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(HANSARD)**

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FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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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, 30 October 2007

Education: Doncaster electorate Crown land

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

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

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department does not have any Crown-owned land in the electorate of Doncaster.

Water: Melbourne supply

114. Mr **BLACKWOOD** to ask the Minister for Water, with reference to the dry autumn in 2007 and the prospect of below average rainfall in winter and spring of 2007 — what plans are in place to guarantee Melbourne's water supply can be maintained once the Thomson Dam drops below accessible levels.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government has announced a \$4.9 billion plan to build major infrastructure projects to deliver water security for Victoria. This includes boosting Melbourne's total supply by 240 billion litres annually by 2011 — half its current water use.

The Government's plan will provide water security by diversifying and increasing water supplies so that we are no longer solely dependent on the collection of water by storage dams, including the Thomson Dam, or on any one single solution. These current systems are unlikely to be sufficient over the longer term because of the effects of climate change and the prospect of a continuation of the low rainfall patterns of recent years. There is however, no indication that water storage in the Thomson Dam will fall below accessible levels in the near future.

Over the next five years, the Victorian Government will build Australia's largest desalination plant, modernise irrigation systems in Victoria's food bowl to capture lost water, expand the Victorian Water Grid, upgrade Melbourne's Eastern Treatment Plant to provide more high-grade recycled water and continue water conservation and efficiency initiatives.

Further information regarding the Government's plan to secure Victoria's water future, visit www.ourwater.vic.gov.au.

Education: education maintenance allowance

137. Mr **DIXON** to ask the Minister for Education — in 2006, how many children received the EMA —

- (1) At government schools.
- (2) At non-government schools.
- (3) In each year level.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In 2006 an EMA payment was made for 202,060 students. This included:

- (1) 161,300 students at government schools.
- (2) 40,760 students at non-government schools.
- (3) The Education Maintenance Allowance database does not record the year level of students who receive payment.

Children and early childhood development: communications training

145(c). Mr **THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

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

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I did not hold a Ministerial portfolio in 2006–07.

Roads and ports: communications training

145(l). Mr **THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports 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 the financial year for 2006/2007 had not yet concluded, then complete and accurate information relating to your question cannot be provided.

Health: mental health bed waiting times

189. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Health with reference to waiting times for mental health beds — for each of 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07 to date, what are the specific figures for every public hospital regarding the percentage of emergency patients that were admitted to a mental health bed within —

- (1) Four hours.
- (2) Eight hours.
- (3) 12 hours.
- (4) 24 hours.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health.

Education: Nepean electorate school upgrades

231. **Mr DIXON** to ask the Minister for Education with reference to Sorrento Primary School, Tootgarook Primary School, Rosebud Primary School, Red Hill Consolidated School and Dromana Secondary College — does each school qualify for an upgrade or modernisation; if so —

- (1) When will the project commence.
- (2) What is the value of the upgrade.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government is committed to the modernisation of Tootgarook Primary School and Dromana Secondary College in the current term of Government as priority modernisations under the Victorian Schools Plan. The projects are fully planned and estimates are available for consideration in a future State Budget.

The Government's Building Futures policy outlines the process by which all capital investment in schools facilities is determined. This will guide the Victorian Schools Plan. The Building Futures policy provides a rigorous approach to ensure the investment in capital is providing the most effective learning environment for students. Sorrento Primary School, Rosebud Primary School and Red Hill Consolidated School are considered regional priorities for an upgrade or modernisation in a future round of Building Futures which will need to be balanced across statewide priorities.

Roads and ports: Kelletts Road, Rowville, duplication

236. **Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the Kelletts Road duplication project in Rowville —

- (1) On Napoleon Road between Kelletts Road and Lakesfield Drive how high is the proposed elevation of the —
 - (a) North bound lane;
 - (b) South bound lane.
- (2) When were plans developed to increase the current elevation of Napoleon Road between Kelletts Road and Lakesfield Drive.

- (3) What other options were considered as an alternative to elevating Napoleon Road between Kelletts Road and Lakesfield Drive.
- (4) Why was it determined that elevating Napoleon Road between Kelletts Road and Lakesfield Drive was preferable to other options.
- (5) What is the proposed speed limit between Glenfern Road and Kelletts Road.
- (6) What is the proposed speed limit between Kelletts Road and Wellington Road.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) VicRoads has undertaken a review of the design of the Kelletts Road and Napoleon Road intersection. The highest point above the existing surface level will be:
 - (a) 2.6 metres above the centre of the north bound lane; and
 - (b) 2.4 metres above the centre of the south bound lane.
- (2) The plans for this section of the project have been in development since January 2007, however, the height of the embankment fill was not finalised until recently.
- (3) Various design options were considered.
- (4) The revised design is the most appropriate solution.
- (5) The speed limit on Napoleon Road, between Glenfern Road and Kelletts Road will remain at the current posted speed limits of 70 km/h.
- (6) The speed limit on Napoleon Road, between Kelletts Road and Wellington Road will remain at the current posted speed limits of 80 km/h.

Roads and ports: Kelletts Road, Rowville, duplication

237. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the consultation process undertaken by VicRoads with residents in Lambourne Avenue and Adam Close in Rowville and Bellfield Drive in Lysterfield regarding the Kelletts Road duplication project in Rowville —

- (1) What consultation process was undertaken.
- (2) When did the consultation occur.
- (3) What was the feedback from affected residents to the proposed road elevation.
- (4) What variations were made to the design of the intersection as a result of the feedback.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) VicRoads conducted a community display for the project at the Rowville Library. This display was advertised in the local newspaper during November 2006
- (2) The display was held between 27 November and 8 December 2006. An initial project update was also distributed to over 5000 houses in the local area in November 2006. A further project update was distributed in February 2007 advising on the progress of works and VicRoads' contact details.
- (3) There was no feedback obtained on the elevation at this stage as the elevated road levels had not been determined.

- (4) To address concerns from abutting residents and the Council about the proposed design, VicRoads has undertaken a further review of the design of the Kelletts Road intersection and the height of the embankment along Napoleon Road.

Education: Mount Evelyn Primary School redevelopment

- 245.** Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the Stage B redevelopment plan for Mount Evelyn Primary School —
- (1) When will the school receive funding for its redevelopment.
 - (2) Why was the school's application to receive funding for its redevelopment rejected in the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) The Government is committed to the modernisation of Mount Evelyn Primary School in the current term of Government. The project is in the planning phase for consideration for funding in a future State Budget.
- (2) The Department had not committed to funding Mount Evelyn Primary School in the 2007–08 State Budget. By initiating a commitment to plan the school early, the Department will be in a position to commit to this project as soon as it is included in a future State Budget.

Senior Victorians: Mornington Centre Promoting Independence

- 270.** Mr MORRIS to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the new Mornington Centre Promoting Independence Stage 1 currently under construction —
- (1) Does the design of the Centre allow for the capture of storm water from the roof of the building; if not, will capture, recycling and storage systems be retro-fitted once the Centre is operational.
 - (2) Does the design of the Centre allow for the capture and recycling of storm water from the hard-standing areas, driveways and parking areas of the building; if not, will capture, recycling and storage systems be retro-fitted once the Centre is operational.
 - (3) Has the Centre has been fitted with tanks; if so, what is the capacity of the tanks.
 - (4) Has the Centre has been fitted with tanks; if so, what purpose will the captured water be used for.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The design of the building allows for stormwater capture from the roof.
- (2) The design allows for the hard-stand run off to be directed to the main storm water drainage via an open grassed swale drain which allows some seepage back into the subsoil. It was considered cost prohibitive to harvest the ground stormwater, as there is numerous filtration systems required to treat the water and it was considered that there would be sufficient roof stormwater to irrigate the current landscaping.
- (3) Water storage tanks are being provided to the Centre. The tank capacity will be 20,000 litres.
- (4) Water storage tanks are being provided to the Centre. The harvested rainwater will be used for irrigation.

Health: mental health funding

278. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health with reference to mental health funding in each of the Peninsula, Central East, Dandenong, South East, Inner Urban East, Inner West, Mid West, Middle South, North East, North West, Northern, Outer East, South West adult mental health service areas —

- (1) How much funding went to adult services, aged persons services, child adolescent mental health services, psychiatric disability rehabilitation support services or statewide and specialist services in —
 - (a) 2003–04;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2005–06;
 - (d) 2006–07.
- (2) How much funding from clinical care output of the 2007–08 mental health budget will be directed to —
 - (a) adult services;
 - (b) aged care persons services;
 - (c) child adolescent mental health services;
 - (d) psychiatric disability rehabilitation support services;
 - (e) statewide and specialist services.
- (3) What is the name and location of all services that will receive funding from the 2007–08 clinical mental health budget and how much funding will each of these services receive.
- (4) How much funding for the psychiatric disability rehabilitation support service output of the 2007–08 mental health budget will be directed to services located in each area.
- (5) What is the name and the location of all services that will receive funding from the psychiatric disability rehabilitation support service output of the 2007–08 mental health budget and how much funding will each of these services receive.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health.

Health: mental health funding

279. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health with reference to mental health funding in each of the Barwon, Gippsland, Glenelg, Goulburn, Loddon, Grampians, North East Hume and Northern Mallee mental health service areas —

- (1) How much funding went to services and initiatives located in the areas in —
 - (a) 2003–04;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2005–06;
 - (d) 2006–07.
- (2) How much funding the from the clinical care output of the 2007–08 mental health budget will be directed to services and initiatives in the areas.

- (3) What is the name and location of all services and initiatives that will receive funding from the clinical care output of the 2007–08 mental health budget and how much funding will each of these services and initiatives receive.
- (4) How much funding for the psychiatric disability rehabilitation support service output of the 2007–08 mental health budget will be directed to services and initiatives located in the areas.
- (5) What is the name and the location of all services and initiatives that will receive funding from the psychiatric disability rehabilitation support services output of the 2007–08 mental health budget and how much funding will each of these services and initiatives receive.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health.

Roads and ports: Wellington–Lysterfield road intersection, Lysterfield

309. **Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the 2006 election commitment to construct traffic lights at the intersection of Wellington and Lysterfield Roads in Lysterfield —

- (1) When will work on the project commence
- (2) When will work on the project be completed.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The State Government has committed funding to install traffic signals at the above intersection. Design works have commenced.
- (2) Construction will commence after design works have been finalised.

Health: division 1 nurse registrations

316. **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) How many internationally qualified nurses who have applied to work in Australia have been registered as division 1 nurses by the Nurses Board of Victoria in —
 - (a) 2002;
 - (b) 2003;
 - (c) 2004;
 - (d) 2005;
 - (e) 2006;
 - (f) 2007.
- (2) How many nurses were registered as division 1 nurses by the Nurses Board of Victoria in —
 - (a) 2002;
 - (b) 2003;
 - (c) 2004;
 - (d) 2005;
 - (e) 2006;
 - (f) 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Unfortunately the Nurses Board of Victoria (NBV) is unable to provide data on internationally qualified nurses by division.

However, the total number of internationally qualified nurses (all divisions) registered by the NBV in the following years were —

(a) 2002:	1550
(b) 2003:	1684
(c) 2004:	1732
(d) 2005:	1500
(e) 2006:	1796
(f) 2007:	1968

It should be noted that these numbers include nurses who have recently travelled to Australia and registered in Victoria as well as those that may have been in Australia/Victoria for long periods.

- (2) The NBV registered the following number of nurses in division 1:

Division 1

(a) 2002:	53 399
(b) 2003:	55 086
(c) 2004:	56 161
(d) 2005:	57 421
(e) 2006:	59 002
(f) 2007:	61 113

Community services: disability program funding

- 325.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the 2007–08 state budget’s \$215 million disability program allocation —

- (1) What will be the best assessment gateway for a 50 year old disabled Beaumaris resident who lives semi-independently.
- (2) How much money has been expended under the program.
- (3) How many wheelchairs have been surrendered.
- (4) How many wheelchairs have been distributed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As it is unclear as to which part of the disability budget for 2007–2008 totalling \$1070.2 m that the \$215 m relates to, it is not possible to answer the question.

Health: Portland District Health board appointments

- 326.** **Dr NAPHTHINE** to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the appointments of Dr Heather Wellington and Mr Michael Rhook to the Board of Portland District Health —

- (1) When were the appointments made.
- (2) Under what power were the appointments made.
- (3) Have Ministerial delegates been previously appointed to other hospital boards; if so, to which hospitals.
- (4) What remuneration and expenses are being paid to Dr Heather Wellington with respect to her appointment.
- (5) What remuneration and expenses are being paid to Mr Michael Rhook with respect to his appointment.
- (6) Are the costs involved with the appointments being paid by Portland District Health; if not, what is the source of the funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. The appointments of Mr Michael Rhook and Ms Heather Wellington to the Board of Management at Portland District Health (PDH) commenced following publication in the Government Gazette on 12 July 2007.
2. The appointments were made under section 40 C of the Health Services Act 1988 where the Minister for Health may appoint a delegate/s to the Board of a public hospital if the Minister considers that such an appointment/s will assist the Board improve the performance of the public hospital.
3. A Ministerial delegate was appointed to West Wimmera Health Service in 2006.
4. Dr Heather Wellington is to be paid \$30,000 per annum plus reimbursement of travel and personal expenses in accordance with public sector rates.
5. Mr Michael Rhook is to be paid \$30,000 per annum plus reimbursement of travel and personal expenses in accordance with public sector rates.
6. The Department of Human Services is responsible for the payment of the costs for the appointments through reimbursement to PDH.

Health: Portland District Health consultancy

327. Dr NAPHTHINE to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the appointment of Aspex Consulting to review the current problems at Portland District Health —

- (1) Who appointed Aspex Consulting.
- (2) How many other tenderers were there.
- (3) How much are Aspex Consulting being paid for the review.
- (4) Who is paying the bill for Aspex Consulting.
- (5) What are the terms of reference for the review.
- (6) When will the review be completed.
- (7) Will the report be made public.
- (8) Will the Portland community have an opportunity to comment on the draft report and draft recommendations before the report is finalised.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. The Board of Management Portland District Health are the owners of this project and engaged Aspex consulting. Any questions with regards to the specifics of this project and Aspex consulting should be referred to the President, Board of Management at PDH.

Public transport: V/Line passenger services

336. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — where it regularly operates in scheduled passenger services, what is the estimated cost per kilometre on each of the 11 long or short distance rail lines to operate a —

- (1) V/Locity two-car set on a —
 - (a) Saturday service;
 - (b) Sunday morning service;
 - (c) Sunday afternoon service;
 - (d) Sunday evening service.
- (2) V/Locity double set on a —
 - (a) Saturday service;
 - (b) Sunday morning service;
 - (c) Sunday afternoon service;
 - (d) Sunday evening service.
- (3) N-class hauled five car passenger train on a —
 - (a) Saturday service;
 - (b) Sunday morning service;
 - (c) Sunday afternoon service;
 - (d) Sunday evening service.
- (4) N-class hauled three car passenger train on a —
 - (a) Saturday service;
 - (b) Sunday morning service;
 - (c) Sunday afternoon service;
 - (d) Sunday evening service.

ANSWER:

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

(1–4)

I am informed that the costs of V/Line services vary depending on a number of factors.

V/Line tables a detailed Annual Report to Parliament, which includes financial statements. I refer you to the sections on the valuation of rolling stock, employee benefits, depreciation, leases and capital works.

Arts: Victorian science museum

338. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for the Arts with reference to the safety of items gifted or on loan to the Victorian Science Museum —

- (1) What index of loaned items does the Museum maintain.
- (2) What security arrangements apply to loaned items.

- (3) What efforts have been made to locate the missing model of the Cutty Sark handcrafted in the 1800s.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Museum Victoria has two systems of indexing loaned items: manual and electronic. The historical manual systems of register books and card files are systematically being transferred to EMu, the electronic collection management system. All loan transactions are now entered into EMu.
- (2) The Museum provides the best professional care for its holding of State collections, and extends the same care to all borrowed items. The Museum enters into loan contracts with lenders which include specific and customised care, handling and security specifications. A range of surveillance and tracking systems provide physical security for all collection material, including borrowed items.
- (3) Despite a considerable search effort recently, the Museum has not, at this time, been able to locate a specific model of the Cutty Sark. Further searches for the item will continue, and a complete inventory of the Scienceworks inventory is scheduled over the next three years.

Public transport: infringement notices

364. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to transport infringement notices issued by all public and private train, tram and bus operators between 1 May 2007 and 30 June 2007 —

- (1) How much was paid in administration fees.
- (2) How many complaints were received by the Department of Infrastructure.

ANSWER:

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

Private train, tram and bus operators do not issue infringement notices. Public transport operators forward Reports of Non-Compliance to the Department of Infrastructure (DOI) and it is the DOI that then determines whether to issue an infringement notice.

- (1) \$26,697 has been paid to Yarra Trams and \$15,609 has been paid to Connex in administration fees in relation to notices with offence dates between 1 May and 30 June 2007.
- (2) Two complaints were received by DOI between 1 May 2007 and 30 June 2007 in reference to the issue of transport infringement notices.

Planning: planning scheme overlays

366. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Planning — what is the departmental procedure to reject a planning overlay request from a local council.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The process for any local Planning Scheme Amendment is set out in the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and is the same regardless of whether a new overlay is being introduced or a new zone or a change to a policy is proposed.

Before the Minister for Planning authorises a Council to prepare an amendment, it must be demonstrated that the proposed amendment is strategically justified.

Before deciding whether an amendment to a planning scheme to introduce an overlay control will be approved, approved with changes or refused, the Minister will consider:

- the *Planning Practice Note Strategic Assessment Guidelines for Planning Scheme Amendments*.
- whether the amendment implements State Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework objectives.
- whether the amendment complies with any relevant Ministerial Direction.
- whether the amendment makes proper use of the Victoria Planning Provisions.
- the recommendations of any panel established to hear submissions about the amendment.

All of the above matters are included in Departmental reporting on amendments.

The Minister can refuse to approve an amendment if it does not satisfy the above considerations.

Education: Bendigo Senior Secondary College facilities

368. **Mr DIXON** to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the hand over of the Bendigo Gaol complex to Bendigo Senior Secondary College —

- (1) When was the decision made to handover the gaol.
- (2) What costs are involved.
- (3) Will other community groups be allowed to share the facility with Bendigo Senior Secondary College.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The initial decision to hand over the Bendigo Gaol to Bendigo Senior Secondary College was announced in 2002. The then Treasurer announced this would occur when the gaol was decommissioned and that an initial allocation of \$4 million would be made toward necessary works to assist the school in developing the facility.

Since that time, significant planning discussions have occurred and a number of options for redevelopment of the site considered. A draft master plan is currently under consideration by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. There are no detailed cost estimates for the possible development as yet.

The Secondary College has already indicated a willingness to discuss possible uses of some of the gaol facilities by community groups. This will be further clarified as the development plans are finalised.

Education: Bendigo Senior Secondary College facilities

369. **Mr DIXON** to ask the Minister for Education — were the infrastructure needs of Bendigo Senior Secondary College considered as part of the Bendigo Education Plan.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Bendigo Education Plan incorporates all secondary colleges in Bendigo, including Bendigo Senior Secondary College. The Plan recommended that Bendigo Senior Secondary College be retained as the sole Year 11 and 12 provider and that it continue to operate on its existing site.

Current infrastructure at Bendigo Senior Secondary College provides well for the school's requirements. The college was significantly upgraded during the early 1990s. No immediate needs are evident.

Despite this, it is likely that the college's infrastructure will be further enhanced with the transfer of the former Bendigo Gaol to the college. Planning undertaken to date explores how the gaol site could be used to provide additional educational facilities for the college.

Education: Ferntree Gully Primary School buildings

- 377. Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the demolition and relocation of buildings on the unoccupied Ferntree Gully Primary School site on Dorset Road, Ferntree Gully —
- (1) How many buildings are to be demolished.
 - (2) How many buildings are to be relocated.
 - (3) Where will removed buildings be relocated.
 - (4) Is asbestos present in any of the buildings to be demolished or relocated; if so, will the asbestos be removed prior to the relocation.
 - (5) Are there any health and safety concerns other than the presence of asbestos; if so, will the concerns be addressed prior to the relocation.
 - (6) What steps will be taken to minimise health risks from asbestos or other sources to the —
 - (a) community;
 - (b) workers on site.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) There are a total of five buildings on the Ferntree Gully site of which three buildings will be demolished. The heritage listed buildings will remain on the site.
- (2) Part of one building will be relocated to a neighbouring school.
- (3) Kallista Primary School will be the beneficiary of the relocated building.
- (4) Asbestos is present in all the buildings to be demolished. The asbestos in all the buildings will be removed during September 2007, prior to demolition & relocation.
- (5) To the Department's knowledge there is no other health and safety concern. Should any arise during the asbestos removal or relocation they will be addressed accordingly.
- (6) To minimise the health risks to both the community and the workers on site, the firm appointed to undertake the asbestos removal will have a hygienist on site to monitor the air quality to ensure it meets the standard to achieve satisfactory air readings and visual inspections as required in the Occupational Health and Safety (Asbestos) Regulations 2003. WorkSafe have been notified and have given authorisation for work to commence during September.

Sports, recreation and youth affairs: youth participation and access program

- 390. Mr KOTSIRAS** to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs — what are the total funds that have been allocated to community and local government organisations since 1 July 2006 under the Youth Participation and Access Program.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

\$4.1 million has been allocated to the Youth Participation and Access Program for the 2006–07 financial year.

Education: Ferntree Gully electorate school painting

427. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Education —

- (1) When was the last time Wattleview Primary School, Fairhills High School, Fairhills Primary School, Ferntree Gully North Primary School, Heany Park Primary School, Karoo Primary School, Kent Park Primary School, Lysterfield Primary School, Mountain Gate Primary School, Park Ridge Primary School and Rowville Primary School were painted as part of its routine maintenance —
 - (a) internally;
 - (b) externally.
- (2) When will Wattleview Primary School, Fairhills High School, Fairhills Primary School, Ferntree Gully North Primary School, Heany Park Primary School, Karoo Primary School, Kent Park Primary School, Lysterfield Primary School, Mountain Gate Primary School, Park Ridge Primary School and Rowville Primary School next be painted as part of its routine maintenance program —
 - (a) internally;
 - (b) externally.
- (3) As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s routine maintenance program, how often are Victorian schools painted —
 - (a) internally;
 - (b) externally.
- (4) Does the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development have any guidelines that determine how often schools should be painted internally and externally; if so, how often should schools be painted —
 - (a) internally;
 - (b) externally.
- (5) As part of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s maintenance program is funding for routine painting located in —
 - (a) a stand alone painting funding program;
 - (b) within the existing maintenance funding program; if so, where is it located and how much is allocated.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development periodically audits the condition of every school throughout the State to assess the maintenance condition of every room and building. This assessment includes the condition of all painted surfaces.

The most recent audit was carried out in 2005–06 by independent auditors contracted to the Department. As part of the process for the 2006 School Maintenance Audit, the Department engaged independent contractors to develop statewide guidelines for assessing maintenance in schools.

The guidelines ensured that the Audit assesses buildings from the perspective of the maintenance impact upon the learning environment. This highlights the Victorian Government’s commitment to focusing on enhancing educational outcomes for students.

This audit process allows the Department to direct funding towards items of high priority.

The Government has invested well over \$480 million in school maintenance since 1999. This includes \$66 million allocated to schools in June 2006 for both planned maintenance, as identified in the 2006 School Maintenance Audit, and school toilets. It also includes \$10 million allocated in June 2007 for both planned maintenance and toilets.

On an annual basis, the Department allocates \$41 million to schools each year via the Student Resource Package (\$29 million) and supplementary grants (\$12 million). The funding provided through the School Resource Package provides funding for both planned and unplanned maintenance. Of these two components, planned maintenance is identified and prioritised through the audit and unplanned maintenance is prioritised by the school.

Since 1999 nearly \$3 million has been provided to Wattleview Primary School, Fairhills High School, Fairhills Primary School, Ferntree Gully North Primary School, Heany Park Primary School, Karoo Primary School, Kent Park Primary School, Lysterfield Primary School, Mountain Gate Primary School, Park Ridge Primary School and Rowville Primary School to enable them to finance priority maintenance works, including painting.

Education: Ferntree Gully electorate school asbestos audits

428. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Education for Wattleview Primary School, Fairhills Primary School, Ferntree Gully North Primary School, Heany Park Primary School, Karoo Primary School, Kent Primary School, Lysterfield Primary School, Mountain Gate Primary School, Park Ridge Primary School, Rowville Primary School and Rowville Secondary College —

- (1) When was the last time a comprehensive asbestos audit was carried out at the school.
- (2) What was the outcome of the last comprehensive asbestos audit at the school.
- (3) Is asbestos present at the school; if so, when will it be removed.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has established a statewide program which aims to reduce and eventually eliminate existing asbestos material from schools. As part of this program the Department identifies and funds individual projects for the removal of asbestos in order of priority. The Department has in place an ongoing review to ensure that:

- Urgent asbestos matters are addressed as soon as practicable.
- Issues identified by the Department’s Regional Offices are investigated.
- Concerns of school communities are addressed.

In order to identify risks associated with asbestos-containing materials in schools, asbestos risk assessments have been undertaken for all schools. These asbestos risk assessments are continually reviewed by the Department.

Asbestos risk assessments were carried out at the following schools:

- Wattleview Primary School — February 2006
- Fairhills Primary School — January 1999
- Ferntree Gully North Primary School — May 2004
- Heany Park Primary School — February 2006
- Karoo Primary School — March 1996 (review programmed for 2007–08 financial year)
- Kent Park Primary School in June 2006
- Lysterfield Primary School in May 2004
- Mountain Gate Primary School in May 2002
- Park Ridge Primary School in October 1999 (review programmed for 2007–08 financial year)

- Rowville Primary School in November 2005
- Rowville Secondary College in March 1999 (review programmed for 2007–08 financial year).

The asbestos risk assessments for these schools identified asbestos items in various categories, and asbestos removal was completed for those schools considered to be in the most hazardous Priority 0 or Priority 1 categories.

As part of its processes for minimising students' exposure to asbestos, since 1999 the Department has conducted asbestos risk assessments for any relocatable buildings which have been located onto a school site.

Roads and ports: Kelletts–Napoleon road intersection, Rowville

431. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the road closure at the intersection of Napoleon Road and Kelletts Road in Rowville from 29 August 2007 to 17 October 2007 —

- (1) Has constructing a temporary road or side track to the western side of the road reserve been considered as an alternative; if so, what would be the —
 - (a) cost;
 - (b) time frame;
 - (c) expected impact to —
 - (i) residential properties immediately adjoining the construction;
 - (ii) traffic flows throughout the area;
 - (iii) local residents in the area.
- (2) What would be the expected impact of VicRoads' proposal to encourage through traffic to detour via routes more than three kilometres away from the intersection, to —
 - (a) residential properties immediately adjoining the construction;
 - (b) traffic flows throughout the area;
 - (c) local residents in the area.
- (3) How does the Minister intend to —
 - (a) prevent large numbers of vehicles from using local side streets;
 - (b) preserve the safety of the children attending schools on local side streets;
 - (c) preserve the safety and amenity of the residents who live on local side streets and adjoining streets.
- (4) For what reasons was the detour route chosen.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Constructing a temporary road or side track to the western side of the road reserve had initially been considered as an alternative; however, it was not feasible due to the constraints in width along this section of the road reservation.
- (2) The expected impact of VicRoads' proposal to encourage through traffic to detour via routes more than three kilometres away from the intersection, would:
 - (a) result in construction works for approximately 7 weeks, instead of 24 weeks adjacent to adjoining residents;

- (b) result in traffic flows throughout the area using other main arterial roads, which have had alteration to timings of traffic signal to cater for the additional traffic flow along these routes to minimise any potential delays; and
 - (c) result in minimal impact for local residents in the area as access is still available for local residents along the local road network.
- (3) VicRoads intends to:
- (a) prevent large numbers of vehicles from using local side streets by discouraging through traffic from entering the immediate area. Signage has been installed to deter this from occurring;
 - (b) continue to closely liaise with local primary schools to preserve the safety of the children attending schools on local side streets. Initial discussions have resulted in the installation of additional speed humps on Bellfield Drive in front of Lysterfield Primary School. The works have also been scheduled to coincide with the school holiday to minimise impact on the schools; and
 - (c) continue to monitor the traffic in the local streets. The current arrangement includes speed limits in the local detour roads being lowered to 40 km/h in consultation with Knox City Council. Installation of temporary speed humps and speed trailers have also been installed to alert drivers to the speed they are travelling at. The local police have also increased their presence in the area to ensure drivers are complying with the changed conditions. These changes are aimed at ensuring the safety and amenity of the residents who live on local side streets and adjoining streets is preserved.
- (4) This particular detour route was chosen as it is the shortest and safest path to allow drivers to continue on the original route.

Attorney-General: magistrate appointments

438. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Attorney-General — what are the names of the members on the interview panel, chaired by the Chief Magistrate, recommending the appointment of magistrates.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The interview panel for the selection of Magistrates is chaired by the Chief Magistrate, Mr Ian Gray. It also comprises Mr John Griffin, Executive Director, Courts, Department of Justice, and a third member, who varies.

Health: elective surgery categories

485. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health — since the 1999 election has there been any change to the definition of the elective surgery categories ‘urgent’, ‘semi-urgent’ and ‘non-urgent’; if so, what are the details of the original and the new definitions.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- Since the 1999 election there have been no changes to the definition of the elective surgery categories with the exception of minor grammatical changes as follows:
- (a) urgent:
 - original definition — Admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency.
 - revised definition — Admission within 30 days is desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it might become an emergency.

- (b) semi-urgent:
 - original definition — Admission within 90 days desirable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency.
 - revised definition — Admission within 90 days is desirable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency.
- (c) non-urgent:
 - original definition — Admission at some time in the future acceptable for a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly, and does not have the potential to become an emergency.
 - revised definition — Admission at some time in the future is acceptable for a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly, and does not have the potential to become an emergency.

Major projects: Healesville freeway

500(a). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Major Projects does the Government have any plans to build the Healesville Freeway.

ANSWER:

The question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility. I understand a similar question has also been directed to the responsible Minister, the Minister for Roads and Ports.