

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

28 and 30 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, 28 October 2008

Community services: kinship and permanent care places

- 699.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to funding of \$1.2 million for additional kinship and permanent care places in the 2002–03 budget —
- (1) How much of the funding was expended in 2002–03.
 - (2) How many new kinship and permanent care places were created in 2002–03 as a direct result of the funding.
 - (3) How many new places, created in 2002–03, were located in each Department of Human Services region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) This funding was fully expended in 2002-03.
- (2) Between 30 June 2002 and 30 June 2003 the number of kinship care and permanent care placements increased by 174.
- (3) The new places were located in each of the Department of Human Services regions.

Premier: north-eastern ring-road

- 1387.** Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Premier — With reference to comments made by the Member for Yan Yean in the August 2008 edition of the *Warrandyte Diary* stating that the so-called ‘missing link’ between the Western Ring Road and EastLink would never be built — what is the Government’s policy on the project.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government is developing a comprehensive transport plan for Victoria which will be released by the end of the year. This plan will take a state-wide view of our transport and infrastructure needs, including public transport and freight priorities.

The Government has conducted a comprehensive consultation program with organisations and individuals across the State to inform the development of this plan. At this stage, no decisions have been made on any proposals under consideration - that is, nothing has been ruled in or out.

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Thursday, 30 October 2008

Water: authorised water officers

623. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water — how many people are employed as authorised water officers for —

- (1) Melbourne Water Corporation.
- (2) City West Water Limited.
- (3) South East Water Limited.
- (4) Yarra Valley Water Limited.
- (5) Barwon Region Water Authority.
- (6) Central Gippsland Region Water Authority.
- (7) Central Highlands Region Water Authority.
- (8) Coliban Region Water Authority.
- (9) East Gippsland Region Water Authority.
- (10) First Mildura Irrigation Trust.
- (11) Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Authority.
- (12) Goulburn Valley Region Water Authority.
- (13) Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Authority.
- (14) Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Authority.
- (15) Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Authority.
- (16) North East Region Water Authority.
- (17) South Gippsland Region Water Authority.
- (18) Wannon Water Authority.
- (19) Western Region Water Authority.
- (20) Westernport Region Water Authority.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the water businesses have the following authorised water officers:

	Water Industry Act 1994 s185A
(1) <i>City West Water Limited.</i>	4
(2) <i>South East Water Limited.</i>	3
(3) <i>Yarra Valley Water Limited.</i>	1

	Water Act 1989 s291A
(4) <i>Barwon Region Water Corporation</i>	2
(5) <i>Central Gippsland Region Water Corporation.</i>	1
(6) <i>Central Highlands Region Water Corporation.</i>	4
(7) <i>Coliban Region Water Corporation.</i>	0
(8) <i>East Gippsland Region Water Corporation.</i>	2
(9) <i>Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation.</i>	2
(10) <i>Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation.</i>	1
(11) <i>Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation</i>	3
(12) <i>North East Region Water Corporation.</i>	1
(13) <i>South Gippsland Region Water Corporation.</i>	2
(14) <i>Wannon Water Corporation.</i>	1
(15) <i>Western Region Water Corporation.</i>	2
(16) <i>Westernport Region Water Corporation</i>	2

Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Corporation, Goulburn-Murray Rural Water Corporation and Melbourne Water are not responsible for water restrictions in urban reticulated water supply systems and therefore do not have authorised water officers.

First Mildura Irrigation Trust no longer exists and Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation is now responsible for the functions of the former Trust.

Small business: departmental staff courses

913(ai). **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Small Business 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.

Children and early childhood development: adjournment debate responses

1180(e). **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood 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 require attention.

The time taken varies depending on the complexity of the matter being raised and the accessibility of relevant information.

Education: adjournment debate responses

1180(i). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Education 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 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.

Senior Victorians: home and community care services

1265. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$300,000 worth of funding for agencies to improve the access of small and emerging ethnic communities into Home and Community Care Services 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) All of the funding was expended by 30 June 2006.
- (2) Yes, and the evaluation resulted in the extension of two of the Small & Emerging projects to December 2010.

Senior Victorians: aged care support and mentoring project

1270. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$9 million worth of funding for the Aged Care Support and Mentoring Project phase two announced on 6 March 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) There was no announcement on 6 March 2003 for \$9m for the Aged Care Support and Mentoring project.

The \$9 million refers to the total Home and Community Care (HACC) program funding to ethno-specific and multicultural organisations in 2002-03.

- (2) Project funding of \$39,000 was added recurrently to the ECCV's funding base in 2004-05.

Senior Victorians: social activities

1279. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$35,000 worth of funding to improve social activities for isolated older people announced on 21 October 2001 —

- (1) How much funding was expended by 30 June 2003.
 (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 2003.
 (2) Program outputs are monitored annually.

Tourism and major events: Old Treasury Building signage

1349. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Tourism and Major Events — With reference to the removal of signage for the City Museum located on the steps of the Old Treasury Building on the corner of Spring and Collins Streets —

- (1) Has Heritage Victoria expedited the process of removing the signage by granting the Government a permit exemption to remove the signs; if so, on what grounds was the exemption granted.
 (2) When will the signs be removed.
 (3) What are the reasons for removing the signs.
 (4) What costs are involved in removing the signs and replacing them with alternative signage.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Heritage Victoria has determined that pursuant to section 66(3) of the Heritage Act 1995, a permit is not required to remove the signage.
 (2) The signage will not be removed until the Museum has had a reasonable opportunity to replace it.
 (3) The current signage is inappropriate.
 (4) The costs are unknown at this stage.

Further inquiries on this issue should be directed to me in my capacity as the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (the Minister responsible for administering all Victorian Government land and property).

Community services: Hepburn Health Services — Daylesford campus

1353. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to \$5.5 million worth of funding to redevelop Hepburn Health Services' Daylesford campus announced on 27 April 2001 —

- (1) When was the redevelopment completed.
- (2) What was the total funding expended by the Government on the redevelopment.
- (3) What was the total cost of the redevelopment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The redevelopment of Hepburn Health Services Daylesford campus was completed in October 2003.
- (2) The total funding expended by Government on the redevelopment was \$5.425 million.
- (3) The total cost of the redevelopment was \$6.025 million. Hepburn Health Services contributed \$500,000 and Ballarat Child and Family Services contributed \$100,000.

Senior Victorians: nursing home for homeless

1361. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$3.4 million worth of funding for a nursing home for homeless older people announced on 11 January 2001 —

- (1) When was the development completed.
- (2) What was the total funding expended by the Government on the development.
- (3) What was the total cost of the development.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The development was completed and opened in August 2005.
- (2) Total funding expended by the Government on the development was \$3.4 million.
- (3) The total cost of the redevelopment was \$7.5 million.

Community services: support for carers program

1364. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to funding for the Support for Carers Program —

- (1) How much of the \$12.5 million worth of funding announced for 2006–07 was expended by 30 June 2007.
- (2) How much of the \$13.5 million worth of funding announced for 2007–08 had been expended as at 30 June 2008.
- (3) Has the use of funding in 2006–07 and 2007–08 been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) All the funding was expended by 30 June 2007.
- (2) All the funding was expended by 30 June 2008.
- (3) The funds provided growth to existing programs that have annual monitoring of service outputs.

Community services: service coordination support program

1365. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to part three of the answer provided to Question on Notice 809 regarding the expansion of the SRS Service Coordination Support program —

- (1) How much funding will go toward the expansion.
- (2) What are the details of the expansion.
- (3) When will the program be expanded.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) \$0.6 million has been budgeted in 2008-09 to expand the program.
- (2) Details of the expansion are yet to be finalised.
- (3) The program expansion will occur over 2008-09.

Community services: acquired brain injury slow to recover program

1368. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — As at August 2008 how many people were on the Acquired Brain Injury Slow to Recover Program waiting list and what is the average waiting time on the list.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The wait list for the Acquired Brain Injury Slow to Recover Program at August 2008 is 47.
- (2) The average waiting time for people receiving support from the Acquired Brain Injury Slow to Recover Program varies across the years.

Community services: home and community care

1370. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to HACC end of financial year surplus funds — which Department of Human Services (DHS) areas received the funds and how much of the funding did each DHS area receive.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

DHS regions are funded for Home and Community Care program on a financial year basis, in the event that not all funds are expended by the end of the financial year the funds are retained by the region for the program for which they were originally approved.

Community services: Linkages packages

1373. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — How many Linkages packages were provided in 2006–07 and of these how many were provided to people —

- (1) Over the age of 65.

- (2) Aged between 16 and 64 years old.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Community Services: I am informed that 3,161 HACC Linkages packages were provided in 2006-07. I am also informed that the packages are provided in the following proportions:

- (1) 65 and over: 49 per cent
(2) 16 – 64 years of age: 45 per cent.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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ASSEMBLY
