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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**9 October 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, 9 October 2007**

**Water: single-flush school toilets**

**85.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the introduction of stage three water restrictions and noting that at least one primary school in the electorate of Sandringham still has some old single flush toilets using eight litres of water per flush —

- (1) How many Government schools are still using single flush cisterns.
- (2) What plans have been put in place for the replacement of single flush toilets in Government schools with dual flush water efficient cisterns.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not record the exact number of schools that have single flush toilets.
- (2) Each school is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of facilities such as toilet blocks, but I note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has implemented a number of programs to help schools upgrade toilets and toilet blocks, which includes the installation of water efficient toilets.

I refer you to the Minister for Education for details of such programs.

**Public transport: tow-truck driver demerit points**

**116.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) How many tow truck drivers were licensed in Victoria as at 30 April 2007.
- (2) How many tow truck drivers had demerit points on the Victorian Taxi and Tow Truck Directorate's demerit points register in each category ranging from zero to 12 as at 30 April 2007.

**ANSWER:**

As at 30 April 2007, the answer is:

- (1) The number of Accident Towing Driver Authority (ATDA) drivers authorised to drive accident attending tow trucks was 1,771. Accident attending drivers are required to be the holder of an ATDA as they are in direct contact with accident victims and take possession of their vehicles and possessions at the accident scene. Drivers of non-accident (trade towing) licensed vehicles are not required to be the holder of an ATDA.
- (2) Tow Truck Demerit Points are attributed to drivers who have committed towing related offences and these demerit points are separate from driver licence demerit points. The following table details the number of tow truck drivers who have tow truck demerit points on the Accident Tow Truck Demerits Register:

Number of Demerit Points	Number of Tow Truck Drivers
1	0
2	2
3	4
4	14
5	0
6	2
7	1
8	2
9	0
10	0
11	0
12	0

**Mental health: ministerial communications training**

**145(j).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Mental 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.

**Premier: Garnaut climate change review**

**149.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Premier with reference to a commitment by Australian State Governments to fund a review of the economic impact of climate change by Ross Garnaut —

- (1) What is the financial contribution towards the project by the Government.
- (2) What departmental resources and staffing levels have been allocated to the project.
- (3) What consultation had taken place with industry groups and energy providers in Victoria prior to the commitment being given by the Government.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The work program of the Garnaut Climate Change Review is currently under development and the support being provided by each State and Territory is under negotiation. As such, the Victorian Government’s financial contribution towards the project is yet to be finalised.

- (2) One project director and six staff from a range of VPS levels have been allocated to the Review. Of these, three are departmental staff, two are secondees from other Victorian departments and two are external appointments.
- (3) The Victorian Government conducts ongoing consultations with a wide range of industry groups, including energy providers.

**Senior Victorians: Seniors Card reciprocal arrangements**

**192.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the seniors card and the inability of seniors card holders to use their card in other states and territories —

- (1) Has the Government previously endeavoured to permit seniors utilising their card throughout Australia; if so, in what way.
- (2) Will work be done in the future to permit this service; if so, what.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Due to the population differences between the States and Territories, the movement of seniors across the country, and the different levels of concessions offered by States and Territories, it is difficult to envisage how reciprocal arrangements could be introduced without reasonable Commonwealth financial support.

In July 2005 the then Minister for Aged Care, Minister Jennings, wrote to the then Commonwealth Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator Kay Patterson, urging the Commonwealth Government to bring forward an adequately funded proposal to enable seniors card holders to use their cards in other states and territories.

- (2) Given our belief that reciprocal arrangements make good sense, the Government will continue to lobby the Commonwealth for an appropriately funded reciprocal transport concession arrangement for Australian seniors.

**Aged care: seniors public transport concessions**

**193.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Aged Care with reference to public transport for seniors and the Government's 'A Fairer Victoria — Progress and Next Steps' initiative which allocates \$12.5 million to extend public transport concessions for seniors on trams, trains and buses —

- (1) How many senior Victorians have applied for a seniors Sunday pass since it commenced on 27 August 2006.
- (2) What is the expected cost of the initiative for 2006–07.
- (3) What is the total output cost of this measure in the 2007–08 state budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that the issue raised falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Public Transport.

**Aged care: University of the Third Age locations**

**195.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Aged Care with reference to funding for the University of the Third Age and the additional \$1.2 million funding boost across Victoria —

- (1) Where will the 32 new Universities of the Third Age be located.

- (2) Which Universities of the Third Age will benefit from the \$400,000 to promote their University of the Third Age in ethnic communities and disadvantaged groups.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that/as follows:

- (1) New U3As will be established in disadvantaged and underrepresented areas throughout the State over a four year period (2006/07–2009/10). The Government is working closely with the U3A Network to identify suitable regions where new U3As can be established.

To date four new U3As have been established in Healesville, Kyneton, Altona and King Lake.

- (2) The Program Growth Support Fund has been developed to support and develop new U3A programs and increase access to U3As from underrepresented groups. All U3As will have an opportunity to benefit from this funding over the four year period.

**Senior Victorians: office staff**

- 201.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — how many staff are employed by the Office of Senior Victorians and in what capacity.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

As of 20 June 2007 the Office of Senior Victorians employed 16.8 EFT staff in a range of duties to support Victorian seniors and implement policies and programs.

**Senior Victorians: ethnic background services**

- 202.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — does the Office of Senior Victorians have specific services for aged people of ethnic backgrounds; if so, what.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Office of Senior Victorians is not primarily a service delivery agency and therefore does not provide services for aged people of ethnic backgrounds.

The Office provides the Victorian Seniors Card as a service to eligible Victorians over the age of 60 years. This includes eligible Victorians of ethnic backgrounds.

**Senior Victorians: community change programs**

- 204.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to programs created by the Office of Senior Victorians to change community attitudes to ageing —

- (1) What programs have been created since February 2002.
- (2) What are the details of all programs created since February 2002.
- (3) What was the total cost of programs in —
  - (a) 2003–04;
  - (b) 2004–05;
  - (c) 2005–06;
  - (d) 2006–07.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

1. The Positive Ageing Program seeks to maximise the quality of life and social recognition of senior Victorians. The program commenced in 2004–05.
2. The Positive Ageing Program has used four strategies to promote quality of life and social recognition:
  - Promoting a more ageing inclusive society
  - Promoting opportunities for participation by seniors
  - Improving access to information
  - Promoting better community understanding about population ageing
3. The total costs of the Positive Ageing Program since establishment have been:

2003–04	N/A
2004–05	\$1.00M
2005–06	\$1.25M
2006–07	\$1.25M

**Aged care: economic contributor programs**

- 205.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Aged Care — since February 2002 what programs has the Office of Senior Victorians established to encourage business to view seniors as economic contributors and in what year was each program established.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Since February 2002 the Office of Senior Victorians has been involved in three programs that encouraged business to view seniors as economic contributors as employees.

The Office of Senior Victorians worked in partnership with the Equal Opportunity Commission and VicHealth on the ‘Working for Ages Project’ between 2002–03 and 2003–04.

The Office of Senior Victorians worked in partnership with the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development in 2002–03 to support the ‘45 Plus Workforce Inc’ project in the Eastern Region of Melbourne.

In 2004–05 the Office of Senior Victorians worked in partnership with the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish the ‘Grey Matters’ project.

**Education: Sandringham College (Beaumaris campus)**

- 251.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Education with reference to Sandringham College operating from campuses in Highett, Sandringham and Beaumaris —
- (1) Has the Minister, the Department of Education or any other government department evaluated the possibility of selling or subdividing the Beaumaris campus.
  - (2) Has the Minister, the Department of Education or any other government department commissioned any reports pertaining to the possible sale or subdivision of the Beaumaris campus.
  - (3) Is the Minister or the Department of Education aware of any discussions, proposals, reviews or any other processes which might pertain to the sale or subdivision of the Beaumaris campus.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Beaumaris Campus site has located upon it the Emergency & Security Management Centre and a significant Heathland sanctuary in addition to the school facilities.

Broader education provision issues are the subject of ongoing discussion between Regions and Schools; however, Sandringham College is currently not included in any stage of the Department's Building Future process.

The Department has not commissioned any reports pertaining to the possible sale or subdivision of the Beaumaris campus.

**Sports, recreation and youth affairs: ministerial communications training**

**253.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister from 1 December 2006 to 17 July 2007 —

- (1) What training did the Minister receive.
- (2) What was the name of the tenderer, training organisation or entity who provided the training.
- (3) What was the cost of the training.
- (4) How many training sessions were held.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

I have received training in public presentation in order to better fulfil my public and media duties. This was provided by Roger Fry & Co. The cost was \$2200. It was conducted in January 2007.

**Roads and ports: Barwon Heads Bridge**

**260.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to further work on the Barwon Heads Bridge announced on 30 May 2006 at a cost of \$21.1 million —

- (1) When will tenders be called.
- (2) What is the construction time line.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The Minister for Planning's Advisory Committee report into the redevelopment of the Barwon Heads Bridge required VicRoads to obtain a permit from Heritage Victoria prior to a submission to the Minister for Planning for a Planning Scheme Amendment. VicRoads is currently working with its designers and heritage consultants to develop a concept that is acceptable to Heritage Victoria.
- (2) Tender processes and construction will commence once the concept has been finalised.

**Roads and ports: Yarra Street, Warrandyte, pedestrian crossing**

**264.** Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — on what date is work scheduled to begin on installing a pedestrian crossing in Yarra Street, Warrandyte.

**ANSWER:**

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

Works will begin on installing a pedestrian crossing in Yarra Street, Warrandyte, once the contract for works is awarded.

**Premier: Save Energy advertising campaign**

**265.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Premier with reference to the Save Energy television advertising campaign —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The issue raised falls within the Portfolio of the Minister for Environment and Climate Change. The member may wish to redirect the question to the responsible Minister.

**Premier: Office of the Workplace Rights Advocate advertising campaign**

**266.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Premier with reference to the Office of the Workplace Rights Advocate television advertising campaign —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The issue raised falls within the Portfolio of the Minister for Industrial Relations. The member may wish to redirect the question to the responsible Minister.

**Health: Angliss Hospital redevelopment**

**308.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the Eastern Health Strategic Plan 2005–06 to 2009–10 noting the recommendation that the Angliss Hospital address ongoing infrastructure needs and increase bed capacity by rebuilding two east and two west wards —

- (1) When will the work commence
- (2) When will the work conclude.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Angliss Hospital plays a key role of Eastern Health in addressing the acute health needs of residents of Eastern Health's south-eastern catchment area.

In recognition of this role, over \$29 million has been spent in the redevelopment and upgrade of Angliss Hospital's facilities and resources since 2002, including:

– 2001/02	\$5.2 Million	30 bed Rehabilitation Ward completed January 2005
– 2002/03	\$18.5 Million	New Emergency Department completed in Dec 2005 New Day Procedure Unit completed in Sep 2006
– 2006	\$956,000	New CT Scanner
– 2006	\$300,000	Refurbished Operating Rooms
– 2006	\$4.3 Million	Commonwealth Government Pathways Home Community Rehabilitation Centre

Master planning has identified future redevelopment options for Angliss Hospital that include the redevelopment of the East/West wards.

The Angliss Hospital cannot be assessed out of context, with it being an integral part of Eastern Health.

The ongoing redevelopment of Angliss Hospital will continue according to assessment of all priorities within Eastern Health as a whole, as well as within the overall health portfolio. Since 1999, this Government has spent over \$190 million on improving the resources of Eastern Health.

### Energy and resources: chartered flights

**328(a).** **Mr DIXON** to ask the Minister for Community Development — what are the details of all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister between December 2006 and June 2007 including, for each flight, the —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Carrier.
- (3) Destination.
- (4) Cost.
- (5) Purpose.

**ANSWER:**

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

The Victorian Government is committed to governing for all Victorians. Travel costs are only incurred as and when the Minister is required to attend to Ministerial duties in regional areas. The use of light planes is sometimes required. Costs are closely monitored to ensure the mode of transport used is the most efficient and effective.

### Energy and resources: entertainment expenses

**329(a).** **Mr DIXON** to ask the Minister for Community Development between December 2006 and June 2007 —

- (1) What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff.
- (2) What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol.
- (3) What expenses were incurred by each Department and agency under the Minister's administration for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister, ministerial staff and the Minister's office.

**ANSWER:**

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

From time to time, as part of my Ministerial duties, hospitality is provided by my office. Hospitality expenses for my office are low.

**Energy and resources: international travel expenses**

**330(a).** Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Community Development what was the cost of all international travel, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff between December 2006 and June 2007.

**ANSWER:**

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

Nil.

**Energy and resources: office expenses**

**331(a).** Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Community Development —

- (1) What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office between December 2006 and June 2007.
- (2) What was the total cost of all furniture items purchased for the Minister's private office between December 2006 and June 2007.

**ANSWER:**

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

Minimal furniture purchases have been made. These expenses are low.

**Premier: Better Way advertising campaign**

**339.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Premier with reference to the Metlink Better Way advertising campaign —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The issue raised falls within the portfolio of the Minister for Public Transport. The member may wish to redirect the question to the responsible Minister.

**Public transport: seniors public transport concessions**

**359.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the provision of Seniors Sunday Passes —

- (1) How many senior Victorians applied for a Seniors Sunday Pass from 27 August 2006 to 30 June 2007.
- (2) What is the cost for 2006–07.
- (3) What is the total output cost of these measures in the 2007–08 State Budget.
- (4) How many people have been budgeted to hold a Seniors Sunday Pass by 30 June 2008 and how has this been estimated.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) In the period from 27 August 2006 to 30 June 2007, approximately 278,000 Seniors Sunday Passes were issued.
- (2) The cost of the Seniors Sunday Pass in 2006–07 was approximately \$1 million.
- (3) The estimated cost of the Seniors Sunday Pass in 2007–08 is \$1.045 million.
- (4) It is estimated that 400,000 Victorian Seniors Card holders will hold a Seniors Sunday Pass by 30 June 2008. This estimate was based on the issue of passes during the first six months of 2007, following the initial take up period between August and December 2006.

**Attorney-General: Moorabbin justice centre**

**383.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Attorney-General with reference to the court house being built on the Nepean Highway in Highett —

- (1) Will the court house be called the Moorabbin Court House.
- (2) What is the anticipated operational date for the new court.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) The justice facility being constructed at 1140 Nepean Highway, Highett, will be called the Moorabbin Justice Centre to reflect the broader region over which it will have jurisdiction.

The Moorabbin Justice Centre will accommodate:

- The Moorabbin Law courts;
- Community Correctional Services;
- The Sheriff’s Office; and
- Victoria Police Prosecutions.

- (2) The Moorabbin Justice Centre will be completed on schedule by December 2007.