

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 19 August 2008

(Extract from book 11)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TUESDAY, 19 AUGUST 2008

- | | | | | | |
|----------|---|------|---------|---|------|
| 12. | Treasurer: ministerial staff..... | 3211 | 541. | Sport, recreation and youth affairs:
Office for Youth — Leading the Way.... | 3228 |
| 20. | Treasurer: Office of the Administrator
for the State Electricity Commission
of Victoria and VicPower
Trading — entertainment expenses..... | 3211 | 544. | Industrial relations: advertising | 3229 |
| 21. | Treasurer: Victorian Funds
Management Corporation —
entertainment expenses..... | 3212 | 554. | Public transport: Rail — Sandringham
line | 3230 |
| 24. | Treasurer: Land Tax Hardship Relief
Board — entertainment expenses..... | 3212 | 562. | Police and emergency services:
Moorabbin Justice Centre..... | 3230 |
| 26. | Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd —
entertainment expenses..... | 3212 | 566. | Housing: eastern metropolitan
region — vacant properties | 3230 |
| 30. | Treasurer: Rural Finance Corporation | 3213 | 572. | Health: nurses — industrial dispute | 3231 |
| 249(k). | Community services: Shannons Way
Pty Ltd..... | 3213 | 574. | Health: Trendcare computer program | 3233 |
| 249(ae). | Water: Growth Solutions Group | 3214 | 597. | Public transport: NightRider bus
service..... | 3233 |
| 250(q). | Innovation: Growth Solutions Group | 3215 | 599. | Housing: Doncaster area —
one-bedroom units..... | 3234 |
| 250(aa). | Education: Growth Solutions Group | 3215 | 600. | Housing: Doncaster area —
two-bedroom units..... | 3235 |
| 256. | Environment and climate change:
overseas travel..... | 3216 | 601. | Housing: Doncaster area —
three-bedroom units..... | 3235 |
| 263. | Public transport: myki ticketing system | 3218 | 602. | Housing: Doncaster area —
four-bedroom units..... | 3236 |
| 314. | Education: Mooroolbark Primary
School site | 3218 | 606. | Community services: supported
residential services..... | 3237 |
| 315. | Health: nurses — numbers | 3218 | 607. | Community services: supported
residential services..... | 3238 |
| 385. | Multicultural affairs: Victorian
Multicultural Commission | 3219 | 626. | Public transport: Connex — Werribee
line | 3239 |
| 386. | Multicultural affairs: advertising..... | 3219 | 701. | Community services: Aboriginal
children — protection fund | 3240 |
| 387. | Sport, recreation and youth affairs:
consultancies..... | 3220 | 708. | Community services: placement and
support residential facility renewal
strategy | 3241 |
| 393. | Public transport: Connex — metcard
validations..... | 3221 | 714. | Roads and ports: road resurfacing —
East Doncaster | 3241 |
| 394. | Public transport: Connex —
performance..... | 3223 | 784. | Public transport: buses — routes | 3241 |
| 439. | Roads and ports: Nepean Highway—
Bay Road—Karen Street,
Cheltenham — traffic lights | 3224 | 817. | Public transport: V/Line — patronage | 3243 |
| 451. | Education: consultancies..... | 3224 | 818. | Public transport: V/Line —
compensation claims..... | 3244 |
| 460. | Treasurer: ministerial staff..... | 3225 | 820. | Public transport: Metrol — employee
numbers | 3245 |
| 465. | Treasurer: Office of the Administrator
for the State Electricity Commission
of Victoria and VicPower
Trading — entertainment expenses..... | 3225 | 829. | Public transport: V/Line — patronage | 3245 |
| 466. | Treasurer: Victorian Funds
Management Corporation —
entertainment expenses | 3225 | 873. | Roads and ports: Eastern Freeway —
traffic volumes | 3247 |
| 467. | Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd —
entertainment expenses..... | 3226 | 912. | Public transport: Connex — Frankston
line | 3247 |
| 479. | Community services: supported
residential services | 3226 | 913(b). | Aboriginal affairs: departmental staff
courses | 3249 |
| 486. | Multicultural affairs: Promoting
Harmony program..... | 3227 | 913(d). | Arts: departmental staff courses | 3249 |
| 489. | Sport, recreation and youth affairs:
regional youth affairs networks..... | 3227 | 913(g). | Community development: departmental
staff courses | 3249 |
| 497. | Education: Mooroolbark Primary
School site | 3228 | 913(j). | Community services: departmental staff
courses | 3249 |
| | | | 913(u). | Local government: departmental staff
courses | 3250 |
| | | | 913(v). | Mental health: departmental staff
courses | 3250 |

CONTENTS

<p>913(ag). <i>Senior Victorians: departmental staff courses</i> 3250</p> <p>913(aj). <i>Sport, recreation and youth affairs: departmental staff courses</i> 3251</p> <p>913(al). <i>Veterans' affairs: departmental staff courses</i> 3251</p> <p>913(an). <i>Women's affairs: departmental staff courses</i> 3252</p> <p>941. <i>Community services: aged care — Trentham</i>..... 3252</p> <p>955. <i>Roads and ports: pavement markings</i>..... 3252</p> <p>957. <i>Public transport: early bird free travel</i>..... 3253</p> <p>959(a). <i>Aboriginal affairs: fair payments policy</i> 3253</p> <p>959(d). <i>Local government: fair payments policy</i>..... 3254</p> <p>959(e). <i>Multicultural affairs: fair payments policy</i>..... 3254</p> <p>959(f). <i>Senior Victorians: fair payments policy</i>..... 3254</p> <p>959(g). <i>Sport, recreation and youth affairs: fair payments policy</i> 3255</p> <p>959(i). <i>Women's affairs: fair payments policy</i>..... 3255</p> <p>959(j). <i>Premier: fair payments policy</i>..... 3256</p> <p>959(k). <i>Premier: fair payments policy</i>..... 3256</p> <p><i>Education: fair payments policy</i>..... 3257</p> <p>964. <i>Roads and ports: pedestrian crossings — aged-care facilities facilities</i>..... 3257</p> <p>965. <i>Planning: thermostatic mixing valves — installation</i>..... 3258</p> <p>969. <i>Water: Lake Mokoan — decommissioning</i> 3258</p> <p>971. <i>Roads and ports: Hume Highway — possum bridges</i> 3259</p> <p>992. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities</i>..... 3259</p> <p>994. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities</i>..... 3260</p> <p>995. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities</i>..... 3260</p> <p>996. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities</i>..... 3260</p> <p>997. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities</i>..... 3261</p> <p>998. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — funding</i> 3262</p> <p>1006. <i>Senior Victorians: Stella Anderson Nursing Home</i>..... 3262</p> <p>1007. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — Trentham</i>..... 3262</p> <p>1037. <i>Roads and ports: pavement markings</i>..... 3263</p> <p>1045. <i>Public transport: bus route 366</i> 3263</p> <p>1046. <i>Public transport: bus route 367</i> 3263</p> <p>1047. <i>Public transport: bus route 370</i> 3264</p> <p>1048. <i>Public transport: bus route 671</i> 3264</p> <p>1049. <i>Public transport: bus route 672</i> 3265</p> <p>1050. <i>Public transport: bus route 737</i> 3265</p> <p>1120. <i>Water: advertising</i> 3266</p>	<p>1141. <i>Health: Wodonga Regional Health Service — funding</i> 3266</p> <p>1147. <i>Mental health: mental illness discharge pilot project — northern metropolitan region</i> 3266</p> <p>1148. <i>Mental health: mental illness discharge pilot project — eastern metropolitan region</i>..... 3267</p> <p>1149. <i>Mental health: mental illness discharge pilot project — Loddon Mallee region</i>..... 3267</p> <p>1152. <i>Community services: One Stop Shop for Young People, Morwell</i>..... 3267</p> <p>1162. <i>Community services: drowning death — inquiry</i>..... 3268</p> <p>1175. <i>Health: cancer services — Lilydale and Yarra Ranges</i>..... 3268</p> <p>1176. <i>Health: Lilydale super-clinic</i> 3269</p> <p>1180(b). <i>Agriculture: adjournment responses</i>..... 3269</p> <p>1180(s). <i>Industrial relations: adjournment responses</i> 3269</p> <p>1184. <i>Senior Victorians: Supporting Our Seniors initiative</i>..... 3270</p> <p>1186. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — assessment services</i> 3270</p> <p>1187. <i>Senior Victorians: aged care — assessment services</i> 3271</p> <p>1188. <i>Community services: respite services — funding</i> 3271</p> <p>1189. <i>Community services: Support for Older Carers program — funding</i>..... 3271</p> <p>1190. <i>Community services: seniors respite and support services — funding</i>..... 3271</p> <p>1191. <i>Community services: dementia services — funding</i> 3272</p> <p>1192. <i>Community services: dementia services — funding</i> 3272</p> <p>1193. <i>Community services: supported residential services — funding</i> 3272</p> <p>1194. <i>Community services: flexible respite — funding</i>..... 3273</p> <p>1197. <i>Community services: disability services — Mitcham</i>..... 3273</p> <p>1200. <i>Community services: fire affected communities — counselling services</i> 3273</p> <p>1201. <i>Community services: family services — Geelong</i>..... 3274</p> <p>1202. <i>Community services: disability services — conference funding</i> 3274</p> <p>1203. <i>Community services: HomeFirst — funding</i>..... 3274</p> <p>1204. <i>Community services: Making a Difference program — funding</i>..... 3275</p> <p>1205. <i>Community services: Introducing Older Years and Carer Support program — funding</i>..... 3275</p> <p>1206. <i>Community services: community awareness and inclusion programs — funding</i> 3276</p>
--	--

CONTENTS

1207.	<i>Community services: disability services — funding</i>	3276
1208.	<i>Community services: Kew Residential Services — redevelopment</i>	3276
1209.	<i>Community services: family services — funding</i>	3277
1210.	<i>Community services: Aboriginal protocol — funding</i>	3277
1212.	<i>Community services: young people leaving care mentor program — funding</i>	3277
1213.	<i>Community services: home-based carers — funding</i>	3278
1214.	<i>Community services: disability services — funding</i>	3278
1215.	<i>Community services: disability services — funding</i>	3278
1216.	<i>Community services: Beginning Practice program — funding</i>	3279
1218.	<i>Community services: Doncare's Good Beginnings program — funding</i>	3279
1220.	<i>Community services: family services — Maryborough</i>	3279
1221.	<i>Community services: Aboriginal children and young people — support services</i>	3279

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, 19 August 2008

Treasurer: ministerial staff

- 12.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) —
- (1) How many ministerial staff, in full-time equivalent terms, did the Treasurer have in relation to all of his ministerial capacities as at 30 June 2005.
 - (2) How many ministerial staff, in full-time equivalent terms, did the Treasurer have in relation to all of his ministerial capacities as at 30 June 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This answer does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Treasurer: Office of the Administrator for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and VicPower Trading — entertainment expenses

- 20.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) with reference to the Office of the Administrator for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and VicPower Trading — what are the details of entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 incurred in 2005–06, including —
- (1) Date incurred.
 - (2) Cost.
 - (3) Number of guests.
 - (4) Purpose.
 - (5) Name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were four instances of entertainment expense in excess of \$500 incurred in 2005-06 on the 29th of July, 5th of November, 10th of November and 21st of December. The total cost for these events was \$4079.34. The number of guests that attended the events ranged from eight to twenty-one. These events were for Christmas functions, mid year luncheon and farewell lunch. The services were provided by a range of service providers in the Melbourne CBD.

Treasurer: Victorian Funds Management Corporation — entertainment expenses

21. **Mr WELLS** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) with reference to the Victorian Funds Management Corporation — what are the details of entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 incurred in each of 2003–04, 2004–05 and 2005–06, including —
- (1) Date incurred.
 - (2) Cost.
 - (3) Number of guests.
 - (4) Purpose.
 - (5) Name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Providing the level of detail sought requires a significant amount of resources which cannot be justified at this time.

Treasurer: Land Tax Hardship Relief Board — entertainment expenses

24. **Mr WELLS** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) with reference to the Board’s entertainment expenses for each of 2004–05 and 2005–06 —
- (1) What was the total cost incurred.
 - (2) What are the itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including —
 - (a) date incurred;
 - (b) cost;
 - (c) number of guests;
 - (d) purpose;
 - (e) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were no entertainment expenses incurred in 2004-05 or 2005-06 by the Land Tax Hardship Relief Board.

Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — entertainment expenses

26. **Mr WELLS** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) with reference to the entertainment expenses of State Trustees Limited in each of 2004–05 and 2005–06 —
- (1) What was the total cost incurred.
 - (2) What are the itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including —
 - (a) date incurred;
 - (b) cost;
 - (c) number of guests;
 - (d) purpose;
 - (e) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

With reference to 2004-05:

The total cost of entertainment expenses was \$156,456.

State Trustees Limited held 14 functions during 2004-05 costing in excess of \$500. The functions were held on 8 October, 15 October, 20 October, 25 October, 17 November, 6 December, 16 December, 22 February, 19 April, 12 May, 17 May, 8 June, 21 June, and 28 June. The cost of the functions ranged from \$516 to \$22,623 with a total cost of \$36,408 and the number of guests at each ranged from 6 to 400. The purposes for these events were client relationship building, stakeholder management and team building. The services were provided by a range of service providers in the Melbourne CBD.

With reference to 2005-06:

The total cost of entertainment expenses was \$180,040.

State Trustees Limited held 14 functions during 2005-06 costing in excess of \$500. The functions were held on 13 July, 31 July, 29 August, 31 August, 7 September, 31 October, 28 November, 6 December, 13 January, 22 February, 2 March, 23 March, 27 June and 30 June. The cost of the functions ranged from \$509 to \$23,671 with a total cost of \$54,793, and the number of guests at each ranged from 8 to 450. The purposes for these events were client relationship building, staff reward and recognition and team building. The services were provided by a range of service providers in the Melbourne CBD.

Treasurer: Rural Finance Corporation

30. **Mr WELLS** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) — how many officers in the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations as at 30 June 2006, and —

- (1) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (2) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As at 30 June 2006 Rural Finance Corporation had one officer, overseen by the CEO, who handles communications including public, corporate and media relations.

- (1) As there is only one officer, it is inappropriate on privacy grounds to release this information, but the salary is within market levels for comparable positions.
- (2) The job title for the officer is Marketing Manager.

Community services: Shannons Way Pty Ltd

249(k). **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.

- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In relation to contracts entered into by departmental divisions responsible to the Minister for Community Services with Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000:

- (1) The department entered into three contracts, as follows:

Date	Description	Value (\$)
Aug 2002	Problem Gambling	147,838
Sept 2003	Kew Residential Services Stakeholder Communication Plan	14,702
Aug 2004	Problem Gambling Communication Strategy Phase 4	165,849
Total		328,389

- (2) The cost of each contract is listed in the table response to question 1.
- (3) There were no extensions, renewals or variations.
- (4) None of these contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) The contracts were all entered into under the DHS panel arrangement, which was established following a public tender process. Under the guidelines for engaging a supplier from the panel, no further public tender process was required.

Water: Growth Solutions Group

249(ae). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Water with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister’s department with Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Between December 2002, when the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) was created, and 17 July 2007, DSE entered into three contracts with Shannon’s Way.

A contract was signed between DSE and Shannon’s Way on 5 September 2003 for the provision of advertising services for the first phase of the Our Water Our Future (OWOF) campaign. This contract ended on 30 June 2004. Costs were capped at \$488,000.

DSE entered into a second contract with Shannon’s Way on 16 August 2004 for a second phase of the OWOF campaign. The contract was for 1 year to 1 July 2005 with an option to extend for another year to 1 July 2006. The contract cost was capped at \$1.5 million for the 2004/05 financial year.

DSE exercised the option to extend the Phase II contract with Shannon's Way until 30 June 2006. The cost for the 05/06 financial year was again capped at \$1.5 million.

In 2005 DSE entered into a contract with Shannon's Way with the value of \$200,000 for a Regional Our Water Our Future Campaign.

The first contract was awarded under an exemption from public tender due to the urgent need to undertake production of television advertising to coincide with the start of stage 2 water restrictions.

The second contract was awarded through a competitive select tender process drawing on the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Creative Services Panel for appropriate tender. An exemption from public tender was approved due to the need to transition seamlessly through to the next phase of the campaign within short timelines.

The third contract was awarded through a competitive process using the Victorian Government Marketing Services Panel and did not require a public tender process.

Innovation: Growth Solutions Group

250(q). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development (for the Minister for Innovation) with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has entered into six contracts with Growth Solutions Group for research, strategy and marketing consultancy services.

These contracts have ranged in value from \$9,001 to \$440,000, totalling \$593,141.

The contract for \$440,000 was awarded following a competitive quotation process utilising the DPC Whole of Victorian Government Marketing Services panel contract.

Given the value of the remainder of the contracts, and in compliance with Victorian Government Purchasing Board policies, none were offered for public tender.

There were no contract extensions, variations or renewals for these contracts.

Education: Growth Solutions Group

250(aa). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Education with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000 —

- (1) What contracts have been entered into.
- (2) What was the cost of each contract.
- (3) What was the cost of any contract extensions, variations or renewals.
- (4) Which contracts were offered for public tender.
- (5) What are the reasons given for any contracts not offered for public tender.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department has records for the following five contracts with the Growth Solutions Group since 1 January 2000:

Redefining VET/Youth Pathways information campaign	\$479,009.78
Redefining VET/Youth Pathways information campaign	\$78,694.00
Strategy & Marketing	\$22,165.00
Way to Go Campaign	\$379,000.00
Way to Go Campaign	\$60,000.00

Growth Solutions Group is a contractor on the Government's Marketing Services Panel of preferred suppliers. Any Department requiring external advertising and communication suppliers must contract these suppliers from the Panel in accordance with the Panel's guidelines.

Government purchasing guidelines were followed in relation to all of the above contracts. Please note that the Redefining VET/Youth Pathways information campaign and the Way to Go campaign involved the development and production of a comprehensive advertising campaign (TV, radio, print, outdoor signage), which accounted for the majority of costs.

Environment and climate change: overseas travel

256. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Community development (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change) —

- (1) Did the Minister take any international trips between 1 January 2003 and 1 March 2003; if so —
 - (a) on what dates;
 - (b) to what destinations;
 - (c) what was the purpose;
 - (d) how many staff members accompanied the Minister;
 - (e) what was the total cost of —
 - (i) airfares;
 - (ii) accommodation;
 - (iii) meals;
 - (iv) all other expenses.

- (2) Did the Minister take any international trips between 1 October 2003 and 31 December 2003; if so —
 - (a) on what dates;
 - (b) to what destinations;
 - (c) what was the purpose;
 - (d) how many staff members accompanied the Minister;
 - (e) what was the total cost of —
 - (i) airfares;
 - (ii) accommodation;
 - (iii) meals;
 - (iv) all other expenses.

- (3) Did the Minister take any international trips in 2004; if so —
 - (a) on what dates;
 - (b) to what destinations;
 - (c) what was the purpose;
 - (d) how many staff members accompanied the Minister;
 - (e) what was the total cost of —
 - (i) airfares;
 - (ii) accommodation;
 - (iii) meals;
 - (iv) all other expenses.

- (4) Did the Minister take any international trips in 2006; if so —
 - (a) on what dates;
 - (b) to what destinations;
 - (c) what was the purpose;
 - (d) how many staff members accompanied the Minister;
 - (e) what was the total cost of —
 - (i) airfares;
 - (ii) accommodation;
 - (iii) meals;
 - (iv) all other expenses.

- (5) Did the Minister take any international trips in 2007; if so —
 - (a) on what dates;
 - (b) to what destinations;
 - (c) what was the purpose;
 - (d) how many staff members accompanied the Minister;
 - (e) what was the total cost of —
 - (i) airfares;
 - (ii) accommodation;
 - (iii) meals;
 - (iv) all other expenses.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Community Development (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change): I am informed that:

- (1) The previous Minister did not travel overseas between 1 January 2003 and 1 March 2003.
- (2) The previous Minister did not travel overseas between 1 October 2003 and 31 December 2003.
- (3) The former Minister travelled to Canada and the United States of America between 11 May and 23 May 2004.

The purpose of the trip was to attend a Conference of the Reducers in Toronto. The former Minister also met with officials from Canadian and US state governments on climate change issues.

The total cost for airfares for the former Minister and one ministerial staff member was \$19,472. The total cost of accommodation was \$2,316. The total cost for meals and other expenses for the former Minister and one ministerial staff member was \$11,769.

- (4) The former Minister travelled to India and Sri Lanka between 30 January 2006 and 15 February 2006. The purpose of the trip was to attend a number of meetings with Indian Government officials to explore opportunities for collaboration with the Victorian Government in regards to water salinity, green buildings, renewable energy, climate change and water management practices. The former Minister was not accompanied by a ministerial staff member on this travel. While in Sri Lanka the former Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change inspected the progress of the Victorian Government's Tsunami Disaster Reconstruction Fund.

The total cost for airfares for the former Minister was \$9,802. The total cost of accommodation was \$8,051. The total allowance paid to the former Minister for meals and other expenses was \$3,309.

- (5) The former Minister did not travel overseas in 2007.

Public transport: myki ticketing system

- 263.** Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport — on what date is the myki pilot scheduled to begin.

ANSWER:

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

A specific date has not yet been fixed for the myki pilot.

Education: Mooroolbark Primary School site

- 314.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the former Mooroolbark Primary School site in Mooroolbark — does the Department of Education and Training still own the site; if so —

- (1) What does the Department intend to do with the site.
- (2) Is it the intention of the Department to sell the site.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I have approved the Mooroolbark Primary School site to be included on the Department's disposal program. It is the objective of the Department to sell the site in line with government policy.

Health: nurses — numbers

- 315.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Health — is there a nursing staffing numbers shortfall.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 'Nurses in Victoria – a supply and demand study' completed in November 2004, forecast a shortfall of 2129 nurses by mid 2007.

Since then, initiatives to address the shortfall include;

- Increased number of university places for division 1 nurses, with over 500 new nursing places available in 2007.

- An increase of 1500 division 2 nursing training places over 4 years has also been implemented. Support for medicines administration for division 2 nurses to allow them to take on an expanded role in the health sector, and
- Ongoing commitment to programs that improve recruitment and retention such as continuing nurse education and training and development

The number of nurses employed in public health services has risen steadily since 1999, with 8,000 extra nurses since then. The number of nurses registered with the Nurses Board of Victoria has also increased in the same period by over 20%.

The state government has also requested another 600 nursing university places.

The ‘Nurses in Victoria - supply and demand study’ will be repeated in 2007/08 (and completed by June 2008) with the latest work force information. This will provide an updated picture of Victoria’s nursing needs, currently and into the future, to be established.

Multicultural affairs: Victorian Multicultural Commission

385. **Mr KOTSIRAS** to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what is the total cost of each consultation and forum within community groups held since December 2006 and organised by the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total cost of consultations held by the VMC between 1 December 2006 and 22 August 2007 was \$8, 619.

This figure does not include some overhead costs, for example staff time.

Multicultural affairs: advertising

386. **Mr KOTSIRAS** to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what are the details of all advertising campaigns relating to the Minister’s department and each agency and authority under the Minister’s administration, including the purpose and total cost of each campaign, since 1 December 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that there were three advertising campaigns that have been undertaken since 1 December 2006:

Celebrate our Cultural Diversity Week

A media campaign including regional, metropolitan and suburban papers; educational publications; and radio.

The purpose of the campaign was to:

- promote our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity as one of Victoria’s greatest assets, strengths and defining features;
- promote the fact that all Victorians have a role to play in creating a society free of racism and one which is built on mutual respect and acceptance;
- encourage Victorians to join in a range of activities celebrating diversity during the Week (17-23 March).

Cost: \$35,000

Cultural Precincts Enhancement Fund

Advertisements in key ethnic community papers and specific city publications to reach Victoria’s Chinese, Italian and Greek communities and traders in the Little Bourke Street, Lonsdale St and Lygon Street precincts.

The purpose of the campaign was to:

- alert the community to public meetings held to discuss the Expressions of Interest for the redevelopment of three of Melbourne’s key precincts.

Cost: \$3,000

Regional Scholarships Program

Advertisements in ethnic newspapers and radio commercials on community radio stations in English and five other languages.

The purpose of the campaign was to:

- invite members of the community to apply for scholarships in interpreter training in five emerging languages.

Cost: \$4,500

As the Minister for Multicultural Affairs I am supported by the Victorian Multicultural Commission within the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) and questions relating to DPCD spending should be addressed to the Minister for Planning, the lead Minister for DPCD.

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: consultancies

387. Mr KOTSIRAS to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs — what are the details of each consultancy commissioned by the Minister’s department and each agency and authority within the Minister’s administration since 1 December 2006, indicating for each the —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Cost.
- (3) Purpose.
- (4) Name and address of consultant.
- (5) Recommendations made.
- (6) Action taken in response to any recommendations.
- (7) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development.

In relation to the agencies and authorities within my administration, since 1 December, 2006, to the date the question was asked, I am informed that the information below is consistent with Victorian Government Purchasing Board(VGPB) Guidelines with respect to consultancies:

State Sports Centre Trust :

1 consultancy undertaken by SGL Consulting Group to undertake an SSCT Master Plan at a cost of \$31,680; and

Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust :

1 consultancy undertaken by Bovis Lend Lease to develop a Master Plan at a cost of \$67,500.

Neither consultancy went to public tender as they were below the public tender threshold.

Questions in relation to consultancies commissioned by the Department should be directed to the Lead Minister for the Department, Justin Madden, Minister for Planning

Public transport: Connex — metcard validations

393. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — on Wednesday 22 August 2007 how many outwards Metcard validations were recorded at each of Flinders Street, Melbourne Central, Southern Cross, Parliament, Flagstaff, Richmond, South Yarra, Caulfield, Oakleigh, Dandenong, Berwick, Pakenham, Bentleigh, Cheltenham, Mordialloc, Frankston, Cranbourne, Windsor, Balaclava, Middle Brighton, Sandringham, Camberwell, Ashburton, Surrey Hills, Box Hill, Blackburn, Mitcham, Ringwood, Croydon, Lilydale, Bayswater, Boronia, Belgrave, Clifton Hill; Heidelberg, Eltham, Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge, Preston, Reservoir, Epping, North Melbourne, Footscray, Newport, Williamstown, Altona, Werribee, Sunshine, St Albans, Watergardens, Essendon, Broadmeadows, Craigieburn, Melton, Somerville and Hastings railway stations.

ANSWER:

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

Outwards Metcard Validations for 22 August 2007

Flinders Street	60,983
Melbourne Central	45,269
Southern Cross	23,820
Parliament	31,352
Flagstaff	15,913
Richmond	5,312
South Yarra	6,571
Caulfield	3,605
Oakleigh	2,846
Dandenong	2,100
Berwick	1,438
Pakenham	771
Bentleigh	1,699
Cheltenham	1,602
Mordialloc	1,061
Frankston	2,737
Cranbourne	866
Windsor	1,797
Balaclava	2,077

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

3222

ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19 August 2008

Middle Brighton	1,213
Sandringham	1,140
Camberwell	3,624
Ashburton	689
Surrey Hills	1,848
Box Hill	9,249
Blackburn	2,387
Mitcham	2,382
Ringwood	2,590
Croydon	1,612
Lilydale	1,259
Bayswater	1,038
Boronia	1,348
Belgrave	682
Clifton Hill	1,637
Heidelberg	1,692
Eltham	1,347
Diamond Creek	386
Hurstbridge	267
Preston	1,381
Reservoir	2,250
Epping	1,416
North Melbourne	874
Footscray	4,147
Newport	1,971
Williamstown	262
Altona	676
Werribee	1,791
Sunshine	2,850
St Albans	1,785
Watgardens (Sydenham)	2,556
Essendon	2,847
Broadmeadows	1,186

Craigieburn	331	
Melton	1,089	
Somerville	0	* See note 2 below
Hastings	0	* See note 2 below

Notes:

- 1 Ticket validations do not equate to patronage because of fare evasion and passengers with valid tickets who choose not to validate.
- 2 Ticketing equipment is fitted onboard Stony Point line trains; stations beyond Frankston do not have ticketing equipment.
- 3 The total number of validations recorded onboard Stony Point services was not available due to an accident on the line. For indicative purposes, 231 validations were recorded onboard Stony Point services on the previous Wednesday (15 August 2007).
- 4 'Outwards Metcard validations' has been taken to mean recorded entries by passengers commencing trips at the stations concerned.

Public transport: Connex — performance

394. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the 15 electrified lines and one non-electrified line identified in Connex’s monthly detailed performance reporting as shown on the www.connexmelbourne.com.au —

- (1) For each section of each line what has been the percentage change in total estimate patronage between May 2006 and May 2007 as indicated by Department of Infrastructure surveys.
- (2) How many individual train trips were cancelled on each line on 22 August 2007.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The May Load Standard Surveys undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure are not designed to measure patronage but are used to monitor the level of crowding on train services. The load surveys identify heavily loaded services and this data is used by Connex and the Government to review the structure and level of services provided across the network.

(2)

Line	Services Cancelled
Alamein	0
Belgrave	0
Broadmeadows	0
Cranbourne	0
Epping	1
Frankston	2

Line	Services Cancelled
Glen Waverley	1
Hurstbridge	0
Lilydale	0
Pakenham	0
Sandringham	3
Stony Point	7
Sydenham	3
Upfield	1
Werribee	1
Williamstown	0

Roads and ports: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham — traffic lights

439. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the change in running time to the right hand turn amber light at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road and Nepean Highway and Karen Street —

- (1) On what date was the running time changed to four seconds.
- (2) What time did the amber light run before the change.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The times allocated to the amber light phase for the right turns at this intersection have not been changed recently.
- (2) The amber phase for the right turns from Bay Road and Karen Street into Nepean Highway and from Nepean Highway into Bay Road are 3 seconds long. The right turn green arrow phase from Nepean Highway into Karen Street varies between 3 and 4.5 seconds, depending on the traffic demand.

Education: consultancies

451. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Education — what are the details of each consultancy commissioned by the Minister’s Department and each agency and authority within the Minister’s administration since 1 December 2006, indicating for each the —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Cost.
- (3) Purpose.
- (4) Name and address of consultant.
- (5) Recommendations made.
- (6) Action taken in response to any recommendations.
- (7) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The agencies within my portfolio endeavour to minimise expenditure on consultants wherever possible. Consultants are engaged when specific expertise is not available within these agencies.

Information on consultancies utilised by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and statutory authorities is provided in annual reports which are available on the Department's website.

Treasurer: ministerial staff

460. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — how many full time equivalent ministerial staff did the Treasurer have in relation to all ministerial capacities as at 30 June 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This answer does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Treasurer: Office of the Administrator for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and VicPower Trading — entertainment expenses

465. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Office of the Administrator for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and VicPower Trading — what are the details of entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 incurred in 2004–05 and 2006–07, including —

- (1) Date incurred.
- (2) Cost.
- (3) Number of guests.
- (4) Purpose.
- (5) Name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were three instances of entertainment expense in excess of \$500 incurred in 2004-05 and one in 2006-07 on the 1st of July, 14th of October and 22nd of December 2004 and the 20th of December 2006. The total cost for these events was \$4012.95. The number of guests that attended these events ranged from eight to fourteen. These events were for Christmas functions, welcome lunch and farewell lunch. The services were provided by a range of service providers in the Melbourne CBD.

Treasurer: Victorian Funds Management Corporation — entertainment expenses

466. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — what are the details of entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 incurred by the Victorian Funds Management Corporation in 2006–07, including —

- (1) Date incurred.

- (2) Cost.
- (3) Number of guests.
- (4) Purpose.
- (5) Name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

During the period 2006-07 there were 17 instances of entertainment expense in excess of \$500, on 10th August, 25th September, 27th September (x2), 5th October, 10th November, 28th November, 7th December, 8th December, 12th December, 21st December, 12th January, 21st March, 23rd March, 4th April, 24th May and 29th June.

The total cost for these events was \$38,065.59. The number of guests attending each function ranged between 6 and 130. The events were staff reward and recognition functions, farewells, client functions, a staff and client Christmas lunch, and two board dinners.

The services were provided by a range of service providers in the Melbourne CBD.

Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — entertainment expenses

467. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the entertainment expenses of the State Trustees Limited in 2006-07 —

- (1) What was the total cost incurred.
- (2) What are the itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including —
 - (a) date incurred;
 - (b) cost;
 - (c) number of guests;
 - (d) purpose;
 - (e) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total cost of entertainment expenses for 2006-07 was \$166,568.70.

State Trustees Limited held 12 functions during 2006-07 costing in excess of \$500. The

functions were held on 4 July, 6 July, 10 July, 20 September, 13 October, 30 November, 5 December, 23 April, 30 April, 19 June, 21 June 2007 and 29 June. The cost of the functions ranged from \$528 to \$25,200 with a total cost of \$34,715 and the number of guests at each ranged from 7 to 450. The purposes for these events were staff reward and recognition, team building and client relationship building. The services were provided by a range of service providers in the Melbourne CBD.

Community services: supported residential services

479. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to pension level residents of supported residential services —

- (1) How many residents currently suffer from mental illness.

- (2) What procedures are in place to link residents who suffer from a mental illness with appropriate treatment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Latest research states approximately 1 in 5 Victorians suffer from a mental illness.
- (2) There are a number of programs that link people with a mental illness who are living in a SRS with appropriate treatment and support services:
- SRS Service Coordination and Support Program funds suitably qualified and experienced workers to engage with and provide support, information, assessment and referral services to residents with a mental illness or disability not currently linked into appropriate services.
 - The Community Connections Program funds assertive outreach workers to proactively find, engage, assess and link residents with disabilities and people who are living in other forms of marginalised housing into the services they need, this includes those with a mental illness.
 - SRS residents with severe mental illness are eligible to receive support from the specialist mental health service system.

Multicultural affairs: Promoting Harmony program

- 486.** Mr KOTSIRAS to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what is the total amount of funding that will be spent on the Promoting Harmony Program in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the total amount of budgeted funding for the Promoting Harmony Program in 2007-08 is \$1,013,000.

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: regional youth affairs networks

- 489.** Mr KOTSIRAS to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs — what are the details of the consultant commissioned by the minister's department to look into the Regional Youth Affairs Networks, including —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Cost.
- (3) Purpose.
- (4) Name and address of consultant.
- (5) Recommendations made.
- (6) Action taken in response to any recommendations.
- (7) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Asquith Group undertook the consultancy for the RYAN improvement project at a cost of \$29,150. The consultant made a number of recommendations to strengthen the focus and role of the Regional Youth Affairs Networks to support youth participation and engagement.

The Office for Youth is currently finalising new guidelines for the RYANs, linking the networks to Future Directions, the Government's action agenda for young people and the Youth Affairs Interdepartmental Committee.

Education: Mooroolbark Primary School site

497. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the sale of the Mooroolbark Primary School site —

- (1) Under what zoning restrictions was the Mooroolbark Primary School site sold.
- (2) How much was the Mooroolbark Primary School site sold for.
- (3) Will the proceeds of the Mooroolbark Primary School site sale be reinvested into education in the district of Kilsyth.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) The site is currently undergoing rezoning in consultation with the local Council.
- (2) The site has not been sold as yet.
- (3) The proceeds of the sale will be returned to the Department to meet ongoing education programs.

Please refer to my response to Question 314.

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: Office for Youth — *Leading the Way*

541. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to the Office for Youth document 'Leading the Way' —

- (1) How is the Government facilitating its commitment to increase best practice mentoring programs for young people.
- (2) Has a baseline for better mentoring policy and program development been established.
- (3) How has information about mentoring been made more accessible to young people, potential and current volunteer mentors and other stakeholders.
- (4) What new information has been made available to young people about mentoring since the document was released.
- (5) Has young people's participation in mentoring programs increased since the document's release; if so, what evidence is there to support the increase.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

- (1) The Government is facilitating its commitment to increase best practice mentoring programs for young people by releasing two good practice guides:
 - A Guide to Effective Practice for Mentoring Young People (2006), aimed at helping the design, delivery and evaluation of mentoring programs and projects for young people; and
 - A Guide to Supporting Effective Programs for Mentoring Young People (2007), to assist mentoring practitioners and organisations to develop and implement mentoring programs based on best practice.
 - Both guides were prepared in consultation with the youth mentoring sector including the Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance and the National Youth Mentoring Network.
- (2) Through the good practice guides, checklists for better mentoring policy and program development have been established. The guides include detailed information around program development, program implementation and operations, review and program improvement, and policies and procedures.

- (3) Information about mentoring has been made more accessible to young people, potential and current volunteer mentors and other stakeholders through the regional coordination projects in Gippsland, Grampians and metropolitan Melbourne. The Government also has a partnership with the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust which is supporting the delivery of youth mentoring programs into more areas of the state, by funding three regional coordination projects in Hume, Loddon Mallee and Barwon South West regions, completing state-wide coverage. These projects:
- coordinate effective regional delivery of new and existing mentoring programs and related activities;
 - identify, document and share best practice mentoring models; and
 - strengthen community collaboration and capacity for the delivery of mentoring programs to develop cross-sectoral and whole of community approaches to mentoring.

The mentoring pages of the Office for Youth website www.youth.vic.gov.au have also been strengthened including:

- information about mentoring projects
 - the good practice guides available for download; and
 - links to the Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance and the National Youth Mentoring Network.
- (4) Since the release of *Leading the Way*, new information including program brochures and DVDs, have been made available to young people through youth mentoring organisations. A generic suite of tools for young people is currently being planned by young people across the state.
- (5) Young people's participation has increased as a result of the establishment of twelve targeted projects to support new and existing mentoring and skill-based programs. The number and capacity of mentoring programs in disadvantaged communities has expanded while building on existing models, practices and networks in communities. The projects provide regular reporting on their progress.

Industrial relations: advertising

544. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Industrial Relations 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 as follows:

(1) What was the total cost of the campaign?

The total television advertising costs of the Workplace Rights Advocate campaign in 2007 were \$286,803.00 (including GST).

(2) On what date was the contract for the campaign signed?

The campaign was approved by the Workplace Rights Advocate and the Secretary of the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development on 12 June 2007. The media booking through MAMS (the Master Agency Media Service) was signed on 13 June 2007.

(3) Who produced the campaign and for what amount?

Advertising agency Magnum Opus produced the television commercials. Production of these commercials cost \$26,131.47 (including GST).

Public transport: Rail — Sandringham line

554. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the relocation of the Sandringham line train service from platforms eight and nine at Flinders Street Station to platform 13 —

- (1) When was the decision made to use platform 13 as the departure platform.
- (2) What was the rationale for the relocation.
- (3) What community consultation took place.
- (4) What community notification was given.
- (5) When will Sandringham line trains return to platforms eight and nine.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) May 2007.
- (2) To improve operational performance.
- (3) Connex informs the Department that the decision was made not to consult. The pressing need to address performance deterioration through alternative platform arrangements did not allow Connex time for a public consultation process.
- (4) All traditional notification methods were used including posters at Flinders Street Station, media releases, station announcements, information provided on websites (including the Connex and Metlink websites) and in timetable booklets. In addition, an information pamphlet was distributed to selected residences along the Sandringham line.
- (5) Sandringham trains will continue to operate via platforms 12 and 13 for the foreseeable future.

Police and emergency services: Moorabbin Justice Centre

562. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — will the provision of police for security purposes at the Moorabbin Court House be drawn from existing staff at the Sandringham, Cheltenham or Moorabbin police stations or will additional staff be allocated.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Moorabbin Justice Centre currently has private security guards performing the general security service at the complex. This situation is expected to continue and they will be used for the general court security function.

Upon completion of works at the custodial facility at the Moorabbin Justice Centre, it is the intention of Victoria Police that the management of the custody arrangements will be outsourced to a private security contractor and will not be undertaken by police members.

Housing: eastern metropolitan region — vacant properties

566. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to the Office of Housing properties in the eastern metropolitan region —

- (1) In September 2007 how many —
 - (a) properties were vacant due to cleaning or maintenance requirements;

- (b) days was each property vacant while waiting for cleaning or repairs.
- (2) How many houses or flats are provided for —
 - (a) emergency housing;
 - (b) transitional housing.
- (3) Between 1–7 October 2007 how many —
 - (a) properties were vacant due to maintenance or cleaning;
 - (b) days was each property vacant while waiting for cleaning or repairs.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) The Office of Housing makes every effort to ensure that vacant properties are allocated as soon as is practicable to avoid properties being left unoccupied. At 30 September 2007 there were 25 properties in Eastern Metropolitan Region that were vacant due to cleaning or maintenance requirements.

(b) The average time that properties in Eastern Metropolitan have been vacant is 27.5 days, considerably lower than the statewide target of 34 days. Properties may remain vacant for a range of reasons, including the need for maintenance, work to modify properties to meet client needs, client illness, or in the case of disposing of goods abandoned by vacating tenants, time for actions such as inspections by Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- (2) (a) Since 1999, the Victorian Government has delivered over 11,000 new social housing units, including an additional 1,350 properties in Eastern Metropolitan Region, bringing the total social housing stock in Eastern Metropolitan to over 6,850 units. At 30 June 2007 there were 27 Crisis Supported properties in Eastern Metropolitan Region, representing 11 per cent of the statewide number.

(b) At 30 June 2007 there were 528 Transitional Housing Properties in Eastern Metropolitan Region, representing 15 per cent of the statewide number.
- (3) (a) Between 1 October 2007 and 7 October 2007 there were 33 properties in Eastern Metropolitan that were vacant due to cleaning or maintenance requirements.

(b) The average time that properties in Eastern Metropolitan have been vacant is 27.5 days, which is well under the statewide target of 34 days. Properties may remain vacant for a range of reasons, including the need for maintenance, work to modify properties to meet client needs, client illness, or in the case of disposing of goods abandoned by vacating tenants, time for actions such as inspections by Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Health: nurses — industrial dispute

572. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to industrial action taken by nurses between 17–25 October 2007 —

- (1) How many individual nurses were fined as a result of the action and what was the total cost of all fines.
- (2) How many individual nurses have had their pay docked and what is the total of all reductions in pay.
- (3) Will fines and docked pay be repaid; if so, what mechanism will be employed to facilitate this.
- (4) Did the Minister participate directly in the negotiations; if so, —
 - (a) on how many occasions;
 - (b) on which dates;
 - (c) for what length of period.
- (5) During the dispute which hospitals went on —

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (a) Hospital Early Warning Systems, when and for how long;
- (b) bypass, when and for how long.
- (6) Were public patients in public hospitals transferred to private hospitals for treatment due to bed closures; if so —
 - (a) how many transfers occurred;
 - (b) what was the cost of each transfer and procedure;
 - (c) what was the total cost to the system.
- (7) Will the hospital disruptions, due to the action, be referred to in the statistical reporting for the next Your Hospitals report.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Obligations under the Work Place Relations Act apply to the employer of staff which is individual Health Services. Information related to the number of staff who had their pay docked or where fined under the requirements of the Workplace Relations Act is held by individual Health Services.
- (2) Obligations under the Work Place Relations Act apply to the employer of staff which is individual Health Services. Information related to the number of staff who had their pay docked or where fined under the requirements of the Workplace Relations Act is held by individual Health Services.
- (3) Obligations under the Work Place Relations Act apply to the employer of staff which is individual Health Services. Information related to the number of staff who had their pay docked or where fined under the requirements of the Workplace Relations Act is held by individual Health Services
- (4) No
- (5) (a) The department does not collect data on Hospital Early Warning Systems (HEWS).
 (b) There were 210 instances of ambulance bypass for a total of 390 hours. This comprises:

Hospital	No. of bypasses	Hours on bypass
Angliss	2	2.67
Austin	26	47.67
Box Hill	15	30.00
Dandenong	8	15.00
Frankston	15	22.00
Maroondah	22	40.97
MMC Clayton	28	50.08
Northern	22	42.00
Royal Melbourne	29	57.00
The Alfred	14	29.08
St Vincent's	22	41.83
Sunshine	3	4.50
Western	4	7.17

- (6) The department does not collect this information.

(7) The next Your Hospitals report will provide information on actual Public Hospital performance for the six months ending December 2007. It aims to provide Victorians with an insight into public hospital performance, by focussing on key areas of service delivery and explaining, simply and clearly, their achievements as well as their remaining challenges. The report provides commentary on changes in performance between reporting periods and on other events, such as the recent winter illness season, that have significant impact on public hospital performance. The impact of industrial action on public hospital performance may be noted within the report.

Health: Trendcare computer program

574. Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the implementation of the computer software program Trendcare in public hospitals —

- (1) Are any public hospitals currently using Trendcare; if so —
 - (a) when and where has it been implemented;
 - (b) what are the reasons for implementing the program;
 - (c) what are nursing staff attitudes towards the program;
 - (d) what has been the total cost of implementing the program;
 - (e) is the Government considering extending the implementation of the program.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (a) Trendcare was implemented in January 2003 at 20 Victorian public hospital sites, under the Heads of Agreement of 23 August 2001 between the Australian Nursing Federation, Department of Human Services and the Victorian Hospitals Industrial Association.
- (b) Trendcare was selected to inform health services how to make optimal use of nursing skills.
- (c) The department is aware that some sites have continued to use Trendcare, however this is an operational matter for health services.
- (d) The cost of implementing Trendcare for the purpose stated above was \$491,114 (\$94,610 Trendcare licenses and technical support plus \$396,504 for implementation support staff).
- (e) The funding of information systems such as Trendcare is a matter for health services to determine.

Public transport: NightRider bus service

597. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to an article in the *Manningham Leader*, 'Call for more NightRider routes' on 8 August 2007 regarding a review of Melbourne's NightRider bus service in 2007 —

- (1) Has the review commenced.
- (2) Will there be any public input.
- (3) What is the expected conclusion date of the review.
- (4) When will recommendations arising from the review be put into action.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The Nightrider Bus Service Review has been completed.

- (2) A range of stakeholders were consulted during the review process including current Nightrider users and non users, Bus Association Victoria, current Nightrider bus operators, Victoria Police and the Melbourne City Council. The views of local Members of Parliament, Municipal Councils and the community were also considered following a review of representations received in recent years requesting improvements to the Nightrider network.
- (3) The Nightrider Bus Service Review has been completed.
- (4) The Government will announce its decision in relation to the recommendations at the appropriate time.

Housing: Doncaster area — one-bedroom units

599. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to one bedroom public housing units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale — in each suburb —

- (1) How many units are there.
- (2) What funds have been spent on the units in the last three years.
- (3) What age are the units.
- (4) What is the occupancy rate of units and how is this measured.
- (5) What is the current waiting list for units.
- (6) What plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Since 1999, the Victorian Government has delivered over 11,000 new social housing units, including an additional 1,350 properties in Eastern Metropolitan, bringing the total provision of social housing stock in Eastern Metropolitan Region to over 6,850 units, of which 153 are situated in the Doncaster area, including 39 one bedroom properties.
- (2) It is difficult to disaggregate expenditure data to the suburb level; and therefore it is difficult to estimate the amount spent on one-bedroom units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale in the last three years.
- (3) Properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1983, compared to a state average of 1979. One-bedroom properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1990.
- (4) The Office of Housing makes every effort to ensure that vacant properties are allocated as soon as is practicable to avoid properties being left unoccupied. At 30 September 2007, the Box Hill area office, which manages the Doncaster area, had an occupancy rate of 99.5%, compared to the statewide average of 99.1% and the private rental market occupancy rate of 98.8% (REIV September 2007). The occupancy rate for one-bedroom properties was 99.3%. As with private rental properties, the occupancy rate is measured as the properties let as a proportion of all tenantable properties. Properties may remain vacant for a range of reasons, including the need for maintenance, work to modify properties to meet client needs, client illness, or in the case of disposing of goods abandoned by vacating tenants, time for actions such as inspections by Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- (5) There has been a reduction in the Box Hill waiting list over the past four years of over three per cent, from 2,512 in June 2003 to 2,431 in September 2007. Of these, 1,311 applicants were waiting for a one-bedroom property.
- (6) The Office of Housing capital works planning process ensures that acquisitions are targeted to communities and areas in need of assistance. A number of new housing projects have already been announced in Ballarat, Norlane, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo and Northcote as part of the new State Government investment of \$500

million, and planning is currently underway to identify further opportunities to use this Government's significant new funding commitment to benefit those Victorians in greatest need of assistance.

Housing: Doncaster area — two-bedroom units

600. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to two bedroom public housing units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale — in each suburb —

- (1) How many units are there.
- (2) What funds have been spent on the units in the last three years.
- (3) What age are the units.
- (4) What is the occupancy rate of units and how is this measured.
- (5) What is the current waiting list for units.
- (6) What plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Since 1999, the Victorian Government has delivered over 11,000 new social housing units, including an additional 1,350 properties in Eastern Metropolitan, bringing the total provision of social housing stock in Eastern Metropolitan Region to over 6,850 units, of which 153 are situated in the Doncaster area, including 76 two bedroom properties.
- (2) It is difficult to disaggregate expenditure data to the suburb level; and therefore it is difficult to estimate the amount spent on two bedroom units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale in the last three years.
- (3) Properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1983, compared to a state average of 1979. Two bedroom properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1985.
- (4) The Office of Housing makes every effort to ensure that vacant properties are allocated as soon as is practicable to avoid properties being left unoccupied. At 30 September 2007 the Box Hill area office, which manages the Doncaster area had an occupancy rate of 99.5%, compared to the statewide average of 99.1% and the private rental market occupancy rate of 98.8% (REIV September 2007). The occupancy rate for two bedroom properties was 99.4%. As with private rental properties, the occupancy rate is measured as the properties let as a proportion of all tenantable properties. Properties may remain vacant for a range of reasons, including the need for maintenance, work to modify properties to meet client needs, client illness, or in the case of disposing of goods abandoned by vacating tenants, time for actions such as inspections by Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- (5) There has been a reduction in the Box Hill waiting list over the past four years of over three per cent, from 2,512 in June 2003 to 2,431 in September 2007. Of these, 677 applicants were waiting for a two bedroom property.
- (6) The Office of Housing capital works planning process ensures that acquisitions are targeted to communities and areas in need of assistance. A number of new housing projects have already been announced in Ballarat, Norlane, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo and Northcote as part of the new State Government investment of \$500 million, and planning is currently underway to identify further opportunities to use this Government's significant new funding commitment to benefit those Victorians in greatest need of assistance.

Housing: Doncaster area — three-bedroom units

601. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to three bedroom public housing units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale — in each suburb —

- (1) How many units are there.
- (2) What funds have been spent on the units in the last three years.
- (3) What age are the units.
- (4) What is the occupancy rate of units and how is this measured.
- (5) What is the current waiting list for units.
- (6) What plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Since 1999, the Victorian Government has delivered over 11,000 new social housing units, including an additional 1,350 properties in Eastern Metropolitan, bringing the total provision of social housing stock in Eastern Metropolitan Region to over 6,850 units, of which 153 are situated in the Doncaster area, including 29 three bedroom properties.
- (2) It is difficult to disaggregate expenditure data to the suburb level; and therefore it is difficult to estimate the amount spent on three bedroom units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale in the last three years.
- (3) Properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1983, compared to a state average of 1979. Three bedroom properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1974.
- (4) The Office of Housing makes every effort to ensure that vacant properties are allocated as soon as is practicable to avoid properties being left unoccupied. At 30 September 2007 the Box Hill area office, which manages the Doncaster area had an occupancy rate of 99.5%, compared to the statewide average of 99.1% and the private rental market occupancy rate of 98.8% (REIV September 2007). The occupancy rate for three bedroom properties was 99.7%. As with private rental properties, the occupancy rate is measured as the properties let as a proportion of all tenable properties. Properties may remain vacant for a range of reasons, including the need for maintenance, work to modify properties to meet client needs, client illness, or in the case of disposing of goods abandoned by vacating tenants, time for actions such as inspections by Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- (5) I am pleased to report that there has been a reduction in the Box Hill waiting list over the past four years of over three per cent, from 2,512 in June 2003 to 2,431 in September 2007. Of these, 373 applicants were waiting for a three bedroom property.
- (6) The Office of Housing capital works planning process ensures that acquisitions are targeted to communities and areas in need of assistance. A number of new housing projects have already been announced in Ballarat, Norlane, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo and Northcote as part of the new State Government investment of \$500 million, and planning is currently underway to identify further opportunities to use this Government's significant new funding commitment to benefit those Victorians in greatest need of assistance.

Housing: Doncaster area — four-bedroom units

602. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Housing with reference to four bedroom public housing units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale — in each suburb —

- (1) How many units are there.
- (2) What funds have been spent on the units in the last three years.
- (3) What age are the units.
- (4) What is the occupancy rate of units and how is this measured.
- (5) What is the current waiting list for units.
- (6) What plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Since 1999, the Victorian Government has delivered over 11,000 new social housing units, including an additional 1,350 properties in Eastern Metropolitan, bringing the total provision of social housing stock in Eastern Metropolitan Region to over 6,850 units, of which 153 are situated in the Doncaster area, including nine four or greater bedroom properties.
- (2) It is difficult to disaggregate this data to the suburb level; it is therefore difficult to estimate the amount spent on four bedroom units in Doncaster, Doncaster East and Donvale in the last three years.
- (3) Properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1983, compared to a state average of 1979. Four or greater bedroom properties in the Doncaster area have an average construction date of 1983.
- (4) The Office of Housing makes every effort to ensure that vacant properties are allocated as soon as is practicable to avoid properties being left unoccupied. At 30 September 2007 the Box Hill area office, which manages the Doncaster area had an occupancy rate of 99.5%, compared to the statewide average of 99.1% and the private rental market occupancy rate of 98.8% (REIV September 2007). The occupancy rate for four or greater bedroom properties was 99.2%. As with private rental properties, the occupancy rate is measured as the properties let as a proportion of all tenantable properties. Properties may remain vacant for a range of reasons, including the need for maintenance, work to modify properties to meet client needs, client illness, or in the case of disposing of goods abandoned by vacating tenants, time for actions such as inspections by Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- (5) There has been a reduction in the Box Hill waiting list over the past four years of over three per cent, from 2,512 in June 2003 to 2,431 in September 2007. Of these, 70 applicants were waiting for a four bedroom property.
- (6) The Office of Housing capital works planning process ensures that acquisitions are targeted to communities and areas in need of assistance. A number of new housing projects have already been announced in Ballarat, Norlane, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo and Northcote as part of the new State Government investment of \$500 million, and planning is currently underway to identify further opportunities to use this Government's significant new funding commitment to benefit those Victorians in greatest need of assistance.

Community services: supported residential services

606. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to pension level supported residential services (SRS) facilities, as defined by SAVVI initiative —

- (1) How many pension level SRS, closed in —
 - (a) 2000;
 - (b) 2001;
 - (c) 2002;
 - (d) 2003;
 - (e) 2004;
 - (f) 2005;
 - (g) 2006;
 - (h) 2007 to date.
- (2) As a result of the closure of pension level SRS facilities, how many pension level beds and above-pension level beds were closed in —
 - (a) 2000;
 - (b) 2001;

- (c) 2002;
- (d) 2003;
- (e) 2004;
- (f) 2005;
- (g) 2006;
- (h) 2007 to date.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Community Services: I am informed that:

Data is provided for the years 2006 and 2007 as the SAVVI project did not commence until 2006

- (1) 2 pension level SRS facilities closed in 2006, due to action by landlords
3 pension level SRS facilities closed in 2007, two due to action by landlords and one as the result of appointment of an administrator.
- (2) 26 beds were closed in 2006 as a result of the closure of pension level SRS facilities, 147 beds were closed in 2007 as a result of the closure of pension level SRS facilities. The majority of these were in one SRS (100 beds) where an administrator was appointed due to on-going concerns over resident care and fabric issues. Closure of other non-pension level SRS, for various reasons, included 50 pension level beds.

Community services: supported residential services

607. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported residential services (SRS) facilities —

- (1) How many above-pension level SRS facilities, not pension level SRS as defined by the SAVVI initiative, closed in —
 - (a) 2000;
 - (b) 2001;
 - (c) 2002;
 - (d) 2003;
 - (e) 2004;
 - (f) 2005;
 - (g) 2006;
 - (h) 2007 to date.
- (2) As a result of the closure of above-pension level SRS facilities, how many above-pension level beds, and pension level beds were closed in —
 - (a) 2000;
 - (b) 2001;
 - (c) 2002;
 - (d) 2003;
 - (e) 2004;
 - (f) 2005;
 - (g) 2006;
 - (h) 2007 to date.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data is provided for the years 2006 and 2007 as the SAVVI project did not commence until 2006

- (1) In Victoria for the 2006 calendar year:
- 4 above pension level SRS facilities closed
- In Victoria for the 2007 calendar year:
- 6 above pension level SRS facilities closed
- (2) In Victoria as a result of the closure of above pension level SRS facilities for the 2006 calendar year
- 239 beds were closed
- In Victoria for the 2007 calendar year
- 143 beds were closed

Public transport: Connex — Werribee line

626. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to trains on the Werribee line —

- (1) Did the 8.26 am to Flinders Street and the 8.28 am to Werribee on 19 November 2007 run direct between Laverton and Newport rather than via Altona; if so —
- (a) what was the reason for the diversions;
 - (b) did passengers at Altona Station have to wait up to 40 minutes for the next train; if not, what alternative transport arrangements were made.
- (2) Other than the 8.26 am to Flinders Street and the 8.28 am to Werribee, did any other trains run direct between Laverton and Newport rather than via Altona on 19 November 2007; if so, what was the —
- (a) originating station;
 - (b) time of scheduled departure;
 - (c) destination station.
- (3) How many times since 1 July 2007 have —
- (a) down trains scheduled to operate via Altona between Werribee and Finders Street Station been diverted to operate via the direct Geelong line on —
 - (i) Mondays;
 - (ii) Tuesdays;
 - (iii) Wednesdays;
 - (iv) Thursdays;
 - (v) Fridays;
 - (vi) Saturdays;
 - (vii) Sundays;
 - (b) up trains scheduled to operate via Altona between Werribee and Finders Street Station been diverted to operate via the direct Geelong line on —
 - (i) Mondays;
 - (ii) Tuesdays;

- (iii) Wednesdays;
- (iv) Thursdays;
- (v) Fridays;
- (vi) Saturdays;
- (vii) Sundays.

(4) How many times on weekdays since 1 July 2007 has the 8.26 am to Werribee via Altona been diverted to operate via the direct Geelong line.

ANSWER:

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

(1-3) A comprehensive report on the performance, punctuality and reliability of Victoria’s public transport services is released quarterly. Copies of Track Record can be found at www.doi.vic.gov.au/trackrecord.

In November 2007, 99.3 per cent of services ran on the Werribee line, and punctuality was 92.5 per cent. In the event that stations are bypassed, the operator incurs an Operational Performance Regime (OPR) penalty in accordance with the Franchise Agreement provisions.

Community services: Aboriginal children — protection fund

701. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the \$2.4 million fund to protect Aboriginal children and to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children in the child protection system that was announced after the 2002–03 budget — in 2002–03, 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07 —

- (1) How much money was expended from the fund.
- (2) Which specific services or programs, in what locations, received funding.
- (3) How much funding did each service or program receive.
- (4) How many claims of abuse or neglect of Aboriginal children were made, and substantiated.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$600,000 annually.
- (2) The funding was provided to Specialist Support Services in North West Region.
- (3) \$600,000 annually.

Financial Year	Reports to Child Protection Involving an Aboriginal Child	Number of Substantiations
2002-03	2431	725
2003-04	2422	749
2004-05	2497	816
2005-06	2701	859
2006-07	2886	730

Community services: placement and support residential facility renewal strategy

708. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funds of \$10 million allocated in the 2004–05 budget for the Placement and Support Residential Facility Renewal Strategy — in 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended.
- (2) How many facilities were refurbished with the funding.
- (3) What is the name and location of the facilities refurbished.
- (4) How many new facilities were constructed with the funding, and opened.
- (5) What is the name and location of the facilities constructed with the funding and opened
- (6) How many beds does each new facility, constructed with the funding, house.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$10 million
- (2) Three
- (3) The facilities are located across Victoria
- (4) Ten
- (5) The facilities are located across Victoria.
- (6) Of the 13 facilities, 8 contain 4 client bedrooms each and 5 contain 3 client bedrooms each.

Roads and ports: road resurfacing — East Doncaster

714. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — what was the final cost of works carried out of road resurfacing in King Street, from Victoria Street to George Street, East Doncaster.

ANSWER:

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

This question cannot be answered as George Street runs parallel with King Street in East Doncaster, rather than intersecting it.

Public transport: buses — routes

784. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) On 22 October 2007 —
 - (a) what were the 10 least popular bus routes in Melbourne;
 - (b) for each of the 10 least popular bus routes in Melbourne, how many validations were made for —
 - (i) adult metcards;
 - (ii) concession metcards.
- (2) On 5 February 2008 —
 - (a) what were the 10 most popular bus routes in Melbourne;

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- (b) for each of the 10 most popular bus routes in Melbourne, how many validations were made for —
 - (i) adult metcards;
 - (ii) concession metcards;
- (c) what were the 10 least popular bus routes in Melbourne;
- (d) for each of the 10 least popular bus routes in Melbourne, how many validations were made for —
 - (i) adult metcards;
 - (ii) concession metcards.

ANSWER:

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

(1a-b) The 10 bus routes with the fewest validations on Saturday 22 October 2007 were:

(a) Route	(b)(i) Full Fare Validations	(b)(ii) Concession Validations	Total Validations
768 Karingal Hub Shopping Centre to Warrandyte Road		2	2
235 City - Fishermans Bend (via Williamstown Road)	5		5
479 Moonee Ponds - Sunbury (via Melbourne Airport)	2	3	5
699 Belgrave - Upwey	1	4	5
671 Croydon - Chirnside Park Shopping Centre (via Warrein Road and Patrick Street)	2	5	7
776 Frankston - Pearcedale Shopping Village (via Baxter)	1	12	13
672 Croydon - Wonga Park - Chirnside Park and Croydon Hills	4	10	14
441 Werribee - Westleigh Gardens		15	15
582 Eltham - Eltham via Eltham South and Eltham North (Circular Route)	5	11	16
791 Frankston - Cranbourne West (via Karingal and Langwarrin)	1	15	16

(2a-b) The 10 bus routes with the highest number of validations on Tuesday 5 February 2008 were:

(2)(a) Route	(b)(i) Full Fare Validations	(b)(ii) Concession Validations	Total Validations
700 Box Hill - Mordialloc	3269	4352	7621
703 Middle Brighton - Blackburn	2568	3114	5682
220 Sunshine - City - Gardenvale	2171	2741	4912
246 Elsternwick - Clifton Hill - La Trobe University Bundoora	2330	2467	4797
216 Caroline Springs - City - Brighton Beach	1558	2148	3706
513 Eltham - Glenroy (via Lower Plenty and Greensborough)	992	2554	3546
737 Croydon - Monash University	1095	2177	3272

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 19 August 2008

ASSEMBLY

3243

(2)(a) Route	(b)(i) Full Fare Validations	(b)(ii) Concession Validations	Total Validations
888 Nunawading - Chelsea (via Springvale and Edithvale) (SMARTBUS SERVICE)	1174	2056	3230
733 Oakleigh - Box Hill	1302	1784	3086

(2c-d) The 10 bus routes with the fewest number of validations on Tuesday 5 February 2008 were:

(c) Route	(d)(i) Full Fare Validations	(d)(ii) Concession Validations	Total Validations
745 Bayswater - Knox City - Wantirna Primary School		1	1
777 Karingal Hub ShopC to McClelland Drive		1	1
609 Kew - Fairfield (via Royal Talbot Hospital)	2	1	3
479 Moonee Ponds - Sunbury (via Melbourne Airport)	1	3	4
687 Healesville - Mt Lebanon - Healesville		8	8
796 Cranbourne - Devon Meadows - Clyde - Five Ways - Cranbourne (School Days Only)		11	11
582 Eltham - Eltham via Eltham South & Eltham North (Circular Route)	3	14	17
797 Cranbourne - Cranbourne (town service)	2	16	18
838 Emerald - Fountain Gate Shopping Centre (via Beaconsfield)	5	17	22
842 Endeavour Hills Shopping Centre - Fountain Gate Shopping Centre		24	24

Notes: Ticket validations do not equate to patronage due to fare evasion and passengers with valid tickets who choose not to validate.

The bus services where patronage is low are those routes that provide limited trips for school children or are provided under a community service obligation. The services are provided at marginal cost. Although providing the service would not normally be justified on passenger numbers, it is recognised that some members of the community such as the elderly, people with small children or the disadvantaged may not have alternative transport options.

Public transport: V/Line — patronage

817. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) How many passenger made journeys were on V/Line trains and coaches in each quarter from 1 June to 31 December 2007.
- (2) How many passengers were tallied on 5 February 2008 on each individual V/Line rail or coach service operating, including the Department of Infrastructure services that appear in the V/Line timetable, indicating —
 - (a) train or coach number;
 - (b) scheduled time of departure;

- (c) originating station or location;
- (d) terminating station or location.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Passenger made journeys on V/Line trains and coaches in each quarter were as follows:

1 June to 30 June 2007:	865,508
1 July to 30 September 2007:	2,955,978
1 October to 31 December 2007:	2,799,480

- (2) V/Line has advised that the information requested is not readily available and to provide the level of detail requested would take an unreasonable amount of time and resources.

Public transport: V/Line — compensation claims

818. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to compensation claims received by V/Line Passenger Services Pty Ltd, V/Line Passenger Corporation, Metlink or the Department of Infrastructure for failure to meet punctuality targets —

- (1) How many claims for compensation did each organisation receive for each month in 2007 on each short or long distance lines from Southern Cross Station to —
- (a) Geelong;
 - (b) Ballarat;
 - (c) Ararat;
 - (d) Bendigo;
 - (e) Swan Hill;
 - (f) Echuca;
 - (g) Seymour;
 - (h) Albury;
 - (i) Shepparton;
 - (j) Traralgon;
 - (k) Bairnsdale.
- (2) How much was paid in compensation or given in the equivalent value of travel vouchers or tickets by each organisation in compensation for each month between February 2006 and December 2007 for each of the lines from Southern Cross Station to —
- (a) Geelong;
 - (b) Ballarat;
 - (c) Ararat;
 - (d) Bendigo;
 - (e) Swan Hill;
 - (f) Echuca;
 - (g) Seymour;
 - (h) Albury;
 - (i) Shepparton;
 - (j) Traralgon;

- (k) Bairnsdale.

ANSWER:

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

Metlink and the Department of Infrastructure do not receive compensation claims. V/Line Passenger Pty Ltd (V/Line) receives compensation claims for failure to meet punctuality targets. V/Line's compensation claims include those received by V/Line Passenger Services Pty Ltd and V/Line Passenger Corporation.

Public transport: Metrol — employee numbers

820. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — as at 6 February 2008 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) 102 people working at Metrol were from Connex.
- (2) 1 site visitor was from the Department of Infrastructure.
- (3) 12 people working at Metrol were from Mainco.
- (4) 3 site visitors were contractors.

Public transport: V/Line — patronage

829. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) With reference to the reduction of the maximum line speed from 115 km/h to 80 km/h on the Albury line —
 - (a) on what date was the maximum line speed for V/Line passenger trains hauled by N Class locomotives reduced between Benalla and Wodonga;
 - (b) has the line speed between Seymour and Benalla been reduced; if so, on what date was it reduced.
- (2) Why were altered additional running times introduced for all Albury trains on 25 February 2008 between Seymour and Benalla.
- (3) Has V/Line signed contracts with two coach companies for provision of coaches between Wangaratta and Albury from 25 February 2008; if so —
 - (a) do the contracts have an expiry date;
 - (b) are the contracts for an indefinite period or will the coaches be provided on a day-to-day basis.
- (4) With reference to services on the Albury line —
 - (a) how many passengers travelled on each service scheduled to leave on 19 February 2008 from —
 - (i) Southern Cross;

- (ii) Albury;
- (b) how many passengers travelled on each service scheduled to leave on 26 February 2008 from —
 - (i) Southern Cross;
 - (ii) Wangaratta;
 - (iii) Albury.
- (5) In each month between January 2007 and February 2008, how many single trip —
 - (a) adult journeys were made on either train or coach to or from any station between Avenel and Albury stations;
 - (b) concession journeys were made on either train or coach to or from any station between Avenel and Albury stations.
- (6) In each month between January 2007 and February 2008 inclusive, how many single trip, and concession, reservations were made on each of the early morning, midday, and evening Albury line V/Line services (including those that commenced or terminated at Wangaratta from 25 February 2008) travelling in each direction for trips to or from Avenel to Albury stations inclusive on —
 - (a) weekdays;
 - (b) Saturdays;
 - (c) Sundays.
- (7) In each month between January 2007 and February 2008 inclusive, how many single trip, and concession, reservations were made on each of the early morning, midday, and evening Albury–Seymour–Albury V/Line coaches travelling in each direction for trips to or from Avenel to Albury stations inclusive on weekdays.
- (8) With reference to converting the Seymour or Mangalore to Wodonga line to standard gauge, and leasing the track to the Australian Rail Track Corporation instead of V/Line —
 - (a) what capital cost savings per year would ensue;
 - (b) what recurrent cost savings per year would ensue.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) (a) The maximum line speed for V/Line passenger trains hauled by N Class locomotives was reduced between Benalla and Wodonga on 25 February 2008.
- (b) Yes, the line speed between Seymour and Benalla was reduced on 25 February 2008.
- (2) Altered additional running times were introduced for all Albury trains between Seymour and Benalla on 25 February 2008 due to the track condition.
- (3) No contracts have been signed by V/Line for the provision of coaches between Wangaratta and Albury.
- (4) With reference to services on the Albury line —
 - (a) The combined number of passengers that travelled on each service scheduled to leave the following stations on 19 February 2008 was —
 - (i) Southern Cross: 384
 - (ii) Albury: 347
 - (b) The combined number of passengers that travelled on each service scheduled to leave the following stations on 26 February 2008 was —
 - (i) Southern Cross: 294

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| (ii) Wangaratta: | 108 |
| (iii) Albury: | 159* |

* Patronage was recorded for one train service. Two more services were diverted to coach with patronage not being recorded.

(5 - 8)

V/Line has advised that the information required to answer these questions is not readily available and the resources required to manually extract the data cannot be justified at this time.

Roads and ports: Eastern Freeway — traffic volumes

873. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — will the Minister provide a copy of a map which estimates traffic volume change 2011 covering the Eastern Freeway from Doncaster Road to Hoddle Street, as produced by SEITA.

ANSWER:

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

EastLink will redistribute the way traffic enters the Eastern Freeway resulting in greater utilisation of underused road space and reducing congestion on surrounding arterial roads. The expected change to access and traffic volumes on the Eastern Freeway is demonstrated in the attached map.

[Map supplied in format unsuitable for incorporation in Hansard. Map can be viewed in electronic form at <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au> by searching for the question number and date.]

Public transport: Connex — Frankston line

912. Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) With reference to cancelled services in either direction of the Frankston line on 9 March 2008 —
 - (a) were the 1.20 pm down and the 2.32 pm up Frankston trains cancelled; if not, what trains were cancelled in each direction on the Frankston line;
 - (b) was a faulty train the reason for any cancelled service in either direction on the Frankston line; if not, what was the reason;
 - (c) what monetary penalty was, or will be, levied upon Connex for each service that was cancelled.
- (2) How many passengers validated tickets between the departure of the 2.12 pm up Frankston and the departure of the 2.52 pm up Frankston on 9 March 2008 at —
 - (a) Frankston station;
 - (b) Mordialloc station;
 - (c) Bentleigh station;
 - (d) Caulfield station.
- (3) Compared with 2007, by what percentage did patronage change on the Frankston line in February 2008 on —
 - (a) weekdays;
 - (b) Saturdays;
 - (c) Sundays.
- (4) Compared with 2007, did the patronage in February 2008 on the Frankston line increase or decrease on —
 - (a) weekdays;

- (b) Saturdays;
- (c) Sundays.
- (5) How many individual tickets were validated at stations between Glenhuntly and Frankston inclusive on —
 - (a) 6 March 2008;
 - (b) 7 March 2008;
 - (c) 8 March 2008;
 - (d) 9 March 2008;
 - (e) 10 March 2008;
 - (f) 11 March 2008.

ANSWER:

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

- (1)
 - (a) Yes, the 1.20pm down and the 2.32pm up Frankston trains were cancelled. The 6.00pm down Frankston train was also cancelled.
 - (b) Yes, a faulty train was the reason for the cancellation of the 1.20pm down and the 2.32pm up Frankston trains. The 6.00pm down Frankston train was cancelled due to a trespasser.
 - (c) Penalties applied to Connex for cancelled services:
 - 1.20pm down Frankston: \$1,695
 - 2.32pm up Frankston: \$2,598
 - 6.00pm down Frankston: \$1,695.
- (2) The number of tickets validated between the departure of the 2.12pm up Frankston and the departure of the 2.52pm up Frankston on 9 March 2008 at:
 - (a) Frankston Station: 121
 - (b) Mordialloc Station: 30
 - (c) Bentleigh Station: 18
 - (d) Caulfield Station: 74
- (3) The percentage of patronage change on the Frankston line in February 2008 compared with 2007 is:
 - (a) weekdays: 15.0 per cent
 - (b) Saturdays: 10.6 per cent
 - (c) Sundays: 9.9 per cent.
- (4) Compared with 2007, patronage in February 2008 on the Frankston line increased on (a) weekdays, (b) Saturdays and (c) Sundays.
- (5) The number of individual tickets validated at stations between Glenhuntly and Frankston inclusive on the nominated dates was:
 - (a) 6 March 2008: 24,288
 - (b) 7 March 2008: 23,868
 - (c) 8 March 2008: 10,178
 - (d) 9 March 2008: 9,628
 - (e) 10 March 2008: 8,384
 - (f) 11 March 2008: 23,943

Aboriginal affairs: departmental staff courses

913(b). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA913i.

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913]

Arts: departmental staff courses

913(d). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for the Arts with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Premier and Cabinet continues to provide training opportunities to employees from a number of accredited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation was not one of the accredited training organisations departmental staff attended.

Community development: departmental staff courses

913(g). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Development with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As Minister for Community Development I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA913i.

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913]

Community services: departmental staff courses

913(j). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

As Minister for Community Services I am supported in part by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Planning and Community Development.

In relation to the response for the Department of Human Services, I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Daniel Andrews, to LC 913r.

In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development, I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA 913i.

[Hansard reference: question no. 913r, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2914; question no. 913i, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913]

Local government: departmental staff courses

913(u). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Local Government with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As Minister for Local Government I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA913i.

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913]

Mental health: departmental staff courses

913(v). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

Refer to the response to Question No. 913r.

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2914]

Senior Victorians: departmental staff courses

913(ag). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.

- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As Minister for Senior Victorians I am supported in part by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Planning and Community Development.

In relation to the response for the Department of Human Services, I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Daniel Andrews, to LC 913r.

In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development, I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA 913i.

[Hansard reference: question no. 913r, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2914; question no. 913i, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913]

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: departmental staff courses

913(aj). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
 (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As Minister for Sport, Recreation & Youth Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA913i

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913]

Veterans' affairs: departmental staff courses

913(al). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Veterans' Affairs with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
 (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As Minister for Veterans' Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA913i.

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913]

Women's affairs: departmental staff courses

913(an). Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation —

- (1) How many staff from the Minister's department have attended courses.
- (2) Have any government funds been paid for courses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As Minister for Women's Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon Justin Madden, to LA913i.

[*Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2913*]

Community services: aged care — Trentham

941. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services —with reference to Trentham Aged Care facility —

- (1) Has construction commenced —
 - (a) if not, when is construction expected to commence;
 - (b) if so, how much has the Government spent on the aged care redevelopment to date.
- (2) What is the expected date of completion.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Construction has not yet commenced.
 - (a) Construction is expected to commence in February 2009.
 - (b) A total of \$135,276 has been spent to date on the redevelopment. This includes expenditure on design fees and site surveying.
- (2) The expected date of completion is August 2010.

Roads and ports: pavement markings

955. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports —

- (1) What is the minimum distance required between pedestrian traffic lights and an intersection which has keep clear pavement markings.
- (2) How is it determined if keep clear pavement markings are appropriate for installation at an intersection.

ANSWER:

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

Keep Clear markings supplement Road Rule 128 which is a general road rule prohibiting blocking intersections.

There are a variety of factors that determine the appropriateness of installing

Keep Clear pavement markers at an intersection, including traffic volumes turning right; traffic volumes turning right that are blocked by stationary traffic and other local traffic conditions; the presence of emergency services facilities and at certain tram route locations.

Public transport: early bird free travel

957. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the Early Bird free early morning travel on public transport — does the free travel apply to the Sandringham train service that is scheduled to arrive at Flinders Street Station at 7.00 am —

- (1) If not, why not.
- (2) If so, does the free travel still apply if the service arrives after 7.00 am.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Early bird travel only applies to services that arrive before 7.00am. Passengers are technically not permitted to travel on an Early Bird ticket to Flinders Street on the service that arrives at 7.00am. However, they may use their Early Bird ticket on this service to travel to locations where the train is scheduled to arrive before 7.00am, such as Richmond, South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor Railway Stations.
- (2) If a train is running late, then the Early Bird ticket is still valid for travel, provided the train was scheduled to arrive at the station where the passenger alighted before 7.00am. When a customer validates their Early Bird ticket, information is stored that can verify the passenger arrived at their origin station in time to catch a service scheduled to arrive at their destination before 7.00am.

Aboriginal affairs: fair payments policy

959(a). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Aboriginal Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to LC2055 and LA959c.

[Hansard reference: question no. LC2055, Legislative Council, 30 July 2008, page 3003, question no. LA959c, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Local government: fair payments policy

959(d). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Local Government with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Local Government I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to LC2055 and LA959c.

[Hansard reference: question no. LC2055, Legislative Council, 30 July 2008, page 3003, question no. LA959c, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Multicultural affairs: fair payments policy

959(e). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Multicultural Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to LC2055 and LA959c.

[Hansard reference: question no. LC2055, Legislative Council, 30 July 2008, page 3003, question no. LA959c, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Senior Victorians: fair payments policy

959(f). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian

Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Senior Victorians I am supported in part by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to LC2205 and LA959c.

[Hansard reference: question no. LC2055, Legislative Council, 30 July 2008, page 3003; question no. LA959c, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: fair payments policy

959(g). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to questions LC2205 and LA959c.

[Hansard reference: question no. LC2055, Legislative Council, 30 July 2008, page 3003; question no. LA959c, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Women's affairs: fair payments policy

959(i). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As Minister for Women's Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to LC2055 and LA959c.

[Hansard reference: question no. LC2055, Legislative Council, 30 July 2008, page 3003; question no. LA959c, Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Premier: fair payments policy

959(j). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As the Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to LA959c.

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Premier: fair payments policy

959(k). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister assisting the Premier on Veteran's Affairs with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Planning and Community Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.

- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As the Minister Assisting the Premier on Veterans' Affairs I am supported by the Department of Planning and Community Development. In relation to the response for the Department of Planning and Community Development I direct you to the response of the lead Minister, the Hon. Justin Madden, to LA959c.

[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 29 July 2008, page 2916]

Education: fair payments policy

961(b) Ms ASHER to ask the minister for Education with reference to penalty interest paid by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and/or the former Department for Victorian Communities since the 2002 election as result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.
- (2) How many small businesses received penalty interest.
- (3) What is the total amount of original bills received on which penalty interest was paid.
- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is committed to promoting a fair and competitive environment for small to medium-sized businesses. To improve the cash flow certainty for these businesses, the Government introduced the 'fair payment' clause for contracts.

From 1 November 2004, Government Departments are required to pay suppliers within 30 days upon receipt of a correctly rendered invoice (or within any other payment period as agreed between the Department and the supplier, which may be shorter). This policy now applies to new contracts for goods and services valued less than \$3 million.

If an invoice is not paid within 30 days from the date of receipt (or other payment period) and there is no dispute regarding the invoice or the provision of goods and services, the supplier may make a claim for penalty interest on the outstanding debt.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has not made any penalty interest payments.

Roads and ports: pedestrian crossings — aged-care facilities facilities

964. Mrs VICTORIA to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports has a review been conducted of pedestrian crossing facilities outside all nursing homes and retirement villages; if so —

- (1) Who was it conducted by.
- (2) When was the review completed.
- (3) What recommendations were made.

ANSWER:

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

Where nursing homes and retirement villages are located on arterial roads, VicRoads monitor the pedestrian crossings as part of their regular maintenance of the safety of the arterial road network.

Planning: thermostatic mixing valves — installation

965. Mrs **VICTORIA** to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Planning when is the Plumbing Industry Commissioner going to declare the installation, service and maintenance of Thermostatic Mixing Valves to be a specialised plumbing work, as promised in May 2000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Plumbing Industry Commission is not intending to introduce a specialised class of plumbing works for the installation, service and maintenance of Thermostatic Mixing Valves.

This approach is consistent with only introducing regulation where it is absolutely necessary and has considered the following:

- (a) There has been no evidence of a systemic community health and safety issue to justify placing a regulatory restriction on this type of work.
- (b) Over time, there has been a greater prevalence of Thermostatic Mixing Valves in use in the community, leading to greater familiarity and experience with these valves by the industry.

Thermostatic Mixing Valves have become a more integrated component of the training provided to water supply plumbers at both Certificate III and IV levels.

- (c) To obtain a Certificate III qualification and thereby be eligible to become a registered water supply plumber, a person must demonstrate competency to fit and commission hot and cold water services, including the installation of Thermostatic Mixing Valves, under the National Plumbing and Services Training Package (BCPWT3002A and BCPWT3006A); and
- (d) Currently within the Certificate IV qualification a person can elect to demonstrate competency to test, commission and service hot water temperature control devices including Thermostatic Mixing Valves in water services under the National Plumbing and Services Training Package (BCPWT4003A)."

Water: Lake Mokoan — decommissioning

969. Dr **SYKES** to ask the Minister for Water what is the total cost for decommissioning Lake Mokoan, including the cost of —

- (1) Infrastructure works directly associated with decommissioning the storage such as breaching the dam wall and decommissioning inlet channels.
- (2) Offset measures required to maintain water security to irrigators in the Broken Valley including the cost of infrastructure, the cost of water entitlement purchase from irrigators within the Broken Valley and the cost of water purchases from the Goulburn System.
- (3) Rehabilitating wetlands and other associated land.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The costs for infrastructure works associated with decommissioning the storage and offset measures are not yet confirmed. This is because the detailed works plan is still to be finalised, and negotiations are still underway with the Victorian Farmers Federation and Broken Valley irrigators on the nature and scope of the final offsets package.

\$20 million has been committed to implement the Future Land Use Strategy (FLUS) as put forward by the Steering Committee. This includes the development of the site as a major tourism, educational and research centre.

Roads and ports: Hume Highway — possum bridges

971. Dr SYKES to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to possum bridges constructed across the Hume Highway —

- (1) What is the number and general location of bridges built to date.
- (2) What is the number and general location of bridges proposed to be built in the next three years.
- (3) What is the cost of all bridges constructed to date and the estimated cost of bridges to be constructed over the next three years.
- (4) What scientific evidence has been used by the Government as the basis for determining bridge location and design.
- (5) What are the details of any scientific evidence available to the Government regarding —
 - (a) the extent to which possums are likely to use these facilities, including any studies of possum traffic density on completed bridges;
 - (b) the impact of possum bridges across freeways and major roads on possum populations within their immediate vicinity;
 - (c) changes in the number of possums killed on roads as a result of the construction of a possum bridge.
- (6) If scientific studies have not been undertaken does the Government have any plans to undertake or commission such studies.

ANSWER:

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

Two rope bridge fauna crossings have been built on the Hume Freeway within Victoria, one immediately north of the Depot Road intersection at Old Longwood and one adjacent to the Violet Town cemetery. Two years of data collection preceded the selection of the bridge sites.

There are no current proposals for more fauna bridges on the Hume Freeway and the construction cost of each bridge is dependent on the span length.

The fauna crossings have not been specifically erected for the use of possums but instead are intended for a range of semi-arboreal mammals, most particularly the endangered Squirrel Glider. Similar installations in NSW and Queensland, which have been in place for some years, have recorded increasing numbers of animals using such structures.

The current project is a scientific study being performed by the Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology with team members from Melbourne and Monash Universities.

Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities

992. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to \$336 million allocated to public sector residential aged care facilities by the Department of Human Services between 1999 and 2006 and the additional \$130 million provided over three years in the 2006–07 budget — noting that expenditure up to March 2006 was \$255 million, how much of the allocated but unspent \$211 million has been spent to date.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As at 1 March 2008 the unspent funds associated with capital works to public sector residential aged care facilities is \$67.1 million.

Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities

994. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to Government expenditure and requirements to enable effective oversight of expenditure by agencies —

- (1) How does the Government monitor expenditure of Government funds to public sector residential aged care facilities.
- (2) Is there a system in place which monitors how the funds are being spent.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Via financial performance reports to the Department of Human Services.
- (2) The Department of Human Services monitors and analyses agency expenditure based on regular financial performance reports provided by health services and holds performance discussions with health services as required.

Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities

995. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to maintenance funding for public sector residential aged care facilities — how much was spent on maintenance in —

- (1) 2000–01.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2006–07.
- (4) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total amount spent on maintenance of public sector residential aged care facilities provided by the State Government is as follows:

2000-01-	\$142,110
2004-05-	\$493,893
2006-07-	\$421,500
2007-08-	\$346,295

Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities

996. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to bid based maintenance funding for aged care —

- (1) What was the total amount spent on maintenance of public sector residential aged care facilities through bid based funding in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2007–08.
- (2) Does the Government measure recurrent funding for maintaining facilities in aged care; if so, how much recurrent funding was spent in —
 - (a) 2000–01;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The total amount spent on maintenance of public sector residential aged care facilities through bid based funding is as follows:

(a) 2000-01	\$142,110
(b) 2004-05	\$493,893
(c) 2007-08	\$346,295
- (2) No

Senior Victorians: aged care — public sector residential facilities

- 997. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the closure of public sector residential aged care facilities —
- (1) Why was Frankston Aged Care closed.
 - (2) Why was Midland Hostel closed.
 - (3) Why was Pleasant Homes Hostel closed.
 - (4) What is the basis for which a Government department determines that a facility is closed or redeveloped.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Peninsula Health reviewed service access and community preferences in relation to residential aged care services for older people living in Mornington Peninsula and in the Frankston areas. Careful consideration of the availability of service alternatives and the viability implications associated with declining demand for Frankston Aged Care, led to Peninsula Health changing the use of this facility from the provision of residential aged care to the provision of sub-acute services. This improved provision of sub-acute services in that area.
- (2) There has been declining demand for low care residential services in the Ballarat area, understood to be due to people with lower care needs increasingly using community based services rather than moving into residential care.

In 2003, the Commonwealth planning benchmark for residential aged care places was exceeded for the Ballarat LGA.

- (3) Declining demand for low care places in Ballarat led to consideration of the impact on the viability of Pleasant Homes. The facility had a range of building and amenity issues for residents and staff. In addition, the service targeted residents with a reasonably high level of independence, largely overlapping with people targeted by community care services and wishing to remain in their own homes.
- (4) The over-riding consideration is community need. The Victorian public sector residential aged care services (PSRACS) policy of 2004 recognises the need for the Government's investment in residential aged care to respond to changing community preferences, needs and characteristics.

Planning for the health services takes place at an agency and local area level, with agencies assessing factors such as community needs, changing service preferences and current and forecast demand for services.

Should a reconfiguration of a service be recommended through this process, this recommendation will then be considered in consultation with relevant agencies, under the terms of the State's asset management program and PSRAC policy.

Senior Victorians: aged care — funding

- 998.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the 2007 Commonwealth Aged Care Approvals Round — why did the Government refuse to endorse the proposal for additional bed places at Heywood Nursing Home.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- DHS supported the Heywood Rural Health (HRH) submission for 8 Community Aged Care Packages. However, the Commonwealth did not allocate them to HRH.
- I understand that the level of demand for the Heywood area was being met and the community need in Portland was greater. The Commonwealth has subsequently approved a new 90 places residential aged care service to be operated by Innisfree Aged and Community Care P/L in Portland which is 26 kilometres from Heywood.

Senior Victorians: Stella Anderson Nursing Home

- 1006.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians will the redevelopment of the Stella Anderson Nursing Home in Bendigo be funded in the 2008–09 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

Senior Victorians: aged care — Trentham

- 1007.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians will the redevelopment of Trentham Residential Aged Care be funded in the 2008–09 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

Roads and ports: pavement markings

- 1037.** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to correspondence from the Minister regarding the possibility of installing ‘Keep Clear’ pavement markings at the intersection of Warrandyte Road and Melview Drive, Ringwood North which outlined that the VicRoads investigation into the matter did not favour the installation of the pavement markings but identified that there have been two casualty crashes at the site in the five year period ending 30 December 2007 — how many casualties need to be recorded before it is deemed appropriate to install ‘Keep Clear’ pavement markings.

ANSWER:

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

Keep Clear markings supplement Road Rule 128 which is a general road rule prohibiting blocking intersections.

There are a variety of factors that determine the appropriateness of installing Keep Clear pavement markers at an intersection, including traffic volumes turning right; traffic volumes turning right that are blocked by stationary traffic and other local traffic conditions; the presence of emergency services facilities and at certain tram route locations.

Public transport: bus route 366

- 1045.** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 367 Ringwood–Croydon via East Ringwood and Maroondah —

- (1) What were the patronage figures in 2007 and 2008.
- (2) How many times in 2008 to date —
 - (a) was the service cancelled;
 - (b) did the service run late by more than five minutes.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Total ticket validations for the calendar year 2007 and 2008 (to 12 April) on this route were:

2007	2008
259,231	67,188

- (2) (a-b)
Information on the number of bus services cancelled and the number of bus services that ran late by more than five minutes is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Transport with monthly service cancellations and late running data on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: bus route 367

- 1046.** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 366 Ringwood–Croydon via Croydon Hills — 2007 and 2008 —

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

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Total ticket validations for the calendar years 2007 and 2008 (to 12 April) on this route were:

2007	2008
139,763	36,568

- (2&3)

Information on the number of bus services cancelled and the number of bus services that ran late by more than five minutes is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Transport with monthly service cancellations and late running data on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: bus route 370

- 1047.** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 370 Ringwood–Lilydale via Croydon and Chirnside Park — for 2007 and 2008 —

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

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Bus Route 370 does not exist. In responding to this question it is assumed that the Member is referring to bus Route 670 Ringwood – Lilydale via Croydon and Chirnside Park. On the basis of this interpretation the answer is:

Total ticket validations for the calendar years 2007 and 2008 (to 12 April) on this route were:

2007	2008
429,404	117,612

- (2&3)

Information on the number of bus services cancelled and the number of bus services that ran late by more than five minutes is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Transport with monthly service cancellations and late running data on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: bus route 671

- 1048.** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 671 Croydon–Chirnside Park Shopping Centre via Warriën Road and Patrick Street — for 2007 and 2008 —

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

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Total ticket validations for the calendar years 2007 and 2008 (to 12 April) on this route were:

2007	2008
41,627	12,078

(2&3)

Information on the number of bus services cancelled and the number of bus services that ran late by more than five minutes is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Transport with monthly service cancellations and late running data on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: bus route 672

1049. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 672 Croydon–Wonga Park, Chirnside Park and Croydon Hills — for 2007 and 2008 —

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

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Total ticket validations for the calendar years 2007 and 2008 (to 12 April) on this route were:

2007	2008
43,618	11,721

(2&3)

Information on the number of bus services cancelled and the number of bus services that ran late by more than five minutes is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Transport with monthly service cancellations and late running data on an aggregate basis.

Public transport: bus route 737

1050. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to bus route 737 Croydon–Monash University — for 2007 and 2008 —

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

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Total ticket validations for the calendar years 2007 and 2008 (to 12 April) on this route were:

2007	2008
983,172	271,669

(2&3)

Information on the number of bus services cancelled and the number of bus services that ran late by more than five minutes is not collected on an individual route basis. Contracted bus operators provide the Department of Transport with monthly service cancellations and late running data on an aggregate basis.

Water: advertising

1120. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the television and print advertising campaign that commenced on 13 April 2008 regarding water saving and promoting Victoria's water plan —

- (1) What is the total cost of the campaign.
- (2) What is the name of the agency and/or consultancy who designed and implemented the campaign.
- (3) What period of time is the campaign expected to run for.
- (4) How many water saving kits will be issued during the campaign.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The total cost of the campaign is \$2.8 million, including 50,000 water saving kits.
- (2) Shannon's Way Social Marketing Communications designed and implemented the campaign. DPC and DSE also worked on the campaign.
- (3) The campaign will run for three months, from 13 April 2008
- (4) A total of 50,000 water saving kits will be distributed across Victoria.

Health: Wodonga Regional Health Service — funding

1141. Mr TILLEY to ask the Minister for Health what funding is being provided to the Wodonga Regional Health Service to cope with growing attendances at the emergency department, which are estimated to reach 32,000 for 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Emergency department presentations at Wodonga Regional Health Service for the 2007/08 financial year were 31,029. This compares with 30,093 for the full financial year 2006/07, an increase of 3.1%.

Wodonga Regional Health Service total acute expenditure budget has gone from \$24.9m in 1999/00 to \$49.4M 2008/09, an increase of 97.8%.

Information on emergency service grants can be obtained from the Policy and Funding Guidelines 2008-09.

Mental health: mental illness discharge pilot project — northern metropolitan region

1147. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to a \$139,500 pilot project to prevent people with a mental illness being discharged into homelessness in the Northern Metropolitan region announced on 7 July 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in the 18 month time frame.
- (2) How was the pilot project evaluated and what were the results of the evaluation.
- (3) Has the program received ongoing funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Funding was fully expended in the 18 month time frame.
- (2) The pilot was favourably evaluated providing evidence for ongoing funding.
- (3) The program has received ongoing funding.

Mental health: mental illness discharge pilot project — eastern metropolitan region

1148. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to a \$139,500 pilot project to prevent people with a mental illness being discharged into homelessness in the Eastern Metropolitan region announced on 7 July 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in the 18 month time frame.
- (2) How was the pilot project evaluated and what were the results of the evaluation.
- (3) Has the program received ongoing funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Funding was fully expended in the 18 month time frame.
- (2) The pilot was favourably evaluated providing evidence for ongoing funding.
- (3) The program has received ongoing funding.

Mental health: mental illness discharge pilot project — Loddon Mallee region

1149. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to a \$139,500 pilot project to prevent people with a mental illness being discharged into homelessness in the Loddon Mallee region announced on 7 July 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in the 18 month time frame.
- (2) How was the pilot project evaluated and what were the results of the evaluation.
- (3) Has the program received ongoing funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Funding was fully expended in the 18 month time frame.
- (2) The pilot was favourably evaluated providing evidence for ongoing funding.
- (3) The program has received ongoing funding.

Community services: One Stop Shop for Young People, Morwell

1152. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$700,000 worth of funding for the One Stop Shop for Young People in Morwell launched on 8 August 2002 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by August 2005.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.
- (3) Has funding been ongoing.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) A total amount of \$704,800 was expended by August 2005.
- (2) An evaluation was completed in October 2003 by the Gippsland Research and Information Service, Monash University, Gippsland. The result of the evaluation was a changed model of service delivery.
- (3) No.

Community services: drowning death — inquiry

1162. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to a Government inquiry into the drowning death of an intellectually disabled man in Warrandyte on 20 November 2007 —

- (1) Has the inquiry been completed.
- (2) Will the report into the inquiry into the death be made public; if so, when will it be made public.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Firstly, I would like pass on my sincere condolences to the family.

- (1) At the time of this incident a practice review was undertaken by the department and was completed in December 2007. The death is also the subject of a current coronial investigation.
- (2) The review findings are confidential and will not be released.

Health: cancer services — Lilydale and Yarra Ranges

1175. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Health with reference to lymphoedema treatment services for cancer patients —

- (1) What action is being taken to provide services in Lilydale.
- (2) When will services be available in Yarra Ranges.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Government has committed \$18.42 million over four years as part of Victoria's Cancer Action Plan in recognition of the need to implement workforce initiatives to enhance Victoria's ability to care for cancer patients and their range of needs.

I am advised that the Ranges Community Health Service is committed to providing lymphoedema services and continues to actively recruit to the position that was vacated in June 2007.

- (2) The new day hospital (Yarra Ranges Health) will open and commence services later this year.

The Department of Human Services conducted a review of lymphoedema services across the state in 2005 and funded a number of initiatives to support the development of public lymphoedema services in areas where there was limited access.

The Department is continually working with the sector to address the issue of access to lymphoedema services.

Health: Lilydale super-clinic

1176. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Health with reference to medical services available at the soon-to-be-opened Lilydale Super Clinic —

- (1) What services will be provided.
- (2) How many days each week will services be provided.
- (3) Who will be able to access the services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Yarra Ranges Health (Lilydale Super Clinic) will provide the following services:
 - Day surgical services (with two operating theatres)
 - Specialist medical clinics, such as Continence and Falls and Balance Clinics
 - A day oncology service with six chemotherapy treatment chairs
 - Rehabilitation services, such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech pathology
 - An antenatal Maternity Service Clinic
 - A Palliative Care Clinic, where patients can receive support and referral advice together with their families and carers
 - Audiology Services
 - A Mental Health Youth Service, providing confidential consultation, assessment, and treatment of young people aged 12-25
- (2) Regular hours and extended hours are proposed depending on the type of service. Most specialist clinics will operate Monday to Friday, 9.00am-5.00pm. Extended hours may be applicable to day surgery services.
- (3) This is a public health service and is open to all Victorians, however, we expect that local patients will access Yarra Ranges Health either through referral from Eastern Health service providers or through referral by local general practitioners.

Agriculture: adjournment responses

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

ANSWER:

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

If there is a particular adjournment debate matter which relates to my portfolio that you are seeking a response to please feel free to contact me.

Industrial relations: adjournment responses

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

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

If there is a particular adjournment debate matter which relates to my portfolio that you are seeking a response to please feel free to contact me.

Senior Victorians: Supporting Our Seniors initiative

1184. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Supporting our Seniors Initiative, a \$53.1 million over four years initiative, which was first funded in the 2006–07 Budget —

- (1) How much was allocated to the initiative in 2008–09.
- (2) How much of the funding was spent on the Elder Abuse Prevention initiative in 2007–08 and 2008–09.
- (3) When will the \$5.9 million Elder Abuse Prevention initiative be fully implemented.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) In 2008-09 financial year, \$13.2m is allocated to supporting the Seniors Initiative.
- (2) The Elder Abuse Prevention initiative spent in
 - 2007-08, \$1,011,376
 - 2008-09 year to date \$220,119.
- (3) The Elder Abuse Prevention initiative runs from 2006-07 until 2009-2010 and will be implemented within this timeframe.

Senior Victorians: aged care — assessment services

1186. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to \$3.3 million in funding for ACAS promised on 1 May 2007 —

- (1) How much funding was expended in 2007–08.
- (2) What was the total funding expended on ACAS in 2002–03 and 2007–08.
- (3) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There was no allocation of \$3.3 million in 2007-08 to ACAS.
- (2) The total program budget for ACAS was \$17.6 million in 2002-03 and \$24.4 million in 2007-08.
- (3) The program funds a national ACAS Evaluation Unit which collects quarterly data that is used to monitor ACAS performance. A national review of ACAT operations was also undertaken by the Commonwealth Government in 2007.

Senior Victorians: aged care — assessment services

1187. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to ACAS —

- (1) How many people were on the waiting list in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2007.
- (2) What was the average waiting time to access ACAS as at June 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) No central waiting list is maintained. ACAS performance is measured by the waiting time for assessment.
- (2) During 2007-2008, clients in hospital settings waited an average of 1.9 days for assessment. Clients in non-hospital settings waited an average of 21.8 days.

Community services: respite services — funding

1188. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$13.1 million for respite services promised on 26 May 2007 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2007–08.
- (2) How many additional hours of respite have been provided.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

With reference to \$13.1 million over 4 years for respite services promised on 26 May 2007 —

- (1) In 2007-08 \$3.2 million was allocated.
- (2) Respite services are measured in episodes rather than hours.

Community services: Support for Older Carers program — funding

1189. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how much of the \$15.7 million to continue the Support for Older Carers Program proposed on 26 May 2007 was expended in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

In relation to \$15.7 million to continue the Support for Older Carers Program promised on 26 May 2007, \$15.7 million is to be provided over 4 years, with \$3.8 million allocated in 2007/08.

Community services: seniors respite and support services — funding

1190. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$71 million for respite and support services for carers of seniors as promised on 18 October 2004 —

- (1) How much of the funding has been committed to date.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) All of the funding has been committed.
- (2) The funds provided growth to existing programs that have annual monitoring of service outputs.

Community services: dementia services — funding

1191. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$520,000 worth of funding for flexible support for carers of people with dementia as promised on 20 August 2004 —

- (1) How much funding was expended in 2004–05.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, this funding was announced on

23 August 2004 and

- (1) \$520,000 was expended in the 2004-05.
- (2) The funds provided growth to the existing program, which aims to provide flexible and innovative service responses for individual needs of people with dementia and their unpaid carers. Program outputs are monitored annually.

Community services: dementia services — funding

1192. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$300,000 worth of funding for people with dementia as promised on 20 August 2004 —

- (1) How much funding was expended in 2004–05.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$300,000 was expended in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (2) The funds provided growth to the existing program, which aims to provide flexible and innovative service responses for individual needs of people with dementia and their unpaid carers. Program outputs are monitored annually.

Community services: supported residential services — funding

1193. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$605,000 worth of funding for a pilot program to provide personalised support for people living in supported residential services as promised on 21 October 2004 —

- (1) How much funding was expended in 2004–05.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$605,000 was expended in 2004-05 for the SRS Pilot Project.
- (2) The SRS Pilot Project has been evaluated. The findings showed significant benefits for each participating SRS from both a financial and operational perspective, and to residents.

Community services: flexible respite — funding

1194. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$240,000 worth of funding for four trial projects on flexible respite options in Gippsland, Loddon Mallee and Melbourne's south and north-west as promised on 18 October 2004 —

- (1) How much funding was expended in 2004-05.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$240,000 was expended in the 2004-05 financial year.
- (2) Monitoring and evaluation of all projects occurred, and a resource for service providers is being developed as a result.

Community services: disability services — Mitcham

1197. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$495,000 worth of funding for five one-bedroom units for people with a disability in Mitcham promised on 11 October 2002 —

- (1) On what date was the project due to be completed.
- (2) On what date was the project completed.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

Community services: fire affected communities — counselling services

1200. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$733,750 worth of funding for financial aid and counselling services to assist fire affected communities promised on 26 February 2003 —

- (1) By what date was the funding due to be expended.
- (2) By what date was the funding expended.
- (3) How many people received counselling services as a result of the funds.
- (4) How many community development workers were employed as a result of the funds.
- (5) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, where were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

\$795,500 was actually funded to the fire-affected communities for the purposes identified and that:

- (1) Funding was due to be expended by 30 June 2004;
- (2) Funding was expended by 30 June 2004;
- (3) Reports specify 450 clients received services from some agencies with other agencies reporting additional increases in service levels, indicating greater than 500 clients received services overall;
- (4) 4 Community Development Officers, 4 General Counsellors and 2 Financial Counsellors were employed;
- (5) No specific evaluation of the funds was undertaken.

Community services: family services — Geelong

1201. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1 million worth of annual funding for Geelong families in need promised on 12 March 2003 — how many vulnerable local families have been supported each year as a result of the funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In 2003-2004, 302 families were assisted.

In 2005-2006, 529 families were assisted.

In 2006-2007, 443 families were assisted.

Community services: disability services — conference funding

1202. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$100,000 worth of funding to help delegates to the 'Have A Say — Moving Forward' Conference meet various costs promised on 12 March 2003 —

- (1) What was the total funding expended to help conference delegates meet the cost of registration, transport, accommodation and carers.
- (2) How many people were helped with the funding.
- (3) How many people attended the conference.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The advocacy organisation Victorian League for Individuals with a Disability (Valid), organises this conference on an annual basis, received a \$10,000 grant from the Department of Human Services to support people with a disability to attend this conference. The total funding expended was \$12,899.
- (2) 167 people with disabilities were helped with this funding.
- (3) Over 450 people attended the three-day conference.

Community services: HomeFirst — funding

1203. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$4.8 million worth of funding for HomeFirst promised in the 2003–04 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.
- (2) How many extra individuals received housing and living support in 2003–04 as a result of the funds.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (3) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

Community services: Making a Difference program — funding

1204. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1 million worth of funding for the Making a Difference program promised in the 2003–04 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.
- (2) How many extra packages did families receive in 2003–04 as a result of the funds.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (3) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

Community services: Introducing Older Years and Carer Support program — funding

1205. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1.5 million worth of funding for the Introducing Older Years and Carer Support Program promised in the 2003–04 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.
- (2) How many extra clients received individual support packages in 2003–04 as a result of the funds.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (3) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

Community services: community awareness and inclusion programs — funding

1206. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$200,000 worth of funding for improved community awareness and inclusion programs promised in the 2003–04 budget

—

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

Community services: disability services — funding

1207. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$3.35 million worth of funding for planning for future needs for disability services promised in the 2003–04 budget

—

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003-04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

Community services: Kew Residential Services — redevelopment

1208. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$2 million worth of funding for the redevelopment of Kew Residential Services promised in the 2003–04 budget — how much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

All the additional funding provided in financial year 2003-2004 was expended.

Community services: family services — funding

1209. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1.3 million worth of funding for stronger family support promised in the 2003-04 budget.

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by the end of 2005-06.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$1.3 million
- (2) Yes, the Family Support Innovation Project Evaluation Report identified that “the Innovations program has been an outstanding success in achieving its objectives of long term and sustainable changes in child protection system activity in the Victorian system. The Innovations program is a clear success with sustainable and strong downward impacts upon Victorian Child Protection system activity.”

Community services: Aboriginal protocol — funding

1210. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$600,000 worth of funding for the development of the Aboriginal Protocol promised in the 2003-04 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by the end of 2005-06.
- (2) How much funding was initially budgeted for the project.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The entire amount of \$600,000 was expended in 2005-06.
- (2) The initial budget for this project was \$600,000 per annum.
- (3) Yes. As a result services have been further strengthened and expanded.

Community services: young people leaving care mentor program — funding

1212. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$100,000 worth of funding for the mentoring program for young people leaving care promised in the 2003-04 budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended by the end of 2005-06.
- (2) How many extra young people received mentors when leaving care as a result of the funds.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) All of the funding was expended.
- (2) 33 young people.
- (3) No formal evaluation was undertaken.

Community services: home-based carers — funding

1213. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$4 million worth of funding for supporting home-based carers promised in the 2003–04 budget —

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003–04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

Community services: disability services — funding

1214. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1.5 million worth of annual funding to help young people with a disability find work promised on 7 May 2003 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.
- (2) How many support workers were employed in 2003–04 as a result of the funds.
- (3) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003–04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (2) This initiative contributed to the output and financial performance reported in the Department of Human Services Annual Report for 2003–04. Retrospective disaggregation of this reported performance would involve a significant diversion of departmental resources.
- (3) The use of the funds forms part of ongoing service and demand evaluation that is undertaken.

Community services: disability services — funding

1215. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$478,000 worth of funding grants to agencies to strengthen the rights of people with a disability promised on 27 May 2003 — has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Evaluation of the projects occurred through normal departmental practices. This resulted in a number of organisations receiving ongoing disability funding to provide advocacy and self-advocacy services.

Community services: Beginning Practice program — funding

1216. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$100,000 worth of funding for the Beginning Practice Program promised on 2 June 2003 —

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$100,000
- (2) In April 2004 a review of the ‘Beginning Practice in Child Protection’ program was undertaken by Ballarat University following 18 months of delivery. Overall the program was considered of a high standard. The report made 24 recommendations to improve the program and all were accepted and subsequently implemented.

Community services: Doncare’s Good Beginnings program — funding

1218. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services has the use of \$60,000 worth of funding for the Doncare’s Good Beginnings Program promised on 1 July 2003 been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

No.

Community services: family services — Maryborough

1220. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$148,000 worth of funding for a Family Support Innovations project in Maryborough promised on 22 July 2003 — how many vulnerable local families were able to access intensive support services through the project in 2003–04.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

29 families were provided with intensive support services for the part year effect of the Family Support Innovation Project 2003-2004. An additional 420 cases were provided with support via information and advice.

Community services: Aboriginal children and young people — support services

1221. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$1.2 million worth of funding for strategies to strengthen support for indigenous children and young people promised on 23 July 2003 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2003–04.
- (2) Have the new strategies reduced the over-representation of Aboriginal children in care.
- (3) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) A total of \$878,000 was expended in 2003-04.
- (2) The various projects funded from the \$1.2 million have assisted to better support and assist vulnerable Aboriginal children and families and to provide more culturally appropriate services.

Aboriginal children continue to be over-represented in out of home care.

- (3) Yes. The various programs and initiatives were evaluated, informing the development of new services targeted at Aboriginal children and families.