

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**7 October 2008**

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.  
Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Assembly.  
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.  
The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

**Tuesday, 7 October 2008**

**Treasurer: container island construction costs**

**22.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer):

With reference to an answer to a question without notice given by the Treasurer on 2 December 2004 estimating the cost of the construction of a container island in Western Port Bay to be \$2.7 billion (*Hansard* Vol 464 p 1999) —

- (1) What was the source of the information indicating that the construction cost of a container island.
- (2) Who is the source of the construction cost estimate.
- (3) What was the cost of obtaining the information estimating the construction cost.
- (4) Was the Government estimate inquiry put out to tender, if obtained from non-Government sources; if not, why not.
- (5) What are the complete details for all documents, reports and briefing notes supporting the cost estimates given by the Treasurer.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The information requested sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Roads and Ports.

**Health: hospitals — financial reporting**

**536.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to hospitals which are having financial problems and have extra reporting requirements to the Department of Human Services (known as ‘close watch’) since January 2005 —

- (1) Which hospitals are on close watch.
- (2) How long has each hospital been under close watch.
- (3) What are the reasons for placing the hospitals under close watch.
- (4) What reporting requirements has the Department of Human Services mandated for the hospitals.
- (5) When are the hospitals expected to be removed from the close watch requirement.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

All rural health service annual reports for 2006-07 have been tabled in Parliament. The final operating surplus was \$17.1m.

Hospitals under ‘close watch’ provide detailed information and commentary on their financial position monthly to the Department of Human Services.

The criteria for placing hospitals on ‘close watch’ is:

- A projected year-end operating deficit and/or;
- A projected current asset ratio of less than 0.7 and/or;
- Requesting additional financial support.

Hospitals are removed from the ‘close watch’ reporting system when they are no longer:

- Projecting a year-end operating deficit and/or;
- Projecting a current asset ratio of less than 0.7 and/or;
- Require additional financial support.

Since January 2005 nine hospitals have been added to the ‘close watch’ reporting system.

Hospitals may remain on ‘close watch’ despite returning a surplus to ensure that the improved financial position has stabilised. A hospital may also elect to go on the ‘close watch’ reporting process.

### **Water: D and M Downie Pty Ltd**

**625.** **Ms ASHER** to ask the Minister for Water — with reference to consultancy services provided by D and M Downie Pty Ltd to the Department of Sustainability and Environment —

- (1) On which dates was work provided.
- (2) What was the nature of work provided.
- (3) How much was paid for the work undertaken.
- (4) What date did Mr David Downie officially begin work as an employee of the Department.
- (5) Why is D and M Downie Pty Ltd still listed as a Government recommended tenderer for the Water Sector Group Panel of Projects Managers and Advisors given that Mr Downie works for the Department.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) 5 March 2004 to 29 April 2005
- (2) Advisory services on: institutional and statutory barriers to water trading; and the COAG National Water Initiative and Living Murray/Murray Darling Basin Intergovernmental Agreement.
- (3) \$334,105.67
- (4) 2 May 2005
- (5) D&M Downie Pty Ltd was initially accepted for the panel of project Managers and Advisers in 2005 and included in a draft list but withdrew before the list was finalised due to Mr Downie accepting employment with the Department.

### **Health: influenza and gastroenteritis**

**757.** **Mrs SHARDEY** to ask the Minister for Health: In 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 —

- (1) How many people have presented to public hospital emergency departments between 1 June and 31 August suffering from —

- (a) influenza;
  - (b) gastroenteritis.
- (2) For each major public hospital how many people have presented to the emergency department between 1 June and 31 August suffering from —
- (a) influenza;
  - (b) gastroenteritis.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

It is important to note that people presenting to emergency departments with influenza are difficult to diagnose as:

- The diagnosis is not laboratory confirmed. Only a clinical diagnosis is provided. Therefore suspected influenza is not necessarily confirmed.
- The completion of a diagnosis for recording purposes is not compulsory for all situations and therefore not always coded. For example, where patients have left the Emergency Department after ‘clinical advice regarding treatment’ or ‘left at their own risk, without treatment’, a diagnosis is not always recorded.
- Influenza also affects other conditions such as bacterial pneumonia, asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, that may lead to Emergency Department presentations.

The question cannot be answered definitively and there is a risk of not accurately reporting on the condition. The figures are therefore presented for influenza and influenza related symptoms (as opposed to influenza alone.)

It should also be noted that these figures differ from those published in the Your Hospitals report, which presents the laboratory confirmed cases.

- (1) The number of people who have presented to public hospital emergency departments between 1 June and 31 August suffering from —
- (a) influenza and influenza related symptoms

Calendar year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of influenza and related symptoms emergency department presentations (1 Jun–31 Aug)	21856	21558	26049	26838	22820	29189	29045	32997

It is also important to note that for the months of August and September alone in 2007, there was a significant increase in the number of people presenting to public hospital emergency departments suffering from influenza and influenza related symptoms.

Calendar year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of influenza and related symptoms emergency department presentations (1 Aug–30 Sep)	15120	14254	14928	19081	15383	16593	17023	23563

- (b) The number of people who have presented to public hospital emergency departments between 1 June and 31 August suffering from gastroenteritis:

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Calendar year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of gastroenteritis emergency department presentations (1 Jun–31 Aug)	4099	5010	6974	5157	7794	8084	9859	7501

Over the July to December 2007 period in Victoria, outbreaks of gastroenteritis in all settings rose by 66 per cent, from 303 in July to December in 2006 to 503 cases in July to December 2007. The data is for any facility reporting outbreaks so includes hospitals (public and private), aged care facilities, child care centres and community residential units. The individual cases often have a widespread impact on hospitals.

(2) The number of people for each major public hospital who have presented to public hospital emergency departments between 1 June and 31 August suffering from —

(a) influenza and influenza related symptoms

campus_name	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Alfred, The [Prahran]	558	449	574	528	394	554	500	590
Angliss Hospital	925	914	1244	1319	947	1146	1117	1205
Austin Hospital	841	668	962	910	734	1014	1072	1094
Ballarat Health Services [Base Campus]	691	633	825	939	663	949	802	1294
Bendigo Hospital	365	605	638	622	538	798	691	922
Box Hill Hospital	860	816	891	923	625	757	792	809
Casey Hospital						565	1007	1271
Dandenong Hospital	857	1146	1420	1301	1089	1194	1032	1186
Frankston Hospital	1122	1307	1824	1788	1457	1948	1926	1959
Geelong Hospital	861	847	909	815	580	639	792	989
Goulburn Valley Health [Shepparton]	665	722	853	761	724	919	933	1048
Latrobe Regional Hospital [Traralgon]	774	708	816	819	588	616	584	698
Maroondah Hospital [East Ringwood]	576	467	655	701	683	932	1013	1204
Mercy Hospital	719	658	1128	1041	779	971	773	839
Monash Medical Centre [Clayton]	1558	1413	1540	1399	1231	1180	1465	1679
Northern Hospital, The [Epping]	1033	937	1084	1598	1406	1675	1626	1448
Royal Childrens Hospital [Parkville]	3235	3620	3639	3556	2669	3518	3323	3714
Royal Melbourne Hospital - City Campus	643	535	767	630	505	686	621	761
St Vincents Hospital	435	431	512	506	443	530	567	611
Sunshine Hospital	1372	1496	1939	2085	1656	1733	1847	1940
Western Hospital [Footscray]	751	659	716	628	538	593	597	637

Data includes presentations where the primary or additional diagnosis is influenza or influenza related symptoms. Data for the major emergency departments is for the 21 major emergency departments in Victoria.

(b) gastroenteritis

Campus Name by Calender Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
The Alfred	72	76	81	88	77	98	130	115
Angliss Hospital	194	258	331	213	302	318	393	322
Austin Hospital	147	157	215	159	216	247	369	306
Ballarat Health Services	126	129	165	174	194	165	326	132
Bendigo Hospital	77	118	127	93	146	179	256	185
Box Hill Hospital	148	167	223	166	267	181	285	209
Casey Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	237	632	398
Dandenong Campus	210	237	483	280	367	258	386	291
Frankston Hospital	175	226	445	253	451	445	498	414
Geelong Hospital	145	151	238	126	153	146	146	158
Goulburn Valley Health [Shepparton]	106	124	143	126	136	224	264	180
Latrobe Regional Hospital [Traralgon]	135	201	170	143	136	244	197	140
Maroondah Hospital	117	119	179	141	246	284	349	284
Mercy Public Hospitals Inc [Werribee]	138	188	273	228	286	353	250	236
Monash Medical Centre	272	392	637	372	492	491	550	418
Northern Hospital	203	170	270	318	609	554	619	419
Royal Childrens Hospital	762	984	1402	666	1155	1299	1311	780
Royal Melbourne Hospital - City Campus	144	145	155	156	158	204	283	267
St Vincents Hospital	68	78	96	90	95	122	156	170
Sunshine Hospital	334	482	732	517	791	758	689	551
Western Hospital	112	122	97	128	148	105	146	109

Data includes presentations where the primary or additional diagnosis is gastroenteritis. Data for the major emergency departments is for the 21 major emergency departments in Victoria.

**Agriculture: departmental staff courses**

**913(c).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Agriculture 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 Primary Industries continues to provide training opportunities to employees from a number of credited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation is one of the credited training organisations departmental staff attended.

**Environment and climate change: departmental staff courses**

**913(h).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Development (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change) 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:

- (1) No departmental staff have attended courses conducted by Landmark Education Corporation.
- (2) Yes. One payment of \$400 was made to Landmark Education Corporation in relation to a temporary staff member of the Victorian Coastal Council.

**Housing: departmental staff courses**

**913(s).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Housing 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:

A review of the Department of Human Service's financial recording systems indicates that eight accounts have been settled with Landmark Education Corporation between September 2001 and November 2007. These accounts indicate that approximately eight people have attended courses offered by the organisation at a cost of \$4,565.

This education provider was either chosen by individual staff members or clients of the department who were later reimbursed by the department. Alternatively, a manager was made aware of the courses available through Landmark Education Corporation and authorised attendance of staff or clients.

I am advised that decisions on the appropriateness of staff or clients attending courses by Landmark Education Corporation are made by individual managers who remain best placed to assess the development needs of their staff.

**Regional and rural development: departmental staff courses**

**913(ab).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural 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 as follows:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development continues to provide training to employees from a number of credited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation is one of the credited training organisations departmental staff attended.

**Industry and trade: departmental staff courses**

**913(ac).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development (for the Minister for Industry and Trade) 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 as follows:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development continues to provide training to employees from a number of credited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation is one of the credited training organisations departmental staff attended.

**Information and communication technology: departmental staff courses**

**913(ad).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Information and Communication Technology 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 as follows:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development continues to provide training to employees from a number of credited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation is one of the credited training organisations departmental staff attended.

**Skills and workforce participation: departmental staff courses**

**913(ah).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation 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 as follows:

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development continues to provide training to employees from a number of credited training organisations. Landmark Education Corporation is one of the credited training organisations departmental staff attended.

**Tourism and major events: departmental staff courses**

**913(ak).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Major Events 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 as follows:

A review of the records of the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development indicates that, between 2001 and 2006, \$9,300 was paid for workshops and seminars run by Landmark.

**Education: Education and Early Childhood Development — regional office**

**949.** Mr **BLACKWOOD** to ask the Minister for Education — will the regional office of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in Moe be relocated to Traralgon; if so, when will this take place.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

There are no plans for the Regional Office in Moe to move to Traralgon.

**Treasurer: fair payments policy**

**958(k).** Ms **ASHER** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to penalty interest paid by the Minister's department 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 that:

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 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 has not received any application for penalty interest payment in relation to the fair payments policy. Accordingly no penalty interest payments have been made.

**Senior Victorians: respite options projects**

**1000.** Ms **WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Government's commitment to fund projects in innovative and creative respite options to meet individual and changing needs of those in care relationships as seen in the Department of Human Services action plan 2006–09, *Recognising and supporting care relationships for older Victorians* —

- (1) What projects were funded in —
  - (a) 2005–06;
  - (b) 2006–07;
  - (c) 2007–08.
- (2) How much funding did each project receive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

1. Projects funded in:

- (a) 2005–06  
Meeting diverse and transition care needs projects:  
Bunurong Community Care  
Lyndoch Warrnambool Inc  
Barwon Health  
Bendigo Health Care Group  
Wimmera Health Care Group  
Moonee Valley - Melbourne Primary Care Partnership  
City of Darebin
- (b) 2006–07  
Well for Life in Care Relationships projects:  
Family Care  
BSL  
Warrnambool CC  
Benetas  
Villa Maria  
Carers Vic (Carer Links West)  
City of Darebin
- (c) 2007–08  
Services and information for people with dementia and their carers from Aboriginal and CALD backgrounds:  
Diversitat/ AAV  
St Laurence Community Services  
Western Region Health Centre  
Western Health  
North West CALD Partnership (auspiced by Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities)

(2) How much funding did each project receive.

Bunurong Community Care	\$50,000
Lyndoch Warrnambool Inc	\$50,000
Barwon Health	\$50,000
Bendigo Health Care Group	\$50,000
Wimmera Health Care Group	\$50,000
Moonee Valley - Melbourne PCP	\$50,000

City of Darebin	\$25,000
Family Care	\$27,840
BSL	\$20,000
Warrnambool CC	\$20,000
Benetas	\$14,500
Villa Maria	\$30,000
Carers Vic (Carer Links West)	\$27,635
City of Darebin	\$18,000
Diversitat/ AAV	\$36,300
St Laurence Community Services	\$41,993
Western Region Health Centre	\$30,088
Western Health	\$30,000
North West CALD Partnership	\$ 5,000

**Community services: Crown land — Kilsyth electorate**

**1044(b).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to Crown-owned land relating to the Minister’s portfolio in the electorate of Kilsyth —

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

**ANSWER:**

Refer to the response to Question No. 1044f.

*[Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 9 September 2008, page 3685]*

**Roads and ports: Crown land — Kilsyth electorate**

**1044(i).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to Crown-owned land relating to the Minister’s portfolio in the electorate of Kilsyth —

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

**ANSWER:**

The sale of Crown Land is the responsibility of the Minister for Finance.

**Police and emergency services: Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority — Ballarat facility**

**1109.** Mr BLACKWOOD to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services when will the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority facility at Ballarat be staffed and operational.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) facility at Ballarat, known as the Ballarat State Emergency Centre has been in operation since 2006. Services provided from the centre cater for Victoria State Emergency Services (VICSES) and Country Fire Authority (CFA) in regional Victoria.

The facility can also take some calls for metro 000 if necessary.

**Health: Crown land — Warrandyte electorate**

**1117(f).** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Health with reference to crown land relevant to the Minister's portfolio in the electorate of Warrandyte —

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

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) Crown Land in the electorate of Warrandyte relevant to my portfolio is Andersons Creek Cemetery, 13-21 Blair Street, Warrandyte.
- (2) There are no proposals to sell any or all of the existing site, and currently no proposals for the purchase of land in the Electorate of Warrandyte for the purposes of the Health portfolio.

**Industry and trade: Crown land — Warrandyte electorate**

**1117(k).** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade with reference to crown land relevant to the Minister's portfolio in the electorate of Warrandyte —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

DIIRD does not currently hold any Crown Land relating to the Industry and Trade portfolio in the electorate of Warrandyte.

The Minister for Finance is the only Minister that has power to sell Crown land.

There are no plans to acquire any land in the Warrandyte electorate for the Industry and Trade portfolio.

**Roads and ports: Crown land — Warrandyte electorate**

**1117(l).** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to crown land relevant to the Minister's portfolio in the electorate of Warrandyte —

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

**ANSWER:**

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

The sale of Crown Land is the responsibility of the Minister for Finance.

**Treasurer: sustainability charter**

**1144.** Mr RYAN to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004* s 12, requiring VicForests to develop initiatives, and targets for those initiatives, which respond to the objectives set out in the Sustainability Charter for Victoria's state forests, and include in its annual report a report on the status, performance or achievement of the initiatives and targets —

- (1) What initiatives and targets have been established by VicForests in relation to Objectives two and six of the Charter.
- (2) Why does the VicForests annual report not include a description of initiatives and targets or any information regarding their status, performance or achievement.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

While VicForests' Annual Report does not make specific mention of the Charter, key elements of VicForests' platform to deliver against the core objectives of the Charter are detailed in the Annual Report. VicForests also published its first Sustainability Report in 2006/07 (an addendum to its Annual Report), which is available on the VicForests website, to specifically address its progress against the objectives outlined in the Sustainability Charter.

**Mental health: drug treatment beds**

**1161.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to the Minister's 2008–09 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee estimates presentation which stated that there are 802 drug treatment beds in Victoria and given that the Minister stated in the answer to Legislative Council question on notice 732 on 5 February 2008 that there are 754 drug treatment beds in Victoria —

- (1) How many drug treatment beds were there as at June 2008.
- (2) Has there been any change to the Government's definition of a drug treatment bed since the Minister stated there were 754 beds in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) As at June 2008 there are 802 statewide alcohol and drug treatment beds in Victoria.
- (2) There has been no change to the Government's definition of a drug treatment bed.

**Industry and trade: Toyota — hybrid Camry**

**1172.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade with reference to the announcement by Toyota to manufacture Hybrid Camrys at its Altona manufacturing plant —

- (1) Has the Government committed funding to Toyota to assist in the manufacturing of the vehicles; if so —
  - (a) how much funding has been committed;
  - (b) on what date was the decision made by the Government to provide the funding.

- (2) Did the Government receive a request from Toyota for funding to assist in the manufacturing of the vehicles; if so —
- (a) on what date was the request received;
  - (b) what amount did Toyota seek from the Government.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) (a) The Victorian Government has worked closely with Toyota Australia on the Hybrid Camry and financial support for this project will be provided in conjunction with the Federal Government to facilitate its production at the Altona plant. The negotiations with Toyota are commercial-in-confidence and the Government cannot disclose the amount of funding that has been committed.
- (b) The decision to provide funding for this project was made on the 29th January 2008.
- (2) (a) Toyota's request for funding support was made on the 14th of December 2007.
- (b) The Toyota negotiations are commercial-in-confidence.

**Treasurer: adjournment debate responses**

**1180(o).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer 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 that:

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.

**Local government: adjournment debate responses**

**1180(t).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Local Government 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 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.

**Regional and rural development: adjournment debate responses**

**1180(z).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development 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.

**Skills and workforce participation: adjournment debate responses**

**1180(af).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation 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.

**Community services: dementia care and management**

**1196.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$265,000 worth of funding for education and training projects in dementia care and management in acute hospitals as promised on 14 September 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 the \$265,000 funding was announced on 14 September 2003 and that:

- (1) All funding was expended in 2003-04.
- (2) The use of the funding was evaluated, resulting in further education/ training projects in dementia care and management in hospitals.

**Community services: refugee mental health clinic**

**1199.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to \$100,000 worth of funding for a mental health clinic for refugees promised on 28 October 2002 —

- (1) By what date was the funding expended.
- (2) On what date did the clinic become operational.
- (3) How many refugees have been treated at the clinic each year.
- (4) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so what were the results of the evaluation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) 30 June 2003.
- (2) The clinic became operational on 25th July 2003.
- (3)

	Clients
2003-04	69
2004-05	70
2005-06	157
2006-07	163
2007-08	224

- (4) Yes. The evaluation highlighted positive clinical outcomes for clients and the broader contribution of the Refugee Mental Health clinic in continuing to support the development of expertise in working with survivors of torture and trauma.

**Water: fair payments policy — Barwon Region Water Authority**

**1227.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Barwon Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government’s Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Barwon Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government’s Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Central Gippsland Region Water Authority**

**1228.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Central Gippsland Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government’s Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

- (1) On how many occasions has penalty interest been paid.

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Central Gippsland Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Central Highlands Region Water Authority**

**1229.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Central Highlands Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Central Highlands Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Coliban Region Water Authority**

**1230.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Coliban Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

- (4) What is the total amount of penalty interest paid.
- (5) If penalty interest has been paid, on what date was the first payment made.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Coliban Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — East Gippsland Region Water Authority**

**1231.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by East Gippsland Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the East Gippsland Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — First Mildura Irrigation Trust**

**1232.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by First Mildura Irrigation Trust since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the First Mildura Irrigation Trust has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Authority**

**1233.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Goulburn Valley Region Water Authority**

**1234.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Goulburn Valley Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Authority**

**1235.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Goulburn Murray Rural Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Authority**

**1236.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Grampians Wimmera Mallee Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;

- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Authority**

**1237.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government’s Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation has paid penalty interest once under the Government’s Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) one small business has received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bill on which penalty interest was paid was \$2893; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was \$43.38.

**Water: fair payments policy — North East Region Water Authority**

**1238.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by North East Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government’s Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the North East Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government’s Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and

- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — South Gippsland Region Water Authority**

**1239.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by South Gippsland Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the South Gippsland Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Wannon Water Authority**

**1240.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Wannon Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Wannon Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Western Region Water Authority**

**1241.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Western Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Western Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Water: fair payments policy — Westernport Region Water Authority**

**1242.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to penalty interest paid by Westernport Region Water Authority since the 2002 state election as a result of the Government's Fair Payments Policy which requires a Government department or agency to pay invoices for work done by small businesses within 30 days or pay penalty interest —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) the Westernport Region Water Corporation has not paid penalty interest under the Government's Fair Payments Policy;
- (2) no small businesses have received penalty interest;
- (3) the total amount of the original bills on which penalty interest was paid was nil; and
- (4) the total amount of penalty interest paid was nil.

**Senior Victorians: ethno-specific agencies**

**1264.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$1.6 million worth of funding for ethno-specific agencies to provide support to local councils announced on 23 November 2003 —

- (1) How much funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) By June 2006, \$2,684,398 had been allocated and expended by ethno-specific agencies to provide support to Councils.
- (2) Yes. The evaluation indicated that there was a positive overall improvement in the participation of people from CALD background accessing services in the local government areas targeted by CEGS.

**Senior Victorians: dementia care and management**

**1266.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$265,000 worth of funding for education/training projects in dementia care and management in acute hospitals announced on 14 September 2003 —

- (1) How much funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (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 funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (2) The use of the funding was evaluated, resulting in further education/ training projects in dementia care and management in hospitals.

**Senior Victorians: continence services**

**1267.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$700,000 worth of funding to reduce waiting lists for continence services announced on 8 July 2003 —

- (1) How much funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.
- (3) What was the average waiting time to access continence services in —
  - (a) 2003; and
  - (b) 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) All funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (2) The use of the funds has not been evaluated.

- (3) This data is not available

**Senior Victorians: elderly support services — Wodonga**

**1281.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$25,000 worth of funding to the City of Wodonga to help develop a strategy to improve services and support frail older people in the area announced on 11 May 2001 —

- (1) How much funding was expended by 30 June 2002.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) This was a 12 month project (1 January to 31 December 2002) and all funds were expended.
- (2) The project was completed and a strategy document produced.

**Children and early childhood development: children with disabilities**

**1322.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development —

- (1) What was the increase in funding to specialist health services for children with disabilities between March 2000 and March 2004.
- (2) Has the use of the extra funding for children with disabilities announced on 28 March 2000 been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Details of funding in previous budgets can be found online at [www.budget.vic.gov.au](http://www.budget.vic.gov.au)

**Community services: disability support register**

**1342.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — As at 30 June 2008, how many requests were recorded in the Disability Support Register for —

- (1) Shared supported accommodation options.
- (2) Support to live in the community.
- (3) Daytime activities.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As at 30 June 2008, Disability Support Register requests were –

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| (1) Shared supported accommodation options | = 1358 |
| (2) Support to live in the community       | = 1282 |
| (3) Daytime activities                     | = 357  |

**Community services: disability services — training centres**

**1343.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — As at 30 June 2007, what was the total funding allocated to training centres for people with disabilities and disability services residential accommodation support.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- The total funding allocated to training centres for people with disabilities and disability services residential accommodation support was \$51.9 million.

**Community services: disability services — review**

**1344.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to the Chandler Macleod Ltd consultancy for the review of disability services statewide forensic service which started on 22 January 2007 and with an end date of 31 August 2007 —

- (1) Has the consultancy been completed; if so, on what date was it completed.
- (2) When will the Minister make the review report available to the public.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The consultancy was completed in July 2007.
- (2) The review's focus was to evaluate the service's capability in line with the *Disability Act 2006* and was for Departmental consideration only.

**Community services: emergency respite services — Bass electorate**

**1354.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to emergency respite services in the electorate of Bass —

- (1) How many services are located in the electorate.
- (2) How much Government funding does each service receive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department does not store locational data for emergency respite facilities by electorate.

**Community services: emergency respite services — Mornington electorate**

**1355.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to emergency respite services in the electorate of Mornington —

- (1) How many services are located in the electorate.
- (2) How much Government funding does each service receive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department does not store locational data for emergency respite facilities by electorate.

**Community services: emergency respite services — Gembrook electorate**

**1356.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to emergency respite services in the electorate of Gembrook —

- (1) How many services are located in the electorate.
- (2) How much Government funding does each service receive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department does not store locational data for emergency respite facilities by electorate.

**Community services: emergency respite services — South Barwon electorate**

**1357.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to emergency respite services in the electorate of South Barwon —

- (1) How many services are located in the electorate.
- (2) How much Government funding does each service receive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department does not store locational data for emergency respite facilities by electorate.

**Community services: emergency respite services — Frankston electorate**

**1358.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to emergency respite services in the electorate of Frankston —

- (1) How many services are located in the electorate.
- (2) How much Government funding does each service receive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The department does not store locational data for emergency respite facilities by electorate.

**Housing: Geelong and Apollo Bay**

**1359.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Housing — With reference to \$3.8 million worth of funding for four new social housing projects in Geelong and Apollo Bay announced on 18 April 2001 —

- (1) When were the projects completed.
- (2) What was the total Government expenditure on the projects.
- (3) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) All four projects were completed by August 2003.
- (2) The total State Government expenditure on the four projects was \$3.7M.
- (3) The agencies provided an acquittal of all expenditure on the projects, the projects were delivered within agreed time lines and the properties are fully tenanted.

**Community services: planning framework for specialist aged persons mental health**

**1367.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to the Planning Framework for Specialist Aged Persons Mental Health referred to in the answer to Question on Notice 628 —

- (1) When did the Government commence the planning framework.
- (2) Which aspects of aged persons mental health will the planning framework address.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Work on drafting a new Planning Framework for Aged Persons Mental Health commenced on 11 March 2008.
- (2) The Planning Framework will:
  - Outline the service components, service types, service mix and distribution of services;
  - Outline the key factors that impact on decisions regarding the components of services, mix of services, service types, service models and distribution of services that are required for Specialist Aged Persons Mental Health, and how those factors should be taken into consideration in the planning for specialist Aged Persons Mental Health Services (including who is best placed to deliver these services);
  - Outline key recommendations in relation to proposed service policies;
  - Outline the key planning changes that need to be undertaken to achieve an improved Specialist Aged Persons Mental Health future service system.

**Housing: supported accommodation and assistance program**

**1374.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Housing — What percentage of the Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program is provided to people aged 60 years and over.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This information is available from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare ([www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au)).

**Water: north-south pipeline**

**1379.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to the Sugarloaf Interconnector Pipeline project —

- (1) How many Victorians are employed on the project.

- (2) Does the project comply with the Victoria Industry Participation Policy.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The project currently employs approximately 170 people, who are all based in Victoria.
- (2) Yes, the project complies with the Victorian Industry Participation Policy.