

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

2, 3 and 4 December 2008

(Extract from book 17)

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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, 2 December 2008

Public transport: passenger compensation — Yarra Trams

- 905.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to passenger compensation claims for Yarra Trams' failure to meet its system-wide punctuality target in November 2007 —
- (1) How many passengers claimed compensation.
 - (2) How many claims were accepted.
 - (3) Of the claims accepted how many were for —
 - (a) Zone 1;
 - (b) Zone 2;
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2.
 - (4) What was the total value of free Metcards issued in compensation for accepted claims for —
 - (a) Zone 1;
 - (b) Zone 2;
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Yarra Trams have advised that they received 260 claims for compensation for the month of November 2007.
- (2) Yarra Trams have advised that they accepted 258 claims for compensation for the month of November 2007.
- (3) Yarra Trams have advised that the 258 accepted claims applied to:
 - (a) Zone 1; 223 claims
 - (b) Zone 2; 4 claims
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2; 31 claims.
- (4) The total value of free Metcards issued in compensation for accepted claims was as follows:
 - (a) Zone 1; \$1,449.50
 - (b) Zone 2; Nil (Yarra Trams provided Zone 1+2 tickets for these claims)
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2; \$353.50.

Public transport: passenger compensation — Connex

- 906.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport — with reference to passenger compensation claims for Connex's failure to meet its system-wide punctuality target in December 2007 —
- (1) How many passengers claimed compensation.
 - (2) How many claims were accepted.

- (3) Of the claims accepted how many were for —
 - (a) Zone 1;
 - (b) Zone 2;
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2.

- (4) What was the total value of free Metcards issued in compensation for accepted claims for —
 - (a) Zone 1;
 - (b) Zone 2;
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) Connex have advised that they received 5,643 claims for compensation for the month of December 2007.
- (2) Connex have advised that they accepted 5,244 claims for compensation for the month of December 2007.
- (3) Connex have advised that the 5,244 claims applied to:
 - (a) Zone 1; 2,428 claims
 - (b) Zone 2; 91 claims
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2; 2,725 claims.
- (4) The total value of free Metcards issued in compensation for accepted claims was as follows:
 - (a) Zone 1; \$15,782
 - (b) Zone 2; \$418.60
 - (c) Zones 1 and 2; \$27,522.50

(The value of tickets is based upon 2008 prices as the tickets were issued in 2008)

Senior Victorians: residential aged-care facilities

- 993.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Auditor-General's report in August 2006 titled *Condition of Public Sector Residential Aged Care Facilities* — have any of the 10 recommendations proposed by the Auditor-General have been implemented; if so —
- (1) How many.
 - (2) Which ones.
 - (3) How have they been implemented.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

6 of the 10 recommendations proposed by the Auditor-General have been implemented. Which ones, and how they have been implemented is shown in attachment 1.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Attachment 1

Recommendation	DHS Comments
<p>1. That DHS conduct state-wide infrastructure planning for public sector residential aged care, linked to the government's policy directions, to inform development of future capital works strategies.</p>	<p>Review and update capital works requirements on an annual basis, consistent with the requirements of government's integrated management cycle.</p>
<p>2. That DHS develop a risk management strategy for public sector residential aged care aimed at ensuring that risks from failing, obsolete or inadequate infrastructure are managed by agencies, to mitigate potential risks to residents.</p>	<p>Update the strategic fabric survey, and through ongoing FRMS, and agency risk management processes. Implementing annual reporting by agencies on key asset-related indicators.</p>
<p>3. That DHS review and update its existing capital works strategy for public sector residential aged care facilities to ensure that it adequately considers the longer term service delivery requirements of the sector and government policy outcomes.</p>	<p>When planning services and determining capital investment priorities DHS will continue to take into account, on a statewide, regional and local level, a number of key elements.. These include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – specific government policies and objectives in relation to health and aged care – service needs, including types of care and numbers of places, within the context of areas and places approved by the Commonwealth – new models of care – statutory requirements (FRMS, occupational, health and safety, certification etc.) – the existing condition and functionality of facilities
<p>4. That DHS act to improve the level of assurance provided by the FRMS by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ensuring that building surveyors evaluate alternative solutions proposed by fire engineers in accordance with the requirements of the BCA, and that associated decisions, including supporting rationale, are documented and appropriately approved – requiring building permits/approvals to be obtained for all essential services upgrade works and that the building surveyor signs off on completed works to provide assurance that the works have resulted in achieving compliance with BCA requirements – ensuring that the scope of fire safety audits is sufficient to support the "holistic" statement of compliance made by fire engineers and building surveyors, and that fire safety systems are routinely tested – ensuring that appropriate documentation of dispensations granted, approved alternative solutions and verification of the compliance status of implemented works is completed and maintained, so that safety assurances can be evidenced, audits are properly based, and an audit trail is maintained. 	<p>Updated the FRMS policy framework and associated guidelines.</p>

Recommendation	DHS Comments
<p>5. That DHS work with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing to clarify the standards required under certification for residential aged care facilities.</p>	<p>Maintain ongoing liaison with DoHA. Discussion has also taken place directly with the Commonwealth's certification consultant.</p> <p>Review and update of the Residential Aged Care Certification Tool Kit.</p> <p>Attendance at Commonwealth certification forums to ensure currency of knowledge and information.</p>
<p>6. That DHS encourage agencies that control public sector residential aged care facilities to develop and implement strategies and/or works that ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – risks associated with failing, inadequate or obsolete infrastructure are mitigated – they can demonstrate that residential aged care facilities satisfy the BCA standards – Facilities continue to meet the Commonwealth Government's certification requirements. 	<p>The Department is reviewing related process and guidelines. All public sector residential aged care facilities have passed certification standards, as tested against the Commonwealth's 199 Certification Instrument.</p>

Industry and trade: Crown land — Kilsyth electorate

1044(k). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade 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:

I am informed as follows:

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

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 Kilsyth electorate for the Industry and Trade portfolio.

Police and emergency services: Ringwood railway station — crime

1114. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services how many assaults, robberies or other violent crimes occurred at Ringwood Railway Station in—

- (1) 1999-2000.
- (2) 2000-01.
- (3) 2001-02.
- (4) 2002-03.
- (5) 2003-04.

- (6) 2004–05.
- (7) 2005–06.
- (8) 2006–07.
- (9) 2007–08 to date.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Brumby Government is committed to providing safe streets and homes for Victorians by ensuring Victoria Police is highly professional and well resourced.

Since coming to office, the State Government has increased the number of police by over 1,400. Further we have increased funding to Victoria Police to a record budget of more than \$1.75 billion in 2008–09, and funded the construction and refurbishment of over 150 police stations across the state.

The Government's additional support to Victoria Police is showing good results. Victoria's crime rate has fallen 24.5 per cent since 2000–01, with Victoria now having the lowest crime rate in Australia.

However, the fight against crime is ongoing. That is why at the last election the Government committed to a further increase of 350 sworn police by 2010, as well as an additional 50 forensic and specialist investigators. In addition to this, the Government committed to providing additional resources and equipment to assist police in their work, including an extra 100 police cars.

Since 2000–01, the overall crime rate (per million trips) on and around public transport has declined by 37.3 per cent. Information on the official crime statistics for Victoria can be found on the Victoria Police website under *About Victoria Police, Statistics, Crime Statistics*. Further, historical information is available in hard copy at the State Library of Victoria.

Police and emergency services: Ringwood railway station — crime

1115. **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services how many incidents requiring police attendance occurred at Ringwood Railway Station in —

- (1) 1999–2000.
- (2) 2000–01.
- (3) 2001–02.
- (4) 2002–03.
- (5) 2003–04.
- (6) 2004–05.
- (7) 2005–06.
- (8) 2006–07.
- (9) 2007–08 to date.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Brumby Government is committed to providing safe streets and homes for Victorians by ensuring Victoria Police is highly professional and well resourced.

Since coming to office, the State Government has increased the number of police by over 1,400. Further we have increased funding to Victoria Police to a record budget of more than \$1.75 billion in 2008–09, and funded the construction and refurbishment of over 150 police stations across the state.

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Health: autism

1128. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Health —

- (1) How many children under the age of 18 have been diagnosed with autism.
- (2) What was the level of Government investment for research into autism in —
 - (a) 2002–03;
 - (b) 2003–04;
 - (c) 2004–05;
 - (d) 2005–06;
 - (e) 2006–07;
 - (f) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The questions raised sit within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health.

Health: Albury–Wodonga health service

1140. Mr TILLEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to an integrated health service for Albury and Wodonga —

- (1) What are the outcomes of meetings held with the Minister's New South Wales counterpart.
- (2) What is the current status of negotiations with New South Wales towards an integration.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

With reference to an integrated health service for Albury and Wodonga:

- My New South Wales counterpart and I confirm our commitment to an integrated health service for Albury and Wodonga.
- We agree that it is important to ensure that key issues are addressed comprehensively to ensure the best outcome for the Albury and Wodonga residents.
- This is a complex project because there are a number of differences in the way the two governments currently fund and operate health services that reflect local circumstances, needs and priorities.

- The most recent discussions on funding principles with NSW Health have been positive and suggest progress towards agreement.
- A comprehensive service plan for the proposed integrated health service is being developed.

Industry and trade: adjournment debate responses

1180(aa). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade 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.

Unfortunately in recent times the opposition has sought to use adjournment debate for political attacks on the Government rather than to ask questions. These political attacks are responded to at the time by the Minister and that response disposes of the matter. Other written responses are provided to appropriate questions and the length of time to receive responses is a matter of public record.

Health: adjournment debate responses

1180(q). Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Health 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 time taken to respond to matters raised in an Adjournment Debate varies depending on the complexity of the matter being raised and the accessibility of relevant information.

Health: Maroondah Hospital

1222. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Health when did the Minister last visit Maroondah Hospital.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I last visited the Maroondah Hospital on 1 October to open a refurbished 30 bed inpatient ward, and prior to that on 17 September to open a 16 chair renal dialysis service.

I look forward to future visits to Maroondah Hospital along with all of the other Eastern Health Campuses.

Roads and ports: Port Phillip Bay — channel deepening

1224. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports — With reference to the king tide in Port Phillip Bay on 2 July 2008 and the impact of heightened wave action around the coast — has any monitoring been undertaken to correlate the modelled impact of channel deepening with the actual experience of increased tidal level; if so —

- (1) What monitoring has been undertaken.
- (2) What are the results of the monitoring.
- (3) What was the impact on the amplitude of the gravitational tide.

ANSWER:

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

Monitoring of tide heights occurs continually at various port related sites in Port Phillip Bay. The data will be analysed and compared with the modelled predictions, one year after construction phase of the Channel Deepening Project. This is a requirement of the Environmental Management Plan and the report will be publicly released.

While the predicted tide was 0.90m, the observed tide was 1.46m. This surge of 0.56m is consistent with the low pressure system and fronts that had passed over southern Australia and the strong, south-westerly winds preceding the weak high pressure system prevalent at the time.

The gravitational high tide was also consistent with the average of annual high tides derived from records for Melbourne since 1944. There are no known impacts associated with this gravitational high tide.

Senior Victorians: Halal meals pilot project

1276. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$68,000 worth of funding for the Halal Meals Pilot Project in the northern, southern and western metropolitan regions announced on 22 January 2002 —

- (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) By 30 June 2003, \$22,236 had been expended. The project ended in June 2005.
- (2) The Halal Meals Project report (2003) highlighted that the number of Halal meals required by the Home and Community Care target population in the Northern Sector could not be sustained at the level of the associated production costs.

Senior Victorians: community care palliative services

1280. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$320,000 worth of funding for community care palliative services announced on 10 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) The \$320,000 funding to community-based palliative care services announced by Minister Pike on 10 October 2001 was fully expended.
- 2) No formal evaluation of these specific funds has occurred.

Mental health: community health centre counselling services

1331. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the \$2.6 million for counselling services at community health centres announced in the 2006–07 Budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

With reference to the \$2.6 million for counselling services at community health centres announced in the 2006–07 Budget. Whilst this funding was initially allocated to Mental Health and Drugs Division, it has since been reallocated to Primary Health Branch of Rural & Regional Health and Aged Care Services Division who have advised that —

- (1) Funding expended:

(a) 2006–07	\$500,000
(b) 2007–08	\$500,000
- (2) The impact of the funding for this program has not been specifically evaluated. The program is subject to continuous improvement processes and individual client outcomes are measured.

Mental health: conduct disorder programs

1333. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the \$8.4 million for conduct disorder programs announced as part of the National Action Plan on Mental Health —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended before 1 February 2006.
- (2) How much of the funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2005–06;
 - (b) 2006–07; and
 - (c) 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) \$550,738 was expended before 1 February 2006.
- (2)
 - (a) \$550,738
 - (b) \$1,336,697
 - (c) \$1,588,404
- (3) The impact of the funding for this program is not specifically evaluated. The program is subject to continuous improvement processes and individual client outcomes are measured.

Mental health: community health centre counselling services

1336. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the \$2.6 million for extra counselling in community health services promised as part of the National Action Plan on Mental Health —

- (1) How much of the funding had been expended before 1 February 2006.
- (2) How much of the funding was expended in each of 2005–06, 2006–07 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:

With reference to the \$2.6 million for extra counselling community health services promised as part of the National Action Plan on Mental Health. Whilst this funding was initially allocated to Mental Health and Drugs Division, it has since been reallocated to Primary Health Branch of Rural & Regional Health and Aged Care Services Division who have advised that —

- (1) There was no funding expended before 1 February 2006 as the funding was announced on the 30 May 2006 in the 2006–07 State budget.
- (2)

2005–06	\$nil
2006–07	\$500,000
2007–08	\$500,000
- (3) The impact of the funding for this program has not been specifically evaluated. The program is subject to continuous improvement processes and individual client outcomes are measured.

Community services: disability services — standard datasets

1337. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — What were the standard data sets compiled by the Disability Services Division as at 30 June 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The standard datasets compiled by Disability Services Division as at 30 June 2007 are those required for regular performance reporting for budget papers and the annual report. In addition, the Division contributes a standard set of information on disability service usage to the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) compiled and reported annually by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Community services: disability services — training centres

1339. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to the output performance of Disability Services in the 2006–07 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services and the 430 clients in training centres — how many of these were clients resident in —

- (1) Government managed training centres.
- (2) Non-government managed training centres.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The number of clients in government managed training centres was 386.
- (2) The number of clients in non-government managed training centres was 44.

Community services: disability services — clients

1340. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — Does the Department of Human Services Disability Services Division collect information on the age of each of its clients.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services Disability Services Division collects information on the age of clients accessing most services.

Community services: disability services — residential accommodation

1341. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to people with disabilities and residential accommodation support — as at 30 June 2007 —

- (1) What was the funding amount of capital asset charge attributed to residential accommodation support for 2006–07.
- (2) What was the funding amount of corporate infrastructure costs attributed to residential accommodation support for 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The funding amount of capital asset charge attributed to residential accommodation support for 2006–07 was \$29.2 million.
- (2) The funding amount of corporate infrastructure costs attributed to residential accommodation support for 2006–07 was \$39 million.

Community services: disability services — information systems

1345. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to the *Disability Act 2006* and the requirements of s 39 — what information systems are maintained to enable the planning, monitoring, evaluating, provision and funding of disability services for persons with a disability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Information systems to enable the planning monitoring, evaluating, provision and funding of disability services for persons with a disability, include the following:

1. The Client Relationship Information System (CRIS) and Client Relationship Information System for Service Providers (CRISSP).
2. The Disability Services Register (DSR).
3. The Service Agreement Management System (SAMS), and

4. Quarterly Data Collection (QDC).

Community services: disability services — access priority criteria

1346. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — As at 30 June 2008, what are the criteria developed and published by the Secretary of the Department of Human Services to enable priority of access to disability services to be determined in a fair manner, as required by the *Disability Act 2006*.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

For people who have a disability as defined by the Act, priority of access to service is determined according to three considerations which are published in the Disability Services Access Policy. These considerations are:

- Reviewing the suitability of the disability service system to meet a person’s needs.
- Applying the priority indicators: these are published in the Access Policy and the Access Policy Implementation Guide.
- Applying priority status criteria at program specific levels: program guidelines are published by DHS and available on the website.

Community services: disability services — provider performance measures

1347. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to the standards determined by the Minister to be met by disability service providers in the provision of disability services as required by s 97 of the *Disability Act 2006* and gazetted on 7 June 2007 — what are the different performance measures for different categories of disability service providers and different categories of disability services that have been specified by the Secretary.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The performance measures are in respect of the Standards for Disability Services in Victoria and referenced in section 98 of the *Disability Act 2006*.

These performance measures are being developed as part of the regulatory structure for monitoring service standards and performance and will be published in the Victorian Government Gazette when completed.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — red-light cameras

1352. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — With reference to the red light camera monitoring right hand turning traffic at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road, Cheltenham —

- (1) Has the camera operated continuously 24 hours a day, seven days a week since its installation in February 2007.
- (2) Is the camera digital or analogue.
- (3) What has been the duration of any down time for the camera and on which days did the down time occur.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- 1) Yes, other than for normal scheduled servicing and testing, the camera has operated 24 hours a day since installation in February 2007.
- 2) The Fixed Digital Safety Camera is a digital camera.
- 3) There has been no unscheduled downtime at this site.

Community services: older persons high rise program

1366. 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 older Persons High Rise 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 Question on Notice No. 808 refers to the Older Persons High Rise program. With reference to part (3) of that answer:

- (1) The expansion occurred in 2004–2005. The total funding for the expansion then was \$0.5m.
- (2) The Older Persons High Rise Support Program was expanded to two additional high-rise public housing estates to meet additional client needs and additional staffing was provided to the existing services in the Older Persons estates.
- (3) Expansion was completed in 2004–05.

Community services: residential aged-care facilities

1369. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the DHS 2008–09 Strategic Projects Objective 2, as identified in the DHS Departmental Plan 2008–09, page 28 — have any other public sector residential aged care facilities been identified as needing upgrades in the June 2009 project stage targets.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

No.

Community services: Victorian bush nursing centres

1375. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services —

- (1) How many Bush Nursing Centres are there in Victoria.
- (2) How many Bush Nursing Centres closed between 2001 and 2007.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are 13 Bush Nursing Centres (BNCs) in Victoria.
- (2) No Bush Nursing Centres have been closed between 2001 and 2007.

Education: Pembroke Secondary College

1378. Mrs FYFFE to ask the Minister for Education — With reference to maintenance funding for Pembroke Secondary College in 2008–09 —

- (1) How much funding is being supplied to each campus.
- (2) What is the funding being specifically supplied for.
- (3) What is the difference in the amount of funding being supplied and the amount requested through the school's master plan.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The total maintenance funding for Pembroke Secondary College in 2008–09 is \$84,271.

Maintenance funding is provided on an annual basis in the School Resource Package.

Fifty per cent of the funding is available for unplanned maintenance and fifty per cent is for planned maintenance as identified in the School Maintenance System.

Community services: futures for young adults program

1384. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — Which of the registered disability service providers have the capability to support young people leaving school at the end of 2007–08 who have been assessed as eligible to receive the highest level of funding available through the Futures for Young Adults program.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Any registered disability service provider should have the capability to support young people who have been assessed as eligible to receive the highest level of funding available through the Futures for Young Adults Program.

Community services: disability services — children and family support

1385. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — What is the cost of the engagement of KPMG to assist the Department of Human Services Disability Services Directorate develop a contemporary statement of principles to guide support for children with a disability and their families.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

DHS has contracted with KPMG to consult with a range of key stakeholders and develop a Statement of Principles. The amount payable to KPMG for this work is under \$100,000.

Community services: disability services — children and family support

1386. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — With reference to the November 2004 Final Report of the Review and Redevelopment of Support for Children with a Disability and their Families —

- (1) Which of the proposals for redevelopment have been implemented.
- (2) On which dates have the steering group to guide implementation activities met.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The following key proposals for redevelopment have been implemented from the 2004 final report of the Review and Redevelopment of Support for children with a disability and their families:
 - Additional individual support packages for children;
 - Additional respite care for children;
 - Enhanced services for people with an acquired brain injury, including children;
 - Implementation of individualised support approach and a new model of planning is being developed and will include the targeting of children and young people at key transition points in their lives;
 - A whole of government project has been established to develop an Autism State Plan; and
 - A protocol between the Disability Services and Child Protection has been completed.
- (2) The Steering Group for the implementation of the Review and Redevelopment initiative met in:
 - 31 May 2005 and
 - 29 November, 2005

Community services: falls prevention program

1443. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to \$1.256 million worth of funding for the Falls Prevention Program announced in 2004–05 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended as at 30 June 2007.
- (2) How many people benefited from the funding.
- (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 the \$1.256 million in funding was expended by 30 June 2007.
2. Data were not collected for individual projects prior to 2006–07.
3. In 2007–08 the National Ageing Research Institute was funded to review projects funded from 2000–07. This review is currently under way.

Community services: falls prevention program

1444. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to \$1.27 million worth of funding for the Falls Prevention Program announced in 2005–06 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended as at 30 June 2007.

- (2) How many people benefited from the funding.
- (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 the \$1.27 million in funding was expended by 30 June 2007.
2. Data were not collected for individual projects prior to 2006–07.
3. In 2007–08 the National Ageing Research Institute was funded to review projects funded from 2000–07. This review is currently under way.

Community services: falls prevention program

1445. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to \$1.305 million worth of funding for the Falls Prevention Program announced in 2006–07 —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended as at 30 June 2007.
- (2) How many people benefited from the funding.
- (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 the \$1.305 million in funding was expended by 30 June 2007.
2. Data were not collected for individual projects prior to 2006–07.
3. In 2007–08 the National Ageing Research Institute was funded to review projects funded from 2000–07. This review is currently under way.

Health: Maroondah Hospital

1461. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to Maroondah Hospital —

- (1) When was the last time the Minister visited the hospital.
- (2) When was the last time a Minister for Health visited the hospital.
- (3) When is the Minister’s next scheduled visit to the hospital.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I last visited the Maroondah Hospital on 1 October to open a refurbished 30 bed inpatient ward, and prior to that on 17 September to open a 16 chair renal dialysis service.

I look forward to future visits to Maroondah Hospital along with all of the other Eastern Health Campuses.

Education: schools — rainwater tanks

1470. Mr DIXON to ask the Minister for Education —

- (1) How many schools provide children with drinking water from rainwater tanks.
- (2) In schools that provide children with drinking water from rainwater tanks, what testing is done on water quality.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not maintain records of how many individual schools decide to provide their drinking water from rainwater tanks.

The Department is undertaking an audit of all Essential Safety Measures in schools. As part of this process the Department will be recording the different water sources accessed by schools. The audit is expected to be completed in July 2009.

Water: Melbourne supply

1497. Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water —

- (1) What was the total number of Melbourne households supplied by the three Melbourne water retailers in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) What was the water use per capita for Melbourne in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The three Melbourne metropolitan water retailers supplied the following number of households for the financial years indicated:

Financial year	Households supplied
2006–07	1457769
2007–08	1499516

Over those same financial years, the per capita consumption for Melbourne was:

Financial year	Per capita per day consumption (litres)
2006–07	303
2007–08	269

Education: Ferntree Gully Primary School site

1499. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Education — with reference to the former Ferntree Gully Primary School site —

- (1) Which government agency is negotiating to purchase the site.
- (2) When will the transfer of ownership occur.

- (3) How much of the site is to be used by the purchasing government agency.
- (4) For what purpose will the site be used by the purchasing government agency.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is currently negotiating the sale of the former Ferntree Gully Primary School site.
- (2) The date of transfer of ownership will depend on the outcome of negotiations.
- (3) Negotiations are proceeding on the basis that the entire site will be transferred.
- (4) Any future use is for the purchasing agency to determine.

Water: aquifer storage and recovery

1501. Mrs VICTORIA to ask the Minister for Water — does the Government plan to use alternative measures for water supply, such as aquifer storage and recovery.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government's *Our Water Our Future: The Next Stage of the Government's Water Plan* released in June 2007 provides long-term solutions to secure our water supplies through a suite of projects including building a desalination plant, saving water through upgrading irrigation channels, expanding the Water Grid to pipe water around the State and extending conservation programs.

The Government is actively adopting alternative measures including recycling water and capturing stormwater for use in industry and watering public open space amongst other things.

Aquifer storage and recovery or managed aquifer recharge is considered a potential method for storing alternative water underground until it is required. There are two pilot projects currently being undertaken in Victoria. One is in the south eastern suburbs at Rosedale Golf Club and another in the northern suburbs at Mernda.

Water: industry consumption plan

1504. Mrs VICTORIA to ask the Minister for Water — what is the Government's plan for industry water consumption.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Businesses have made significant water savings, reducing their per capita daily consumption by around 38 per cent since the mid-1990s. In Melbourne, this sector reduced its consumption by eight billion litres in 2007–08, compared to the previous financial year.

Victoria's urban water corporations are working with industry to conserve even more water by completing Water Management Action Plans. These plans aim to identify ways in which businesses can reduce their water use or use water more efficiently. The plans are mandatory for all businesses that use 10 million litres or more per year.

In addition, industrial water users must comply with the current water restrictions. Some industry groups, such as nurseries and car wash facilities have had to invest significantly to find alternative sources of water to enable them to continue to operate under water restrictions. This has included installing rainwater tanks and recycling systems as well as sourcing recycled water for watering plants or washing vehicles.

A number of other programs are being run by the Government and Victoria's urban water corporations, including:

- Water Efficient Cooling Towers Program. This \$1.25 million program is seeking to save more than one billion litres through optimising cooling tower maintenance and operating processes.
- Best Practice Operating Processes for Laundries. This is a \$1 million program targeting 500 million litres of water savings by moving all commercial laundries to an accepted level of industry best practice.
- Fire Sprinkler Water Conservation Project. This is being run by the Plumbing Industry Commission and supported by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the metropolitan water retailers. The project aims to reduce the amount of water used in periodically testing the operating reliability of automatic fire sprinkler systems by amending the practices used in the testing.
- The metropolitan water retailers are also working with their customers to implement a waterless wok program in Asian restaurants to significantly reduce water consumption in the kitchens.

Police and emergency services: training and development programs

1555. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — with reference to Victoria Police and its training and development programs — what formal training options are available to Victoria Police members so they may better engage with members of the Victorian community suffering from a mental illness and how many members of Victoria Police have completed the training programs.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

All police recruits undertake training in how to deal with mental health issues from the time they commence initial training at the Victoria Police Academy. These sessions include information on the legislation, policies and procedures governing mental illness, instruction to help identify a mental illness and communication skills to assist police members to engage with individuals with a mental illness.

Following their graduation, all recruits return to the academy for further training presented by specialist guest lecturers who work in the psychiatric and disability support field. These additional sessions provide new recruits with information on what support and resource services are available to police and the roles and responsibilities of the Crisis Assessment Treatment Team (CATT).

In addition to the above training, I am advised that in October 2006, Victoria Police introduced specialised Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training as part of its Mental Health Strategy Training and Development Program. This two-day course is directed to the specific requirements of operational police members to enable them to more effectively respond to people with a mental health illness in an array of settings and contexts as follows:

- Increase participants' knowledge and awareness of the prevalence of mental illnesses including depression, bipolar disorder, suicide, psychosis, anxiety and substance use disorders;
- Reduce the stigma that can be associated with mental illness;
- Promote early intervention strategies and supportive actions for people with a mental illness through community engagement; and
- Strengthen local community partnerships with mental health practitioners and ambulance officers through multidisciplinary participation at workshops.

I am advised that 540 operational members have completed the MHFA course so far, with 36 workshops being conducted state-wide. Priority is being given to rural and regional areas affected by the drought and economic hardship.

There are a further six MHFA workshops scheduled to take place in November and December 2008 with an expectation that six per cent of operational members will have completed this training by the end of the year.

Twenty-four operational police members will also be trained in targeted suicide prevention training within the metropolitan area in early December 2008. Regional and rural police members have previously been involved in this training within their local areas however no data is available on how many members have attended this training.

Health: psychogeriatric services

1565. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to psycho-geriatric services —

- (1) How much funding did services receive in —
 - (a) 2003–04;
 - (b) 2004–05;
 - (c) 2005–06;
 - (d) 2006–07; and
 - (e) 2007–08.
- (2) Which programs and services was the 2007–08 funding allocated to.
- (3) What is the Government’s policy in addressing demand for services.
- (4) Have services been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

Water: Crown land — Warrandyte electorate

1628. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Water — what was the nature of the delay to the Minister’s answer to question on notice 1414.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The time between the signing of a response and when it is actually tabled differs from question to question.

There was a delay in the tabling of the response mentioned in your question.

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.*

Wednesday, 3 December 2008

Police and emergency services: Ringwood police station

1113. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services how many unfilled vacancies were there at Ringwood Police Station in —

- (1) July 2007.
- (2) August 2007.
- (3) September 2007.
- (4) October 2007.
- (5) November 2007.
- (6) December 2007.
- (7) January 2008.
- (8) February 2008.
- (9) March 2008.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The level of policing across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective Regional Command Officers, with a view to maintaining optimum policing effectiveness. Decisions on the placement of police throughout the state are operational matters and are made by police command on the basis of assessed need. It is important that this process is not subject to political interference.

The Brumby Government is committed to providing safe streets and homes for Victorians by ensuring Victoria Police is highly professional and well resourced.

Since coming to office, the State Government has increased the number of police by over 1,400. Further we have increased funding to Victoria Police to a record budget of more than \$1.75 billion in 2008–09, and funded the construction and refurbishment of over 150 police stations across the state.

The Government's additional support to Victoria Police is showing good results. Victoria's crime rate has fallen 24.5 per cent since 2000–01, with Victoria now having the lowest crime rate in Australia.

However, the fight against crime is ongoing. That is why at the last election the Government committed to a further increase of 350 sworn police by 2010, as well as an additional 50 forensic and specialist investigators. In addition to this, the Government committed to providing additional resources and equipment to assist police in their work, including an extra 100 police cars.

I am also advised that Victoria Police deploys first response police across its 56 Police Service Areas using a sophisticated resource allocation model incorporating 12 characteristics of the local community that are used to predict levels of crime and road trauma; the population of an area is just one of these. Victoria Police uses this model to ensure that police resources are distributed equitably and according to demonstrated operational need. It should be noted that, since 1999, the number of first response officers has increased in all police regions across Victoria.

Police and emergency services: Warrandyte police station

1116. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services how many unfilled vacancies were there at Warrandyte Police Station in —

- (1) July 2007.
- (2) August 2007.
- (3) September 2007.
- (4) October 2007.
- (5) November 2007.
- (6) December 2007.
- (7) January 2008.
- (8) February 2008.
- (9) March 2008.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The level of policing across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective Regional Command Officers, with a view to maintaining optimum policing effectiveness. Decisions on the placement of police throughout the state are operational matters and are made by police command on the basis of assessed need. It is important that this process is not subject to political interference.

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Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — red-light cameras

1225. Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — Do contractors who operate the red light camera system at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road in Cheltenham receive a revenue return based on the number of infringement notices issued.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Department of Justice operates the red light camera system.

Senior Victorians: fitness and strength program

1274. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians — With reference to \$43,970 worth of funding for a new fitness program to improve fitness and strength of frail older people, particularly from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, announced on 30 January 2002 —

- (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) The Department of Human Services measures overall service targets not expenditure in relation to individual grants. Overall financial performance is monitored by the department through the Financial Accountability Return (FAR). This organisation's 2002–03 FAR was assessed as being satisfactory.
- (2) This initiative was based on recognised approaches to improving the strength and health of frail older people which have been adopted broadly both in Australia and internationally as being effective at improving the fitness and health of frail older people.

Mental health: postnatal depression services

1328. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the \$2.6 million to expand post-natal depression services announced in the 2006–07 Budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

With reference to the \$2.6 million to expand post-natal depression services announced in the 2006–07 budget-

- (1) The amount of funding expended in-
 - (a) 2006–07 was \$ 215,534
 - (b) 2007–08 was \$ 503,147
- (2) The impact of the funding for this program has not been specifically evaluated. The program is subject to continuous improvement processes and individual client outcomes are measured.

Mental health: family support

1329. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the \$2.4 million to support families where a parent has a mental illness announced in the 2006–07 Budget —

- (1) How much of the funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and

(b) 2007–08.

(2) Has the use of the funding been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

With reference to the \$2.4 million to support families where a parent has a mental illness announced in the 2006–07 Budget —

(1) The amount of funding expended in—

(a) 2006–07 was \$ 353,577

(b) 2007–08 was \$ 484,393

(2) The impact of the funding for this program is not specifically evaluated. The program is subject to continuous improvement processes and individual client outcomes are measured.

Environment and climate change: Crown land — Warrandyte electorate

1415. Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change — Why was the answer to question on notice 1117n, signed by the Minister on 11 June 2008, not submitted until 2 September 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The time between the signing of a response and when it is actually tabled differs from question to question.

There was a delay in the tabling of the response mentioned in your question.

Environment and climate change: Crown land — Kilsyth electorate

1419. Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change — Why was the answer to question on notice 1044a, signed by the Minister on 12 May 2008, not submitted until 2 September 2008.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The time between the signing of a response and when it is actually tabled differs from question to question.

There was a delay in the tabling of the response mentioned in your question.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — inner urban east service area

1428. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Inner Urban East Mental Health Service Area —

(1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 558 862 in —

(a) 2006–07; and

(b) 2007–08.

- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — central east service area

1429. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Central East Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 721 927 in —
 (a) 2006–07; and
 (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — Dandenong service area

1430. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Dandenong Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 369 012 in —
 (a) 2006–07; and
 (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — inner south-east service area

1431. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Inner South East Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 363 746 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — inner west service area

1432. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Inner West Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 304 407 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — mid-west service area

1433. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Mid West Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 859 764 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — middle south service area

1434. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Middle South Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 369 012 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — north-east service area

1435. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the North East Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 859 789 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — north-west service area

1436. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the North West Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 768 073 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — northern service area

1437. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Northern Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 650 295 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — outer east service area

1438. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Outer East Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 721 927 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — peninsula service area

1439. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the Peninsula Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 792 977 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — south-west service area

1440. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helpline in the South West Mental Health Service Area —

- (1) How many calls were received by the number 1300 657 259 in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Mental health: psychiatric triage — telephone helpline

1441. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — with reference to the Psychiatric Triage (information, assessment and referral for adults) telephone helplines —

- (1) How many calls were received in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.

- (2) How many full time equivalent staff are budgeted to operate the help line.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) & (b) The Department of Human Services does not obtain this data.
- (2) The Department of Human Services does not keep this data. Psychiatric triage is a core function for Health Services and must be funded from their base funding.

Community services: respite care

1515. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to \$13.1 million worth of funding for respite services announced on 26 May 2007 —

- (1) How many additional episodes of respite have been provided.
- (2) Has the use of the funds been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

- (1) An additional 350 episodes of respite were provided in 2007–08.
- (2) There has been no evaluation of the funds.

Community services: acquired brain injury slow to recover program

1519. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the ABI:STR program — how many people received assistance as a result of —

- (1) \$4 million allocated in 2002–03.
- (2) \$4 million allocated in 2003–04.
- (3) \$5.1 million allocated in 2004–05.
- (4) \$5.5 million allocated in 2005–06.
- (5) \$5.6 million allocated in 2006–07.
- (6) \$6.3 million allocated in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the numbers of people that received assistance from the Acquired Brain Injury Slow to Recover Program is as follows:

- (1) In 2002–03 100 people.
- (2) In 2003–04 115 people.
- (3) In 2004–05 120 people.
- (4) In 2005–06 121 people.
- (5) In 2006–07 141 people.

- (6) In 2007–08 154 people.

Community services: nursing homes — individual support packages

1537. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the 2006 budget commitments of \$46.5 million over four years for disability services and young people in nursing homes including \$20.3 million announced for individual support packages to help an extra 170 people with a disability each year —

- (1) How many individuals were helped in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many additional full time equivalent staff have been hired to deliver the services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The number of individuals supported within this addition funding in:
 - (a) 2006–07 was 170 individuals, and
 - (b) 2007–08 was 170 individuals.
- (2) Individual support packages enable individuals to choose supports from a range of service providers.

Community services: futures for young adults program

1538. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the 2006 budget commitments of \$46.5 million over four years for disability services and young people in nursing homes including the \$12.7 million announced for the Futures for Young Adults Program to support 200 young adults with a disability join the workforce —

- (1) How many individuals found employment as a result of the program in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How much funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (3) How many additional full time equivalent staff have been hired in order to deliver the services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) In 2006–07, 180 individuals exited the Futures For Young Adults program. Data is not available on how many individuals found employment.
 (b) Data is not presently available for 2007–08.
- (2) (a) \$3.1m in funding was expended in 2006–07
 (b) \$3.2m in funding was expended in 2007–08

- (3) Funding from the Futures for Young Adults program is an allocation of dollars to a recipient who purchases supports from a range of Government and non Government service providers.

Community services: nursing homes — Nightlife initiative

1539. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the 2006 budget commitments of \$46.5 million over four years for disability services and young people in nursing homes including the \$4.4 million for a new initiative called Nightlife to provide mobile care during the night for up to 36 people across Melbourne —

- (1) What is the median number of people assisted by Nightlife on a nightly basis.
- (2) How much funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (3) Has the program been evaluated; if so, what were the results of the evaluation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The median number of people assisted by Nightlife on a nightly basis is 23.
- (2) The amount of funding expended in—
 - (a) 2006–07 was \$1.06 million, and
 - (b) 2007–08 was \$1.06 million.
- (3) Evaluation of organisations receiving funding occurs through regular departmental practice. The evaluation results inform further service development.

Community services: nursing homes — disability day services

1540. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the 2006 budget commitments of \$46.5 million over four years for disability services and young people in nursing homes including the \$4.1 million announced to help organisations deliver disability day services —

- (1) How many additional day services have been provided as a direct response to the funding.
- (2) How many organisations have been assisted by the funding.
- (3) How many more people have been able to access day programs since the funding began.
- (4) How much funding was expended in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Victorian State Budget, 2006–07, allocated \$4.15 million over four years to support the disability day services sector to align with the vision of the State Disability Plan, 2002-2012. This funding was not allocated for additional day services
- (2) A total of 10 organisations were assisted with funding in 2006–07 with a further 8 organisations funded in 2007–08.

- (3) Funding was allocated to assist organisations to establish a more individualised and community based approach to service delivery.
- (4) Funding expended:
 - (a) In 2006–07 \$1.3m was allocated.
 - (b) In 2007–08 \$676,000 was allocated.

Community services: nursing homes — community facilities

1541. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to the 2006 budget commitments of \$46.5 million over four years for disability services and young people in nursing homes including the \$5 million announced for capital works to make community facilities more user friendly for people with disabilities —

- (1) Of the funding allocated, how much was spent in —
 - (a) 2006–07; and
 - (b) 2007–08.
- (2) How many community facilities were assisted.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) (a) In 2006/07 of the \$5m allocation, \$250,000 was allocated to projects funded through the Community Facility Redevelopment Initiative.
- (b) In 2007/08 \$4.2 million was spent on Community Facility Redevelopment projects.
- (2) Eleven community facilities have been assisted through this initiative.

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.*

Thursday, 4 December 2008

Treasurer: land tax

- 11.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) — what is the estimated amount of land tax expected to be collected from assessments of land tax for 2005 levied at each of the marginal tax rates set out in the 2004–05 land tax scale.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the land tax collected in the 2005 land tax year was \$861 million

Treasurer: land tax

- 14.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) —

- (1) How many payers of land tax in 2005 had property holdings with values of —
- (a) up to \$199,000;
 - (b) \$199,001–\$539,999;
 - (c) \$540,000–\$709,999;
 - (d) \$710,000–\$849,999;
 - (e) \$850,000–\$1,129,999;
 - (f) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999;
 - (g) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999.
- (2) What was the aggregate amount of land tax paid in 2005 by taxpayers with property holdings of —
- (a) up to \$199,000;
 - (b) \$199,001–\$539,999;
 - (c) \$540,000–\$709,999;
 - (d) \$710,000–\$849,999;
 - (e) \$850,000–\$1,129,999;
 - (f) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999;
 - (g) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999.

ANSWER:

I am informed that the precise value ranges requested are not readily available.

Treasurer: payroll tax

- 16.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer) —

- (1) How many employers were registered for payroll tax at 30 June 2005.
- (2) How many employers are currently registered for payroll tax.
- (3) In each of 2004–05 and 2005–06 how many employers had annual taxable payrolls of —
 - (a) up to \$750,000;
 - (b) \$750,001–\$850,000;
 - (c) \$850,001–\$950,000;
 - (d) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
 - (e) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
 - (f) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000;
 - (g) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.
- (4) What was the aggregate amount of payroll tax paid in each of 2004–05 and 2005–06 by employers with taxable payrolls of —
 - (a) up to \$750,000;
 - (b) \$750,001–850,000;
 - (c) \$850,001–\$950,000;
 - (d) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
 - (e) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
 - (f) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000;
 - (g) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 30 June 2005, 24,140 employers were registered for payroll tax.
- (2) As at December 2006, 26,185 employers were registered for pay-roll tax.
- (3) The State Revenue Office (SRO) does not collate payroll tax employer data in these brackets. The requested data is not readily available.
- (4) SRO does not collate payroll tax employer data in these brackets. The requested data is not readily available.

Treasurer: payroll tax

461. Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) How many employers were registered for payroll tax as at —
 - (a) 30 June 2006;
 - (b) 30 June 2007.
- (2) In 2006–07 how many employers had annual taxable payrolls of —
 - (a) up to \$750,000;
 - (b) \$750,001–\$850,000;
 - (c) \$850,001–\$950,000;
 - (d) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
 - (e) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
 - (f) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000;
 - (g) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.

- (3) What was the aggregate amount of payroll tax paid in 2006–07 by employers with taxable payrolls of —
- (a) up to \$750,000;
 - (b) \$750,001–\$850,000;
 - (c) \$850,001–\$950,000;
 - (d) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
 - (e) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
 - (f) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000;
 - (g) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1a) 25,365 employers were registered for pay-roll tax as at 30 June 2006.
- (1b) 27,299 employers were registered for pay-roll tax as at 30 June 2007.
- (2) The State Revenue Office (SRO) does not collate payroll tax employer data in these brackets. The requested data is not readily available.
- (3) SRO does not collate payroll tax employer data in these brackets. The requested data is not readily available.

Mental health: community care units

- 1310.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — How many staff (equivalent fulltime) are currently employed in Community Care Units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of effective full-time staff employed in Community Care Units is determined by individual Hospital/Health Service as the employer. The Department of Human Services does not routinely collect number of staff employed at this level of detail.

Mental health: secure extended care units

- 1312.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — How many staff (equivalent fulltime) are currently employed in Secure Extended Care Units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of effective full-time staff employed in Secure Extended Care Units is determined by individual Hospital / Health Service as the employer. The Department of Human Services does not routinely collect number of staff employed at this level of detail.

Mental health: primary prevention and promotion programs

- 1335.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the \$36 million for primary prevention and promotion programs promised as part of the National Action Plan on Mental Health —

- (1) How much of the funding had been expended before 1 February 2006.
- (2) How much of the funding was expended in each of 2005–06, 2006–07 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:

With reference to the \$36 million for primary prevention and promotion programs promised as part of the National Action Plan on Mental Health —

- (1) \$1,933,449 was expended by 1 February 2006
- (2) 2005–06-\$6,026,351
2006–07-\$6,529,908
2007–08-\$6,210,901
- (3) The impact of the funding for this program is not specifically evaluated. The program is subject to continuous improvement processes and individual client outcomes are measured.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — Barwon south-west region

1582. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the Barwon South West Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the Barwon South West Region received a budget allocation of \$5.6 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — Grampians region

1583. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the Grampians Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the Grampians Region received a budget allocation of \$3.4 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — Hume region

1584. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the Hume Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the Hume Region received a budget allocation of \$4.7 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — Gippsland region

1585. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the Gippsland Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the Gippsland Region received a budget allocation of \$4.1 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — Loddon Mallee region

1586. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the Loddon Mallee Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the Loddon Mallee Region received a budget allocation of \$4.0 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — north-west region

1587. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the North-West Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the North West Region received a budget allocation of \$18.2 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — southern region

1588. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the Southern Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the Southern Region received a budget allocation of \$11.5 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.

Community services: emergency respite facilities — eastern region

1589. Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services — with reference to emergency respite facilities in the Eastern Region —

- (1) How many emergency respite services are located in the Region.
- (2) How much Government funding did the Region receive for respite in 2007–08.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no designated “emergency respite” facilities. Emergency respite is managed as a component of the broad respite service system response.
- (2) In 2007–08, the Eastern Region received a budget allocation of \$14.2 million for respite services, which includes both planned and emergency responses.