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(HANSARD)**

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**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**24 and 25 June 2008**

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# CONTENTS

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TUESDAY, 24 JUNE 2008

145(o).	Tourism and major events: ministerial training.....	2663	975.	Community services: counselling services.....	2677
249(h).	Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd .....	2663	986.	Community services: community and home-based support services .....	2678
250(j).	Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: Growth Solutions Group.....	2664	987.	Community services: Futures for Young Adults program.....	2678
250(p).	Information and communication technology: Growth Solutions Group.....	2665	988.	Community services: shared supported accommodation .....	2678
382.	Public transport: Southern Cross Station Authority.....	2666	990.	Community services: Kew Residential Services.....	2679
617.	Public transport: myki ticketing system .....	2666	991.	Community services: Forgotten Australians report .....	2679
759.	Public transport: rail — Richmond station.....	2667	999.	Senior Victorians: support for carers program.....	2679
760.	Public transport: rail — Richmond station.....	2667	1002.	Senior Victorians: social support and respite services .....	2680
769.	Public transport: public transport — farebox revenue .....	2669	1004.	Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services.....	2680
776.	Public transport: train drivers .....	2669	1005.	Senior Victorians: national reciprocal transport scheme .....	2680
779.	Public transport: rail — Ferntree Gully Station .....	2670	1008.	Senior Victorians: carers reward card.....	2681
780.	Public transport: Wellington Village Shopping Centre — bus stops .....	2671	1009.	Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services.....	2681
782.	Public transport: myki ticketing system .....	2671	1010.	Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services.....	2681
821.	Public transport: toll-free telephone complaint lines.....	2672	1011.	Mental health: pharmacotherapy program.....	2682
822.	Public transport: toll-free telephone complaint lines.....	2673	1012.	Mental health: pharmacotherapy program.....	2682
824.	Public transport: rail — Frankston line .....	2673	1013.	Mental health: service agencies .....	2682
838.	Public transport: seniors card holders .....	2673	1016.	Community services: aids and equipment .....	2683
861.	Community services: Koori aged-care services.....	2674	1017.	Community services: community-based mental health services.....	2683
869.	Public transport: bus route 203 — service standards.....	2674	1018.	Community services: supported accommodation .....	2683
870.	Public transport: bus route 205 — service standards.....	2675	1019.	Community services: supported accommodation .....	2684
895.	Community services: Office of the Disability Services Commissioner and Disability Services Board.....	2675	1020.	Community services: disability services — benchmarks.....	2684
897.	Community services: supported accommodation .....	2675	1021.	Community services: disability services — data collection .....	2684
913(n).	Energy and resources: Landmark Education Corporation .....	2675	1022.	Community services: disability services — standard chart of accounts.....	2685
913(w).	Multicultural affairs: Landmark Education Corporation .....	2676	1023.	Community services: disability services — pricing principles.....	2685
913(y).	Public transport: Landmark Education Corporation .....	2676	1024.	Community services: disability services — funding .....	2685
939.	Community services: Stella Anderson Nursing Home.....	2676	1025.	Community services: disability services — funding .....	2685
958(r).	Public transport: fair payments policy.....	2677	1026.	Community services: disability services — funding .....	2686
974.	Community services: Villamanta Legal Service.....	2677			

# CONTENTS

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1027.	<i>Community services: disability services — workforce planning strategy.....</i>	2686
1028.	<i>Community services: disability services — funding.....</i>	2686
1029.	<i>Mental health: Austin Hospital — child and adolescent mental health unit.....</i>	2686
1031.	<i>Mental health: Dandenong Hospital — mental health inpatient beds.....</i>	2687
1041.	<i>Mental health: foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.....</i>	2687
1042.	<i>Mental health: foetal alcohol spectrum disorder.....</i>	2687
1043.	<i>Public transport: bus shelter vandalism ....</i>	2688
1051.	<i>Public transport: rail — Croydon station.....</i>	2688
1062.	<i>Senior Victorians: residential aged-care services .....</i>	2688
1063.	<i>Senior Victorians: hospital to home transition care.....</i>	2689
1064.	<i>Senior Victorians: small and isolated communities .....</i>	2689
1065.	<i>Senior Victorians: rural community buses.....</i>	2689
1066.	<i>Senior Victorians: aged-care strategic plan.....</i>	2690
1067.	<i>Senior Victorians: home and community care program .....</i>	2690
1068.	<i>Senior Victorians: home and community care program .....</i>	2690
1069.	<i>Senior Victorians: home and community care program funding .....</i>	2690
1070.	<i>Senior Victorians: carer consultant program .....</i>	2691
1071.	<i>Senior Victorians: family sensitive training program funding.....</i>	2691
1072.	<i>Senior Victorians: community aged-care packages .....</i>	2691
1073.	<i>Senior Victorians: day program waiting list.....</i>	2692
1076.	<i>Public transport: vehicle registration concessions .....</i>	2692
1087.	<i>Public transport: country wheelchair-accessible subsidy scheme.....</i>	2692
1117(d).	<i>Energy and resources: Crown land — Warrandyte .....</i>	2693
1111.	<i>Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — traffic infringements .....</i>	2693
1123.	<i>Housing: emergency housing .....</i>	2693
1129.	<i>Public transport: rail — Mooroolbark–Lilydale line .....</i>	2694
1143.	<i>Health: chronic fatigue syndrome.....</i>	2694

## WEDNESDAY, 25 JUNE 2008

1138.	<i>Health: Wodonga ambulance station.....</i>	2695
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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, 24 June 2008**

**Tourism and major events: ministerial training**

**145(o).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Major Events with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

- (1) What training has the Minister 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 informed as follows:

I did not receive media presentation, communications or public presentation training in 2006-07.

**Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd**

**249(h).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission 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:

**Finance:**

- (1) Between 1 January 2000 and 17 July 2007 the Department of Treasury and Finance entered into three contracts with Shannon’s Way:
  - (a) Radio campaign, “Think Before You Gamble” (June 2001);
  - (b) Printed materials supporting the “Going Forward” common law campaign (July 2000); and
  - (c) Support in relation to the “Think Before You Gamble” campaign (Oct 2002)
- (2) The value of the contracts was as follows: a) \$14,687; b)\$35,583; c) \$1,895. The total expenditure was \$52,165.

- (3) There were no contract extensions, variations or renewals against any of the contracts.
- (4) None of the contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) The contracts were of a value that did not require public tender.

**WorkCover:**

- (1) Between 1 January 2000 and 17 July 2007 the Victorian WorkCover Authority (VWA) entered into one contract with Shannon's Way. In 2004 it also appointed Shannon's Way to a Marketing Services Supply panel.
  - (a) The contract was for the supply of advertising services in 2001; and
  - (b) In 2004 the VWA conducted a public tender to appoint a Marketing Services Supply Panel to assist in the production and implementation of communications services, including marketing, market research, merchandising, printing and advertising campaigns. Shannon's Way was appointed to this Panel.
- (2) The total amount paid between 1 July 2000 and 31 December 2004 in relation to the 2001 contract was \$11,282,468.72. The costs of the Panel arrangements established in 2004 are ongoing; however from 1 January 2005 to 30 June 2007 \$5,819,885.78 was paid to Shannon's Way.
- (3) The Board of the VWA has exercised their option to extend the Panel arrangement for two years effective 1 January 2008.
- (4) The appointment of Shannon's Way in 2001 and the appointment of firms to the VWA's Marketing Services Supply Panel in 2004 were both the result of a public tender.
- (5) Not applicable.

**Transport Accident Commission (TAC):**

- (1) Between 1 January 2000 and 17 July 2007, no contracts were entered into with Shannon's Way.

**Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: Growth Solutions Group**

**250(j).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission 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:

**Finance:**

- (1) Between 1 January 2000 and 17 July 2007, the Department of Treasury and Finance entered into four contacts with Growth Solutions Group.
  - (a) Submission preparation (December 2001);
  - (b) Partnerships Victoria Review (February 2004);

- (c) Communications workshop (August 2006); and
  - (d) Conference fees (August 2005, March 2006 and August 2006).
- (2) The value on the contracts were as follows: (a) \$20,909; (b) \$115,228; (c) \$2,000; (d) \$4,800.
  - (3) There were no extensions, variations or renewals against any of the contracts.
  - (4) None of the contracts were offered for public tender.
  - (5) The Partnerships Victoria Review was exempted from public tender pursuant to Victorian Government Purchasing Board guidelines and on the basis it was impracticable to go to public tender due to the need to complete the review in a timely manner. The other contracts were of a value that did not require a public tender.

**WorkCover:**

- (1) The VWA did not enter into any contracts with Growth Solutions Group between 1 January 2000 and 17 July 2007.

**Transport Accident Commission (TAC):**

- (1) The TAC entered into five contracts with Growth Solutions Group between 1 January 2000 and 17 July 2007:
  - (a) Communication Investment Review
  - (b) Review of the Road Safety Plan
  - (c) Tender Discussion and Contract Review
  - (d) Communications Course
  - (e) Contract Review.
- (2) The value of each contract was (a) \$130,335.42; (b) \$31,625; (c) \$19,800; (d) \$1,100; and (e) \$3,850.
- (3) There were no contract extensions, variations or renewals against any of the engagements.
- (4) Nil.
- (5) All contracts were either under \$100,000 or within the delegated authority of the CEO at the time.

**Information and communication technology: Growth Solutions Group**

**250(p).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Information and Communication Technology 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 the records for the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development are as follows:

Information on contracts entered into by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development can be found at the website [www.contracts.vic.gov.au](http://www.contracts.vic.gov.au).

**Public transport: Southern Cross Station Authority**

**382.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the provision of facilities for tenants at Southern Cross Station —

- (1) Does the Southern Cross Station Authority monitor the provision of facilities.
- (2) On what date were the portable buildings in the Spencer Street coach station, currently used by Firefly Express and Greyhound Australia, installed.
- (3) Is the Southern Cross Station Authority or its lessee, Southern Cross Station Pty Ltd, responsible for building permanent facilities for Firefly Express and Greyhound Australia similar to that already provided to Skybus staff.
- (4) What is the anticipated cost of permanent buildings at the coach station for —
  - (a) Firefly Express;
  - (b) Greyhound Australia.
- (5) Will permanent facilities for Firefly Express and Greyhound Australia be constructed at the coach station; if so, when.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The role of the Southern Cross Station Authority (SCSA) is to monitor the operational performance, in particular the Service Standards and Key Performance Indicators, of the station operator Southern Cross Station Pty Ltd as outlined under the Services & Development Agreement between the parties.

The Services & Development Agreement does not deal with the provision of leased facilities at Southern Cross Station as it is viewed as a commercial arrangement between the station operator and their current and/or prospective tenants.

- (2) The SCSA understands from SCSPL that the portable buildings were installed in August 2006.
- (3) As the station operator SCSPL could provide facilities for Firefly Express and Greyhound Australia subject to the necessary commercial arrangements being in place. The type and standard of any such facility would be negotiated as part of the commercial arrangement.
- (4) The financial arrangements surrounding the provision facilities at Southern Cross Station would be negotiated as part of any commercial arrangement.
- (5) The time frame for the possible provision of facilities for Firefly Express and Greyhound Australia at Southern Cross Station would be negotiated as part of any commercial arrangement. The SCSA understands from SCSPL that they are currently planning the upgrade of these facilities in the Bus Interchange Facility.

**Public transport: myki ticketing system**

**617.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the proposed public transport user trial of myki ticketing scanners installed on a Benders Busways Geelong bus —

- (1) When will the proposed trial commence.
- (2) What was the cost of installing the scanners on the bus.
- (3) What date was the equipment installed.



- (4) When will similar trials commence —
  - (a) on Ballarat buses;
  - (b) on Bendigo buses;
  - (c) on Latrobe Valley Buses;
  - (d) onboard V/Line Trains;
  - (e) in metropolitan Melbourne.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1-3) Benders Busways is not taking part in the trial in Geelong, which is testing a number of devices including ticketing scanners.
- (4) Trials are not required on all regional bus lines. The trial will be conducted initially on McHarry's Buslines in Geelong with other modes of transport to follow.

**Public transport: rail — Richmond station**

**759.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — have any studies into improving passenger flows at Richmond Station been conducted by the Department of Infrastructure, the Office of Major Projects, Metlink or Connex Melbourne since 1 January 2006; if so —

- (1) Who conducted the studies and for which agency.
- (2) At what cost was each study conducted.
- (3) When was each study conducted.
- (4) What options were proposed in the studies.
- (5) What was the estimated cost of each proposal put forward.
- (6) Have any proposals been put forward to roof the open areas of the station's five island platforms; if so —
  - (a) what is the estimated cost;
  - (b) on what date was the estimate cost of the proposal made.
- (7) Have any proposals been put forward to roof the station in its entirety; if so —
  - (a) what is the estimated cost;
  - (b) on what date was the estimated cost of the proposal made.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1 - 5) No studies into improving passenger flows at Richmond Station have been conducted by the Department of Infrastructure, Major Projects Victoria, Metlink or Connex Melbourne since 1 January 2006.
- (6 & 7) No proposals to cover the open areas of Richmond Station or the entire Station have been received by the Department of Infrastructure, Major Projects Victoria, Metlink or Connex Melbourne since 1 January 2006.

**Public transport: rail — Richmond station**

**760.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to strengthening or other remedial work at Richmond Station —

- (1) Are the —
  - (a) buildings over Hoddle Street structurally sound;
  - (b) platforms over Hoddle Street structurally sound;
  - (c) bridges over Hoddle Street structurally sound;
  - (d) bridges over Swan Street structurally sound.
  
- (2) What is the asset life expectancy of the —
  - (a) buildings over Hoddle Street;
  - (b) platforms over Hoddle Street;
  - (c) bridges over Hoddle Street;
  - (d) bridges over Swan Street.
  
- (3) Are strengthening or other remedial works considered necessary in the next five years; if so —
  - (a) what is the estimated cost for work to —
    - (i) buildings over Hoddle Street;
    - (ii) platforms over Hoddle Street;
    - (iii) bridges over Hoddle Street;
    - (iv) bridges over Swan Street;
  - (b) will the work involve partial or complete closures of either Hoddle Street, Swan Street or Punt Road; if so, over what duration.
  
- (4) Would installing a complete roof canopy over the station platforms require the station platform bridges over Hoddle Street to be strengthened; if so, at what estimated cost.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1a) There are no buildings at Richmond Station over Punt Road (Hoddle Street).
- (1b) The platforms over Punt Road are structurally sound.
- (1c&d) The bridges over Punt Road and Swan Street are structurally sound.
- (2a) There are no buildings over Punt Road (Hoddle Street)
- (2b) The original life expectancy of the platforms over Punt Road (constructed in the 1950s) was 100 years. The remaining life expectancy is approximately 40 years.
- (2c&d) The original life expectancy of the bridges over Punt Road and over Swan Street (constructed in the 1950s) was 100 years. The remaining life expectancy is approximately 40 years.
- (3a)
  - (i) There are no buildings over Punt Road (Hoddle Street).
  - (ii) No strengthening or remedial works to the platforms over Punt Road is expected to be necessary in the next five years.
  - (iii) No strengthening or remedial works to the bridges over Punt Road is expected to be necessary in the next five years.
  - (iv) Some remedial works to the bridges over Swan Street are necessary in the next five years to rehabilitate the deck joints at an estimated cost of \$500,000.
- (3b) There are no partial or complete closures required for the remedial works over Swan Street.

- (4) The structural requirements of a roof canopy over the station platforms including the need to strengthen the platform bridges over Punt Road would need to be determined and detailed design work undertaken before a cost estimate could be prepared.

**Public transport: public transport — farebox revenue**

**769.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — what was the farebox revenue collected for each of the ticket types currently sold for each of Zone 1, Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 1+2, Zone 2+3 and Zone 1+2+3 for the —

- (1) Third quarter of 2006–07.
- (2) Fourth quarter of 2006–07.
- (3) First quarter of 2007–08.
- (4) Second quarter of 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

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

As promised prior to the November 2006 election, the Government abolished Zone 3 from the 4th of March, 2007.

**Public transport: train drivers**

**776.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to each of Connex and V/Line train drivers —

- (1) As at 31 December 2007 —
  - (a) how many drivers were employed —
    - (i) full time;
    - (ii) part time;
    - (iii) casually;
  - (b) how many drivers were in training;
  - (c) how many drivers, employed or in training, were on —
    - (i) sick leave;
    - (ii) WorkCover.
- (2) Between 1 July and 31 December 2007 —
  - (a) how many drivers were paid a bonus to postpone retirement;
  - (b) how much in total was paid for driver bonus payments;
  - (c) how many trains were cancelled due to drivers being unavailable;
  - (d) how many trains were late due to drivers being unavailable.
- (3) Between 1 July and 31 December 2007, how many train drivers —
  - (a) retired due to age;
  - (b) retired due to ill health;
  - (c) resigned.
- (4) Did any train drivers who were paid a bonus to postpone retirement between 1 July and 31 December 2007 go on —
  - (a) WorkCover; if so, how many drivers and for what period;

- (b) long service leave; if so, how many drivers and for what period;
  - (c) sick leave; if so, how many drivers and for what period.
- (5) At 31 December 2007 how many train drivers were aged —
- (a) 18–21;
  - (b) 21–30;
  - (c) 31–40;
  - (d) 40–49;
  - (e) 50–59;
  - (f) 60–65;
  - (g) 66 or above.
- (6) What was the month and year of birth of the oldest driver employed at 31 December 2007 by —
- (a) V/Line;
  - (b) Connex.
- (7) How many full time train driver positions were required to operate a normal weekly roster at each company as at 31 December 2007.
- (8) Did each company have sufficient train drivers to operate their normal weekly rosters as at 31 December 2007; if not —
- (a) what was the shortage as at 31 December 2007;
  - (b) what will the projected shortage be at —
    - (i) 31 March 2008;
    - (ii) 30 June 2008.

**ANSWER:**

The answer is:

Details of V/Line employees are contained in the V/Line Annual Report.

Connex has advised that the provision of resources to provide the data that you have requested cannot be justified at this time.

**Public transport: rail — Ferntree Gully Station**

- 779.** **Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — on how many days were Connex officers present at Ferntree Gully Railway Station during afternoon peak periods in —
- (1) 2000–01;
  - (2) 2001–02;
  - (3) 2002–03;
  - (4) 2003–04;
  - (5) 2004–05;
  - (6) 2005–06;
  - (7) 2006–07;
  - (8) 2007–08 to date.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1–8) The data required to answer these questions is not held by the Department of Infrastructure. Connex has advised that the provision of resources to interrogate and export the required data cannot be justified at this time.

**Public transport: Wellington Village Shopping Centre — bus stops**

**780.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to buses stopping at the Wellington Village Shopping Centre —

- (1) Is the shopping centre considered a public transport hub or activity centre.
- (2) How many bus routes stop at the shopping centre.
- (3) How frequently do buses stop at the shopping centre —
  - (a) during weekday peak periods;
  - (b) during weekday off-peak periods;
  - (c) on Saturdays;
  - (d) on Sundays.
- (4) Are there any plans to build additional bus stops at the shopping centre.
- (5) Are there any plans to increase the number of bus routes stopping at the shopping centre.
- (6) Are there any plans to increase the frequency of buses on routes currently stopping at the shopping centre.
- (7) Are there any plans to build additional bus stops on Wellington Road between Stud Road and Napoleon Road, Rowville; if so —
  - (a) where will these additional bus stops be located;
  - (b) when will the stops become operational.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) Wellington Village Shopping Centre is not listed as an “Activity Centre” in Melbourne 2030: Planning for Sustainable Growth.
- (2) Bus Routes 681 and 682 stop in Braeburn Parade outside Wellington Village Shopping Centre.
- (3) (a-d)  
Timetable information regarding bus Routes 681 and 682 is available on the Metlink website at [www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au).
- (4) There are no plans to install more bus stops at the shopping centre.
- (5) There are no plans to increase the number of bus routes stopping at the shopping centre.
- (6) Any increase in the frequency to the existing two bus routes which stop at Wellington Village Shopping Centre may be considered when the bus service review for this area is undertaken.
- (7) There is no regular bus service on Wellington Road between Stud Road and Napoleon Road. Bus stops will be installed if a bus service is introduced in the future.

**Public transport: myki ticketing system**

**782.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to the Myki Smartcard ticketing system — what amount has been expended on —

- (1) Capital spending between —
  - (a) 1 July and 31 December 2007;
  - (b) 1 January and 31 January 2008.
- (2) Recurrent spending between —
  - (a) 1 July and 31 December 2007;
  - (b) 1 January and 31 January 2008.

**ANSWER:**

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

(1-2) Details of expenditure are reported annually in the TTA Annual Report. This can be found online at [www.doi.vic.gov.au/tta](http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/tta).

**Public transport: toll-free telephone complaint lines**

**821. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to staff receiving calls on each of the 1800 800 705 Connex, 1800 800 166 Yarra Trams, and 1800 800 120 V/Line free call lines on 5 February 2008 —

- (1) How many —
  - (a) Department of Infrastructure staff took calls;
  - (b) public transport operator staff took calls;
  - (c) other entities' staff took calls.
- (2) How many hours were worked by staff taking calls on each line.
- (3) What were the total staffing costs for each telephone line.
- (4) How many calls did each service receive where an operator recorded feedback details.
- (5) How many calls related to —
  - (a) unpunctuality;
  - (b) cancelled trains or trams;
  - (c) passenger safety;
  - (d) alleged crimes committed onboard trains or at train stations;
  - (e) commendations for public transport operator staff;
  - (f) suggestions for enhancement of public transport;
  - (g) graffiti or vandalism on rolling stock;
  - (h) graffiti or vandalism at train stations or tram stops;
  - (i) frequency of services.

**ANSWER:**

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

Under the Metlink Services Agreement, Metlink is required to operate a call centre. The Metlink Call Centre is operated by United Customer Management Solutions (UCMS) under contract with Metlink.

The Metlink Call Centre receives all calls made to the following 1800 customer feedback lines:

- 1800 800 705 Connex customer feedback line
- 1800 800 166 Yarra Trams customer feedback line
- 1800 800 120 V/Line customer feedback line

**Public transport: toll-free telephone complaint lines**

**822.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — how many substantive calls were received in 2007, excluding calls where the caller terminated the call for reasons such as realising that he or she should call Metlink or V/Line’s information line, by —

- (1) Connex on 1800 800 705.
- (2) Yarra Trams on 1800 800 166.
- (3) V/Line on 1800 800 120.

**ANSWER:**

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

The Metlink Call Centre receives all calls made to the following 1800 customer feedback lines:

- 1800 800 705 Connex customer feedback line
- 1800 800 166 Yarra Trams customer feedback line
- 1800 800 120 V/Line customer feedback line

In addition, it also receives calls made to the following 13 information lines:

- 131 638 transport information line
- 136 196 V/Line information line

**Public transport: rail — Frankston line**

**824.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to the build up of vegetation along the stretch of land running parallel to Rimmer Street in Mentone, on the Frankston railway line between Cheltenham and Mentone railway stations —

- (1) When were the vegetation and weeds last culled.
- (2) Are weed control measures applied to limit vegetation and weed growth.
- (3) Is there a written maintenance plan in place to deal with the growth of vegetation along the railway track or is vegetation control monitored on an ad hoc basis.
- (4) What course of action is recommended to residents who wish to raise concerns about maintenance of the land.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The vegetation and weeds were last culled on 11 December 2007.
- (2) Yes, weed control measures are applied to limit vegetation and weed growth.
- (3) Yes, there is a written vegetation management plan in place to deal with the growth of vegetation along the railway track.
- (4) It is recommended that residents refer any concerns about maintenance of land to the rail infrastructure manager, Connex, via its Customer Feedback Line on telephone 1800 800 705.

**Public transport: seniors card holders**

**838.** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) How many Seniors Card holders took advantage of the two Off-Peak Travel Vouchers for travel within Victoria offered to them in —
  - (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07.
- (2) What was the most frequently visited destination for Seniors Card holders who took advantage of the two Off-Peak Travel Vouchers in 2006–07.
- (3) Has the Government considered any alternative arrangements for benefits for Seniors Card holders.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The number of free off-peak travel vouchers exchanged by seniors for travel within Victoria:
  - (a) 2004-05      Vouchers became available for use from September 2006.
  - (b) 2005-06      Vouchers became available for use from September 2006.
  - (c) 2006-07      53,894 off-peak travel vouchers were exchanged for travel on V/Line services. The number of off-peak travel vouchers exchanged for free travel on metropolitan services is not available.
- (2) The information required to answer the question is not readily available and the resources required to manually extract the data cannot be justified at this time.
- (3) The Victorian Government is constantly assessing and reviewing concession arrangements for all groups to ensure the travel needs of Victorians are best served.

**Community services: Koori aged-care services**

**861.**      **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the \$60,000 worth of funding promised on 5 July 2000 to boost Koori aged care services —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) It is not possible to answer these questions without further details being provided.

**Public transport: bus route 203 — service standards**

**869.**      **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 203 City to Doncaster Shoppingtown via Kilby, Thompsons Road and Manningham Road — for 2006 and 2007 —

- (1) What were the patronage figures.
- (2) How many times was the service cancelled.
- (3) How many times did the service run late by more than five minutes.

**ANSWER:**

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



Patronage figures for calendar years 2006 and 2007 on bus Route 203:

Year	2006	2007
Patronage	<b>176,676</b>	<b>180,221</b>

**Public transport: bus route 205 — service standards**

**870.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 205 Melbourne University to Doncaster Shoppingtown via Kew Junction and Bulleen — for 2006 and 2007 —

- (1) What were the patronage figures.
- (2) How many times was the service cancelled.
- (3) How many times did the service run late by more than five minutes.

**ANSWER:**

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

Patronage figures for calendar years 2006 and 2007 on bus Route 205:

Year	2006	2007
Patronage	<b>45,218</b>	<b>45,025</b>

**Community services: Office of the Disability Services Commissioner and Disability Services Board**

**895.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what allocation has been made for the Office of the Disability Services Commissioner and the Disability Services Board in the 2007–08 budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The allocation made to the Office of the Disability Services Commissioner and the Disability Services Board from the 2007-08 budget was \$1.5 million.

**Community services: supported accommodation**

**897.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many persons with disabilities waiting for supported accommodation obtained a place in a community residential unit in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The number of persons with disabilities waiting for supported accommodation who obtained a place in a shared supported accommodation facility in 2007 was 130.

**Energy and resources: Landmark Education Corporation**

**913(n).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources 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 Department of Primary Industries 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.

**Multicultural affairs: Landmark Education Corporation**

**913(w).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs 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 Planning and Community Development 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.

**Public transport: Landmark Education Corporation**

**913(y).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport 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: Stella Anderson Nursing Home**

**939.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to Stella Anderson Nursing Home redevelopment —

- (1) How much has the Government spent on the redevelopment to date.
- (2) What is the expected date of completion.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) A total of approximately \$110,000 has been spent to date on the redevelopment. This includes expenditure on design fees and site surveying.
- (2) A finalised date has not yet been established.

**Public transport: fair payments policy**

**958(r).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Public Transport 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 Transport (formerly 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.

**Community services: Villamanta Legal Service**

**974.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$50,656 worth of funding for Villamanta Legal Service announced on 5 September 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:**

I am informed that:

- (1) All of the funds were expended by 30 June 2004.
- (2) Use of these funds was reviewed through reports provided by the recipient organisation against key performance indicators funded through the grant.

**Community services: counselling services**

**975.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$278,000 worth of funding for additional counselling services announced on 19 September 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:**

I am informed that:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Consumer Affairs.

**Community services: community and home-based support services**

**986.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$4 million worth of funding for community and home based support services 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) 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.
- (2) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

**Community services: Futures for Young Adults program**

**987.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1 million worth of funding for the futures for young adults program 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) 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.
- (2) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

**Community services: shared supported accommodation**

**988.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$2 million worth of funding for the shared supported accommodation program promised in the 2002–03 budget to allow 25 people with a disability to receive intensive accommodation support —

- (1) How much of this funding was expended in 2002–03.
- (2) How many people with a disability received intensive accommodation support in 2002–03 because of the funds and what did the intensive support entail.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

**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 2002-03.
- (2) 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 that is undertaken.

**Community services: Kew Residential Services**

**990.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$25.4 million worth of funding for the redevelopment of Kew Residential Services promised in the 2002-03 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (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 funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (2) Yes and they were positive.

**Community services: *Forgotten Australians* report**

**991.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Senate Community Affairs References Committee's 2004 report *Forgotten Australians: A report on Australians who experienced institutional or out-of-home care as children* —

- (1) What is the Government's response to each of the recommendations that relate to state government affairs.
- (2) What action has been taken regarding recommendations that the Government accepts.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Victorian Government's response to the recommendations of the *Forgotten Australians* Report has not yet been released.
- (2) See the response to question (1) above.

**Senior Victorians: support for carers program**

**999.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians how much funding did the Support for Carers Program receive in —

- (1) 2004-05.
- (2) 2005-06.

- (3) 2006–07.
- (4) 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Support for Carers Program received the following funding —

- (1) 2004–05 - \$11.5 million
- (2) 2005–06 - \$12.2 million
- (3) 2006–07 - \$12.5 million
- (4) 2007–08 - \$13.5 million.

**Senior Victorians: social support and respite services**

**1002.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Government’s commitment to undertake a research and development project to examine how well social support and respite services meet carer needs and support care relationships, as seen in the Department of Human Services action plan 2006–09, *Recognising and supporting care relationships for older Victorians* — has the project been completed —

- (1) If so, can the Minister provide a copy of the report.
- (2) If not, what is the expected date of completion.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The project has not been completed.
- (2) The expected date of completion is early 2009.

**Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services**

**1004.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health does the Government support the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association’s budget submission recommending that the Government significantly increase funding to the alcohol and drug treatment system —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government’s reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) and (2) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: national reciprocal transport scheme**

**1005.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the National Reciprocal Transport Scheme for Victorian Seniors —

- (1) How much funding does the Government intend to commit to the Scheme.
- (2) When will the Scheme be in operation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The proposed reciprocal public transport entitlement is currently under negotiation with the Commonwealth Government.
- (2) The scheme is expected to be in operation during this term of Government.

**Senior Victorians: carers reward card**

**1008.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Carers' Reward Card, which was promised in the 2006 ALP Election Plan for Helping Carers — was the Carers' Reward Card funded in the 2007–08 budget —

- (1) If so, how much funding was provided for the Card.
- (2) If not, will the Card be funded in the 2008–09 budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Carer's Reward Card was not a funded initiative in the 2007-08 Budget.
- (2) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services**

**1009.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health does the Government support the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association's budget submission recommending that the Government significantly increase funding to AOD treatment, prevention and education services for young people —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) and (2) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services**

**1010.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health does the Government support the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association's budget submission recommending that the Government significantly increase funding to the AOD treatment system to meet the needs of people dually diagnosed with substance use issues and symptoms of mental illness —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) and (2) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Mental health: pharmacotherapy program**

**1011.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health does the Government support the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association's budget submission recommending that the Government provide more funding to AOD agencies for the purpose of delivering pharmacotherapy programs —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.  
 (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) and (2) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Mental health: pharmacotherapy program**

**1012.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health does the Government support the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association's budget submission recommending that the Department of Human Services consider implementing a range of dispensing models for pharmacotherapies that do not rely on the traditional pharmacist figure —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.  
 (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) and (2) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Mental health: service agencies**

**1013.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health does the Government support the Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association's budget submission recommending that the Government develop a funding model that adequately funds service agencies —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.  
 (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) and (2) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.



**Community services: aids and equipment**

**1016.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services does the Government support the Victorian Council of Social Services' budget submission recommending that the Government immediately release the remainder of funds committed for aids and equipment and home and vehicle modifications in the 2007–08 budget and commit an additional \$20 million per annum for aids and equipment and home and vehicle modifications —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The provision of aids and equipment, including vehicle modifications is of great importance to supporting people with a disability and increasing their quality of life. This Government is committed to continuing to provide appropriate supports to people with a disability in this regard and has provided significant investment in this area.

Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Community services: community-based mental health services**

**1017.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health does the Government support the Victorian Council of Social Services' budget submission recommending that the Government increase investment in locally based, early intervention community-based mental health services and increase funding for Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation and Support Services to enable improved integration of supports for people with complex needs —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Community services: supported accommodation**

**1018.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services does the Government support the Victorian Council of Social Services' budget submission recommending that the Government bring forward the \$70 million committed in the 2007–08 budget for supported accommodation and index this to account for disability population growth —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The provision of supported accommodation is of critical importance to supporting people with a disability and increasing their quality of life. This Government is committed to continuing to provide appropriate supports to people with a disability in this regard and is providing significant investment, both for supported accommodation and for the provision of more individualised home-based supports.

Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Community services: supported accommodation**

**1019.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services does the Government support the Victorian Council of Social Services' budget submission recommending that the Government commit recurrent funding of \$50 million and capital funding of \$74 million to create up to 650 new supported accommodation places —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The provision of supported accommodation is of critical importance to supporting people with a disability and increasing their quality of life. This Government is committed to continuing to provide appropriate supports to people with a disability in this regard and is providing significant investment, both for supported accommodation and for the provision of more individualised home-based supports.

Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Community services: disability services — benchmarks**

**1020.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what is the Government's view regarding the introduction of population based benchmarks for disability services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers have agreed that one of the priority areas for consideration during the next Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Agreement will be to consider "Moving Towards National Population Benchmarks for Key Disability Services Under the CSTDA."

**Community services: disability services — data collection**

**1021.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to data on those requiring disability services —

- (1) Does the Government believe the current system of data collection is adequate.
- (2) Would the Government support the establishment of a new system to reliably capture the demand.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to data on those requiring disability services:

The Government considers the current system of data collection for disability services to be adequate; however, the Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers have agreed that one of the priority areas for consideration during the next Commonwealth, State and Territory Disability Agreement will be the better measurement of current and future needs for disability services.

**Community services: disability services — standard chart of accounts**

**1022.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what is the Government's view regarding the development of a standard chart of accounts in partnership with the disability services sector.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This is a community sector initiative that proposes the development of standardised reporting and data to assist service funding and planning. The Government would be receptive to considering the development of a standard chart of accounts for use by disability service providers. The initiative would need to have regard for the statutory financial accounting and reporting requirements of community service organisations across a diverse range of services, including business units operated by some of these organisations.

**Community services: disability services — pricing principles**

**1023.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what is the Government's view regarding the introduction of a transparent unit price funding formula to disability funding.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department published a set of pricing principles in October 2005 which is available on the Department of Human Services website in the Disability Services Division publications library.

**Community services: disability services — funding**

**1024.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what is the Government's view regarding the development and dissemination of a survey of disability support organisations in order to inform a program for disability service providers of increased capital expenditure on items such as vehicles, computer equipment and building maintenance.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Issues relating to asset replacement and maintenance will be considered as part of the department's review of pricing and funding arrangements for disability services.

**Community services: disability services — funding**

**1025.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services has a risk analysis regarding the impact of individualised funding on organisational sustainability been undertaken; if not, will one be carried out.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department is working with National Disability Services Victoria on an implementation plan that will assist sector sustainability while moving from agency attached funding to individualised support packages.

**Community services: disability services — funding**

**1026.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what is the Government's view regarding the development of a transition plan to make sure that disability service providers are financially viable as the number of individualised funding packages increases.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

A plan and transition strategy to move from agency attached to individually attached funding will be developed and agreed.

**Community services: disability services — workforce planning strategy**

**1027.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what is the Government's view regarding the development of a disability services workforce planning strategy.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The 'Victorian Industry Development Plan for the provision of support for people with a disability' lists workforce planning and development as a key outcome

Four priorities have been identified:

- Developing a planning strategy to ensure a skilled, qualified workforce.
- Meeting the individual and diverse needs of people with a disability with increased workforce flexibility.
- Creating a sector wide training and development strategy focusing on values, skills and competencies that promote contemporary models of support.
- Promoting the industry as an attractive choice for future workers and creating opportunities for career pathways.

**Community services: disability services — funding**

**1028.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services will the Government match dollar for dollar the Commonwealth Government's contribution of \$1.9 billion for disability funding promised in the Federal Labor Party's election policy.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Commonwealth Government committed to provide up to \$901 million for inclusion in the Commonwealth State/Territory Disability Agreement. Negotiations are continuing on the funding arrangement.

**Mental health: Austin Hospital — child and adolescent mental health unit**

**1029.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health will the Government fund a full redevelopment of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Unit at the Austin Hospital in the 2008–09 budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Mental health: Dandenong Hospital — mental health inpatient beds**

**1031.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health will the Government fund the 73 extra mental health inpatient beds at Dandenong Hospital, as promised during the 2006 election, in the 2008–09 budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Mental health: foetal alcohol spectrum disorder**

**1041.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Mental Health —

- (1) How many Victorians are currently diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- (2) Does the Government fund diagnostic services to establish whether any Victorian is at risk from Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- (3) How many Victorians access Government funded diagnostic services to establish whether they are at risk from Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

**ANSWER:**

In response to questions (1), (2) and (3): I am informed that:

- (1) It is unknown how many Victorians are currently diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).
- (2) The Government does not fund diagnostic services specific to FASD however diagnostic assistance is available through referral to a public hospital, the Royal Children's Hospital and to a paediatrician.
- (3) Not known.

**Mental health: foetal alcohol spectrum disorder**

**1042.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Mental Health —

- (1) What support services does the Government currently provide for Victorians diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.
- (2) Does the Government have plans to establish diagnostic and support services for Victorians diagnosed with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

**ANSWER:**

In response to questions (1) and (2), I am informed that:

- (1) Paediatric, psychology and ancillary services are provided to all children requiring assistance with behavioural problems and developmental delay. All ante-natal services, including General Practitioners provide advice to women about the risks associated with consuming alcohol during pregnancy.

- (2) There are no plans at present to establish diagnostic and support services for Victorians diagnosed with FASD.

**Public transport: bus shelter vandalism**

**1043.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) How many glass bus shelters are replaced annually due to vandalism.
- (2) Has the Government considered any alternative materials other than glass for use in bus shelters.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The former Department of Infrastructure, now the Department of Transport (DOT), entered into a contract with Adshel Street Furniture Pty Ltd for the provision of bus shelters on 4 July 2007. Between the period 4 July 2007 and 15 April 2008 a total of 1,697 safety glass panels have been replaced in shelters which form part of the DOT/Adshel agreement.
- (2) DOT sought options other than glass for bus shelters as part of the tender process. Safety glass remains the primary material utilised in shelters. In instances where repeated damage occurs, DOT has the option to install wire mesh.

**Public transport: rail — Croydon station**

**1051.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Public Transport on how many days were Connex officers present at Croydon railway station during afternoon and evening periods in —

- (1) 1999–2000.
- (2) 2000–01.
- (3) 2001–02.
- (4) 2002–03.
- (5) 2003–04.
- (6) 2004–05.
- (7) 2005–06.
- (8) 2006–07.
- (9) 2007–08 to date.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1)–(9) Croydon Railway Station has been a Premium Station since 31 July 1996 and I am instructed it has been staffed from first to last train from this date.

**Senior Victorians: residential aged-care services**

**1062.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Aged and Community Care’s 2008–09 budget submission recommending the establishment of a capital grants program available to all providers of residential aged care services —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government’s reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: hospital to home transition care**

**1063.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Aged and Community Care's 2008–09 budget submission recommending additional funding to improve transition care from hospital to a person's home —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: small and isolated communities**

**1064.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Aged and Community Care's 2008–09 budget submission recommending additional funding to build care safety, quality and capacity in small and isolated communities —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: rural community buses**

**1065.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Aged and Community Care's 2008–09 budget submission recommending additional funding to provide 50 small rural communities with a community bus —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: aged-care strategic plan**

**1066.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Aged and Community Care's 2008–09 budget submission recommending that the Government develops and Aged Care Strategic Plan —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: home and community care program**

**1067.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Aged and Community Care's 2008–09 budget submission recommending that the Home and Community Care Program is indexed to five per cent —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: home and community care program**

**1068.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Carers Victoria's 2008–09 budget submission recommending that the Government lobby the Federal Government to achieve significant real growth in the Home and Community Care Program to reduce service gaps and waiting lists; if not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: home and community care program funding**

**1069.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Carers Victoria's 2008–09 budget submission recommending that the Government direct funds towards supplementing and strengthening the capacity of Home and Community Care Program assessment services —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.



**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: carer consultant program**

**1070.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Carers Victoria's 2008–09 budget submission recommending that the Government expand the recurrent funding available to the Carer Consultant Program to ensure its expansion across child and adolescent mental health services, adult mental health services and aged services —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: family sensitive training program funding**

**1071.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Carers Victoria's 2008–09 budget submission recommending additional funding of the Family Sensitive Training Program —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: community aged-care packages**

**1072.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Carers Victoria's 2008–09 budget submission recommending an improved ratio of Community Aged Care Packages to other forms of care in the aged care planning ratio —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Senior Victorians: day program waiting list**

**1073.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support Carers Victoria's 2008–09 budget submission recommending additional funds to allow greater community participation for those currently classed as urgent or high priority on the day program waiting list —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Budget outcomes have now been announced and details are available on the Victorian Government website.

**Public transport: vehicle registration concessions**

**1076.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Public Transport does the Government support the Fair Go For Pensioners Coalition's 2008–09 budget submission recommending the reintroduction of the pensioner motor vehicle registration concession discount —

- (1) If so, how much extra funding will the Government commit in the 2008–09 budget.
- (2) If not, what are the Government's reasons for opposing the recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

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

The question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility and should be directed to the Minister for Senior Victorians.

**Public transport: country wheelchair-accessible subsidy scheme**

**1087.** Dr SYKES to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the country wheelchair-accessible subsidy scheme —

- (1) How much has been paid to country taxi operators under the scheme to date.
- (2) How many vehicles have been purchased under the scheme and where are they based.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) \$511,321.92 has been paid to country taxi operators under the subsidy scheme for the procurement of wheelchair accessible taxis;
- (2) 14 vehicles have been purchased under this scheme and they are based at:

Anglesea	Daylesford	Euroa
Hamilton	Horsham	Lakes Entrance
Morwell	Nagambie	Orbost
Port Fairy	Portland	Seymour
Warragul	Wodonga	

**Energy and resources: Crown land — Warrandyte**

**1117(d).** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources with reference to crown land relevant to the Minister's portfolio in the electorate of Warrandyte —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that, at the date the question was raised:

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) does not utilise any Crown Land in the electorate of Warrandyte.

DPI does not currently have any intention to acquire new land in the electorate of Warrandyte.

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

**1111.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to red light cameras monitoring right hand turning traffic at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road, Cheltenham — how many motorists were fined in February 2008 for having entered the intersection on a red light for a time of 0.9 of a second or less.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Only one motorist was fined in February 2008 for having entered the intersection against a red arrow for a time less than 1 second.

**Housing: emergency housing**

**1123.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to the demand for emergency housing and short term accommodation and the number of Government owned, unoccupied homes in Point Cook that are fully serviced —

- (1) Has the Minister held any discussions with the federal minister regarding the better utilisation of both Commonwealth and State housing in Victoria.
- (2) What steps are being considered to better utilise available Commonwealth and State housing in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Yes — see (2) below.

- (2) The Victorian Government is working closely with the Commonwealth and other States and Territories on the development of a new National Affordable Housing Agreement. The Agreement will include consideration of a wide array of matters, such as the utilisation of housing resources in Victoria to improve social and affordable housing outcomes.

**Public transport: rail — Mooroolbark–Lilydale line**

- 1129.** Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Public Transport are there any plans to duplicate the train line from Mooroolbark to Lilydale.

**ANSWER:**

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

There are currently no plans to duplicate the train line between Mooroolbark and Lilydale.

**Health: chronic fatigue syndrome**

- 1143.** Mrs VICTORIA to ask the Minister for Health does the Government plan to provide funding for Myalgic Encephalomyelitis or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (ME/CFS) sufferers in 2008–09 and beyond; if so —

- (1) What will the funding include.
- (2) How much funding will be allocated in total.
- (3) Will funding include specific funding for the ME/CFS Society of Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Government provides funding for people with ME/CFS through the Department of Human Services' annual Health Self Help Program, which assists support groups for people with chronic illnesses.
- (2) The department allocated a total of \$7,106 to local metropolitan and rural ME/CFS and fibromyalgia groups through the Health Self Help program during the 2006-08 period.
- (3) The Government has also provided recurrent funding of \$30,000 or more to the ME/CFS Society of Victoria since 2001-02. The Society will receive an allocation of \$35,788 during 2008-09 in recognition of the extensive support it provides. The funds are used for local support groups as well as the important health promotion and operational activities undertaken by the Society.

**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, 25 June 2008**

**Health: Wodonga ambulance station**

**1138.** Mr **TILLEY** to ask the Minister for Health has Wodonga Ambulance Station been identified as a station that needs replacing; if so, when will the replacement happen.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Rural Ambulance Victoria (RAV) undertakes a program of works every year across its 122 branches in rural and regional Victoria.

The Government has recently announced \$7.25 million to refurbish a further 8 branches in rural Victoria as part of the recent 2008/09 Budget.

Since late 2006, RAV has undertaken some minor improvements at Wodonga branch as part of its ongoing maintenance program. Any further refurbishments will be considered within the context of other state-wide priorities.

RAV will continue to review longer term plans for Wodonga which include evaluating potential new sites.