

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Tuesday, 11 August 2009**

**(Extract from book 10)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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### Legislative Assembly committees

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**Standing Orders Committee** — The Speaker, Ms Barker, Mr Kotsiras, Mr Langdon, Mr McIntosh, Mr Nardella and Mrs Powell.

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**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Assembly*): Ms Kairouz, Mr Noonan, Mr Perera, Mrs Powell and Ms Wooldridge. (*Council*): Mr Finn and Mr Scheffer.

**House Committee** — (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Mr Delahunty, Mr Howard, Mr Kotsiras, Mr Scott and Mr K. Smith. (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Atkinson, Ms Darveniza, Mr Drum, Mr Eideh and Ms Hartland.

**Law Reform Committee** — (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Mr Clark, Mr Donnellan, Mr Foley and Mrs Victoria. (*Council*): Mrs Kronberg and Mr Scheffer.

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**Rural and Regional Committee** — (*Assembly*): Ms Marshall and Mr Northe. (*Council*): Ms Darveniza, Mr Drum, Ms Lovell, Ms Tierney and Mr Vogels.

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### Heads of parliamentary departments

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*Council* — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Dr S. O'Kane

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**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:**

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**Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

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Mr P. J. RYAN

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr P. L. WALSH

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Brumby, Mr John Mansfield	Broadmeadows	ALP	Munt, Ms Janice Ruth	Mordialloc	ALP
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Languiller, Mr Telmo Ramon	Derrimut	ALP	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP
Lim, Mr Muy Hong	Clayton	ALP			

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 6 August 2007

<sup>2</sup> Elected 15 September 2007

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 2 June 2008

<sup>4</sup> Elected 28 June 2008

<sup>5</sup> Elected 15 September 2007

<sup>6</sup> Resigned 6 August 2007



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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, 11 August 2009**

**Treasurer: ministerial interstate travel**

**28.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer): what was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in each of 2004–05 and 2005–06.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Details of Interstate and Intrastate travel are not recorded separately.

During 2004–05 the total cost for interstate and intrastate travel was \$11,878.

During 2005–06 the total costs for interstate and intrastate travel was \$11,028.

**Tourism and major events: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**249(y).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Tourism and Major Events with reference to contracts entered into by the Minister's department with Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2000 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Between 1 January 2000 and 17 July 2007, the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development did not enter into any contracts with Shannon's Way Pty Ltd.

**Treasurer: ministerial interstate travel**

**469.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission (for the Treasurer): what was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2006–07.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Details of Interstate and Intrastate travel are not recorded separately.

During 2006–07 the total cost for interstate and intrastate travel was \$15,239.

**Sport, recreation and youth affairs: ministerial entertainment expenses**

**488.** Mr KOTSIRAS to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs: between 1 January 2007 and 18 September 2007 what are the details of all entertainment expenses incurred by the Minister and departmental resources used by the Minister, including —

- (1) Total costs.
- (2) Itemised details of all expenditure over \$500, including —
  - (a) date incurred;
  - (b) number of guests;
  - (c) cost;
  - (d) purpose;
  - (e) name of service provider.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that during the dates specified in the question there was one formal departmental function which I hosted, where entertainment expenses were incurred by the department.

- The total cost of this event was \$4,630.32. Expenditure items over \$500 were:
  - \$2,065.31 for venue and equipment hire
  - \$1,305.00 for food and catering
  - \$888.00 for service staff
  - \$372.01 for juice, water and alcoholic beverages
- This event was held on 31 July 2007.
- There were an estimated 94 external and 25 departmental people in attendance.
- The purpose of the Leaders in Sport event was to promote broader interaction between the sport and recreation sector and to introduce the new Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of four of the largest State Sporting Associations to other industry stakeholders. The new CEOs who spoke at this event were Mr Mark Rendell from the Football Federation of Victoria, Ms Susan Crow from Netball Victoria, Mr Tony Dodemaide from Cricket Victoria and Mr Peter Schwab from AFL Victoria.
- The service provider was the Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development’s Investment Centre on level 46 at 55 Collins St.

**Public transport: rail — train drivers**

**553.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to train drivers at each of Connex Melbourne and V/Line —

- (1) How many drivers were employed as full time, part time or casual drivers as at —
  - (a) 1 May 2007;
  - (b) 30 June 2007;
  - (c) 30 September 2007;
  - (d) 31 October 2007.

- (2) How many drivers were in training as at —
  - (a) 1 May 2007;
  - (b) 30 June 2007;
  - (c) 30 September 2007;
  - (d) 31 October 2007.
- (3) How many drivers, employed or in training, were on sick leave or WorkCover as at —
  - (a) 1 May 2007;
  - (b) 30 June 2007;
  - (c) 30 September 2007;
  - (d) 31 October 2007.
- (4) How many drivers were paid a bonus to postpone retirement between 1 May and 31 October 2007.
- (5) How much was paid in total for driver bonus payments between 1 May and 31 October 2007.
- (6) How many trains were cancelled due to drivers being unavailable between 1 May and 31 October 2007.
- (7) How many trains were late due to drivers being unavailable between 1 May and 31 October 2007.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) Full time, part time or casual drivers:

	<b>Connex</b>	<b>V/Line</b>
(a) 1 May 2007	646	285
(b) 30 June 2007	660	279
(c) 30 September 2007	656	279
(d) 31 October 2007	663	279

- (2) Drivers in training:

	<b>Connex</b>	<b>V/Line</b>
(a) 1 May 2007	92	24
(b) 30 June 2007	91	20
(c) 30 September 2007	111	22
(d) 31 October 2007	102	26

- (3) Connex and V/Line have advised that the provision of resources at this time to review and export the data that is required to answer these questions cannot be justified.

- (4) Connex—Nil                      VLP—45 drivers

- (5) Connex—Nil                      VLP—\$1,339,600

- (6) Trains cancelled due to drivers being unavailable between 1 May and 31 October 2007:

<b>Connex</b>	<b>V/Line</b>
81	73

This represents 0.03 per cent of the Connex services and 0.2 per cent of the V/Line services scheduled during that period.

- (7) The number of trains that were delayed due to drivers being unavailable is not captured by the rail operators.

**Community services: ministerial training**

**576(a).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) (i) Media presentation training, and (ii) communications training
- (2) (i) Premier’s Media Unit, and (ii) Cookson Madden and Associates
- (3) (i) Nil, and (ii) \$825
- (4) Two

**Mental health: ministerial training**

**576(b).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) (i) Media presentation training, and (ii) communications training
- (2) (i) Premier’s Media Unit, and (ii) Cookson Madden and Associates
- (3) (i) Nil, and (ii) \$825
- (4) Two

**Senior Victorians: ministerial training**

**576(c).** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to media presentation training, communications training or public presentation training provided to the Minister in 2006–07 —

- (1) What training has the Minister received.

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) (i) Media presentation training, and (ii) communications training
- (2) (i) Premier's Media Unit, and (ii) Cookson Madden and Associates
- (3) (i) Nil, and (ii) \$825
- (4) Two

**Public transport: complaints**

**774.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to complaints received by the Minister's office between May 2007 and January 2008 directly from the offices of members of Parliament on behalf of users of Connex metropolitan trains, Yarra Trams, Ventura/National Bus Company or its subsidiaries, Grenda Corporation or its subsidiaries, Kefford Corporation or its subsidiaries, Dysons Bus metropolitan bus routes, Geelong Transit System provincial bus routes, Ballarat provincial bus routes, Bendigo Bus provincial bus routes and Latrobe Valley provincial bus routes including town services in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon —

- (1) How many complaints made by users of each service were received via email for —
  - (a) May 2007;
  - (b) June 2007;
  - (c) July 2007;
  - (d) August 2007;
  - (e) September 2007;
  - (f) October 2007;
  - (g) November 2007;
  - (h) December 2007;
  - (i) January 2008.
- (2) How many complaints made by users of each service were received via letter for —
  - (a) May 2007;
  - (b) June 2007;
  - (c) July 2007;
  - (d) August 2007;
  - (e) September 2007;
  - (f) October 2007;
  - (g) November 2007;
  - (h) December 2007;
  - (i) January 2008.
- (3) How many complaints made by users of each service were received via telephone for —
  - (a) May 2007;
  - (b) June 2007;

- (c) July 2007;
  - (d) August 2007;
  - (e) September 2007;
  - (f) October 2007;
  - (g) November 2007;
  - (h) December 2007;
  - (i) January 2008.
- (4) How many complaints made by users of each service were received via fax for —
- (a) May 2007;
  - (b) June 2007;
  - (c) July 2007;
  - (d) August 2007;
  - (e) September 2007;
  - (f) October 2007;
  - (g) November 2007;
  - (h) December 2007;
  - (i) January 2008.
- (5) What was the nature of each complaint received, providing a breakdown on a month to month basis of the various categories of complaints.
- (6) On a month by month basis, how many complaints received —
- (a) were answered within seven days;
  - (b) were answered within 14 days;
  - (c) were answered within 21 days;
  - (d) were answered within 30 days;
  - (e) were answered within 60 days;
  - (f) were answered within 90 days;
  - (g) are still outstanding.
- (7) How many complaints were forwarded to the private operators for a response.
- (8) How many complaints were forwarded back to the members of Parliament for forwarding on to the private operators for a response.

**ANSWER:**

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

(1-4) Correspondence items are not categorised by format (email, letter, telephone or fax) or by complaint.

The nature and number of telephone calls received by the Minister's office are not recorded.

- (5) Correspondence received is not categorised by complaint. To review all items of correspondence received between May 2007 and January 2008 to ascertain whether they were a complaint, and the nature of the complaint, would be highly resource intensive and cannot be justified at this time.
- (6) The correspondence database does not report on the number of days in which completed items were answered. To review each item to ascertain the time it took to prepare a response would be highly resource intensive and cannot be justified at this time.

- (7) As the correspondence database does not distinguish between a referral letter to a private operator and a Ministerial response, it would be too resource intensive to review all of the responses to ascertain which items were referred.
- (8) None. It is not standard procedure to forward complaints back to Members of Parliament to redirect to private operators.

**Public transport: Connex — train cancellations**

**781.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to cancelled Connex trains on 3 February 2008 —

- (1) Was the 6.14 pm service to Sandringham cancelled, if so —
- (a) why was it cancelled;
- (b) did the cancellation leave a 40 minute gap between trains.
- (2) Which services on each of the 16 metropolitan lines were cancelled and what was the —
- (a) scheduled time of departure from originating station to destination station;
- (b) reason each service was cancelled.

**ANSWER:**

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

In February 2008, 4,178 services were scheduled on the Sandringham line, of which 3,879 services were delivered.

Connex achieved their reliability and punctuality targets for the month on the Sandringham line.

**Innovation: departmental staff courses**

**913(ae).** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Innovation 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.

**Public transport: rail — Lardners Track level crossing**

**950.** **Mr BLACKWOOD** to ask the Minister for Public Transport: when will boom gates be installed at the Lardner's Track level crossing.

**ANSWER:**

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

The VicTrack Level Crossing Upgrade Program upgrades crossing selected by rail and road safety experts. The selection of crossings for upgrade is not a political process.

As you are aware, road and rail authorities have been in discussion with the local council in relation to this crossing. The advice I have received from road and rail authorities is that boom barriers are not considered appropriate to be installed at the Lardner's Track level crossing due to its proximity to the adjacent highway (approximately 18 metres from track centreline). Boom barriers may increase the accident risk to semi-trailers when either turning in from the highway or leaving the crossing from the side road.

Road and rail authorities have been advised to consider alternative risk mitigation options at the Lardner's Track level crossing which will either eliminate or reduce accident risks as far as reasonably practicable.

**Public transport: rail — Brighton level crossing**

**1040.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the New Street railway gates in Brighton that were removed after the most recent accident on 10 September 2007 —

- (1) Where are the gates.
- (2) Have the gates been repaired.

**ANSWER:**

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

(1-2) The New Street railway gates removed from Brighton, after the most recent accident on 10 September 2007, are located with Connex in storage.

**Roads and ports: Nepean Highway–Bay Road–Karen Street, Cheltenham — red-light camera**

**1134.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports: why was a red-light camera installed to monitor right hand turns at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road and Nepean Highway and Karen Street, Cheltenham.

**ANSWER:**

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

The installation of red-light cameras is managed by the Department of Justice. As such, this question would be more appropriately answered by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

**Roads and ports: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham — red-light camera**

**1136.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports what repairs and/or modifications were made to the red light camera, sensor and operating equipment monitoring traffic turning right from Nepean Highway into Bay Road, Cheltenham on 24 April 2008.

**ANSWER:**

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

The repair and maintenance of red light cameras is managed by the Department of Justice. As such, this question would be more appropriately answered by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

**Roads and ports: Cambridge Road, Mooroolbark — upgrade**

**1173.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports: will Cambridge Road, Mooroolbark, be upgraded from a secondary main road to a primary main road; if so, what are VicRoads' plans for future works on Cambridge Road.



**ANSWER:**

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

Councils own and manage the local road networks within their respective municipalities and are responsible for maintaining them in accordance with their Road Management Plan, taking into account such things as the operational objectives, available resources and strategic links and traffic volumes.

Local governments share funding responsibility for local roads with the Commonwealth. This has been the case since 1991 and was reaffirmed at the time when the former Howard Government introduced the Goods and Services Tax.

Councils receive grants from the Commonwealth taking into consideration Council's local road responsibilities. The Federal Government also provides additional funding for local roads through the Roads to Recovery, Strategic Regional Roads and Federal Blackspot program components of Auslink.

As Cambridge Road is a local road under the care and management of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, any concerns regarding future improvement works on this road should be directed to the Shire.

**Public transport: rail — train diversions**

**1620. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to diverted Passenger Services Requirements trains — for each month between January and October 2008 —

- (1) How many scheduled up trains were diverted from the City Loop to operate direct between Flinders Street and —
  - (a) Jolimont station;
  - (b) North Melbourne station; and
  - (c) Richmond station.
- (2) How many scheduled down trains were diverted from the City Loop to operate direct between Flinders Street station and —
  - (a) Jolimont station;
  - (b) North Melbourne station; and
  - (c) Richmond station.
- (3) On which lines were trains diverted from the City Loop to operate directly between Finders Street station and Jolimont station, Finders Street station and North Melbourne station, and Finders Street station and Richmond station.
- (4) What total penalties did Connex pay for any —
  - (a) up trains diverted from the City Loop to operate directly between Finders Street station and Jolimont station, Finders Street station and North Melbourne station, and Finders Street station and Richmond station; and
  - (b) down trains diverted from the City Loop to operate directly between Finders Street station and Jolimont station, Finders Street station and North Melbourne station, and Finders Street station and Richmond station.

**ANSWER:**

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

With reference to diverted Passenger Services Requirements trains — for each month between January and October 2008 —

- (1) January (a) 3 (b) 5 (c) 12

February (a) 6 (b) 12 (c) 27

March (a) 12 (b) 17 (c) 40

April (a) 2 (b) 17 (c) 33

May (a) 3 (b) 6 (c) 17

June (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 12

July (a) 6 (b) 10 (c) 25

August (a) 2 (b) 7 (c) 17

September (a) 6 (b) 3 (c) 24

October (a) 2 (b) 6 (c) 20

(2) January (a) 8 (b) 5 (c) 35

February (a) 3 (b) 52 (c) 35

March (a) 23 (b) 21 (c) 28

April (a) 7 (b) 5 (c) 23

May (a) 3 (b) 15 (c) 24

June (a) 9 (b) 18 (c) 25

July (a) 11 (b) 7 (c) 26

August (a) 8 (b) 4 (c) 29

September (a) 14 (b) 89 (c) 29

October (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 19

(3) January—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham, Sandringham

February—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham

March—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham

April—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham, Sandringham

May—Epping, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham, Sandringham

June—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham

July—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham

August—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham, Sandringham

September—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham, Sandringham

October—Epping, Hurstbridge, Craigieburn, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee, Alamein, Belgrave, Glen Waverly, Lilydale, Cranbourne, Frankston, Pakenham, Sandringham

(4) January \$18,834

February \$39,357

March \$53,152  
 April \$44,483  
 May \$22,750  
 June \$15,259  
 July \$36,646  
 August \$25,648  
 September \$30,822  
 October \$27,432

(b) January \$31,091  
 February \$66,846  
 March \$48,102  
 April \$25,918  
 May \$22,952  
 June \$31,431  
 July \$30,499  
 August \$24,700  
 September \$61,169  
 October \$17,985

**Industry and trade: Kilsyth electorate — businesses**

**1777.** **Mr HODGETT** to ask Minister for Regional and Rural Development for the Minister for Industry and Trade: is the Minister aware of any businesses in the electorate of Kilsyth which could be in a similar situation to Kenworth Trucks in Bayswater North.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The current global economic situation is having a varying effect on businesses not only within the electorate of Kilsyth but across Australia and our trading partners.

The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) is the Victorian Government's lead agency for economic and regional development. It has 10 organisational divisions and three associated bodies with wide-ranging responsibilities. DIIRD works closely with businesses, other government agencies and the community to achieve the Government's major economic development goals of increased investment, increased and new exports and high-quality jobs.

The range of initiatives, programs and services provided by DIIRD are available to all Victorian businesses including those in the electorate of Kilsyth.

**Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — media and communications staff**

**1822.** **Mr WELLS** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to officers in the State Trustees Limited who were engaged in communication, including public, corporate, and media relations — as at 31 December 2008 —

- (1) How many officers were engaged.
- (2) What was the salary band for each officer.
- (3) What is the job title for each officer.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As at 31 December 2008, State Trustees Limited had three officers engaged in public, corporate and media relations at remuneration equivalent to Career levels 2, 3 and 4.

The job titles of these officers were:

- Manager, Communications;
- Media Advisor; and
- Communications Coordinator

**Treasurer: payroll tax**

**1823.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) As at 31 December 2008 —
  - (a) how many employers were registered for payroll tax;
  - (b) how many employers had annual taxable payrolls of —
    - (i) up to \$600,000;
    - (ii) \$600,001–\$750,000;
    - (iii) \$750,001–\$850,000;
    - (iv) \$850,001–\$950,000;
    - (v) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
    - (vi) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
    - (vii) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000; and
    - (viii) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.
- (2) In 2008 what was the aggregate amount of payroll tax paid by employers with taxable payrolls of —
  - (a) up to \$600,000;
  - (b) \$600,001–\$750,000;
  - (c) \$750,001–\$850,000;
  - (d) \$850,001–\$950,000;
  - (e) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
  - (f) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
  - (g) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000; and
  - (h) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 31 December 2008 —
  - (a) 29,232 employers were registered for payroll tax.
  - (b) The SRO does not collate payroll tax employer data in these exact brackets; therefore the requested data is not readily available.

- (2) The SRO does not collate payroll tax employer data in these exact brackets, therefore the requested data is not readily available.

**Treasurer: first home bonus**

**1825.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to property purchases in 2008 —

- (1) How many purchases qualified for the First Home Bonus.
- (2) How many properties that qualified for the First Home Bonus were valued —
  - (a) within \$0–\$115,000;
  - (b) within \$115,001–\$870,000; and
  - (c) more than \$870,000.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) With reference to property purchases in 2008, 32,305 purchases qualified for the First Home Bonus.
- (2) Of those properties that qualified for the First Home Bonus, as the member is no doubt aware, the First Home Bonus is available only for properties valued up to \$500,000. The SRO does not publish figures in these brackets therefore this information is not readily available.

**Treasurer: property transfer duty**

**1826.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer on how many property transfers was duty paid in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

State Revenue Office records show that duty was paid on approximately 163,642 property transfers in 2008.

**Treasurer: State Revenue Office — trust notifications**

**1830.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: how many forms of notification of lands held on trust have been lodged with the State Revenue Office.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The SRO does not collate this information therefore it represents an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide a response.

**Treasurer: ministerial expenses**

**1834.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2008.
- (2) What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2008.
- (3) What expenses were incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2008 was \$28 736.81.
- (2) The total cost of entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, that was incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2008 was \$532.51.
- (3) No expenses were incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2008.

**Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — media and communications staff**

**1836.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer in relation to officers engaged in communications, including public, corporate and the media relations in the State Trustees Limited as at 31 December 2007 —

- (1) How many officers were engaged in communications, including public, corporate and the media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each officer.
- (3) What is the job title for each officer.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As at 31 December 2007, State Trustees Limited had one officer engaged in corporate relations, who was remunerated in line with the Government Sector Executive Remuneration Panel (GSERP) Employment Contract policy.

The job title of this officer was ‘General Manager, Corporate Relations & Marketing’

**Treasurer: general government sector borrowings**

**1838.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: why did the Government reduce the amount of general government sector borrowings between the 2007–08 Budget and the 2007–08 Budget Update, and why was that borrowing replaced by a draw down of deposits on call.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

General Government borrowing projections were revised downward by \$1,775 million after the 2007–08 Budget. Increases in tax and grant revenue projections resulted in a stronger cashflow position for the 2007–08 Budget Update.

As a result, General Government cash and deposits fell by \$952 million for the 2007-08 Budget Update as a smaller cash position was sustainable for the short term liquidity requirements.

**Treasurer: investments, loans and placements**

**1839.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: why has the value of investments, loans and placements held by public non-financial corporations dropped by \$459 million between the 2007-08 Budget and the 2007-08 Budget Update.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The \$459 million drop between the two periods was largely caused by a fall in derivative financial assets (\$390 million) of the State Electricity Corporation of Victoria (SECV), mainly as a result of a decline in the forecast aluminium prices between the two publications.

Under the Electricity Supply Agreement between the SECV and Alcoa, the SECV purchases electricity from the wholesale markets and sells to Alcoa at a discount. The size of this discount is largely dependent on aluminium prices. As aluminium prices have declined so has the value of derivative financial assets.

**Treasurer: dividends and tax equivalent payments**

**1841.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commissioner for the Treasurer: why did income from dividends and tax equivalent payments drop by \$200 million between the 2007-08 Budget and the 2007-08 Budget Update.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Following a change in dividend policy, the Transport Accident Commission's (TAC) estimation of dividend payments for the 2007-08 Budget Update was revised, with the estimate for the 2007-08 year declining by \$133 million. For 2007-08 Budget, the TAC estimated a dividend of \$266 million would be paid to the State on the basis that 50 per cent of net profit be distributed as dividends. The new dividend policy was implemented before the publication of the 2007-08 Budget Update. This required the TAC to pay a dividend of 35 per cent of Performance from Insurance Operations (PFIO), equal to \$133 million.

Forecast dividends from the State Electricity Commission Victoria (SECV) were revised downwards by \$90 million. A decline in aluminium prices between publications led to an upward revaluation of the provision for contractual obligations to Alcoa. A decision was made that the SECV would not pay a dividend in the 2007-08 year.

Between publications, dividend estimates in the 2007-08 year decreased \$267 million. These were partially offset by income tax equivalent estimates increasing \$65 million, largely as a result of higher income tax equivalent forecasts from the TAC and Victorian WorkCover Authority. Higher profits and hence taxes were forecast following stronger financial market performances than originally forecast.

**Treasurer: payroll tax**

**1845.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) As at 31 December 2007 —
  - (a) how many employers were registered for payroll tax;

- (b) how many employers had annual taxable payrolls of —
  - (i) up to \$750,000;
  - (ii) \$750,001–\$850,000;
  - (iii) \$850,001–\$950,000;
  - (iv) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
  - (v) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
  - (vi) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000; and
  - (vii) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.
  
- (2) What was the aggregate amount of payroll tax paid in 2007 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; and
  - (g) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 31 December 2007 —
  - (a) 28,180 employers were registered for payroll tax.
  - (b) The SRO does not collate payroll tax employer data in these exact brackets, therefore the requested data is not readily available.
  
- (2) The SRO does not collate payroll tax employer data in these exact brackets, therefore the requested data is not readily available.

**Treasurer: property transfer duty**

**1848.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer on how many property transfers was duty paid in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

State Revenue Office records show that duty was paid on approximately 166,431 property transfers in 2007.

**Treasurer: Office of the Administrator (SECV, Vicpower Trading) — entertainment expenses**

**1850.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: what are the details of the Office of the Administrator’s (SECV, VicPower Trading) entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 in 2007, including —

- (1) Date incurred.
- (2) Cost.
- (3) Number of guests.



- (4) Purpose.
- (5) Name of service provider.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There was one occasion in 2007 where the entertainment expenses of the Office of the Administrator's (SECV, VicPower Trading) exceeded \$500. This event, held on 19 December 2007, was attended by 11 people and was for the purposes of a staff Christmas lunch. Held at Koko Restaurant at Crown, this event cost \$1671.00.

**Treasurer: Victorian Funds Management Corporation — entertainment expenses**

**1851.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: what are the details of the Victorian Funds Management Corporation's entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 in 2007, including —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Victorian Funds Management Corporation held 18 functions during 2007 costing in excess of \$500. The cost of these functions ranged from \$560.00 to \$13,559.50, which was for a staff Christmas event, and the number of guests at each event ranged from 4 to 200.

The purposes of these events were for marketing, promotions and/or staff development/training activities. Services were provided by a range of service providers.

**Treasurer: Land Tax Hardship Relief Board — entertainment expenses**

**1852.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Land Tax Hardship Relief Board's entertainment expenses incurred in 2007 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

No entertainment expenses were incurred by the Land Tax Hardship Relief Board in 2007.

**Treasurer: Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria — entertainment expenses**

**1853.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria's entertainment expenses incurred in 2007 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) With reference to the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria, the total cost of entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 was \$37,619.
- (2) All entertainment expenses incurred in 2007 were part of Rural Finance's usual marketing, promotion or staff development/training activities.

There were 11 occasions throughout the year where costs exceeded \$500. Costs ranged from \$762 to \$20,294. The number of guests ranged from 11 to 220 at Rural Finance's Scholarship Presentation Dinner, which was the major expense item. The events were held in regional Victoria at various venues and were generally aimed at promoting the organisation, its services and products.

**Treasurer: Department of Treasury and Finance — entertainment expenses**

**1855.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to Department of Treasury and Finance's entertainment expenses incurred in 2007 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The total cost of entertainment expenses for the Department of Treasury and Finance in 2007 was \$232 588.08.
- (2) There were 96 instances of expenses in excess of \$500 in the 2007 calendar year. Totalling \$140 710. Recovery of the level of detail sought in this question would be an unreasonable diversion of the department's resources, which cannot be justified at this time.

**Treasurer: ministerial travel expenses**

**1856.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: what was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2007 was \$29 741.69.

**Treasurer: ministerial entertainment expenses**

**1857.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: what entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The total cost of entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, that was incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff in 2007 was \$174.19.

**Treasurer: ministerial alcohol expenses**

**1858.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer: what expenses were incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

No expenses were incurred by the Treasurer and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2007.

**Public transport: rail — replacement trips**

**1888.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to trips that were replaced by buses on 23 February 2009 — for each line —

- (1) How many —
  - (a) Connex trips were replaced; and
  - (b) V/Line trips were replaced.
- (2) What was the reason for each —
  - (a) Connex trip replacement; and
  - (b) V/Line trip replacement.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) (a) Cranbourne/Pakenham line-22
- (b) Traralgon line-3
- Bairnsdale line-1
- Geelong line-3
- Seymour line-1
- Ballarat line-1
  
- (2) (a) Cranbourne/Pakenham line-Fatality at Clayton
- (b) Traralgon line-Fatality at Clayton
- Bairnsdale line-Fatality at Clayton
- Geelong line- Defective trains
- Seymour line-Defective train
- Ballarat line-Defective train

**Agriculture: Department of Primary Industries — staff**

**1889.** Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Agriculture with reference to full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries —

- (1) How many staff are employed at —
  - (a) Attwood;
  - (b) Bendigo (Epsom);
  - (c) Bundoora;
  - (d) Ellinbank;
  - (e) Frankston;
  - (f) Hamilton;
  - (g) Horsham;
  - (h) Knoxfield;
  - (i) Kyabram;
  - (j) Mildura/Irymple;
  - (k) Parkville;
  - (l) Queenscliff;
  - (m) Rutherglen;
  - (n) Snobs Creek;
  - (o) Tatura;
  - (p) Toolangi;
  - (q) Walpeup;
  - (r) Warrnambool;
  - (s) Werribee Centre East;
  - (t) Werribee Centre West.
  
- (2) What is the nature of the role of, and in which discipline is each role placed, each full time equivalent staff employed at —
  - (a) Attwood;
  - (b) Bendigo (Epsom);
  - (c) Bundoora;
  - (d) Ellinbank;

- (e) Frankston;
- (f) Hamilton;
- (g) Horsham;
- (h) Knoxfield;
- (i) Kyabram;
- (j) Mildura/Irymple;
- (k) Parkville;
- (l) Queenscliff;
- (m) Rutherglen;
- (n) Snobs Creek;
- (o) Tatura;
- (p) Toolangi;
- (q) Walpeup;
- (r) Warrnambool;
- (s) Werribee Centre East;
- (t) Werribee Centre West.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that/as follows:

- (1) (a-t) There are 1300.64 FTE based at these locations. This number can vary at different times due to annual and other forms of leave, training purposes and other reasons including the scope and nature of the work.
- (2) (a-t) Staff are generally employed on Research and Development, or practice change at these locations.

**Agriculture: Department of Primary Industries — staff**

**1891. Mr WALSH** to ask the Minister for Agriculture with reference to full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries to carry out extension work —

- (1) How many staff are employed.
- (2) At which centres are staff based.
- (3) In which sectors do staff work.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that/as follows:

- (1) As at 30 June 2008, 691.6 full time equivalent staff were employed to carry out extension work.
- (2) DPI Centres with Staff undertaking Extension Work were;

Alexandra, Epsom, Portland, Ararat, Frankston, Queenscliff, Attwood, Geelong, Rutherglen, Bacchus Marsh, Hamilton, Seymour, Bairnsdale, Heyfield, St Arnaud, Ballarat, Hopetoun, Swan Hill, Beaufort, Horsham, Swifts Creek, Benalla, Irymple, Tallangatta, Bendoc, Kerang, Tatura, Box Hill, Knoxfield, Toolangi, Broadford, Kyabram, Traralgon, Camperdown, Kyneton, Walpeup, Carlton, Leongatha, Wangaratta, Cobram, Maffra, Warrnambool, Colac, Mansfield, West Melbourne, Corryong, Maryborough, Wodonga, Creswick, Melbourne, Wonthaggi, Echuca, Orbost, Worri Yallock, Edenhope, Ouyen, Ellinbank and Ovens.

- (3) Staff are employed within the Horticulture, Meat and Wool, Grains and Dairy sectors

**Agriculture: Farm Services Victoria — staff**

**1892.** **Mr WALSH** to ask the Minister for Agriculture with reference to full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Primary Industries organisation Farm Services Victoria —

- (1) How many staff are employed.
- (2) At which centre are staff based.
- (3) What is the nature of their roles.
- (4) In which sector are staff employed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that/as follows:

- (1) As at 30 June 2008, 755.89 full time equivalent staff were employed by the Department of Primary Industries organisation Farm Services Victoria (FSV).
- (2) FSV Staff were based at;
 

Alexandra, Epsom, Portland, Ararat, Frankston, Queenscliff, Attwood, Geelong, Rutherglen, Bacchus Marsh, Hamilton, Seymour, Bairnsdale, Heyfield, St Arnaud, Ballarat, Hopetoun, Swan Hill, Beaufort, Horsham, Swifts Creek, Benalla, Irymple, Tallangatta, Bendoc, Kerang, Tatura, Box Hill, Knoxfield, Toolangi, Broadford, Kyabram, Traralgon, Camperdown, Kyneton, Walpeup, Carlton, Leongatha, Wangaratta, Cobram, Maffra, Warrnambool, Colac, Mansfield, West Melbourne, Corryong, Maryborough, Wodonga, Creswick, Melbourne, Wonthaggi, Echuca, Orbost, Worri Yallock, Edenhope, Ouyen, Ellinbank and Ovens.
- (3) Farm Services Victoria staff are employed in a variety of roles providing services in agricultural industry development, land and water advice, biosecurity services, pest plants and animals services and emergency response and management.
- (4) Staff are employed within the Horticulture, Meat and Wool, Grains and Dairy sectors.

**Health: medical staff**

**1896.** **Mrs SHARDEY** to ask the Minister for Health with reference to employment throughout the public hospital and health system —

- (1) How many additional visiting medical officer doctors were employed in —
  - (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.
- (2) How many additional equivalent full-time doctors were employed in —
  - (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.
- (3) How many additional equivalent full-time nurses were employed in —
  - (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.
- (4) How many additional equivalent full-time allied health professionals were employed in —
  - (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.
- (5) How many additional part-time dentists were employed in —

- (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.
- (6) How many additional full-time dentists were employed in —
- (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information on equivalent full time doctors and nurses employed by public health services is contained within the Your Hospitals report. Information regarding allied health professionals and dentists is not collected on a part-time/full-time basis.

**Health: HealthSMART Services**

**1925.** Mrs **SHARDEY** to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the HealthSMART Services newsletter, Issue 11, January 2009 stating that there are currently 26 clients using HealthSMART production applications —

- (1) What is meant by the term ‘production application’.
- (2) At the time of publication, which agencies have implemented HealthSMART programs and for each agency —
  - (a) when were they implemented;
  - (b) which specific programs were implemented.
- (3) What have been the problems experienced in implementing and maintaining HealthSMART for the 26 clients.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The information you seek is publicly available, including the names of agencies and which programs they have implemented. This information can be found at [www.health.vic.gov.au/healthsmart/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthsmart/)

Problems experienced in implementing and maintaining HealthSMART applications for these agencies are those normally experienced with a program the size and complexity of HealthSMART, such as initial lack of familiarity with new product(s) and residual changes to entrenched business processes to reflect new, enhanced functionality provided by industry standard products rather than legacy products.

**Sport, recreation and youth affairs: Go for Your Life campaign**

**2020(b).** Mr **HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs with reference to the Government’s Go For Your Life campaign —

- (1) What are the key benchmarks that define the success of the campaign.
- (2) How much was spent on investment in sporting organisations in 2007–08 and, of the amount spent, how much was distributed to organisations in rural and regional areas.
- (3) Has the program seen a reduction in childhood obesity levels.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) I refer you to the Honourable Daniel Andrews, Minister for Health's response to Question No. 2020a.
- (2) As part of the 2006-07 Budget, the Victorian Government allocated \$57.5 million over four years for the next phase of 'Go for your life'. Within the Sport and Recreation portfolio, we are investing \$8.8 million to promote physical activity and social interaction through a variety of programs.

Direct investment in 'Go for your life' initiatives to sporting organisations in 2007/08 and breakdown of funding distributed to regional and rural organisations included:

- \$1.505 million investment, of which \$1.425 million was provided to sporting organisations that deliver services or programs on a statewide basis, and
- \$0.457 million investment in sponsorship activities to sporting organisations.

- (3) I refer you to the Honourable Daniel Andrews, Minister for Health's response to Question No. 2020a.

[*Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 28 July 2009, page 2508*]

### **Public transport: rail — Sandringham car parking**

**2031.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the provision for bus parking, disabled parking, taxi parking, 15 minute parking and two hour parking at Sandringham railway station —

- (1) Where is the recommended drop-off zone for railway commuters who are transported to the station by motor vehicle.
- (2) What signage is displayed to maximise motorist compliance with existing laws.
- (3) Where are the best practice examples of convenient vehicle drop-off points in metropolitan Melbourne proximate to railway station entrances optimising convenience.
- (4) What scope exists to improve railway commuter drop-off locations at Sandringham railway station.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The recommended drop-off zone is the 15 minute parking area set into the central island opposite the station entrance located in Station Street.
- (2) The parking bays display 15 minute parking signs.
- (3) Beaconsfield and Craigieburn Railway Stations.
- (4) The area at the front of the station is already well utilised, accommodating buses, taxis, pedestrians and vehicles accessing the shopping precinct.

### **Health: chief executive officers — bonuses**

**2036.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to hospital CEOs who report to the 'Your Hospitals' report and who were paid bonuses —

- (1) What was the aggregate dollar amount of bonuses paid as at —
  - (a) 30 June 2008; and
  - (b) 31 December 2008.
- (2) What was the dollar amount of bonuses paid as at —
  - (a) 30 June 2008; and



- (b) 31 December 2008.
- (3) In order to receive bonus, what were the key performance indicators required to be met as at —
  - (a) 30 June 2008; and
  - (b) 31 December 2008.
- (4) Of the key performance indicators required to be met in order to receive a bonus, which were met and which were not met as at —
  - (a) 30 June 2008; and
  - (b) 31 December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Under the Health Services Act 1998, the functions of the Board of Directors of Hospital and Health Services include:

- appointment of the Chief Executive Officer
- determining the Chief Executive Officer’s remuneration and terms and conditions; and
- monitoring the performance of the Chief Executive Officer for each financial year.

The Government Sector Executive Remuneration Panel sets the parameters within which the Board exercises these functions.

**Public transport: V/Line — passenger compensation**

**2045. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to compensation payable by V/Line as a result of punctuality or reliability not reaching the required level —

- (1) How many passengers applied for compensation in —
  - (a) January 2009;
  - (b) February 2009;
  - (c) March 2009; and
  - (d) April 2009.
- (2) How many passengers applied for compensation on each of the short distance and long distance lines that V/Line operates in —
  - (a) January 2009;
  - (b) February 2009;
  - (c) March 2009; and
  - (d) April 2009.
- (3) What was the total amount of compensation paid in —
  - (a) January 2009;
  - (b) February 2009;
  - (c) March 2009; and
  - (d) April 2009.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) (a) 157.
- (b) 210.
- (c) 220.
- (d) 185.
- (2) (a-d) V/Line does not separate short and long-distance compensation claims.
- (3) (a-d) No compensation payments were made to passengers. Compensation is provided by V/Line in the form of complimentary travel vouchers.

**Environment and climate change: broiler industry prosecutions**

**2046.** **Dr SYKES** to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: since 1999 has the Environment Protection Authority launched prosecutions against individuals or organisations involved in the broiler industry for offensive odour emissions; if so, how many prosecutions have been successful.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Thank you for your question on notice of 5 May 2009 regarding EPA prosecutions against the broiler industry.

The history of prosecutions conducted by EPA since 1999 has been reviewed in order to respond to your question. The review has confirmed that since 1999, EPA has not launched any prosecutions against individuals or organisations involved in the broiler industry for offensive odour emissions.

EPA is a member of an inter-departmental Steering Committee overseeing a DPI led review of the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms. There has been significant consultation with the industry, local government and community stakeholders during this process and the final code is due to be released later this year.

EPA also works directly with broiler farms to assist them in reducing their odour emissions, and with councils assisting them with sustainable land use and planning around intensive animal industries, and with management and responses to odour reports from the community.

**Public transport: rail — Mildura line**

**2047.** **Mr CRISP** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the upgraded Mildura rail line —

- (1) Is the capability of the line diesel, velocity or sprinter.
- (2) What speed will the track be capable of.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The line will be capable of operating Diesel, VLocity and Sprinter carriages. The Government will assess the feasibility of returning passenger services on the Mildura corridor once the current freight upgrade is complete.
- (2) Up to 80 kilometres per hour.

**Community services: Victorian Disability Advisory Council — reports**

**2049.** Ms **WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services: has the Minister received any reports from the Victorian Disability Advisory Council as required under s 12(2) of the Disability Act 2006; if so, when were the reports received.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Chair of the Victorian Disability Advisory Committee (VDAC), Dr Rhonda Galbally, has met with me on several occasions to report on the activities of the Council and I have met, and will continue to meet with the Council to receive feedback from the members.

**Energy and resources: emergency services commissioner — windstorm report**

**2059.** Mr **CLARK** to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources with reference to the Emergency Services Commissioner's report Review of the April 08 Windstorm Melbourne, Victoria —

- (1) When did the Minister first see a copy of the report or a draft of the report.
- (2) What action did the Minister take upon seeing a copy of the report or a draft of the report.
- (3) Did the Department of Primary Industries, the Minister's office or the Minister provide copies of the report to anyone outside of the Department prior to April 2009; if so, to whom and when.
- (4) Did the Minister approve the Government's response to the report.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) A copy of the Emergency Services Commissioner's report "Review of the April 08 Windstorm Melbourne, Victoria August 08" was provided to my Office on 15 August 2008.
- (2) The Minister reviewed and considered the report and its recommendations, and advice was sought from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). Individual departments began implementing the report's recommendations well before the release of the whole of government response.
- (3) The report was circulated by DPI to other relevant Government departments and agencies for comments and advice. The report was also circulated and comment was sought from relevant electricity businesses in January 2009
- (4) The Government approved the response to the Report noting that implementation of the Report's recommendations was likely to be influenced by the findings of the Royal Commission.

**Education: ultranet coaches**

**2071.** Mr **DIXON** to ask the Minister for Education with reference to Ultranet Coaches supporting schools —

- (1) How many coaches are there.
- (2) What is their time allocation.
- (3) Where do they work from.
- (4) What is their actual role.
- (5) What is the cost of the coaches.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) There are 50 Ultranet Coaches.
- (2) Ultranet Coaches are employed on a full-time basis until December 2011.
- (3) Ultranet Coaches are located in regions and work with networks of schools.
- (4) Ultranet Coaches are working directly with schools to increase the capacity of teachers and leadership teams to use ICT effectively in learning and teaching, leading to improved student outcomes. They are supporting schools to prepare for the Ultranet, to maximise its impact upon implementation next year.

To date the Ultranet Coaches work has focused on:

- supporting regions, networks, clusters and schools to strengthen their eLearning practices;
- working with school leadership teams to implement the ePotential ICT capabilities survey and develop eLearning Plans;
- supporting school leadership teams to improve schools infrastructure and access to ICT;
- provision of professional learning programs for school leaders and teachers;
- building the capacity of teachers to plan and deliver ICT rich curriculum programs, and to effectively using ICT to assess student learning;
- supporting schools to plan for the Digital Education Revolution including the National Secondary School Computer Fund; and
- supporting the implementation of the Netbook Project in four regions (10,000 netbooks in 362 schools) through professional learning and classroom modelling.

Ultranet Coaches will roll out training to super users and provide ongoing support to schools to embed the use of the Ultranet.

- (5) \$11.5 million was provided in the 200910 Budget to support Ultranet Coaches.

**Police and emergency services: cycling — shared paths**

**2077.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services how many cyclists have been fined for their failure to slow down or stop to avoid a collision on a footpath or shared path in —

- (1) 2003–04.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2005–06.
- (4) 2006–07.
- (5) 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Victoria Police advises that it does not record statistics down to the level of ‘failure to slow down or stop to avoid a collision on a footpath or shared path.

**Environment and climate change: broiler industry prosecutions**

**2083.** **Dr SYKES** to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: within the last 10 years has the Environment Protection Authority launched prosecutions against individuals or organisations involved in the broiler industry for offensive odour emissions; if so, how many of these prosecutions were successful.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Thank you for your question on notice of 2 June 2009 regarding EPA prosecutions against the broiler industry.

The history of prosecutions conducted by EPA since 1999 has been reviewed in order to respond to your question. The review has confirmed that since 1999, EPA has not launched any prosecutions against individuals or organisations involved in the broiler industry for offensive odour emissions.

EPA is a member of an inter-departmental Steering Committee overseeing a DPI led review of the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms. There has been significant consultation with the industry, local government and community stakeholders during this process and the final code is due to be released later this year.

EPA also works directly with broiler farms to assist them in reducing their odour emissions, and with councils assisting them with sustainable land use and planning around intensive animal industries, and with management and responses to odour reports from the community.

**Community services: supported accommodation**

**2087.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to shared supported accommodation for people with a disability —

- (1) Has the Minister's department undergone any evaluations to monitor the projected future demand for shared supported accommodation; if so, when was the evaluation undertaken.
- (2) How does the Government currently monitor the needs and circumstances of ageing parent carers.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to shared supported accommodation for people with a disability:

- (1) Yes in 2002/03 and updated in 2006.
- (2) People with a disability with an ageing carer are identified on the Disability Support Register.

**Community services: disability services — federal funding**

**2089.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services: how much funding will Victoria receive from the Commonwealth in 2009–10 under the National Disability Agreement Specific Purpose Payment.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Victoria will receive \$208.2 million from the Commonwealth in 2009–10 under the National Disability Specific Purpose Payment, as stated on page 70 of the Commonwealth Budget Paper No.3 *Australia's Federal Financial Relations 2009-10*.

**Community services: respite care — north and west region**

**2090.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) North and West Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.
- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the North and West Metropolitan Region as at June 2009 —

- (1) There are 92 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are over 800 families using facility-based respite. The number of families waiting for facility-based respite is not available in this region.
- (3) Currently, 28 facility-based respite care beds are occupied by people with a disability who require long-term accommodation and have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (4) As indicated, there are 28 people who require long-term accommodation and have occupied a facility-based respite care bed for more than four weeks. In addition, there may be a small number of individuals who are occupying respite care beds continuously for more than four weeks as part of a planned respite episode but this data is not available to Disability Services.
- (5) None.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.

**Community services: respite care — southern metropolitan region**

**2091.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Southern Metropolitan Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.

- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Southern Metropolitan Region as at 30 June 2009 —

- (1) There are 63 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are 767 families using facility-based respite. The number of families waiting for facility-based respite is not available in this region.
- (3) Currently, 3 facility-based respite care beds are occupied by people with a disability who require long-term accommodation and have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (4) As indicated, there are 3 people who require long-term accommodation and have occupied a facility-based respite care bed for more than four weeks. In addition, there are 2 individuals who are occupying respite care beds continuously for more than four weeks as part of a planned respite episode.
- (5) There are 2 individuals who require long-term accommodation and are using facility-based respite care for more than four weeks who have moved three or more times between respite facilities in a planned manner to meet their specific needs and circumstances.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.

**Community services: respite care — eastern metropolitan region**

**2092.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Eastern Metropolitan Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.
- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Eastern Metropolitan Region as at June 2009 —

- (1) There are 71 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are 672 families using facility-based respite and 118 families currently waiting for facility-based respite.

- (3) Currently, 18 facility-based respite care beds are occupied by people with a disability who require long-term accommodation and have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (4) As indicated, there are 18 people who require long-term accommodation and have occupied a facility-based respite care bed for more than four weeks. In addition, there may be a small number of individuals who are occupying respite care beds continuously for more than four weeks as part of a planned respite episode but this data is not available to Disability Services.
- (5) There are 3 individuals who require long-term accommodation and are using facility-based respite care for more than four weeks who have moved three or more times between respite facilities in a planned manner to meet their specific needs and circumstances.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.

**Community services: respite care — Loddon Mallee region**

**2093.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Loddon Mallee Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.
- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Loddon Mallee Region as at June 2009 —

- (1) There are 25 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are 169 families using facility-based respite and 13 families currently waiting for facility-based respite.
- (3) Currently, 3 facility-based respite care beds are occupied by people with a disability who require long-term accommodation and have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (4) There are 3 people who have occupied a facility-based respite care bed for more than four weeks.
- (5) None.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.



**Community services: respite care — Grampians region**

**2094.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Grampians Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.
- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Grampians Region as at June 2009 —

- (1) There are 41 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are 125 families using department-managed facility-based respite and 9 families currently waiting for department-managed facility-based respite. The number of families using and waiting for facility-based respite managed by community service organisations is not available in this region.
- (3) None.
- (4) None.
- (5) None.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.

**Community services: respite care — Hume region**

**2095.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Hume Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.
- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Hume Region as at June 2009 —

- (1) There are 56 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are 355 families using facility-based respite and no families on the waiting list for facility-based respite in the region.
- (3) Currently, 1 facility-based respite care bed is occupied by a person with a disability who requires long-term accommodation and has been in care for more than four weeks.
- (4) Currently, there is 1 person who has occupied a facility-based respite care bed for more than four weeks.
- (5) None.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.

**Community services: respite care — Gippsland region**

**2096.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Gippsland Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.
- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Gippsland Region as at June 2009 —

- (1) There are 22 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are 345 families using facility-based respite and 16 families currently waiting for facility-based respite.
- (3) None.
- (4) None.
- (5) None.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school

programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.

**Community services: respite care — Barwon south-west region**

**2097.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Department of Human Services (DHS) Barwon South West Region —

- (1) How many facility based respite beds are available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) How many families are using and/or are on the waiting list for facility-based respite care.
- (3) How many facility-based respite care beds for people with disabilities have been occupied for more than four weeks by people who are in fact in permanent or longer term crisis care.
- (4) How many of the people currently occupying respite care beds have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (5) How many of the people currently in care and who have been in care for more than four weeks have been moved three or more times.
- (6) How does DHS respond to the individuals and families who cannot access respite care beds occupied by people who require permanent or long term temporary care.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Barwon-South West Region as at June 2009 —

- (1) There are 60 facility based respite beds available to children and adults with a disability.
- (2) There are 404 families using facility-based respite and 59 families currently waiting for facility-based respite.
- (3) Currently, 9 facility-based respite care beds are occupied by people with a disability who require long-term accommodation and have been in care for more than four weeks.
- (4) As indicated, there are 9 people who require long-term accommodation and have occupied a facility-based respite care bed for more than four weeks. In addition, there may be a small number of individuals who are occupying respite care beds continuously for more than four weeks as part of a planned respite episode but this data is not available to Disability Services.
- (5) There are 4 individuals who require long-term accommodation and are using facility-based respite care for more than four weeks who have moved three or more times between respite facilities in a planned manner to meet their specific needs and circumstances.
- (6) Individuals and carers who make requests for respite are supported to locate and/or access a range of flexible respite options, including organised camps, alternative family-based respite on weekends, and after-school programs. Consideration is also given to the provision of Individual Support Packages to enable individuals and families to access flexible respite support options.

**Community services: supported accommodation — Loddon Mallee region**

**2098.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the Loddon Mallee Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds are in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region are on the disability support register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the Loddon Mallee Region:

There were 210 community residential unit beds (excluding 50 beds in Residential Institutions) operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.

There were 46 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: disability support register — southern metropolitan region**

**2099.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Southern Metropolitan Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 77 people on the Disability Support Register in the Southern Metropolitan Region.

**Community services: disability support register — eastern metropolitan region**

**2100.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Eastern Metropolitan Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 38 people on the Disability Support Register in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

**Community services: disability support register — north-west metropolitan region**

**2101.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the North-West Metropolitan Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 31 people on the Disability Support Register in the North and West Metropolitan Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Barwon south-west region**

**2102.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Barwon South West Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 46 people on the Disability Support Register in the Barwon-South Western Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Gippsland region**

**2103.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Gippsland Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 29 people on the Disability Support Register in the Gippsland Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Grampians region**

**2104.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Grampians Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 13 people on the Disability Support Register in the Grampians Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Hume region**

**2105.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Hume Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 5 people on the Disability Support Register in the Hume Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Loddon Mallee region**

**2106.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Loddon Mallee Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for day time activities as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the day time activity category there were 17 people on the Disability Support Register in the Loddon Mallee Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Loddon Mallee region**

**2107.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Loddon Mallee Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 34 people on the Disability Support Register in the Loddon Mallee Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Barwon south-west region**

**2108.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Barwon South West Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 121 people on the Disability Support Register in the Barwon-South Western Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Gippsland region**

**2109.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Gippsland Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 54 people on the Disability Support Register in the Gippsland Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Grampians region**

**2110.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Grampians Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 37 people on the Disability Support Register in the Grampians Region.

**Community services: disability support register — Hume region**

**2111.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Hume Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 106 people on the Disability Support Register in the Hume Region.

**Community services: disability support register — eastern metropolitan region**

**2112.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Eastern Metropolitan Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 155 people on the Disability Support Register in the Eastern Metropolitan Region.

**Community services: disability support register — southern metropolitan region**

**2113.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the Southern Metropolitan Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 346 people on the Disability Support Register in the Southern Metropolitan Region.

**Community services: disability support register — north-west metropolitan region**

**2114.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services how many people in the North West Metropolitan Region were on the Disability Support Register waiting for support to live in the community as at December 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:



The Disability Support Register records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

As at 31 December 2008 in the support to live in the community category there were 195 people on the Disability Support Register in the North and West Metropolitan Region.

**Community services: supported accommodation — Barwon south-west region**

**2115.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the Barwon South Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds were there in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region were on the Disability Support Register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the Barwon-South Western Region:

- (1) There were 278 community residential unit beds (excluding 144 beds in Residential Institutions) operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.
- (2) There were 84 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: supported accommodation — Gippsland region**

**2116.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the Gippsland Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds were there in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region were on the Disability Support Register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the Gippsland Region:

- (1) There were 201 community residential unit beds operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.
- (2) There were 53 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: supported accommodation — Grampians region**

**2117.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the Grampians Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds were there in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region were on the Disability Support Register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the Grampians Region:

- (1) There were 347 community residential unit beds operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.
- (2) There were 58 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: supported accommodation — Hume region**

**2118.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the Hume Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds were there in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region were on the Disability Support Register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the Hume Region:

- (1) There were 270 community residential unit beds operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.
- (2) There were 72 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: supported accommodation — eastern metropolitan region**

**2119.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the Eastern Metropolitan Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds were there in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region were on the Disability Support Register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the Eastern Metropolitan Region:

- (1) There were 1259 community residential unit beds operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.
- (2) There were 270 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: supported accommodation — southern metropolitan region**

**2120.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the Southern Metropolitan Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds were there in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region were on the Disability Support Register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the Southern Metropolitan Region:

- (1) There were 939 community residential unit beds operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.
- (2) There were 344 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: supported accommodation — north and west metropolitan region**

**2121.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to supported accommodation in the North and West Metropolitan Region — as at December 2008 —

- (1) How many community residential unit beds were there in the Region.
- (2) How many people in the Region were on the Disability Support Register in the supported accommodations category.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In the North and West Metropolitan Region:

- (1) There were 1280 community residential unit beds (excluding 5 beds in Residential Institutions) operating as at August 2008, which is the most recent audit of bed capacity in the sector.
- (2) There were 320 people on the Disability Support Register (DSR) in the supported accommodation category as at 31 December 2008. The DSR records an individual's current unmet need for ongoing support and

includes people who are not currently receiving any support as well as those who are already receiving support and who are requesting additional or different services.

**Community services: Melbourne Youth Justice Centre**

**2139.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to services for inmates with a mental illness at the Melbourne Youth Remand Centre —

- (1) What is the current inmate population.
- (2) What procedures are in place to screen new inmates to see if they suffer from a mental illness.
- (3) How many inmates suffer from a mental illness.
- (4) What specific services are available for inmates with a mental illness.
- (5) What funding was allocated to the service for inmates with a mental illness in 2008–09 and 2009–10.
- (6) What procedures are in place to link prisoners with a mental illness to relevant treatment upon their release.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 1 June 2009 the client population at Melbourne Youth Justice Centre was 74.
- (2) A comprehensive health assessment is completed for each young person entering the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre. The assessment is undertaken by a qualified health practitioner and covers primary health needs, screening for alcohol and other drug issues, and a mental status examination including a self harm/suicide assessment.
- (3) Data from a Youth Justice Health Service Review, conducted during 2007–08, indicates that 50 per cent of all youth justice clients were identified as having either a diagnosis of mental disorder, or concerns expressed about their mental health status.
- (4) The focus of custodial health services is the improvement of the health of the youth justice client group through the provision of a comprehensive range of services. Health services to the Melbourne Youth Justice Centre are provided by the Adolescent Forensic Health Service (through the Royal Children’s Hospital). A full range of mental health services is provided, including assessment, medical treatment and medication by a psychiatrist or general practitioner, and counselling for psychological needs. The development of behaviour plans, in consultation with health staff, ensures a consistent approach and response to behaviour associated with mental illness. Young people in youth justice custody are also able to access the range of mental health services provided in the community, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Adult Mental Health Services.
- (5) The annual budget for the Adolescent Forensic Health Service for 2008–09 is \$3,259,274 and for 2009–10 is \$3,259,274 plus price indexation to be applied in July 2009. In recognition of the importance of mental health services for this population, in the recent budget this Government allocated an additional \$2.9M over four years, to strengthen clinical treatment and care coordination support to young people involved in youth justice services, including those transiting between custodial settings and the community.
- (6) With the input of youth justice staff, a comprehensive health discharge plan is developed, ensuring linkage and referral to community services appropriate for their health needs, including ongoing mental health treatment.

**Community services: Parkville Youth Residential Centre**

**2140.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to services for inmates with a mental illness at the Parkville Youth Remand Centre —

- (1) What is the current inmate population.
- (2) What procedures are in place to screen new inmates to see if they suffer from a mental illness.
- (3) How many inmates suffer from a mental illness.
- (4) What specific services are available for inmates with a mental illness.
- (5) What funding was allocated to the service for inmates with a mental illness in 2008–09 and 2009–10.
- (6) What procedures are in place to link prisoners with a mental illness to relevant treatment upon their release.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 1 June 2009, the client population at Parkville Youth Residential Centre was 12.
- (2) A comprehensive health assessment is completed for each young person entering the Parkville Youth Residential Centre. The assessment is undertaken by a qualified health practitioner and covers primary health needs, screening for alcohol and other drug issues, and a mental status examination including a self harm/suicide assessment.
- (3) Data from a Youth Justice Health Service Review, conducted during 2007–08, indicates that 50 per cent of all youth justice clients were identified as having either a diagnosis of mental disorder, or concerns expressed about their mental health status.
- (4) The focus of custodial health services is the improvement of the health of the youth justice client group through the provision of a comprehensive range of services. Health services to the Parkville Youth Residential Centre are provided by the Adolescent Forensic Health Service (through the Royal Children’s Hospital). A full range of mental health services is provided, including assessment, medical treatment and medication by psychiatrist or general practitioner, and counselling for psychological needs. The development of behaviour plans, in consultation with health staff, ensures a consistent approach and response to behaviour associated with mental illness. Young people in youth justice custody are also able to access the range of mental health services provided in the community, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Adult Mental Health Services.
- (5) The annual budget for the Adolescent Forensic Health Service for 2008–09 is \$3,259,274 and for 2009–10 is \$3,259,274 plus price indexation to be applied in July 2009. In recognition of the importance of mental health services for this population, in the recent budget this Government allocated an additional \$2.9M over four years, to strengthen clinical treatment and care coordination support to young people involved in youth justice services, including those transiting between custodial settings and the community.
- (6) With the input of youth justice staff, a comprehensive health discharge plan is developed, ensuring linkage and referral to community services appropriate for their health needs, including ongoing mental health treatment.

**Community services: Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre**

**2141.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to services for inmates with a mental illness at the Malmsbury Youth Remand Centre —

- (1) What is the current inmate population.
- (2) What procedures are in place to screen new inmates to see if they suffer from a mental illness.

- (3) How many inmates suffer from a mental illness.
- (4) What specific services are available for inmates with a mental illness.
- (5) What funding was allocated to the service for inmates with a mental illness in 2008–09 and 2009–10.
- (6) What procedures are in place to link prisoners with a mental illness to relevant treatment upon their release.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) As at 1 June 2009, the client population at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre was 61.
- (2) A comprehensive health assessment is completed for each young person entering the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre. The assessment is undertaken by a qualified health practitioner and covers primary health needs, screening for alcohol and other drug issues, and a mental status examination including a self harm/suicide assessment.
- (3) Data from a Youth Justice Health Service Review, conducted during 2007–08, indicates that 50 per cent of all youth justice clients were identified as having either a diagnosis of mental disorder, or concerns expressed about their mental health status.
- (4) The focus of custodial health services is the improvement of the health of the youth justice client group through the provision of a comprehensive range of services. Health services at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre are provided by health staff employed directly by the Department of Human Services. In addition, mental health services are provided by a psychiatric consultant from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health. A full range of mental health services is provided, including assessment, medical treatment and medication by a psychiatrist or general practitioner, and counselling for psychological needs. The development of behaviour plans, in consultation with health staff, ensures a consistent approach and response to behaviour associated with mental illness. Young people in youth justice custody are also able to access the range of mental health services provided in the community, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Adult Mental Health Services.
- (5) The health services budget is established in such a way as to ensure the most integrated approach to health services and to allow for flexibility of service provision. The component of the overall health budget for mental health services at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre for the 2008–09 and 2009–10 financial years is \$387,000 and \$423,750 respectively. In recognition of the importance of mental health services for this population, in the recent budget this Government allocated an additional \$2.9M over four years, to strengthen clinical treatment and care coordination support to young people involved in youth justice services, including those transiting between custodial settings and the community.
- (6) With the input of youth justice staff, a comprehensive health discharge plan is developed, ensuring linkage and referral to community services appropriate for their health needs, including ongoing mental health treatment.

**Water: Yarra Valley Water — sewerage backlog project**

- 2151.** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Water with reference to Yarra Valley Water’s water plan, specifically the sewerage backlog project — is Yarra Valley Water considering the full range of options available in deciding on the best possible alternative to household septic tanks, including onsite treatment plants, in the Park Orchards area; if so, will a study on the economic benefits of each alternative available be undertaken and will this study be made public.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Yarra Valley Water will evaluate a range of alternative sewerage options for Park Orchards on social, economic and environmental criteria. These options will include:

- Conventional sewerage;
- Onsite blackwater treatment;
- Greywater recycling;
- A local treatment plant with a local third pipe recycling scheme; and
- A mix of onsite treatment and recycling with a downsized conventional collection system.

Yarra Valley Water will release the results of the options analysis to its Stakeholder Panel which includes representatives from Manningham City Council, the Environment Protection Authority, Melbourne Water, and all affected communities including Park Orchards.

**Environment and climate change: Wallpolla Island — access**

**2152. Mr CRISP** to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: will the general public continue to have dispersed access to Wallpolla Island.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The general public will continue to have dispersed access to Wallpolla Island subject to vehicles keeping to roads and tracks and any protection of significant cultural and environmental values that may be necessary

**Community services: disability services — federal funding**

**2162. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services: how much funding will Victoria receive from the Commonwealth Government through Disability Specific Purpose payments in 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The amount of funding received from the Commonwealth in 2008–09 under the National Disability Specific Purpose Payment is reported on page 210 of the Victorian Budget Paper No.4 *Statement of Finances 2009-10*.

**Community services: Melbourne Youth Justice Centre — staff**

**2165. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to Melbourne Youth Justice Centre — in 2008–09 —

- (1) How many staff were employed.
- (2) What was the total number of days taken on sick leave.
- (3) What was the total number of days taken on recreational leave.
- (4) What was the total number of days taken on WorkCover leave.
- (5) What was the total WorkCover bill to the Department of Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- Staff numbers fluctuated throughout the financial year based on staff vacancies, the timing of recruitment cycles and client demand.
- The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources, leave and WorkCover data for a large number of staff across departmental locations is a substantial task, and it is not proposed to divert the work of departmental officers to collate the data in the format requested.

**Community services: Melbourne Youth Justice Centre — staff**

**2166.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to Melbourne Youth Justice Centre — in 2007–08 —

- (1) How many staff were employed.
- (2) What was the total number of days taken on sick leave.
- (3) What was the total number of days taken on recreational leave.
- (4) What was the total number of days taken on WorkCover leave.
- (5) What was the total WorkCover bill to the Department of Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- Staff numbers fluctuated throughout the financial year based on staff vacancies, the timing of recruitment cycles and client demand.
- The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources, leave and WorkCover data for a large number of staff across departmental locations is a substantial task, and it is not proposed to divert the work of departmental officers to collate the data in the format requested.

**Community services: Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre — staff**

**2167.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre — in 2008–09 —

- (1) How many staff were employed.
- (2) What was the total number of days taken on sick leave.
- (3) What was the total number of days taken on recreational leave.
- (4) What was the total number of days taken on WorkCover leave.
- (5) What was the total WorkCover bill to the Department of Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- Staff numbers fluctuated throughout the financial year based on staff vacancies, the timing of recruitment cycles and client demand.
- The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources, leave and WorkCover data for a large number of staff across departmental locations is a substantial task, and it is not proposed to divert the work of departmental officers to collate the data in the format requested.



**Community services: Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre — staff**

**2168.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre — in 2007–08 —

- (1) How many staff were employed.
- (2) What was the total number of days taken on sick leave.
- (3) What was the total number of days taken on recreational leave.
- (4) What was the total number of days taken on WorkCover leave.
- (5) What was the total WorkCover bill to the Department of Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- Staff numbers fluctuated throughout the financial year based on staff vacancies, the timing of recruitment cycles and client demand.
- The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources, leave and WorkCover data for a large number of staff across departmental locations is a substantial task, and it is not proposed to divert the work of departmental officers to collate the data in the format requested.

**Community services: Parkville Youth Justice Centre — staff**

**2169.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to Parkville Youth Justice Centre — in 2008–09 —

- (1) How many staff were employed.
- (2) What was the total number of days taken on sick leave.
- (3) What was the total number of days taken on recreational leave.
- (4) What was the total number of days taken on WorkCover leave.
- (5) What was the total WorkCover bill to the Department of Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- Staff numbers fluctuated throughout the financial year based on staff vacancies, the timing of recruitment cycles and client demand.
- The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources, leave and WorkCover data for a large number of staff across departmental locations is a substantial task, and it is not proposed to divert the work of departmental officers to collate the data in the format requested.

**Community services: Parkville Youth Justice Centre — staff**

**2170.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to Parkville Youth Justice Centre — in 2007–08 —

- (1) How many staff were employed.
- (2) What was the total number of days taken on sick leave.
- (3) What was the total number of days taken on recreational leave.
- (4) What was the total number of days taken on WorkCover leave.

- (5) What was the total WorkCover bill to the Department of Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- Staff numbers fluctuated throughout the financial year based on staff vacancies, the timing of recruitment cycles and client demand.
- The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources, leave and WorkCover data for a large number of staff across departmental locations is a substantial task, and it is not proposed to divert the work of departmental officers to collate the data in the format requested.

**Water: Melbourne Water — waterways charge**

**2190.** Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the waterways charge imposed by Melbourne Water in 2008–09 to properties in an expanded area in Melbourne’s rural fringe outside the urban growth boundary — what is the legislative authority for the —

- (1) Imposition of this charge.
- (2) Extension, in 2005, of Melbourne Water’s waterways and drainage boundary to include the Shires of Moorabool, Macedon Ranges and Mitchell and the City of Greater Geelong.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In June 2004, the Victorian Government stated its policy to designate Melbourne Water as the responsible authority for managing waterways, regional drainage and floodplains throughout the whole of the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment. This policy is outlined in Action 7.9 of the *White Paper Our Water Our Future: Securing Our Water Future Together*.

This policy was implemented by Order in Council (gazetted on 18 November 2005) under section 3(3) of the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958*. It brought all of the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment area within the area in which Melbourne Water may exercise its functions.

In 2006, Melbourne Water was brought under the operation of the *Water Act 1989* by the *Water (Governance) Act 2006*, which repealed the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958*. Section 122H of the *Water Act 1989* ensures that Melbourne Water may continue to exercise its functions in the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment area as established under the *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works Act 1958*.

Sections 196 and 197 of the *Water Act 1989* provide Melbourne Water with the power to levy a waterways and drainage charge, pursuant to Melbourne Water’s waterway management functions, in the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment area.

**Water: Tarago Reservoir**

**2191.** Mr BURGESS to ask the Minister for Water: what impact, if any, will the Tarago Reservoir Reconnection Project have on the water supply to the Mornington Peninsula.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that

The project will provide on average an additional 15 billion litres of water each year to Melbourne’s water supplies.

The new Tarago water treatment plant will improve the security of water supply for Melbourne, including approximately 100,000 customers in Westernport and the Mornington Peninsula.

A state-of-the-art treatment plant has been constructed by Melbourne Water using the latest water treatment technology to ensure it meets Melbourne's high standard of water quality.

Melbourne Water delivered the Tarago Reservoir Reconnection project \$3 million under budget and six months ahead of schedule providing a welcome boost to our water supplies.

**Consumer affairs: pensioner concessions**

**2192(b).** **Mr HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Consumer Affairs with reference to the concession discounts available on gas, water and electricity bills for concession card holders —

- (1) Did the Minister instruct the water companies to remove the discount from being printed on water bills; if so, when.
- (2) When did the Minister become aware that utility companies were ceasing to print discount information on bills.
- (3) Why were changes to the printing of discounts on bills introduced.
- (4) How is the Government informing concession card holders of the changes to bills effective from 1 July 2009 that will result in the discount details no longer being printed.
- (5) How is the Government informing concession card holders that, from 1 July 2009, the onus is on card holders to contact their utility company to provide their details in order to claim and pay the discounted amount on their bills.
- (6) What is the expected figure of eligible concession card holders not claiming their discount on utility bills.
- (7) What impact does the Minister forecast the changes to the printing of discounts on bills to have on the State budget.
- (8) How much money does the Government expect to save in the non-claiming of discounts on utility bills.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

This question does not fall within the portfolio of the Minister for Consumer Affairs. This question falls within the portfolio responsibilities for the Minister of Energy and Resources, and the Minister of Water.