

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

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FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 17 July 2007

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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, 17 July 2007

Water, environment and climate change: tennis club water restrictions

84. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change with reference to stage three water restrictions which have resulted in a range of restrictions on sporting and other organisations in relation to the use and management of their facilities — why are tennis clubs engaged in regular competition restricted to using only half of their courts given that this results in the same number of sets taking twice as long to be played and, as courts are permitted to be watered at the beginning of each set, the same volume of water being used.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Under stage 3A water restrictions exempt playing surfaces (which include tennis courts) are able to be watered in accordance with the provisions set out under stage 3 water restrictions, in recognition of the importance of sporting facilities to the health and well being of the community.

Tennis courts may be watered as follows:

- Using an automatic dripper system only as required between midnight and 8.00 a.m..
- Using a manual dripper system only as required between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m., and 8.00 p.m. and midnight.
- Using a hand held hose with trigger nozzle, watering can or bucket only as required between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m..
- And in each case above:
 - either or both of Sunday and Wednesday for an odd street number
 - either or both of Saturday and Tuesday for an even street number or property with no number.

In an effort to maintain as many sports clubs and competitions as possible during this period of drought, a sportsground or tennis court may be watered otherwise in accordance with a Water Conservation Plan prepared by the operator of the club or facility and approved by their local water authority.

These restrictions will be in place until 31 July 2007, by which time the storage outlook for spring/summer will be known with more certainty

Local government: Doncaster electorate Crown land

92(e). Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Local Government with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

Under the portfolio of Local Government I do not have responsibility for the management of Crown land or the sale and acquisition of land.

The Minister for Planning is responsible for the management of Crown land.

Police and emergency services: Doncaster electorate Crown land

92(f). Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

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

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

In the electorate of Doncaster, within the City of Manningham, the Department of Justice has only one 'owned' Crown land holding relating to my portfolio —

Doncaster Police Station
979 Doncaster Road
Doncaster East.

The Department does not propose to sell the property holding, nor to acquire any new land in the electorate.

Public transport: Doncaster electorate Crown land

92(g). Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster relating to the Minister's portfolio —

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

ANSWER:

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

1. The Department of Infrastructure (DOI) has identified two parcels of crown-owned land in the Doncaster electorate within the Minister's portfolio. These are the Doncaster bus depot located at 868–870 Doncaster Road, Doncaster and a bus turning facility at 94–102 Mitcham Road Donvale.
2. The bus depot is approximately 2.724 ha and the title is in the name of the Secretary DOI. The bus turning bay is approximately 1,140 m² and the title is in the name of VicTrack.
3. There is no intention of selling these parcels of land.
4. Meeting Our Transport Challenges Action 2 (Creating a cross-town transport network for Melbourne) nominated the Doncaster bus upgrade including to 'provide more Park & Ride opportunities'. DOI considers it likely that additional land will be required for this project but the assessment of the potential locations is still being carried out and a location has not been identified.

Roads and ports: VicRoads graffiti

- 96.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — are VicRoads staff driving past graffiti-strewn VicRoads infrastructure instructed to report such damage to VicRoads call centre; if not, why not.

ANSWER:

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

VicRoads staff are encouraged to report any significant deficiencies or potential safety hazards that may impact on VicRoads infrastructure assets. Any instances of graffiti are generally directed to the maintenance teams who are responsible for the removal of graffiti. However, where staff do not know who to contact, they are able to report issues to VicRoads call centre who will pass them onto the appropriate region for action.

Public transport: Connex and V/Line train drivers

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

- (1) How many drivers were employed as full time, part time or casual drivers as at —
 - (a) 30 June 2004;
 - (b) 30 June 2005;
 - (c) 30 June 2006;
 - (d) 30 April 2007.
- (2) How many drivers were in training as at —
 - (a) 30 June 2004;
 - (b) 30 June 2005;
 - (c) 30 June 2006;
 - (d) 30 April 2007.
- (3) How many drivers, employed or in training, were on sick leave or WorkCover as at —
 - (a) 30 June 2004;
 - (b) 30 June 2005;
 - (c) 30 June 2006;
 - (d) 30 April 2007.
- (4) How many drivers were paid a bonus to postpone retirement in —
 - (a) 2003–04;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2005–06;
 - (d) 1 July 2006 to 30 April 2007.
- (5) How much was paid in total for driver bonus payments in —
 - (a) 2003–04;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2005–06;
 - (d) 1 July 2006 to 30 April 2007.

- (6) How many trains were cancelled due to drivers being unavailable in —
 (a) 2003–04;
 (b) 2004–05;
 (c) 2005–06;
 (d) 1 July 2006 to 30 April 2007.
- (7) How many trains were late due to drivers being unavailable in —
 (a) 2003–04;
 (b) 2004–05;
 (c) 2005–06;
 (d) 1 July 2006 to 30 April 2007.

ANSWER:

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

		Connex	V/Line	
(1)	(a)	30 June 2004;	594	225
	(b)	30 June 2005;	612	245
	(c)	30 June 2006;	625	286
	(d)	30 April 2007.	655	309
(2)	(a)	30 June 2004;	48	n/a
	(b)	30 June 2005;	74	29
	(c)	30 June 2006;	85	52
	(d)	30 April 2007.	92	20
(3)	(a)	30 June 2004;	29	7
	(b)	30 June 2005;	36	10
	(c)	30 June 2006;	44	11
	(d)	30 April 2007.	34	15
(4)	(a)	2003–04;	Nil	Nil
	(b)	2004–05;	Nil	Nil
	(c)	2005–06;	54	43
	(d)	1/7/06 to 30/4/07	67	10
(5)	(a)	2003–04;	Nil	Nil
	(b)	2004–05;	Nil	Nil
	(c)	2005–06;	\$1.24m	\$0.86m
	(d)	1/7/06 to 30/4/07	\$1.28m	\$0.1m
(6)	(a)	2003–04;	2,195	Nil
	(b)	2004–05;	1,488	3
	(c)	2005–06;	210	11
	(d)	1/7/06 to 30/4/07	426	37
(7)	(a)	2003–04;	2,720	Nil
	(b)	2004–05;	2,508	22
	(c)	2005–06;	561	32
	(d)	1/7/06 to 30/4/07	835	*

* this data is currently being collected within a broad range of other data and the specific report would not be available until end of financial year.

Public transport: rail reserve rubbish

120. Mr **MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — how often do contractors remove rubbish from metropolitan rail reserves adjacent to platforms and line side between each of Melbourne’s 209 railway stations and who audits this work.

ANSWER:

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

The Partnership Agreement with Connex requires it to remove litter from areas adjacent to platforms (station pits) every month.

Connex is also required, as soon as reasonably possible after it has been notified, to remove hazardous rubbish from railway lines between stations, where it adversely impacts on the visual amenity of nearby residents.

The removal of litter from this area of land requires staff to be specially trained to work in areas where trains are in operation. Often the only time litter removal can be undertaken is overnight when services are not running or during an occupation (railway works) in conjunction with other works, when replacement bus services are being operated.

The Department of Infrastructure’s Public Transport Division monitors Connex’s performance to ensure compliance with the obligations set out in the Partnership Agreement. Representatives of the Director of Public Transport regularly inspect stations and other infrastructure.

Public transport: Wodonga rail bypass

127. Mr **TILLEY** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the rail buyback negotiations — can the Minister provide a detailed program, including estimated dates of completion, of works on the relocation of the Wodonga rail bypass.

ANSWER:

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

The Government has now completed the buy back of the regional rail freight network from Pacific National. This is a major milestone for the Wodonga rail bypass.

We are now involved in detailed discussions with the ARTC, the operators of the interstate rail line, to finalise the scope for the project.

Public transport: Doncaster Shoppingtown tramline extension

129. Ms **WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the article ‘Tramline’ published in the *Manningham Leader* on 15 November 2006 which outlined the Government’s dismissal of the proposal to extend the route 48 tramline from North Balwyn to Doncaster Shoppingtown —

- (1) Noting that the dismissal of the proposal was on the grounds of congestion, the gradient and cost, can the Minister provide the analysis of the gradient levels required to justify this claim.
- (2) Noting the previous Minister for Transport claimed that the Department of Infrastructure costed the project up to \$60 million, can the Government outline those costings in detail.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The steep grades of 6 per cent that exist between Balwyn Road and the Eastern Freeway exceed grade limitations for tram stops to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). The DDA and the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport require a grade maximum of 1:40 slope (2.5 per cent).
- (2) This project has not been scoped or costed in detail. The cost estimate was based on the unit costs experienced with the Vermont South and the Box Hill tram extension projects. Allowance was made for the extra costs expected for Doncaster Road. The purchase costs of the additional trams that would be required have not been included in the estimate.

Public transport: Nunawading–Pines school bus route

130. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Public Transport — can the Minister provide details of the performance of the school bus route running along Springvale Road from Nunawading station to the Pines Shopping Centre including details of —

- (1) On time service.
- (2) Cancellations.
- (3) Passenger numbers.

ANSWER:

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

There is insufficient information provided to answer this question as there are a number of school bus services operating in this area.

Police and emergency services: Victoria Police multicultural statement

133. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to comments made by the Chief Commissioner of Police on the ABC TV 7.00 p.m. news on 30 April 2007 that some members of the Victorian community had been victims of violence at the hands of the police and the State —

- (1) How many such instances occurred during —
 - (a) 1999–2000;
 - (b) 2000–01;
 - (c) 2001–02;
 - (d) 2002–03;
 - (e) 2003–04;
 - (f) 2004–05;
 - (g) 2005–06;
 - (h) 2006–07 to date.
- (2) What action was taken by the Police Commissioner to redress this behaviour.
- (3) What prosecutions were initiated as a result of such incidents during —
 - (a) 1999–2000;
 - (b) 2000–01;
 - (c) 2001–02;

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

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Chief Commissioner of Police launched the Multicultural Statement on 25 March 2007 giving an undertaking that Victoria Police would do more to engage with ethnic communities settling in Melbourne.

ABC Television reported this story with a statement from the Chief Commissioner who said ‘... some of them have been victims of violence by police officers and the state and so yes they are afraid of us and in many cases don’t know what to expect from local police’.

In this statement, Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon was referring to the treatment many ethnic groups and individuals had experienced from police forces and the state in the countries they had left and not from Victoria Police or any other Australian police force.

Victoria Police is committed to doing more to engage with new ethnic groups and training officers in learning about different faiths. Further, more effort will be made to improve relations with different cultural groups and refugees.

Public transport: Metrol employees

143. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — as at 1 May 2007 how many people working at Metrol were —

- (1) From Connex.
- (2) From the Department of Infrastructure.
- (3) From other companies.
- (4) Contractors.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Connex: 94
- (2) Department of Infrastructure: Nil
- (3) Mainco: 10
- (4) Contractors: Nil.

Agriculture: ministerial communications training

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

- (1) What training has the Minister received.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity providing the training.

- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

ANSWER:

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

As neither the financial year for 2006/2007 nor the full calendar year for 2007 have as yet transpired, complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: ministerial communications training

145(f). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the financial year for 2006/ 2007 has not yet concluded, complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

Health: ministerial communications training

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

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

ANSWER:

As neither the financial year for 2006/ 2007 nor the full calendar years for 2006 and 2007 have as yet transpired, the complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

Housing: ministerial communications training

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

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As neither the financial year for 2006/ 2007 nor the full calendar years for 2006 and 2007 have as yet transpired, then complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

Police and emergency services: ministerial communications training

145(k). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

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

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

No cost has been incurred for media training from 1/07/06 to date. Further, no training has been received during this period.

Attorney-General: Major Michael Mori

147. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Attorney-General with reference to David Hicks' United States military defence lawyer, Major Michael Mori and his visit to Victoria in February 2007 —

- (1) What was the total cost of the visit.
- (2) Who was appointed to oversee the visit.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Major Michael Mori was invited by the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission to deliver a keynote address to its Human Rights Conference. The cost of Major Mori's flight was shared between the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and an interstate organisation, which had also invited him to attend its conference. Major Mori's accommodation in Melbourne was donated. Major Mori did not charge a speaking fee or expenses.

The total cost to the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission of Major Mori's visit to Victoria in February 2007 was \$869.50.

- (2) The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission invited Major Mori to deliver a keynote address to its Human Rights Conference on 27th February 2007.

Agriculture: ministerial assistant

152. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Agriculture with reference to the appointment of Robert Mitchell as an assistant to the Minister —

- (1) In which newspaper was the job advertised.

- (2) How many applications for the job were received.
- (3) What is the public service grade level at which the appointment was made.
- (4) What were the terms of the job description that was prepared prior to the job being advertised.
- (5) What is the correlation between the selection criteria and the skill set of the appointee.

ANSWER:

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

The engagement of staff for deployment in the office of a Minister for the Crown is governed by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. Further information about the appointment of staff within the office of a Minister for the Crown can be found in the aforementioned act.

Regional and rural development: ministerial adviser

153. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development with reference to the appointment of Ian Maxfield as policy adviser to the Minister —

- (1) In which newspaper was the job advertised.
- (2) How many applications for the job were received.
- (3) What is the public service grade level at which the appointment was made.
- (4) What were terms of the job description that was prepared prior to the job being advertised.
- (5) What is the correlation between the selection criteria and the skill set of the appointee.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The engagement of staff for deployment in the office of a Minister of the Crown, is governed by the Public Administration Act 2004. Further information about the appointment of staff within the office of a Minister of the Crown can be found in the aforementioned act.

Planning: Highett gas works

158. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change for the Minister for Planning with reference to the Highett Gas Works infrastructure relocation — will the Government confirm that compensation for the loss deriving from the proposed relocation of gas infrastructure be ameliorated by a property and works package comprising of land within the proposed VicUrban development being permanently reserved by the Crown for recreation and by required alterations to the existing reserve being made to ensure the ongoing viability of the reserve in its current use.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The issue raised does not fall within the Minister's portfolio and would be more appropriately asked of the Minister for Finance.

Education: illicit substance use in schools

186. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education with reference to measures within schools to tackle illicit substance use —

- (1) Are government and private schools subject to a drug policy; if so, what does this drug policy entail for —
 - (a) government school teachers;
 - (b) government school students;
 - (c) private school teachers;
 - (d) private school students.

- (2) What measures are taken if a government school teacher, government school student, private school teacher or private school student is —
 - (a) caught in possession of an illicit substance;
 - (b) suspected to be under the influence of an illicit substance;
 - (c) proven to be under the influence of an illicit substance.

- (3) Is drug testing ever used by the Department of Education, specific state or private schools; if so when and in which schools.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The State Government will not tolerate illicit drugs activity in Victorian schools.

Which is why the State Government has worked with Catholic and Independent schools to achieve uniformity in illicit drug education and compliance across Victorian schools.

The Department of Education, the Catholic Education Commission of Victorian (CECV) and the Association of Independent Schools Victoria (AISV) have developed a Drug Education Memorandum of Understanding to achieve uniformity in illicit drug policy.

Last month, the MoU was strengthened to include a commitment from non-government schools to ensure consistency with Government schools policy to work collaboratively with police and notify authorities of illicit drug activity.

AISV has strengthened compliance guidelines to advise its 200 member schools to contact local police if a principal intervenes or takes action as a result of allegation of drug use, possession or distribution. The guidelines also advise a school may be in breach of duty of care or breach of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act if they fail to notify police.

The strengthened MoU incorporates ASIV's updated Protocols/Advice.

The Department does not support drug testing of Government school students. Drug testing in the Catholic and Independent schools is a matter for individual schools to manage.

Community services: aged care respite services

- 190.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services with reference to aged care respite services and the 'Helping Carers and Assisting People with Dementia' initiative — why has the 2007–08 state budget target for individuals provided with respite services remained unchanged from the 2006–07 expected outcomes, when funding for respite services has increased in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 2007–08 performance target in the Aged Support Services Output relates to individuals provided with respite through the Aged Care Support for Carers Program (SCP).

The 2007–08 increase in funding for carers and people with dementia is for a range of support activities, including respite, across a number of different outputs and it is therefore inappropriate to assume in your question that the service support remains unchanged.

The \$0.8m to assist people with dementia comprises:

- \$325,000 to the Cognitive Dementia and Memory Service (CDAMS) clinics, which provide early diagnosis, referrals and support for people with cognitive impairment (Admitted Services Output, Metropolitan Health).
- \$300,000 to the Support for Carers of People with Dementia program, which provides a range of flexible and innovative support services.
- \$175,000 for a range of projects to assist people with dementia and their carers (non-target related).

The 2007–08 increase in funding for carers is for a range of support activities for carers, including:

- \$1m for education, training and advocacy programs for carers and service providers (non-target related)
- \$3.2m for respite for people with a disability and their carers (Individual Support Output, Disability Services).

Community services: aged care support services

196. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services with reference to the output cost of Aged Support Services — given that the 2005–06 total output cost of Aged Care Support Services was targeted in 2006–07 Budget Paper No 3 at \$74.2 million and the actual figure as indicated in the 2007–08 Budget Paper No 3 was \$67.8 million —

- (1) What is the reason for the difference in the target versus actual output cost.
- (2) Did any services miss out on funding as a result; if so, which services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The \$6.4 million gap in the target versus actual output cost is due to a combination of administrative adjustments including funding transfers to other outputs, realignment of indirect charges such as hospital long service leave, depreciation and other corporate adjustments.
- (2) No services missed out as there was not a reduction in funding.

Community services: young people with complex medical needs

199. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services — excluding the facility in Alphington, are there any plans to build additional facilities specifically for young people with complex medical needs; if so —

- (1) Where will the facilities be located.
- (2) When will the construction of the facilities be completed.
- (3) How many bed places will the facilities provide.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Through the *my future my choice* initiative, additional services will be developed for young people with high and complex support needs to help reduce the number of younger people living in Residential Aged Care (RAC) services.

- (1) Apart from the Alphington service, the initiative is currently identifying suitable service providers for new services in Southern Metropolitan Region (SMR) and Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR). Further service developments will be scheduled pending the outcome of the individual planning process currently under way for younger people living in RAC.
- (2) The SMR and EMR services will be constructed and operational by mid-late 2008.
- (3) Each of the three developments in Alphington, SMR and EMR will provide 10 beds each. The number of places to be included in later developments will be informed by the individual planning process.

Community services: aged care high-care beds

206. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services — what was the number of new high care bed places opened in state-run residential aged care facilities in —

- (1) 2004.
- (2) 2005.
- (3) 2006.
- (4) 2007 to date.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) 2004 — 32 high care places
- (2) 2005 — 37 high care places
- (3) 2006 — Nil
- (4) 2007 to date — Nil

Community services: aged care residential places

207. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services with reference to public sector nursing homes applying for additional residential places under the Commonwealth Government's 2007 aged care and approvals round —

- (1) How many proposals for endorsement were received by the Department of Human Services.
- (2) Which nursing homes submitted proposals and of these —
 - (a) how many additional beds were applied for by each nursing home;
 - (b) did the Government endorse these proposals for more nursing home beds; if so, which nursing home beds were supported.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) One proposal for residential aged care places was received for endorsement by DHS for the Commonwealth's 2007 Aged Care Approvals Round
- (2) Heywood Rural Health submitted the proposal

- (a) Expansion of 8 high care residential places was proposed by Heywood Rural Health
- (b) DHS did not endorse the proposal

Community services: home and community care funding

208. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services with reference to the funding of Home and Community Care (HACC) —

- (1) What is the funding breakdown by output group and activity under HACC in —
 - (a) 2005–06;
 - (b) 2006–07;
 - (c) 2007–08.
- (2) What amount of funding for each output group comes from the State Government.
- (3) What amount of funding for each output group comes from the Commonwealth Government.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The total funding for Home and Community Care (HACC) in 2005–06 and 2006–07 was

Output group	Year	Budget by output group	Approx \$ from Commonwealth	Approx \$ from State
HACC	2005–06	\$408.3m	\$214.5m	\$193.8m
Small Rural	2005–06	\$ 21.0m	\$ 11.0m	\$ 10.0m
HACC	2006–07	\$440.0m	\$230.4m	\$209.6m
Small Rural	2006–07	\$ 24.5m	\$ 12.8m	\$ 11.7m
HACC	2007–08*	\$468.9m	n/a	n/a
Small Rural	2007–08*	\$ 24.7m	n/a	n/a

NOTES

- * These figures are estimates only as the letter of offer has not yet been received.
- * The amount of State and Commonwealth dollars are approximates derived from the proportion of total budget that is attributable to funding source.
- * The numbers may not add due to rounding

HACC funding breakdown by group and activity

Activity	2005/2006	2006/2007
Allied Health	\$ 28,784,870	\$ 35,920,525
Delivered Meals	\$ 5,729,185	\$ 5,847,277
Domestic Assistance	\$ 60,275,396	\$ 64,917,746
Linkages	\$ 37,332,643	\$ 38,116,634
Nursing Non Public Sector	\$ 4,139,315	\$ 4,499,654
Nursing Public Sector	\$ 40,193,513	\$ 43,558,565
Personal Care	\$ 26,387,204	\$ 28,861,896
Planned Activity Group — Core	\$ 21,910,862	\$ 22,870,151
Planned Activity Group — High	\$ 21,788,938	\$ 22,834,546

Activity	2005/2006	2006/2007
Property Maintenance	\$ 9,041,270	\$ 9,838,345
RDNS — Allied Health	\$ 560,210	\$ 575,989
RDNS — Nursing	\$ 36,040,896	\$ 37,051,259
RDNS — Personal Care	\$ 2,367,694	\$ 2,417,357
Respite	\$ 18,668,627	\$ 19,475,309
Volunteer Co-ordination	\$ 13,713,810	\$ 13,959,890

NOTES

* Activity breakdown excludes funding for non-unit priced activity and administration.

A breakdown has not been provided for 2007–08 as growth funds for this year have not yet been allocated.

(2) 48% of this funding comes from the State Government. In 2006–07 this amount included \$55.7m over and above the matching requirements stated in the HACC Agreement.

(3) 52% of this funding comes from the Commonwealth Government.

Community services: aged care assessments

209. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Community Services — how many aged care assessments were delivered in each of the eight Department of Human Services regions in —

- (1) 2004.
- (2) 2005.
- (3) 2006.
- (4) 2007 to date.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The following number of aged care assessments have been completed by the Aged Care Assessment Program.

Region	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07 (to end Qtr 3 only)
Barwon South-West	4557	4405	3398
Loddon Mallee	4355	4368	3136
Grampians	2517	2560	1907
Hume	2541	2931	2230
Gippsland	2496	2540	1775
North-West	13033	13151	9938
Eastern	11521	11803	9129
Southern	13291	12663	9437
Total	54311	54421	40950

- Note, totals for 2004–05 and 2005–06 are the final published figures from the Dept of Health and Ageing — *Aged Care Assessment Program Annual Report Victoria 2004–05*.
- Figures include Victorian Admitted Episode Data (VAED) for ACAS consultations.
- 2006–07 is the actual YTD to end of quarter 3.

Education: Pembroke Secondary College

216. **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment for the Minister for Education with reference to funding provided to Pembroke Secondary College in the 2006–07 state budget to develop a master plan —

- (1) Has the Minister been made aware of the finalisation of the plan.
- (2) Has the Department of Education given any indication to the College administration of a projected budget for the replacement of the Cambridge Road and Reay Road campuses as outlined in the plan.
- (3) How much of any projected budget amount has been allocated in the 2007–08 state budget to the College for the implementation of its plan.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

\$1,000,000 capital funding has already been allocated from the 2006–07 State Budget for planning for the redevelopment of the Reay Road site of the Pembroke Secondary College, which will allow for the closure of the Cambridge Road Junior campus. Planning commenced in 2006 in anticipation of presenting a planned project, complete with a budget, for consideration for inclusion in the 2007–08 State Budget.

The initial planning was based on gaining access to Cambridge Road, as the Local Council had made access difficult along Reay Road (which adjoins the local Catholic school).

With access to Cambridge Road denied in late 2006, planning had to recommence on improving access through Reay Road and providing sufficient road ways and drop off points with the school grounds.

This delay caused by the Council did not allow sufficient time to develop a quality budget bid for consideration for the 2007–08 State Budget.

The revised master plan was approved in February 2007.

The school and architect are meeting regularly to finalise planning, including negotiation with potential community users.

Decisions relating to funding of the final plans will be in future budgets.

Roads and ports: taxidriver demerit points

246. **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — how many taxi drivers had demerit points on the Victorian Taxi and Tow Truck demerit points register for each category from zero to 12 as at —

- (1) 31 May 2006.
- (2) 30 April 2007.
- (3) 31 May 2007.

ANSWER:

The answer is:

The question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility.