

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 3 February 2009

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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, 3 February 2009

Premier: water advertising campaign

- 492.** Mr RYAN to ask the Premier with reference to the Government’s water advertising campaign undertaken in June and July 2007 to promote “the next steps to securing our water future” and the appointment of the firm Shannon’s Way to prepare material for the campaign —
- (1) What other firms were considered for the campaign.
 - (2) On what date were firms first asked to submit proposals for the campaign.
 - (3) How and by whom were the competing proposals evaluated.
 - (4) Was a formal contract entered into with Shannon’s Way —
 - (a) if not, why not;
 - (b) if so, what was the total value of the contract and why does it not appear on the Government Contracts Publishing System.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Other firms considered for the campaign were;
 - a. Grey Global Group
 - b. George Patterson Young & Rubicam
 - c. Growth Solutions Group
 - d. J Walter Thompson
 - e. Clemenger BBDO
- (2) All six firms were provided with a written brief on Friday May 25, 2007.
- (3) The competing proposals were evaluated by four communication specialists from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), as follows:
 - a. Director, Strategic Communications, DPC
 - b. Communications Manager, Strategic Communications, DPC
 - c. Senior Research Analyst, Strategic Communications, DPC
 - d. Communications Adviser — Water, DSE
- (4) This work was undertaken through the Marketing Services Panel State Purchasing Contract.

Senior Victorians: older men’s health coordinator

- 1079.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support the Council on the Ageing’s 2008–09 budget submission recommending funding for the employment of an Older Men’s Health Coordinator to bolster older men’s social inclusion —

- (1) If so, how much 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 Government has carefully considered all of the proposed budget submissions, the outcomes of which are conveyed in the announcement of the 2008–09 State Budget.

Senior Victorians: Seniors Information Victoria

1080. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support the Council on the Ageing’s 2008–09 budget submission recommending additional funding to Seniors Information Victoria —

- (1) If so, how much additional 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 Government has carefully considered all of the proposed budget submissions, the outcomes of which are conveyed in the announcement of the 2008–09 State Budget.

Senior Victorians: consumer engagement strategies

1081. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians does the Government support the Council on the Ageing’s 2008–09 budget submission recommending the implementation of consumer engagement strategies for a full range of Government policies and services —

- (1) If so, how much 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 Government has carefully considered all of the proposed budget submissions, the outcomes of which are conveyed in the announcement of the 2008–09 State Budget.

Community services: family violence crisis protection services

1158. Ms WOOLDRIDGE ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$100,000 worth of funding to the peak body for Victoria’s family violence crisis protection services announced on 9 October 2002 —

- (1) What extra services were provided with the funds.
- (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 Housing.

Community services: domestic violence information

1159. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$41,442 worth of funding to develop an internet based resource to provide young people with information on domestic violence announced on 11 October 2002 —

- (1) On what date did the website become operational.
- (2) Is the site still operational; if so, what is its web address.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) October 2003, as part of Victoria’s Week Without Violence Campaign.
- (2) Yes, www.burstingthebubble.com
- (3) Yes, in 2005. The Centre for Program Evaluation at Melbourne University evaluated the website. The evaluation found that this was an effective website for teenagers experiencing family violence. The evaluation won the Australasian Evaluation Society Community Development Award in 2005. In November 2005, the website also won an Australian Violence Prevention Award.

Skills and workforce participation: TAFE electrical engineering courses

1164. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation —

- (1) How many applications for Electrical Engineering at Box Hill TAFE were received in 2008.
- (2) How many positions for Electrical Engineering at Box Hill TAFE are available for applicants.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Box Hill Institute of TAFE does not offer “Electrical Engineering”. Box Hill Institute of TAFE does offer “Electronics Engineering”. In respect of this:

- Total applications received in 2008 were 96. Of these, 85 were through VTAC (16 were first preference applications) and 11 were through direct entry applications.
- 21 offers were made to students through VTAC. The remainder accepted places in Higher Education institutions.
- There are currently 147 enrolments in this course comprising VTAC enrolments, direct entry and continuing students.

The Institute also offers a Certificate III in Electrotechnology.

This is an apprenticeship course and there are currently 887 enrolments in this course.

Box Hill Institute of TAFE identified through its Training Plan, including relevant addenda, that it intended to deliver approximately 588,000 student contact hours via courses in the Electrical and Electronics sector in 2008.

Attorney-General: adjournment debate responses

1180(d). Mr HODGETT to ask the Attorney-General what is the usual length of time taken for the Minister to respond to matters raised during the adjournment debate in the House.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The adjournment debates in the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council play an important role where members raise matters for Ministers which they consider require attention.

The time taken to respond varies depending on the complexity of the matter being raised and the accessibility of relevant information.

I am advised that there are no adjournment debate matters that you have raised within my portfolio responsibilities currently outstanding.

Racing: adjournment debate responses

1180(y). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Racing what is the usual length of time taken for the Minister to respond to matters raised during the adjournment debate in the House.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The adjournment debates in the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council play an important role where members raise matters for Ministers which they consider require attention.

The time taken to respond varies depending on the complexity of the matter being raised and the accessibility of relevant information.

I am advised that there are no adjournment debate matters that you have raised within my portfolio responsibilities currently outstanding.

Community services: Heidelberg West and Coburg leisure centres

1217. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1.4 million worth of funding for two leisure centres in Heidelberg West and Coburg promised on 18 June 2003 —

- (1) On what dates did the Government plan for the centres to be opened.
- (2) On what dates were the centres opened.
- (3) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This program does not fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Community Services.

Community services: problem gambling — Country Women's Association

1219. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$10,000 worth of funding for the Country Women's Association to tackle problem gambling promised on 16 July 2003 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This program does not fall under the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Community Services.

Mental health: crisis assessment and treatment services

- 1308.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — How many staff (equivalent fulltime) are currently employed in CAT teams.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of effective full-time staff employed in Crisis Assessment and Treatment (CAT) teams is determined by individual Hospital / Health Service as the employer. The Department of Human Services does not routinely collect number of staff employed at this level of detail.

Mental health: services for women

- 1327.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to funding for expanded mental health services for women including consultation and liaison services announced in the 2003–04 Budget —

- (1) How much funding was allocated to expand mental health services for women in the 2003–04 Budget.
- (2) How much of the funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2003–04;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2005–06;
 - (d) 2005–06; and
 - (e) 2006–07.
- (3) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$200,000
- (2) It is not possible to separately report on the additional funding.
- (3) A twelve month internal Departmental review of funding implementation found that the funds were achieving program goals.

Mental health: postnatal depression support services

1334. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the \$4.9 million for post-natal depression support services announced as part of the National Action Plan on Mental Health —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended before 1 February 2006.
- (2) How much of the funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2005–06;
 - (b) 2006–07; and
 - (c) 2007–08.
- (3) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$170,203 was expended before 1 February 2006
- (2)
 - (a) \$170,203
 - (b) \$564,797
 - (c) \$946,678
- (3) The impact of the funding for this program is not specifically evaluated. The program is subject to continuous improvement processes and individual client outcomes are measured.

Community services: futures for young adults program

1380. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to young people who left school at the end of 2004–05 and were assessed as eligible to receive support through the Futures for Young Adults program —

- (1) In total, how many young people received support.
- (2) What were the levels of funding available and how many young people were assessed at each level of funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) In total, 475 young people received support.
- (2) The levels of funding available to these young people in the 2004-2005 funding period were:

The number of young people assessed at each level was:

a. SNA Level 1 =	26
b. SNA Level 2 =	218
c. SNA Level 3 =	74
d. SNA Level 4 =	92
e. SNA Level 5 =	57
f. SNA Level 5+ Special =	8

Community services: futures for young adults program

1381. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to young people who left school at the end of 2005–06 and were assessed as eligible to receive support through the Futures for Young Adults program —

- (1) In total, how many young people received support.
- (2) What were the levels of funding available and how many young people were assessed at each level of funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) In total, 448 young people received support.
- (2) The levels of funding available to these young people in the 2005-2006 funding period were:

The number of young people assessed at each level was:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----|
| a. | SNA Level 1 = | 26 |
| b. | SNA Level 2 = | 194 |
| c. | SNA Level 3 = | 86 |
| d. | SNA Level 4 = | 70 |
| e. | SNA Level 5 = | 60 |
| f. | SNA Level 5+ Special = | 12 |

Community services: futures for young adults program

1382. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to young people who left school at the end of 2006–07 and were assessed as eligible to receive support through the Futures for Young Adults program —

- (1) In total, how many young people received support.
- (2) What were the levels of funding available and how many young people were assessed at each level of funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) In total, 479 young people received support.
- (2) The levels of funding available to these young people in the 2006-2007 funding period were:

The number of young people assessed at each level was:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----|
| a. | SNA Level 1 = | 49 |
| b. | SNA Level 2 = | 151 |
| c. | SNA Level 3 = | 99 |
| d. | SNA Level 4 = | 103 |
| e. | SNA Level 5 = | 64 |
| f. | SNA Level 5+ Special = | 13 |

Community services: futures for young adults program

1383. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to young people who left school at the end of 2007–08 and were assessed as eligible to receive support through the Futures for Young Adults program —

- (1) In total, how many young people received support.
- (2) What were the levels of funding available and how many young people were assessed at each level of funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) In total, 457 young people received support.
- (2) The levels of funding available to these young people in the 2007-2008 funding period were:

The number of young people assessed at each level was:

a. SNA Level 1 =	26
b. SNA Level 2 =	172
c. SNA Level 3 =	95
d. SNA Level 4 =	101
e. SNA Level 5 =	55
f. SNA Level 5+ Special =	8

Education: science and mathematics teaching grants

1391. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Education — With reference to the Government’s 2006 election policy — which schools have received grants of up to \$55,000 to purchase additional equipment to improve and modernise science teaching.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In 2007, grants were provided to all primary, secondary, P–12 and special schools to purchase new equipment to support improved teaching and learning in science and mathematics in Years 5 and 6 and to support improved teaching and learning in science in Years 7 to 12.

Education: science and mathematics teaching grants

1392. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Education — With reference to the Government’s 2006 election policy — which schools have received grants of up to \$10,000 to support science and maths teaching in years 5 and 6.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In 2007, grants were provided to all primary, secondary, P-12 and special schools to purchase new equipment to support improved teaching and learning in science and mathematics in Years 5 and 6 and to support improved teaching and learning in science in Years 7 to 12.

Education: science rooms

1395. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Education — Which schools have had science rooms refurbished, replaced or built since 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This information is contained in Public Sector Asset Investment Program, Budget Information Paper No. 1, Chapter two, pp 23–39.

Small business: defaulters' capped cost recovery amounts

1404(b). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Small Business — With reference to capped cost recovery amounts from defaulters for small businesses —

- (1) What is the maximum amount awarded through mediation from defaulters to small businesses.
- (2) What is the maximum amount awarded through court from defaulters to small businesses.
- (3) Is the Government currently reviewing capped cost amounts for businesses from defaulters.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Agreements made through mediation are confidential between the parties and therefore any financial details on settlements are not available.
- (2) Creditors and their agents have the right to pursue debt through the courts. Financial settlements awarded through the courts are not capped as the determination would depend on a variety of matters within the actual contract. However, a bankrupt/debtor may be released from their financial obligations for provable debts; recovery in this instance would be through the scheme of administration under the *Bankruptcy Act 1966*.
- (3) In terms of interest repayments under a contractual obligation, these are capped (in terms of unconscionable limits) by the Commonwealth's Uniform Consumer Credit Code, and by the *Consumer Credit Victoria Act 1995*. The cap is 48% for any interest charged on a commercial contract and 30% for mortgage interest. These caps are not currently under review.

Police and emergency services: Croydon police station

1408. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — How many unfilled vacancies were there at the Croydon Police Station in —

- (1) May 2008.
- (2) June 2008.
- (3) July 2008.
- (4) August 2008.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The level of policing across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective 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 Victorians by ensuring Victoria Police is 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 24.5 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.

Community services: home and community care

1442. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to Home and Community Care (HACC) funding for 2007–08 —

- (1) What is the funding breakdown by output group and activity under HACC.
- (2) What amount of the funding for each output group comes from the —
 - (a) Government; and
 - (b) Commonwealth Government.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There are two output groups in the HACC program — (i) HACC primary health, community care and support, and (ii) HACC small rural services.

Table 1 **Funding Breakdown by activity and output group 2007–08 —** **Primary Health, Community Care and Support**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

<i>HACC Activity</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>HACC Allied Health</i>	\$ 40,307,322
<i>HACC Assessment</i>	\$ 26,944,525
<i>HACC Delivered Meals</i>	\$ 5,8001,464
<i>HACC Domestic Assistance</i>	\$ 68,217,042
<i>HACC Flexible Service Response</i>	\$ 25,148,630
<i>HACC Linkages Packages</i>	\$ 39,221,688
<i>HACC Nursing</i>	\$ 77,364,372
<i>HACC Personal Care</i>	\$ 32,700,336
<i>HACC Planned Activity Group–Core</i>	\$ 20,319,923
<i>HACC Planned Activity Group–High</i>	\$ 22,973,307
<i>HACC Property Maintenance</i>	\$ 10,282,573
<i>HACC Respite</i>	\$ 19,947,350
<i>HACC Service System Resourcing</i>	\$ 26,443,100
<i>HACC Transition</i>	\$ 2,064,895
<i>HACC Volunteer Co-ordination</i>	\$ 13,960,795
<i>HACC Volunteer Coordination–Other</i>	\$ 1,256,699

Note: Excludes Dept of Veterans Affairs Funding

**Table 2
Funding Breakdown by activity and output group 2007-08–
Small Rural**

<i>HACC Activity</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>HACC Allied Health</i>	\$ 2,680,983
<i>HACC Assessment</i>	\$ 776,056
<i>HACC Delivered Meals</i>	\$ 102,656
<i>HACC Domestic Assistance</i>	\$ 897,398
<i>HACC Flexible Service Response</i>	\$ 741,835
<i>HACC Nursing</i>	\$ 13,249,886
<i>HACC Personal Care</i>	\$ 490,784
<i>HACC Planned Activity Group-Core</i>	\$ 3,921,576
<i>HACC Planned Activity Group–High</i>	\$ 1,511,864
<i>HACC Property Maintenance</i>	\$ 235,478
<i>HACC Respite</i>	\$ 267,928
<i>HACC Service System Resourcing</i>	\$ 351,811
<i>HACC Transition</i>	\$ 145,195
<i>HACC Volunteer Co-ordination</i>	\$ 441,011
<i>HACC Volunteer Coordination–Other</i>	\$ 17,275

Note: Excludes Dept of Veterans Affairs Funding

- (2) (a) \$245.2m
- (b) The Commonwealth contribution to the HACC Program was \$250.7m including Department of Veterans Affairs.
- (3) Yes.

Local government: Yarra Ranges — ministerial visit

1468. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Local Government —

- (1) When was the last time the Minister visited the Shire of Yarra Ranges and met with the Mayor, Councillors and CEO.
- (2) When is the Minister's next scheduled visit to the Shire of Yarra Ranges to meet with the Mayor, Councillors and CEO.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Meetings with Victoria's Local Government Mayors, Councillors and Chief Executive Officers take place in a range of forums. I last met with representatives of Yarra Ranges Shire Council in October 2008.
- (2) Requests for meetings from Victoria's 79 municipalities are welcomed and are scheduled when possible.

Local government: Maroondah — ministerial visit

1469. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Local Government —

- (1) When was the last time the Minister visited the City of Maroondah and met with the Mayor, Councillors and CEO.
- (2) When is the Minister's next scheduled visit to the City of Maroondah to meet with the Mayor, Councillors and CEO.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Meetings with Victoria's Local Government Mayors, Councillors and Chief Executive Officers take place in a range of forums. I last met with representatives of Yarra Ranges Shire Council in October 2008.
- (2) Requests for meetings from Victoria's 79 municipalities are welcomed and are scheduled when possible.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE

1479. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Box Hill Institute of TAFE

1480. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Box Hill Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE

1481. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Central Gippsland Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Chisholm Institute of TAFE

1482. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Chisholm Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — East Gippsland Institute of TAFE

1483. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by East Gippsland Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Gordon Institute of TAFE

1484. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Gordon Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE

1485. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Holmesglen Institute of TAFE

1486. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Holmesglen Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE

1487. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE

1488. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — South West Institute of TAFE

1489. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by South West Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Sunraysia Institute of TAFE

1490. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Sunraysia Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — RMIT University TAFE

1491. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by RMIT University TAFE Division since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Swinburne University of Technology TAFE

1492. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Swinburne University of Technology TAFE Division since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — University of Ballarat TAFE

1493. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by University of Ballarat TAFE Division since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Victoria University TAFE

1494. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Victoria University TAFE Division since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — William Angliss Institute of TAFE

1495. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by William Angliss Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Skills and workforce participation: fair payments policy — Wodonga Institute of TAFE

1496. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation — with reference to penalty interest paid by Wodonga Institute of TAFE since the 2002 state election as a 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:

This information is not available in annual reports or any information returns provided by the Institutes. The resource allocation required to undertake this information gathering process and contacting each of the Institutes separately would be a costly exercise most likely greater in cost than the total amount of penalty paid if any.

Planning: Ringwood land

1498. Mr SMITH (*Warrantyte*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Planning — is the land at 272 Maroondah Highway in Ringwood designated as Crown land.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The administration of Crown land is not within my portfolio responsibilities.

Health: walking school bus program

1506. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Health — how does the funding cut to the Walking School Bus Program relate to the Government’s commitment to fighting childhood obesity.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

VicHealth is an independent statutory authority, funded by the Victorian Government.

The VicHealth Board makes decisions about the operation of the organisation independently of the government, including the decision to cease funding the Walking School Bus.

Victoria has always led the way in Australia in tackling obesity. The Government has provided over \$150 million for ‘Go for Your Life’ initiatives to address risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes and obesity.

We know that physical activity is a major benefit in reducing a range of diseases and conditions, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, obesity and falls among the elderly.

‘Go for your life’ was launched in 2003 to provide to help Victorians become more healthy and active, with the aim of significant reductions of obesity and preventable chronic diseases in the long term.

At present there are over 40 interventions funded directly by ‘Go for your life’, that are managed by a number of departments across the Victorian Government. These programs are often delivered through partnership arrangements with, for example, primary schools and Primary Care Partnerships. These projects focus on the target populations of children, young people, adults, senior Victorians and high risk population groups.

Health: walking school bus program

1507. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to the Walking School Bus Program —

- (1) Was the program funded by the Government to tackle childhood obesity; if so, has the program shown any results.
- (2) How much did the Government spend on the program in —
 - (a) 2005–06;
 - (b) 2006–07; and
 - (c) 2007–08.
- (3) Has the Government provided any funding to the program for 2008–09.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Walking School Bus is a Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) program that was designed to increase the physical activity of primary school children. As you would be aware, increased physical activity has a number of health benefits.

VicHealth is an independent statutory authority, funded by the Victorian Government.

The VicHealth Board makes decisions about the operation of the organisation independently of the government, including the decision to cease funding the Walking School Bus.

Information about VicHealth's evaluation of the Walking School Bus program is available at www.vichealth.vic.gov.au

- (2) VicHealth commenced the program in 2001 with 4 pilot councils. Competitive funding has been offered five times since 2001 and 60 out of 79 Victorian councils have participated.
 - (a) In 2005-06 total funding for the Walking School Bus Program was \$815,850,
 - (b) In 2006-07 \$575,000, and
 - (c) In 2007-08 \$459,000.
- (3) VicHealth is providing \$238,000 funding to local councils for the Walking School Bus Program in 2008-09.

The VicHealth Board has decided to invite expressions of interest from those local governments that completed their Walking School Bus funding in June 2008 and are continuing to support the Walking School Bus Program in their municipality. These councils can apply for one off funding of up to \$5000. This funding is to provide support and assist in the documentation of sustainable approaches to the Walking School Bus Program in the municipality.

Senior Victorians: positive ageing program

- 1516.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — what are the requirements as specified in the Funding and Services Agreement that the Government uses to monitor and evaluate the Government's Positive Ageing Program.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Each Positive Ageing project is subject to a funding agreement contract outlining specific project deliverables which are monitored via regular progress reports and payment and acquittal milestones.

The Positive Ageing Strategy is currently subject to an evaluation.

Senior Victorians: positive ageing program

- 1517.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — with reference to the Government's Positive Ageing Program —

- (1) What was the total cost of the program in 2007-08.
- (2) Has the use of the funds for the program in 2007-08 been evaluated; is so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (a) The total cost of the Positive Ageing Program in 2007/08 was \$1.174m.
- (b) Use of funds for the strategy in 2007-08 are currently being evaluated through an evaluation of the Positive Ageing Strategy.

Community services: residential aged-care facilities

1518. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to public sector residential aged care facilities —

- (1) How many new high care places opened in 2007–08.
- (2) How many new low care places opened in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 13 new high care places opened in 2007–08.
- (2) 28 new low care places opened in 2007–08.

Comments:

The definition of a new place is:

- (a) a provisional place allocated in a ACAR by the Commonwealth and subsequently made operational and
- (b) an existing non-operational place transferred between two PSRACS agencies and subsequently made operational by the transferee (i.e. the agency places transferred to).

Community services: aged care — Barwon south-west region

1520. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the Barwon South-West Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 4,374 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006–07 and 4,869 assessments were delivered 2007–08.
- (2) 572 people were re-assessed in 2006–07 and 622 people were reassessed in 2007–08.
- (3) There are 22.7 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the Barwon South West.
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: aged care — Loddon Mallee region

1521. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the Loddon Mallee Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and

- (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 3,967 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006–07 and 4,863 assessments were delivered 2007–08.
- (2) 648 people were re-assessed in 2006–07 and 768 people were reassessed in 2007–08.
- (3) There are 19 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the Loddon Mallee Region.
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: aged care — Grampians region

1522. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the Grampians Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 2,371 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006–07 and 2,865 assessments were delivered 2007–08.
- (2) 364 people were re-assessed in 2006–07 and 481 people were reassessed in 2007–08.
- (3) There are 9.9 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the Grampians.
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: aged care — Hume region

1523. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the Hume Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- 1) 2,813 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006-07 and 3,119 assessments were delivered 2007-08.
- (2) 191 people were re-assessed in 2006-07 and 253 people were reassessed in 2007-08.
- (3) There are 8.8 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the Hume Region.
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: aged care — Gippsland region

1524. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the Gippsland Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006-07; and
 - (b) 2007-08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 2,209 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006-07 and 2,383 assessments were delivered 2007-08.
- (2) 209 people were re-assessed in 2006-07 and 243 people were reassessed in 2007-08.
- (3) There are 14 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the Gippsland Region.
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: aged care — north-west region

1525. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the North-West Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006-07; and
 - (b) 2007-08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 11,270 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006-07 and 13,784 assessments were delivered 2007-08.

- (2) 1,631 people were re-assessed in 2006-07 and 2,167 people were reassessed in 2007-08.
- (3) There are 59.6 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the North West Metropolitan Region.
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: aged care — eastern region

1526. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the Eastern Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- 1) 11,686 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006-07 and 12,274 assessments were delivered 2007-08.
- (2) 1,250 people were re-assessed in 2006-07 and 1,239 people were reassessed in 2007-08.
- (3) There are 53.9 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: aged care — southern region

1527. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to aged care assessments in the Southern Region —

- (1) How many assessments were delivered in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many people have had to be reassessed.
- (3) How many aged care assessment services staff are employed in the region.
- (4) How many people are aged 65 and over in the region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 11,339 aged care assessments were delivered in 2006-07 and 12,977 assessments were delivered 2007-08.
- (2) 1,525 people were re-assessed in 2006-07 and 1,605 people were reassessed in 2007-08.
- (3) There are 61.1 ACAS Effective Fulltime positions in the Southern Region
- (4) The information is available in the 2006 census.

Community services: supported accommodation — Barwon south-west region

1528. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Barwon South-West Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007.
- (2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Barwon South-West Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007 was 79.
- (2) 30 June 2008 was 100.

Community services: supported accommodation — Loddon Mallee region

1529. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Loddon Mallee Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007.
- (2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Loddon Mallee Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007 was 32.
- (2) 30 June 2008 was 52.

Community services: supported accommodation — Hume region

1530. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Hume Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007.
- (2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Hume Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007 was 83.

(2) 30 June 2008 was 80.

Community services: supported accommodation — Grampians region

1531. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Grampians Region as at —

(1) 30 June 2007.

(2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Grampians Region as at —

(1) 30 June 2007 was 63.

(2) 30 June 2008 was 56.

Community services: supported accommodation — Gippsland region

1532. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Gippsland Region as at —

(1) 30 June 2007.

(2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Gippsland Region as at —

(1) 30 June 2007 was 71.

(2) 30 June 2008 was 58.

Community services: supported accommodation — north-west region

1533. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the North-West Region as at —

(1) 30 June 2007.

(2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the North-West Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007 was 366.
- (2) 30 June 2008 was 359.

Community services: supported accommodation — eastern region

1534. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Eastern Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007.
- (2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Eastern Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007 was 291.
- (2) 30 June 2008 was 294.

Community services: supported accommodation — southern region

1535. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many people were recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Southern Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007.
- (2) 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of people recorded under the Disability Support Register as waiting for supported accommodation options in the Southern Region as at —

- (1) 30 June 2007 was 376.
- (2) 30 June 2008 was 359.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Ballarat community health services

1543. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$100,000 funding given to Ballarat Community Health Services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Grampians community health services

1544. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$100,000 funding given to Grampians Community Health Services in Ararat.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Bendigo community health services

1545. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$100,000 funding given to Bendigo Community Health Services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Sunraysia community health services

1546. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$100,000 funding given to Sunraysia Community Health Services in Mildura.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Mitchell community health services

1547. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$100,000 funding given to Mitchell Community Health Services in Broadford.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Goulburn Valley community health services

1548. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$100,000 funding given to Goulburn Valley Community Health Services in Shepparton.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Latrobe community health services

1549. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$100,000 funding given to Latrobe Community Health Services in Morwell.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — Southern Grampians Glenelg primary care partnership

1551. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria — what local responses and initiatives have been delivered as a result of the \$50,000 funding given to Southern Grampians Glenelg Primary Care Partnership in Hamilton.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

– A range of local activities have been delivered in regional communities and there is ongoing work to tackle alcohol addiction through Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan.

Community services: Action on Alcohol — evaluation

1553. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the \$1 million announced for Action on Alcohol in 11 regional cities in Victoria —

- (1) Has an evaluation of the local drug and alcohol action plan findings been completed; if so, what were the results.
- (2) How much of the funding had been spent as at 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Evaluations of the local drug and alcohol action plans findings have not been completed.
- (2) The rate at which the funding is spent is at the discretion of the local agencies.

Mental health: open doors for mental health and drug treatment program

1554. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the \$8 million over three years announced for Open Doors for Mental Health and Drug Treatment —

- (1) How many dual diagnosis cases have been worked by each of the four dual diagnosis teams.
- (2) How many staff participated in innovative training positions in the first year of the program.
- (3) How many dual diagnosis specialist psychiatrists have received funding for expert clinical input and leadership.
- (4) How much of the promised funding had been spent as at 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The dual diagnosis teams provide direct care to people with the most complex dual diagnosis presentations in partnership with the client's case manager or primary worker. Clients are registered by the case manager of the service and not the dual diagnosis team. Data regarding the numbers of dual diagnosis cases is therefore not collected by the dual diagnosis team.
- (2) Forty five (45) staff have participated in innovative training positions.
- (3) Funding has been provided for four (4) dual diagnosis specialist psychiatrists to provide expert clinical input and leadership.
- (4) As at 30 June 2008 funding in excess of \$8 million has been spent.

Public transport: bus route 691 — Ferntree Gully railway station

1559. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Public Transport — what efforts has the Government made to ensure that bus route 691 links up with trains arriving and departing from Ferntree Gully Railway Station.

ANSWER:

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

Bus Route 691 operates from Boronia Railway Station to Waverley Gardens Shopping Centre via Ferntree Gully and Stud Park Shopping Centre, Rowville. Every effort is made to maximise coordination with rail services at Boronia and Ferntree Gully Railway Stations, as well as with other bus services at Stud Park and Waverley Gardens Shopping Centres. However, with the variance in frequencies between the bus service and trains it is not possible to coordinate with every train service.

The Knox/Maroondah/Yarra Ranges Bus Service Review, which commenced recently, will examine options to improve the level of service on bus routes in the study area, including improving coordination of Route 691 buses with connecting rail services.

Public transport: Rowville churches

1621. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Public Transport — did the Minister receive a letter from the Ministers of Rowville Churches dated 30 June 2008; if so, has the Minister responded to the letter.

ANSWER:

The answer is:

Yes, a letter was received from the Reverend Devine on behalf of the Ministers of the churches of Rowville.

A response has been sent on my behalf.

Health: Kids — Go for Your Life award program

1640. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to the Kids — Go for your life award program —

- (1) How many schools have completed the program.
- (2) How many schools have received an outdoor award sign.
- (3) How many schools have received an invoice for their outdoor award sign.
- (4) What is the cost of producing an outdoor award sign.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Victoria has always led the way in Australia in tackling obesity. The Government has provided over \$150 million for 'Go for Your Life' initiatives to address risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes and obesity.

We know that physical activity is a major benefit in reducing a range of diseases and conditions, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, some cancers, obesity and falls among the elderly.

'Go for your life' was launched in 2003 to provide to help Victorians become more healthy and active, with the aim of significant reductions of obesity and preventable chronic diseases in the long term.

Primary to this activity is the Kids-'Go for your life' initiative, which is a statewide program designed to reduce the risks of overweight and obesity in children aged 0–12 years. The program supports children's settings to promote healthy eating and physical activity through an Award Program.

Other key initiatives include:

- Free Fruit Friday and the Healthy Start Kitchen Gardens Project in schools
- The 'Go for your life' Community Education Program
- Sport and Recreation Victoria sporting uniform grants, leadership programs and the Ride2School Program
- Two 'Go for your life' community demonstration projects targeted to children aged 0-12 years, and
- a range of Teenagers 'Go for your life' positive body image initiatives.

At the end of November 2008, 713 primary schools are members of the Kids-'Go for your life' program and 93 schools have achieved the Kids-'Go for your life' award. This includes government, independent and Catholic primary schools.

- (2) Outdoor award signs have been provided to all of the 93 awarded schools.

- (3) Schools generally provide a cheque for the outdoor award sign when submitting their award application. A tax invoice is provided if requested by the school. To date, 35 invoices have been raised.
- (4) The total cost of the sign including postage and handling is \$49. Awarded schools are asked to contribute \$35 towards the sign.

Environment and climate change: fire operations plan

1644. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change — with reference to the Fire Operations Plan for 2007–08 to 2009–10 — was burn number W33 conducted as scheduled; if not —

- (1) Why not.
- (2) When will the burn take place.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 1.6 hectare planned burn, W33, in Warrandyte State Park was dominated by Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides* - previously known as *Leptospermum phyllicoides*). The planned burn is part of an ecological restoration program, within the park, to remove this species and regenerate indigenous vegetation.

Burgan is best treated in two steps.

- (1) the vegetation is slashed and brought to ground level, then
- (2) the area is burnt at a later stage under prescribed conditions.

The vegetation was slashed last autumn. However, the area was not burnt in spring 2008 as originally planned because of the extreme fuel loads and the dry conditions experienced in September and October 2008.

Burn W33 has been rescheduled in the Fire Operations Plan for 2008/09, and may be burnt in March/April 2009 if weather conditions are suitable to conduct the planned burn operation.

Health: paramedics

1647. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to the proposed recruitment of 260 additional paramedics announced on 23 April 2008 —

- (1) How many of the 260 paramedics have been recruited and appointed.
- (2) In which regions, both country and metropolitan, are the recruited paramedics working.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Ambulance Victoria has advised that in total 223 new paramedics have either commenced or about to be appointed to positions in the service since July 2008.
- (2) With the formation of a single statewide ambulance service, Ambulance Victoria has advised that the rostering processes are such that paramedics are not always recruited to fill vacancies at specific locations, rather they are moved around the regions to meet the operational requirements at that time. This also takes into account the need to roster new graduates to locations where they will receive appropriate supervision and support.

Health: digital mammography

1649. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to the Government’s 2006 election promise to provide \$10 million to expand digital mammography to all BreastScreen Victoria services —

- (1) Has any funding been allocated; if so —
 - (a) which services have received funding; and
 - (b) on what date was the funding made available to each service.
- (2) Which services are now using digital mammography to deliver breast screening services.

ANSWER:

The Government is committed to tackling cancer and the 2008–09 budget delivered a new \$150 million Cancer Action Plan aimed to increase cancer survival rates for Victorians by a further 10 per cent by 2015 which includes increased investment in cancer prevention initiatives, such as screening.

Since 1999 funding for BreastScreen Victoria has been increased from \$19 million to over \$30.8 million in 2008-09.

The Government’s 2006 election promise to provide \$10 million to expand digital mammography to all BreastScreen Victoria services will be honoured.

Community services: supported accommodation — Barwon south-west region

1660. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community — with reference to supported accommodation in the Barwon South West region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 278 community residential unit beds in the Barwon South West Region.
- (2) As at June 2008, there were 100 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the Barwon South West Region.

Community services: supported accommodation — Hume region

1661. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to supported accommodation in the Hume region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 270 community residential unit beds in the Hume Region.

- (2) As at June 2008, there were 80 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the Hume Region.

Community services: supported accommodation — Loddon Mallee region

1662. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to supported accommodation in the Loddon Mallee region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
 (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 210 community residential unit beds in the Loddon Mallee Region.
 (2) As at June 2008, there were 52 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the Loddon Mallee Region.

Community services: supported accommodation — Grampians region

1663. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to supported accommodation in the Grampians region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
 (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 347 community residential unit beds in the Grampians Region.
 (2) As at June 2008, there were 56 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the Grampians Region.

Community services: supported accommodation — Gippsland region

1664. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to supported accommodation in the Gippsland region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
 (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 201 community residential unit beds in the Gippsland Region.
 (2) As at June 2008, there were 58 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the Gippsland Region.

Community services: supported accommodation — eastern metropolitan region

1665. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to supported accommodation in the Eastern Metropolitan region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 1,259 community residential unit beds in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.
- (2) As at June 2008, there were 294 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Community services: supported accommodation — southern metropolitan region

1666. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to supported accommodation in the Southern Metropolitan region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 939 community residential unit beds in the Southern Region.
- (2) As at June 2008, there were 359 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the Southern Region.

Community services: supported accommodation — north-west metropolitan region

1667. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to supported accommodation in the North-West Metropolitan region —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many people in the region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodation options category.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at August 2008, there were 1280 community residential unit beds in the North-West Metropolitan Region.
- (2) As at June 2008, there were 359 people on the disability support register in the category “Supported Accommodation Options” in the North-West Metropolitan Region.

Community services: disability services — Loddon Mallee region

1685. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Loddon Mallee region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Grampians region

1686. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Grampians region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Barwon south-western region

1687. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Barwon-South Western region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Hume region

1688. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Hume region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Gippsland region

1689. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Gippsland region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — eastern metropolitan region

1690. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Eastern Metropolitan region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — north and west metropolitan region

1691. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the North and West Metropolitan region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — southern metropolitan region

1692. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Southern Metropolitan region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Loddon Mallee region

1693. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Loddon Mallee region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Grampians region

1694. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Grampians region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Barwon south-western region

1695. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Barwon-South Western region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Hume region

1696. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Hume region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Gippsland region

1697. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Gippsland region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — eastern metropolitan region

1698. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Eastern Metropolitan region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — north and west metropolitan region

1699. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the North and West Metropolitan region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — southern region

1700. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Southern region in 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2006-07 is published in the *Disability Support Services 2006-07 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* (P13, AIHW October 2008, Cat no DIS52). Data is not provided on regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Loddon Mallee region

1701. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Loddon Mallee region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Grampians region

1702. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Grampians region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Barwon south-western region

1703. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Barwon-South Western region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Hume region

1704. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Hume region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Gippsland region

1705. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Gippsland region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — eastern metropolitan region

1706. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Eastern Metropolitan region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — north and west metropolitan region

1707. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the North and West Metropolitan region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — southern metropolitan region

1708. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — what was the user ratio per 1,000 population of Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded places in the Southern Metropolitan region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A user ratio of ‘funded places’ cannot be meaningfully calculated because funding under the CSTDA is provided for a wide range of services and activities which include one-off, episodic and on-going assistance that cannot be equated to ‘funded places’.

Community services: disability services — Loddon Mallee region

1709. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Loddon Mallee Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Grampians region

1710. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Grampians Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Barwon south-western region

1711. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Barwon-South Western Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Hume region

1712. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Hume Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories*

Disability Agreement to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — Gippsland region

1713. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Gippsland Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — eastern metropolitan region

1714. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Eastern Metropolitan Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — north and west metropolitan region

1715. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the North and West Metropolitan Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Community services: disability services — southern region

1716. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — how many Victorians accessed Commonwealth State Territory Disability Agreement funded services in the Southern Region in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Aggregate data on Victorians receiving CSTDA funded services in 2007-08 will be published in the *Disability Support Services 2007-08 - National Data on Services Provided Under the Commonwealth State/Territories Disability Agreement* to be published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in 2009. Data is not provided on Regional breakdowns.

Mental health: drug awareness campaign

1717. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the \$600,000 *Ice: It's a dirty drug* awareness campaign —

- (1) What was the total cost of the 3.3 metre by 25 metre wide 'giant black creeper-weed' billboard.
- (2) What was the cost of securing advertising space in St Kilda for the two month period.
- (3) Are there any intentions to re-run the campaign in summer 2008–09.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The total cost of the billboard construction and maintenance was \$18,000 (plus GST)
- (2) It cost a total of \$42,800 to secure the advertising space in St Kilda for two months (January and February, 2008)
- (3) There is no intention to re-run this campaign in Summer 2009.

Mental health: drug awareness campaign

1718. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the \$600,000 *Ice: It's a dirty drug* awareness campaign — as at 1 July 2008 had the funds been expended; if so, was the use of the funding evaluated and what was the outcome of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As at July 2008, the funds (\$600,000) had been expended and evaluated.

Between November 2007 and March 2008, the Victorian Government delivered the '*Ice: it's a dirty drug*' campaign. The campaign was developed to raise awareness of the physical and mental health risks associated with crystal methamphetamine or 'ice' as well as its key ingredients, aiming to justify and reinforce negative perceptions of the drug. The campaign evaluation showed that the campaign was successful.

Mental health: drug strategy

1719. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant and related drugs strategy 2007–10 discussion paper —

- (1) What key actions were identified.
- (2) When is the task force expected to release the report.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1) & (2)

It is anticipated that the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) and related drug strategy will be released in early 2009.

Agriculture: weeds — Yarra Ranges

1747. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Agriculture —with reference to the submission made by the Shire of Yarra Ranges to the 2009–10 State Budget —

- (1) Has the Treasurer read the submission.
- (2) Will the Government provide funding to tackle the weed problem throughout the Yarra Ranges region by committing \$500,000 per annum for a period of five years in the in the 2009–10 Budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government invests in a range of programs to provide public benefit by preventing or eradicating new weed species, containing weeds to prevent spread and reducing the impact of weeds on high value assets. This investment includes action to manage weed infestations on public land. Investment is for the most part prioritised on a state wide or regional scale rather than by municipality.

Skills and workforce participation: employment assistance

1751(b). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation with reference to assistance given to people suffering mental illness to participate in the workforce —

- (1) What investment has the Government made to help people participate.
- (2) How many programs are funded to assist people to participate.
- (3) How much funding did the Government allocate to programs assisting people to participate in —
 - (a) 2002–03;
 - (b) 2003–04;
 - (c) 2004–05;
 - (d) 2005–06;
 - (e) 2006–07; and
 - (f) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Primary responsibility for employment assistance rests with the Commonwealth Government, which operates specific disability employment services such as the Disability Employment Network as well as the Personal Support Programme that supports jobseekers with non-vocational barriers to work, including psychological conditions. Complementing these services, the Victorian Government funds a number of programs that assist Victorian jobseekers with barriers to employment. In relation to the specific questions:

- (1) What investment has the Government made to help people participate.
See response to (3).

- (2) How many programs are funded to assist people to participate.

Two programs are funded under the Skills and Workforce Participation portfolio that offer assistance to people with a mental illness. These are:

New Workforce Partnerships aims to meet the labour and skill needs of Victorian industry, as well as addressing social disadvantage, by increasing employment among population groups with low participation and employment rates.

The program targets unemployed Victorian jobseekers who have significant vocational and non-vocational barriers to employment. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Refugees and recently arrived migrants from culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
- People with a disability;
- People with a mental illness;
- Indigenous Australians; and
- Young people who are disengaged from education and work.

Career Start is a four year program to support Victorian graduates with a disability into professional and semi-professional positions in the public and community sector. The program offers assistance to graduates with a disability. Participants may have a physical disability, sensory disability (i.e. sight, hearing, speech), mental illness or behavioural disability, or an intellectual or developmental disability.

- (3) How much funding did the Government allocate to programs assisting people to participate in —

- (a) 2002–03;

\$20 million was allocated for the Community Jobs Program which provided training and work experience to long-term unemployed people and those at risk of long-term unemployment. The program identified a number of specific target groups including people with a disability. People with a mental illness were eligible for assistance under the program.

- (b) 2003–04;

\$9.6 million was allocated for Community Jobs Program (see above).

- (c) 2004–05;

\$9.6 million was allocated for Community Jobs Program (see above).

- (d) 2005–06 & (e) 2006–07

\$24.6 million was allocated for *Workforce Participation Partnerships* to assist job seekers with barriers to employment to find work in areas of industry skills and labour needs. The program targeted assistance to disadvantaged jobseekers, including people with a mental illness.

- (f) 2007–08.

\$5 million was allocated for *Workforce Participation Partnerships* (see above). A further \$0.4 million was allocated for Career Start (see above).

Water: parks charge — Kilsyth electorate

- 1756(c).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the parks charge —

- (1) What was the total amount collected in the electorate of Kilsyth.
- (2) What percentage of the amount collected in the electorate of Kilsyth was allocated for projects in the electorate.

ANSWER:

The parks charge is paid to Parks Victoria, Zoos Victoria, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Shrine of Remembrance for the management of parks, open spaces and waterways in the metropolitan area.

I am informed that the amount of parks charge collected in the Kilsyth area (postcodes 3136, 3137 and 3138) in 2007-08 was \$1.6 million and the amount spent by Parks Victoria in the Kilsyth area in 2007-08 on the Dandenong Ranges National Park and Dandenong Ranges Gardens was \$3.7 million.

Energy and resources: GreenPower subsidies

1778. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources —

- (1) By what amount did the Government subsidise the production of GreenPower in —
 - (a) 2002–03;
 - (b) 2003–04;
 - (c) 2004–05;
 - (d) 2005–06;
 - (e) 2006–07; and
 - (f) 2007–08.

- (2) How many companies or individuals were the recipients of Government subsidies for the production of GreenPower in —
 - (a) 2002–03;
 - (b) 2003–04;
 - (c) 2004–05;
 - (d) 2005–06;
 - (e) 2006–07; and
 - (f) 2007–08.

- (3) Which companies or individuals have received subsidies from the Government for the production of GreenPower.

ANSWER:

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

GreenPower is a national accreditation program and neither the Federal nor the Victorian Government subsidises GreenPower.

Energy and resources: GreenPower subsidies

1779. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources does the Government offer subsidies as an incentive for household or business account holders to use GreenPower.

ANSWER:

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

GreenPower is a national accreditation program and neither the Federal nor the Victorian Government subsidises GreenPower.

Skills and workforce participation: employment assistance

1781(b). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation what programs or facilities does the Government fund to assist recipients of public housing to participate in the workforce.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Complementing the national employment services provided by the Commonwealth Government, the Victorian Government funds the following programs that assist public housing tenants to gain employment:

New Workforce Partnerships

New Workforce Partnerships aims to meet the labour and skill needs of Victorian industry, as well as addressing social disadvantage, by increasing employment among population groups with low participation and employment rates. The program targets unemployed Victorian jobseekers and gives priority to projects that target clients of other Victorian Government support services, including public housing tenants.

The program builds on the high performing *Workforce Participation Partnerships*, which operated between 2005 and 2008. This program also targeted assistance to disadvantaged jobseekers, and included projects specifically assisting jobseekers in *Neighbourhood Renewal* areas (see below).

Public Tenant Employment Program

The *Public Tenant Employment Program* provides public housing tenants with opportunities such as accredited training to develop skills, confidence and qualifications and access to employment. A Public Tenant Employment clause has been included in all Office of Housing contracts for Upgrade Construction, Responsive Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance, Cleaning Services and Security. The clause requires all contractors to employ a percentage of tenants in their workforce. This program is operated by the Office of Housing and falls under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Housing, Richard Wynne.

Neighbourhood Renewal

Neighbourhood Renewal is a place-based approach to addressing social disadvantage that focuses on neighbourhoods with high levels of public housing. One of the objectives of *Neighbourhood Renewal* is to lift employment, training and education opportunities. This program is managed by the Office of Housing and falls under the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Housing, Richard Wynne.

Mental health: drug awareness campaign

1787. Mr DELAHUNTY to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to the Government's election commitment to provide \$1 million to raise awareness of the mental health dangers of marijuana and the risks of methamphetamine consumption —

- (1) How much has been expended to date on the program.
- (2) Has any research been undertaken to measure the effectiveness of the campaign; if so, what were the detailed results of the research.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) To date, \$0.65 million has been spent on initiatives specific to raising the awareness of dangers and risks of methamphetamine consumption.

- (2) Research undertaken to measure the effectiveness of the 'Ice It's a dirty campaign found that the campaign was successful.