffalo Chalet and Lodge are located within Parks Victoria managed land, however these facilities are leased to private operators who offered accommodation during the time John Thwaites was Minister for the Environment and Climate Change.

As this accommodation was run privately, Parks Victoria does not have access to the information sought regarding the Mount Buffalo Chalet and Lodge; Parks Victoria does not keep, nor is it able to access, records of stays at these two properties.

Corrections: Landmark Education Corporation

913(i). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Corrections with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister’s department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

In relation to my portfolio responsibilities:

- (1) None.
- (2) No.

Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: Landmark Education Corporation

913(o). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Traffic Accident Commission with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister’s department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Treasury and Finance has not paid for any courses conducted by the Landmark Education Corporation.

Treasurer: Landmark Education Corporation

913(p). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Traffic Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister’s department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Treasury and Finance continues to provide training opportunities to employees from a number of credited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation was not one of the credited training organisations departmental staff attended.

Major projects: Landmark Education Corporation

913(z). **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport for the Minister for Major Projects with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) No staff from the Minister's department have attended courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation.
- (2) No Department of Infrastructure funds have been paid for courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation.

Community services: juvenile justice — funding

931. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to \$300,000 worth of funding for juvenile justice group conferencing promised in the 2000–01 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2001–02.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) All of the allocated funding was expended.
- (2) Yes, the results were positive.

Police and emergency services: police — leave

952. **Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to Knox Police Station, Boronia Police Station and Rowville Police Station — will a relieving police officer be made available to each station when an officer is absent from duties for an extended period of time due to —

- (1) Maternity leave.
- (2) Sick leave.
- (3) Annual leave.
- (4) Long service leave.
- (5) Injury leave.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The level of policing across Victoria is continuously monitored by the Regional Command Officers, with a view to maintaining optimum policing effectiveness. Decisions on the placement of police throughout the state are operational matters and are made by police command on the basis of assessed need. It is important that this process is not subject to political interference.

The Brumby Government is committed to providing safe streets and homes for all Victorians by ensuring Victoria Police are highly professional and well resourced.

Since coming to office, the State Government has increased the number of police by over 1,400. Further, we have increased funding to Victoria Police to a record budget of more than \$1.75 billion in 2008–09, and funded the construction and refurbishment of over 150 police stations across the state.

The Government's additional support to Victoria Police is showing good results. Victoria's crime rate has fallen 23.5 per cent since 2000-01, with Victoria now having the lowest crime rate in Australia.

However, the fight against crime is ongoing. That is why at the last election the Government committed to a further increase of 350 sworn police by 2010, as well as an additional 50 forensic and specialist investigators. In addition to this, the Government committed to providing additional resources and equipment to assist police in their work, including an extra 100 police cars.

I am also advised that Victoria Police deploys first response police across its 56 Police Service Areas using a sophisticated resource allocation model incorporating 12 characteristics of the local community that are used to predict levels of crime and road trauma; the population of an area is just one of these. Victoria Police uses this model to ensure that police resources are distributed equitably and according to demonstrated operational need. It should be noted that, since 1999, the number of first response officers has increased in all police regions across Victoria.

Small business: fair payments policy

956. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Small Business under the Government's Fair Payments Policy, which Government agencies are required to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government's Fair Payment Policy applies to all Victorian departments and 107 major and significant government agencies across a range of portfolios, including all TAFEs and regional water authorities.

Attorney-General: fair payments policy

958(d). Ms ASHER to ask the Attorney-General with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

A search of the Department of Justice's financial system has shown that no payments for penalty interest have been made by the department since the introduction of the Government's Fair Payments Policy in 2002.

Environment and climate change: fair payments policy

958(e). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Community and Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) the Department of Sustainability and Environment has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy since the 2002 election result;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

Corrections: fair payments policy

958(h). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Corrections with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Questions relating to the Department of Justice as a whole are the responsibility of the Attorney-General.

Police and emergency services: fair payments policy

958(q). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.

- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Questions relating to the Department of Justice as a whole are the responsibility of the Attorney-General.

Major projects: fair payments policy

958(s). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Public Transport for the Minister for Major Projects with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

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

The Department of Infrastructure, for the period in question has not paid any penalties or interest resulting from the late payment of supplier or vendor invoices under the terms and conditions of the Fair Payment Policy.

Racing: fair payments policy

958(t). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Racing with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

I refer you to my response to Question on Notice 958d, in my capacity as lead minister for the Department of Justice.

Industry and trade: fair payments policy

958(v). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is committed to promoting a fair and competitive environment for small to medium sized businesses. To improve the cash flow certainty for these businesses, the Government introduced the 'fair payment clause' for contracts.

From 1 November 2004, Government Departments are required to pay suppliers within 30 days upon receipt of correctly rendered invoice (or within any other payment period as agreed between the Department and the supplier, which may be shorter). This policy applies to new contracts for goods and services valued less than \$3 million.

If an invoice is not paid within 30 days from the date of receipt (or other payment period), and there is no dispute regarding the invoice or the provision of goods and services, the supplier may make a claim for penalty interest on the outstanding debt.

The Department has not received any application for penalty interest payment in relation to the fair payments policy.

Accordingly no penalty interest payments have been made.

Information and communication technology: fair payments policy

958(w). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Information and Communication Technology with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is committed to promoting a fair and competitive environment for small to medium sized businesses. To improve the cash flow certainty for these businesses, the Government introduced the 'fair payment clause' for contracts.

From 1 November 2004, Government Departments are required to pay suppliers within 30 days upon receipt of correctly rendered invoice (or within any other payment period as agreed between the Department and the supplier, which may be shorter). This policy applies to new contracts for goods and services valued less than \$3 million.

If an invoice is not paid within 30 days from the date of receipt (or other payment period), and there is no dispute regarding the invoice or the provision of goods and services, the supplier may make a claim for penalty interest on the outstanding debt.

The Department has not received any application for penalty interest payment in relation to the fair payments policy.

Accordingly no penalty interest payments have been made.

Tourism and major events: fair payments policy

958(aa). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Tourism and Major Events with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has not received any application for penalty interest payment in relation to the Fair Payments policy.

Accordingly no penalty interest payments have been made.

Water: fair payments policy

958(ab). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) the Department of Sustainability and Environment has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy since the 2002 election result;

- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

Environment and climate change: VicForests — initiatives and targets

967. Mr RYAN to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004* s 12, requiring VicForests to develop initiatives, and targets for those initiatives, which respond to the objectives set out in the Sustainability Charter for Victoria’s state forests, and include in its annual report a report on the status, performance or achievement of the initiatives and targets —

- (1) What initiatives and targets have been established by VicForests in relation to Objectives two and six of the Charter.
- (2) Why does the VicForests annual report not include a description of initiatives and targets or any information regarding their status, performance or achievement.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

While the Sustainability Charter falls under my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Environment and Climate Change, this question should more appropriately be asked of the Treasurer, who holds responsibility for the actions and performance of VicForests.

Environment and climate change: Lake Mokoan — future

970. Dr SYKES to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change has the Minister accepted the Lake Mokoan Future Land Use Committee’s recommendations regarding the future use of the land now set aside for the Lake in the event it is fully decommissioned.

ANSWER:

On 14 December 2007, the Minister for Water reaffirmed the Government’s decision to decommission Lake Mokoan. The Government is committed to the rehabilitation of the Winton Wetlands which is a project of national and international significance. The Department of Sustainability and Environment will be advising myself and the Minister for Water on the Future Land Use Strategy and funding aspects. There will be an announcement in the near future.

Community services: Fawkner health and community service centre

973. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$368,000 worth of funding for a new health and community service centre in Fawkner announced on 9 May 2001 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Community Development.

Community services: Wodonga community centre

976. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$388,000 worth of funding for the development of a new community centre in Wodonga West announced on 2 November 2001 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Community Development.

Community services: integrated abuse service

977. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$580,000 worth of funding for an integrated service for young people who have suffered abuse in Melbourne's inner south announced on 5 March 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. The entire allocation of \$580,000 was expended by 30 June 2004.
2. No.

Community services: vulnerable families — support

979. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$3.7 million worth of funding for six local government-based and two Koori innovation projects for supporting vulnerable families promised in the 2002–03 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2002–03.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The entire allocation of \$3.7M was expended in 2002–03.
- (2) Yes. The evaluation report is available on the Department of Human Services' website.

Community services: Aboriginal protocol — funding

981. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$600,000 worth of funding to support implementation of the Aboriginal protocol promised in the 2002–03 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2002–03.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The entire allocation of \$600,000 was expended in 2002-03.
- (2) Yes. As a result services have been further strengthened and expanded.

Community services: child protection — funding

982. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$4.2 million worth of funding for additional child protection workers promised in the 2002-03 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2002-03.
- (2) How many additional child protection workers were employed in 2002-03 as a result of the funding.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The entire allocation of \$4.2M was expended in 2002-03.
- (2) It is not possible to attribute the specific recruitment of child protection workers to this specific allocation.
- (3) No.

Community services: child protection — funding

984. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$300,000 worth of funding for child protection service improvements promised in the 2002-03 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 200-03.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The entire allocation of \$300,000 was expended in 2002-03.
- (2) No

Senior Victorians: dementia management in hospitals program

1001. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Dementia Management in Hospitals program —

- (1) Which Health Services will be funded to implement the program.
- (2) Of the Health Services funded to implement the program —
 - (a) which have implemented the program to date and on what date was the program implemented;
 - (b) which health services have not yet implemented the program and what is the expected date of implementation.

- (3) What is the estimated cost of the roll out.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Dementia Management in Hospitals Program has been introduced and implemented in 16 Health Services:

- Barwon Health
- Box Hill Hospital
- Broadmeadows Health Service
- Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital
- Maryborough District Health Service
- Mt Alexander Hospital
- Mt Eliza Centre
- Northeast Health Wangaratta
- Royal Melbourne Hospital
- St Vincent's Health
- Sunshine Hospital
- Swan Hill District Hospital
- Werribee Mercy Hospital
- Western District Health Service
- Wimmera Health Care Group
- Wodonga Regional Health Service

- (2) Of the 16 Health Services funded to implement the program —

- (a) Seven Health Services implemented the program in December 2005:

- Barwon Health
- Broadmeadows Health Service
- Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital
- Mt Eliza Centre
- Northeast Health Wangaratta
- Royal Melbourne Hospital
- St Vincent's Health

Nine Health Services implemented the program in August 2007:

- Box Hill Hospital
- Maryborough District Health Service
- Mt Alexander Hospital
- Sunshine Hospital
- Swan Hill Hospital
- Werribee Mercy Hospital
- Western District Health Service
- Wimmera Health Care Group
- Wodonga Regional Health Service

- (b) All Health Services funded to implement the program have done so.

- (3) \$245,856 has funded the delivery of the training required for the 16 Health Services to implement the program.

Energy and resources: Crown land — Kilsyth

- 1044(d).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources with reference to Crown-owned land relating to the Minister's portfolio in the electorate of Kilsyth —
- (1) What is the description of and addresses (where available) of the land.
 - (2) Does the Government intend to sell any of the land or acquire any new land in the electorate.

ANSWER:

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

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) does not utilise any Crown Land in the electorate of Kilsyth. DPI does not currently have any intention to acquire new land in the electorate of Kilsyth.