

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**15 and 17 September 2009**

**(Extract from book 12)**

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<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, 15 September 2009**

**Public transport: trams — ticket vending machines**

**823.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport —

- (1) On 7 February 2008 was ticket vending machine number 019-01329 and all six validators onboard tram number 2039 inoperable at 1.00 p.m. on inbound route 31 to Collins Street West; if so —
  - (a) what was the reason for the fault;
  - (b) what date and time was the ticket vending machine and all validators returned to service.
- (2) How many onboard tram ticket vending machines and tram validators were defective for part or all of 7 February 2008.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) Yes, ticket vending machine number 019-01329 and the six validators onboard tram number 2039 were inoperable at 1.00 p.m. on inbound route 31 to Collins Street West on 7 February 2008.
  - (a) The tram driver was unable to place the ticketing equipment into service as a result of a faulty portable memory key.
  - (b) The ticketing machine and all validators were returned to service at the commencement of the next driver's shift at 5.10 p.m. on 7 February 2008.
- (2) There were 16 onboard tram vending machines and two tram validators recorded by OneLink Transit as defective in some respect for part or all of 7 February 2008.

**Mental health: drug treatment beds**

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

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) As at June 2008 there are 792 statewide alcohol and drug treatment beds in Victoria.
- (2) There has been no change to the Government's definition of a drug treatment bed.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 7 October 2008, page 4090]

**Tourism and major events: adjournment debate responses**

**1180(ai).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Tourism and Major Events what is the usual length of time taken for the Minister to respond to matters raised during the adjournment debate in the House.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Where there is no complexity that might cause unavoidable delays, I endeavour to respond to adjournment matters within 30 days.

**Treasurer: answer to question on notice 17**

**1562.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the answer to question on notice 17 lodged on 19 December 2006 — how much duty was paid in respect of the transfer of second hand motor vehicles in —

- (1) 2004–05.
- (2) 2005–06.
- (3) 2006–07.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This question has been responded to by the Minister for Roads and Ports. See the response to 1561 that was tabled on Tuesday 5 May 2009.

[*Hansard reference: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1367*]

**Treasurer: payroll tax**

**1592.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — in 2007–08 —

- (1) How many employers had annual taxable payrolls of —
  - (a) up to \$750,000;
  - (b) \$750,001–850,000;
  - (c) \$850,001–\$950,000;
  - (d) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
  - (e) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;
  - (f) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000;
  - (g) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000; and
  - (h) \$2,500,001 or greater.
- (2) What was the aggregate amount of payroll tax paid by employers with taxable payrolls of —
  - (a) up to \$750,000;
  - (b) \$750,001–850,000;
  - (c) \$850,001–\$950,000;
  - (d) \$950,001–\$1,000,000;
  - (e) \$1,000,001–\$1,500,000;

- (f) \$1,500,001–\$2,000,000;
- (g) \$2,000,001–\$2,500,000; and
- (h) \$2,500,001 or greater.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The State Revenue Office (SRO) does not collate payroll tax employer data in these brackets. The requested data is not readily available.
- (2) SRO does not collate payroll tax employer data in these brackets. The requested data is not readily available.

**Treasurer: second-hand motor vehicle duty**

**1593.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer how much duty was paid in respect of the transfer of second-hand motor vehicles in 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

**Treasurer: first home bonus duty**

**1594.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer how much duty was paid in respect of purchases of property that qualified for the First Home Bonus in 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The First Home Owners Grant and duties are separate schemes and the State revenue Office does not collate the required information.

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

**1596.** 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 for the State Electricity Commission of Victoria and Vicpower Trading’s entertainment expenses in excess of \$500 incurred in 2007–08, including the —

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

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Office of the Administrator’s (SECV, VicPower Trading) are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

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

**1597.** 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 incurred in 2007–08, including the —

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

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Victorian Funds Management Authority (VFMC) are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: Department of Treasury and Finance — expenditure**

**1598.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) What was the Department of Treasury and Finance's advertising expenditure in 2007–08.
- (2) What was the Department of Treasury and Finance' credit card expenditure in 2007–08.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Advertising costs, if any, are included in the annual report.
- (2) Use of purchasing cards or credit cards form part of the cost of administration and I further refer the Member to the detailed financial statements contained in the annual report.

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

**1599.** 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 2007–08 —

- (1) What was the total cost of expenses.
- (2) What are the details of expenses in excess of \$500 including the —
  - (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

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

**1600.** 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 2007–08 —

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

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — entertainment expenses**

**1601.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the State Trustees Ltd’s entertainment expenses incurred in 2007–08 —

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

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the State Trustees are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

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

**1602.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance’s entertainment expenses incurred in 2007–08 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Details of financial management and all relevant reporting can be found in records of the Annual Reports.

**Treasurer: land tax**

**1614.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) How many payers of land tax in 2007 had property holdings with values of —
  - (a) up to \$199,000;
  - (b) \$199,001–\$539,999;
  - (c) \$540,000–\$709,999;
  - (d) \$710,000–\$849,999;
  - (e) \$850,000–\$1,129,999;
  - (f) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999;
  - (g) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999; and
  - (h) \$2,700,000 or greater.
  
- (2) What was the aggregate amount of land tax paid in 2007 by taxpayers with property holdings of —
  - (a) up to \$199,000;
  - (b) \$199,001–\$539,999;
  - (c) \$540,000–\$709,999;
  - (d) \$710,000–\$849,999;
  - (e) \$850,000–\$1,129,999;
  - (f) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999;
  - (g) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999; and
  - (h) \$2,700,000 or greater.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The precise value ranges requested are not readily available.

**Health: elective surgery waiting list**

**1650.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the Victorian component of the \$150 million worth of funding for the Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan provided by the Commonwealth Government — as a result of the funding —

- (1) Which agencies have delivered additional surgeries.
- (2) How many additional elective surgery cases have been performed by each agency and hospital campus.
- (3) What are the details of the description and category break-up of additional elective procedures and surgeries performed by each agency and hospital campus.
- (4) How much funding was allocated to each agency and hospital campus to undertake additional elective procedures and surgeries.



- (5) How much funding has been expended to date by each agency and hospital campus to undertake additional elective procedures and surgeries.
- (6) What percentage of patients, who received their surgery due to the funding, waited longer than the clinically recommended waiting time —
  - (a) overall; and
  - (b) at each agency and hospital campus.
- (7) What was the treatment category, procedure and waiting time of each patient who was on an elective surgery waiting list and received their surgery due to the funding.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have funded \$60 million for elective surgery as part of the national blitz on elective surgery. As a result Victoria has treated over 13,000 additional elective surgery patients. Overall, Victorian hospitals performed over 143,817 episodes of elective surgery in the 2008 calendar year which is over 27,800 more than were performed in 1999.

The State and Commonwealth funds were pooled and provided to health services across the metropolitan and regional health services. Activity targets and measurement of activity is at health service level and based on the total pool of funds rather than for the Commonwealth or State components separately. Additional funding received by health services is not tagged to individual patients, rather it is added to existing funding and used flexibly to treat a pool of additional patients. The funding system therefore, does not allow for disaggregation at the level requested.

The department has set specific activity targets for hospitals to achieve and continues to monitor and assess health services against these. In accordance with the Commonwealth Government Agreement, information regarding elective surgery is published on the Commonwealth Government website. The Victorian Government's report *Your Hospitals* is also published regularly on the DHS website.

Information regarding each waiting episode and urgency category across each hospital campus has not been provided as it has the potential to lead to the possible identification of individual patients.

**Health: elective surgery waiting list**

- 1651.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the additional \$25.8 million worth of funding provided by the Government for the Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan — as a result of the funding —
- (1) Which agencies have delivered additional surgeries.
  - (2) How many additional elective surgery cases have been performed by each agency and hospital campus.
  - (3) What are the details of the description and category break-up of additional elective procedures and surgeries performed by each agency and hospital campus for those who received surgery due to the funding.
  - (4) How much funding was allocated to each agency and hospital campus to undertake additional elective procedures surgeries.
  - (5) How much funding has been expended to date by each agency and hospital campus to undertake additional elective procedures surgeries.
  - (6) For each agency and hospital campus what percentage of patients, who received their surgery due to the funding, waited longer than the clinically recommended waiting time —
    - (a) overall; and
    - (b) at each agency and hospital campus.

- (7) What was the treatment category, procedure and waiting time of each patient who was on an elective surgery waiting list and received their surgery due to the funding.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have funded \$60 million for elective surgery as part of the national blitz on elective surgery. As a result Victoria has treated over 13,000 additional elective surgery patients. Overall, Victorian hospitals performed over 143,817 episodes of elective surgery in the 2008 calendar year which is over 27,800 more than were performed in 1999.

The State and Commonwealth funds were pooled and provided to health services across the metropolitan and regional health services. Activity targets and measurement of activity is at health service level and based on the total pool of funds rather than for the Commonwealth or State components separately. Additional funding received by health services is not tagged to individual patients, rather it is added to existing funding and used flexibly to treat a pool of additional patients. The funding system therefore, does not allow for disaggregation at the level requested.

The department has set specific activity targets for hospitals to achieve and continues to monitor and assess health services against these. In accordance with the Commonwealth Government Agreement, information regarding elective surgery is published on the Commonwealth Government website. The Victorian Government's report *Your Hospitals* is also published regularly on the DHS website.

Information regarding each waiting episode and urgency category across each hospital campus has not been provided as it has the potential to lead to the possible identification of individual patients.

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — north-west metropolitan region**

**1676.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the North-West Metropolitan region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.
- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.
- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: *Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1380*]

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — southern metropolitan region**

**1677.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the Southern Metropolitan region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.

- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.
- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1380]

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — eastern metropolitan region**

**1678.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the Eastern Metropolitan region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.
- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.
- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1381]

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — Barwon-south western region**

**1679.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the Barwon-South Western region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.
- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.

- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1381]

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — Grampians region**

**1680.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the Grampians region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.
- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.
- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1381]

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — Hume region**

**1681.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the Hume region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.
- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.
- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1382]

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — Gippsland region**

**1682.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the Gippsland region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.
- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.
- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

*[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1382]*

**Mental health: drug treatment beds — Loddon Mallee region**

**1683.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to drug treatment beds in the Loddon Mallee region —

- (1) How many beds are there in the region.
- (2) How many beds did the region have in 2005.
- (3) How many people are waiting to access beds in the region.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are currently 792 state-wide Drug Treatment beds, where clients may access these services across the state.
- (2) In 2005 there were 744 Department of Human Services funded beds available across Victoria.
- (3) There is no centralised waiting list. Some agencies operate on a walk-in basis, while others maintain their own waiting lists.

*[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1382]*

**Mental health: answer to question on notice 1161**

**1721.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to the Minister's answer to question on notice 1161 which stated that as at July 2008, there were 802 alcohol and drug treatments beds in Victoria, and the Minister's answer to Legislative Council question on notice 732 which stated that as at 2006–07 there were 754 alcohol and drug treatment beds — can the Minister list when the additional 48 beds were established and in which locations.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The total number of alcohol and other drug treatment service beds in Victoria is 792. This includes 744 Department of Human Services funded beds, 42 Commonwealth funded beds and 6 Koori Youth alcohol and other drug healing service beds.

[Corrected answer. Hansard reference for original version: Legislative Assembly, 5 May 2009, page 1383]

**Health: Kilsyth electorate — defibrillators**

**1757(a).** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the installation of defibrillators in facilities within the electorate of Kilsyth —

- (1) What facilities within the electorate currently have a working defibrillator.
- (2) What funding is available for clubs, groups, organisations or operators of public facilities to purchase and install defibrillators.
- (3) Have any clubs, groups, organisation or operators of public facilities applied for funding to purchase and install defibrillators.
- (4) Will the Government fund any more defibrillators within the electorate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Through the Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) Program, the Government has funded 24 PAD sites across Victoria. The Croydon Leisure Centre is a PAD site with four defibrillators. Community not-for-profit organisations may seek funding for defibrillators through the Department of Planning and Community Development Victorian Volunteer Small Grants Program. The Department of Human Services has not received any requests for funding for defibrillators this year.

**Water: Melbourne households**

**1794.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the Minister's comment on the Neil Mitchell program on 3AW on 24 November 2008 that if there is a very excessive use of water, there will be a visit from the water retailer to the household — what constitutes a very excessive use of water for a four person household with a garden in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Under the provisions of the T155 program, where the total household use is 800 litres per day or more, the water retailer will make contact with the dwelling's account holder. The highest residential water users will be contacted first. Eight hundred litres is considered to be the approximate average use of a five person household.

**Health: ambulance services — Neerim South**

**1799.** Mr BLACKWOOD to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to funding in the 2008–09 Budget for construction of a new ambulance station in Neerim South —

- (1) When will construction begin on the new facility.
- (2) When is the station expected to be completed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services has recently negotiated a contract of sale with the Neerim District Hospital to purchase a parcel of land adjacent to the hospital for the construction of a new ambulance branch. Schematic design options are presently being prepared for the branch by Ambulance Victoria.

**Health: nurses — registration**

**1800.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Health with reference to overseas qualified nurses who have applied for registration to the Nurses' Board but are awaiting registration —

- (1) How many applied in —
  - (a) July 2008;
  - (b) August 2008;
  - (c) September 2008;
  - (d) October 2008; and
  - (e) November 2008.
- (2) What is the average length of time between the date of application and the date of registration.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Applications are reviewed within 20 working days. At the time of review, applications that are complete and accompanied by all supporting documents in the required format are processed immediately, and the applicant notified by mail.

The reasons why applications await approval include:

- Applicant has been issued a letter to undertake further requirements of English and/or a competency program
- Application is incomplete, for example:
  - Documents have not been supplied
  - Documents supplied are incorrect or not correctly certified
- Identity of the applicant cannot be verified according to legal documents.

This government has a proud record of supporting and recruiting nurses. Since 1999 Victoria has recruited 8827 additional nurses. This government understands the important and professional work nurses contribute to Victoria's health system and we will continue to support nurses wanting to practise in Victoria.

**Treasurer: Department of Treasury and Finance — expenditure**

**1815.** **Mr WELLS** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance —

- (1) What was the advertising expenditure in —
  - (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.
- (2) What was the credit card expenditure in —
  - (a) 2007; and
  - (b) 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Advertising costs, if any, are included in the annual report; and

- (2) Use of purchasing cards or credit cards form part of the cost of administration and I further refer the Member to the detailed financial statements contained in the annual report

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

**1816.** 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 in 2008 —

- (1) What was the total cost incurred.
- (2) What are the itemised 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 in 2008.

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

**1817.** 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 in 2008 —

- (1) What was the total cost incurred.
- (2) What are the itemised 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:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: property transfer duty**

**1818.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) As at 31 December 2008 how many property transfers had values for duty of —
  - (a) up to \$20,000;
  - (b) \$20,001–\$115,000;
  - (c) \$115,001–\$200,000;



- (d) \$200,001–\$300,000;
  - (e) \$300,001–\$400,000;
  - (f) \$400,001–\$500,000;
  - (g) \$500,001–\$600,000; and
  - (h) \$600,001–\$870,000.
- (2) What was the aggregate amount of duty paid in 2008 in respect of transfers with property values of —
- (a) up to \$20,000;
  - (b) \$20,001–\$115,000;
  - (c) \$115,001–\$200,000;
  - (d) \$200,001–\$300,000;
  - (e) \$300,001–\$400,000;
  - (f) \$400,001–\$500,000;
  - (g) \$500,001–\$600,000; and
  - (h) \$600,001–\$870,000.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Duty was paid on 151,816 property transfers in 2008.

- (1) SRO data is not published in the requested ranges.
- (2) SRO data is not published in the requested ranges.

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

**1819.** 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 incurred in 2008, including —

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

**ANSWER:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Office of the Administrator’s (SECV, Vicpower Trading) are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

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

**1820.** 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 incurred in 2008, including —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Cost.

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Victorian Funds Management Corporation (VFMC) are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: second-hand motor vehicle duty**

**1824.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer how much duty was paid in respect of the transfer of second-hand motor vehicles in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

**Treasurer: land tax**

**1829.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover, and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) How many payers of land tax in 2008 had property holdings with values of —
  - (a) up to \$199,000;
  - (b) \$199,001–\$539,999;
  - (c) \$540,000–\$709,999;
  - (d) \$710,000–\$849,999;
  - (e) \$850,000–\$1,129,999;
  - (f) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999; and
  - (g) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999.
- (2) What was the aggregate amount of land tax paid in 2008 by taxpayers with property holding values of —
  - (a) up to \$199,000;
  - (b) \$199,001–\$539,999;
  - (c) \$540,000–\$709,999;
  - (d) \$710,000–\$849,999;
  - (e) \$850,000–\$1,129,999;
  - (f) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999; and
  - (g) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The precise value ranges requested are not readily available.

**Treasurer: land tax**

**1831.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer how many payers of land tax in 2008 had properties held in trust with values of —

- (1) Up to \$199,000.
- (2) \$199,001–\$539,999.
- (3) \$540,000–\$709,999.
- (4) \$710,000–\$849,999.
- (5) \$850,000–\$1,129,999.
- (6) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999.
- (7) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The precise value ranges requested are not readily available.

**Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — entertainment expenses**

**1832.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — with reference to State Trustees Ltd’s entertainment expenses in 2008 —

- (1) What was the total cost of expenses.
- (2) What are the itemised 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:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the State Trustees are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

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

**1833.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer — with reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance’s entertainment expenses for 2008 —

- (1) What was the total cost of expenses.
- (2) What are the itemised 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:

Details of financial management and all relevant reporting can be found in records of the Annual Reports.

**Treasurer: budget estimates**

**1843.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commissioner for the Treasurer what percentage change in budget estimates does the Department of Treasury and Finance deem to be an acceptable margin of error.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

All estimated financial statements are prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and consistent with applicable accounting standards.

I refer you to the applicable accounting standard which will inform you as to the appropriate threshold.

**Treasurer: second-hand motor vehicle duty**

**1846.** MR WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer how much duty was paid in respect of the transfer of second-hand motor vehicles in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This question is best directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

**Treasurer: property transfer duty**

**1849.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer —

- (1) As at 31 December 2007 how many property transfers had values for duty of —
  - (a) up to \$20,000;
  - (b) \$20,001–\$115,000;
  - (c) \$115,001–\$200,000;
  - (d) \$200,001–\$300,000;
  - (e) \$300,001–\$400,000;
  - (f) \$400,001–\$500,000;
  - (g) \$500,001–\$600,000; and
  - (h) \$600,001–\$870,000.
  
- (2) What was the aggregate amount of duty paid in 2007 in respect of transfers with property values of —
  - (a) up to \$20,000;
  - (b) \$20,001–\$115,000;
  - (c) \$115,001–\$200,000;
  - (d) \$200,001–\$300,000;

- (e) \$300,001–\$400,000;
- (f) \$400,001–\$500,000;
- (g) \$500,001–\$600,000; and
- (h) \$600,001–\$870,000.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Duty was paid on 156,557 property transfers in 2007.

- (1) SRO data is not published in the requested ranges.
- (2) SRO data is not published in the requested ranges.

**Treasurer: State Trustees Ltd — entertainment expenses**

**1854.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to State Trustees Ltd’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:**

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the State Trustees are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: land tax**

**1859.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer in 2007 how many payers of land tax had properties held in trust with values of —

- (1) up to \$199,000.
- (2) \$199,001–\$539,999.
- (3) \$540,000–\$709,999.
- (4) \$710,000–\$849,999.
- (5) \$850,000–\$1,129,999.
- (6) \$1,130,000–\$1,619,999.
- (7) \$1,620,000–\$2,699,999.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that the State Revenue Office (SRO) does not collate information relating to properties held in trust in the requested format; therefore the data cannot be easily extracted and would be an unreasonable diversion of the SRO’s time and resources.

**Public transport: train cancellations**

**1860.** **Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport on each day in January 2009 how many trains were cancelled and on what line did the cancellations occur for —

- (1) Connex suburban.
- (2) V/line short distance.
- (3) V/line long distance.

**ANSWER:**

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

(1)

On the 1st January 2009, there were a total of 16 cancellations on the Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Pakenham, Sydenham and Williamstown lines.

On the 2nd January 2009, there were a total of 20 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sydenham lines.

On the 3rd January 2009, there were a total of 4 cancellations on the Epping, Upfield and Williamstown lines.

On the 4th January 2009, there were a total of 9 cancellations on the Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Sandringham and Werribee lines.

On the 5th January 2009, there were a total of 35 cancellations on the Belgrave, Craigieburn, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 6th January 2009, there were a total of 30 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham and Werribee lines.

On the 7th January 2009, there were a total of 12 cancellations on the Frankston, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham and Werribee lines.

On the 8th January 2009, there were a total of 36 cancellations on the Alamein, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Lilydale, Pakenham and Williamstown lines.

On the 9th January 2009, there were a total of 17 cancellations on the Belgrave, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Lilydale, Pakenham and Sandringham lines.

On the 10th January 2009, there were a total of 8 cancellations on the Hurstbridge line.

On the 11th January 2009, there were a total of 6 cancellations on the Craigieburn and Cranbourne lines.

On the 12th January 2009, there were a total of 30 cancellations on the Belgrave, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, and Werribee lines.

On the 13th January 2009, there were a total of 120 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 14th January 2009, there were a total of 53 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield and Werribee lines.

On the 15th January 2009, there were a total of 47 cancellations on the Alamein, Craigieburn, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 16th January 2009, there were a total of 26 cancellations on the Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Upfield and Werribee lines.

On the 17th January 2009, there was a total of 1 cancellation on the Glen Waverley line.

On the 18th January 2009, there were a total of 7 cancellations on the Epping, Hurstbridge, Sandringham and Sydenham lines.

On the 19th January 2009, there were a total of 74 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 20th January 2009, there were a total of 93 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 21st January 2009, there were a total of 51 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 22nd January 2009, there were a total of 54 cancellations on the Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Stony Point, Sydenham and Werribee lines.

On the 23rd January 2009, there were a total of 47 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sydenham, Upfield and Werribee lines.

On the 24th January 2009, there were a total of 13 cancellations on the Belgrave, Epping, Frankston, Sandringham and Werribee lines.

On the 25th January 2009, there were a total of 13 cancellations on the Belgrave, Cranbourne, Frankston, Hurstbridge and Lilydale lines.

On the 26th January 2009, there were a total of 5 cancellations on the Cranbourne, Upfield and Werribee lines.

On the 27th January 2009, there were a total of 51 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Stony Point, Sydenham and Werribee lines.

On the 28th January 2009, there were a total of 243 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 29th January 2009, there were a total of 474 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 30th January 2009, there were a total of 730 cancellations on the Alamein, Belgrave, Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Pakenham, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield, Werribee and Williamstown lines.

On the 31st January 2009, there were a total of 57 cancellations on the Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Epping, Frankston, Glen Waverley, Hurstbridge, Lilydale, Sandringham, Sydenham, Upfield and Werribee lines.

(2)

On the 1st January 2009, there were a total of 12 cancellations on the Geelong and Traralgon lines.

On the 2nd January 2009, there were a total of 2 cancellations on the Bendigo and Geelong lines.

On the 3rd January 2009, there were a total of 5 cancellations on the Geelong line.

On the 4th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 5th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 6th January 2009, there were a total of 2 cancellations on the Ballarat and Traralgon lines.

On the 7th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 8th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 9th January 2009, there were a total of 2 cancellations on the Traralgon line.

On the 10th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 11th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 12th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 13th January 2009, there were a total of 33 cancellations on the Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Seymour, Shepparton and Traralgon lines.

On the 14th January 2009, there were a total of 25 cancellations on the Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Seymour, Shepparton, Sunbury and Traralgon lines.

On the 15th January 2009, there was a total of 1 cancellation on the Geelong line.

On the 16th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 17th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 18th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 19th January 2009, there were a total of 9 cancellations on the Bendigo, Geelong and Traralgon lines.

On the 20th January 2009, there were a total of 9 cancellations on the Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Sunbury lines.

On the 21st January 2009, there were a total of 2 cancellations on the Geelong line.

On the 22nd January 2009, there were a total of 12 cancellations on the Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo, Geelong and Shepparton lines.

On the 23rd January 2009, there were a total of 6 cancellations on the Bendigo line.

On the 24th January 2009, there was a total of 1 cancellation on the Traralgon line.

On the 25th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 26th January 2009, there was a total of 1 cancellation on the Seymour line.



On the 27th January 2009, there were a total of 9 cancellations on the Ballarat, Bendigo and Traralgon lines.

On the 28th January 2009, there were a total of 34 cancellations on the Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Seymour, Shepparton, Sunbury and Traralgon lines.

On the 29th January 2009, there were a total of 39 cancellations on the Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Seymour, Shepparton, Sunbury and Traralgon lines.

On the 30th January 2009, there were a total of 56 cancellations on the Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Kyneton, Seymour, Shepparton, Sunbury and Traralgon lines.

On the 31st January 2009, there were a total of 20 cancellations on the Ballarat line.

(3)

On the 1st January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 2nd January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 3rd January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 4th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 5th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 6th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 7th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 8th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 9th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 10th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 11th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 12th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 13th January 2009, there were a total of 2 cancellations on the Bairnsdale and Swan Hill lines.

On the 14th January 2009, there was a total of 1 cancellation on the Swan Hill line.

On the 15th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 16th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 17th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 18th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 19th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 20th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 21st January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 22nd January 2009, there was a total of 1 cancellation on the Swan Hill line.

On the 23rd January 2009, there was a total of 1 cancellation on the Swan Hill line.

On the 24th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 25th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 26th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 27th January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

On the 28th January 2009, there were a total of 2 cancellations on the Bairnsdale and Warrnambool lines.

On the 29th January 2009, there were a total of 3 cancellations on the Bairnsdale, Swan Hill and Warrnambool lines.

On the 30th January 2009, there were a total of 2 cancellations on the Swan Hill and Warrnambool lines.

On the 31st January 2009, there were 0 cancellations.

### Health: elective surgery procedures

**1924.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the Herald Sun article on 6 March 2009 regarding \$60 million worth of federal and state funding for an additional 13 478 elective surgery operations, without disclosing patient personal particulars or identifiers, for each month in 2008 —

- (1) How many additional procedures were undertaken.
- (2) What was the type and urgency category of each additional procedure undertaken.
- (3) What was the breakdown, by health service, of the numbers, types and urgency category of each additional procedure performed.

### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments have funded \$60 million for elective surgery as part of the national blitz on elective surgery waiting lists. As a result Victoria has treated over 13,000 additional long wait elective surgery patients. Overall, Victorian hospitals performed over 133,000 episodes of elective surgery during 2007/08 which is over 17,000 more than were performed in 1999.

The State and Commonwealth funds were pooled and provided to health services across the metropolitan and regional health system. Activity targets and measurement of activity is at health service level and based on the total pool of funds rather than for the Commonwealth or State components separately. Additional funding received by health services is not tagged to individual patients, rather it is added to existing funding and used flexibly to treat a pool of additional patients. The funding system therefore, does not allow for disaggregation at the level requested.

The department has set specific activity targets for hospitals to achieve and will monitor and assess health services against these. In accordance with the Commonwealth Government Agreement, information regarding elective surgery is published on the Commonwealth Government website. The Victorian Government's report Your Hospitals is also published regularly on the DHS website.

Information regarding each waiting episode and urgency category across each hospital campus has not been provided as it has the potential to lead to the possible identification of individual patients.

### Treasurer: land tax

**1986.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to errors in the calculation of the principal place of residence land tax exemption — as at 31 March 2009 —

- (1) How many 2009 land tax assessments have been reissued due to errors.
- (2) What percentage of the total number of 2009 land tax assessments have been reissued due to the errors.
- (3) What is the total value of land tax incorrectly assessed for 2009 due to the errors.
- (4) How many 2009 land tax assessment notices have been objected to on the grounds of incorrect calculations.
- (5) How many 2009 land tax assessments have been voluntarily reissued by the State Revenue Office on the basis of calculation errors, following internal audit or review.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Benchmarked against other jurisdictions, the State Revenue Office (SRO) has an excellent record when it comes to the accuracy of its land tax assessments. Land tax assessments are re-issued for a number of reasons, including incorrect information being provided by land holders, changes to land holders circumstances and occasionally due to an administrative error.

The SRO does not keep statistics on what proportion of re-assessments are due to each of these reasons.

**Treasurer: land tax**

**1988.** **Mr WELLS** to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to 2009 land tax assessments reissued due to errors other than errors in relation to the calculation of the principal place of residence exemption — as at 31 March 2009 —

- (1) What percentage of assessments have had to be reissued.
- (2) How many assessments have been voluntarily reissued by the State Revenue Office following internal audit or review.
- (3) How many assessments have been reissued by the State Revenue Office only after an objection has been received and not following internal audit or review.
- (4) What is the total value of land tax incorrectly assessed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Benchmarked against other jurisdictions, the State Revenue Office (SRO) has an excellent record when it comes to the accuracy of its land tax assessments. Land tax assessments are re-issued for a number of reasons, including incorrect information being provided by land holders, changes to land holders circumstances and occasionally due to an administrative error.

The SRO does not keep statistics on what proportion of re-assessments are due to each of these reasons.

**Water: bushfires — compensation**

**2006.** **Mr WALSH** to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the Government's decision to support in principle a recommendation to replace all stock, domestic and irrigation water taken from landowners to fight bushfires —

- (1) Is the Government reviewing its policy to ensure all affected landowners receive just compensation.
- (2) How many claims for compensation has the Department of Sustainability and Environment received.

- (3) How many compensation claims received by the Government have been addressed within the desired 48 hours.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

1. The 2008 joint *Government Replacement of Essential Water Following Bushfire Policy 2008-09* is current, outlining the procedures by which land-holders can have essential water that was taken for fire fighting purposes replaced. The policy nominates local councils as the agencies responsible for responding to requests for replacement water, who then invoice the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) for the costs of supplying the water.

This policy will be assessed prior to the 2009-10 Bushfire season.

2. To date, DSE has received three invoices totalling approximately \$25,000 from local councils. More claims are expected to be received as invoices for repayment are forwarded.
3. Local councils have reported a total of 46 individual claims, of which 33 have been met within the desired 48-hour delivery target. Delivery may occur outside 48 hours for a range of reasons, including —
- Where land-holders have deferred delivery of water to see if rain will fall;
  - Where a convenient time for delivery of water could not be reached between land-holders and water carters; or
  - If water carters are not immediately available in the affected area.

**Public transport: rail — Parliament station**

**2022.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the two overhead PIDS monitors located adjacent to the Collins and Bourke Streets end booking office at Parliament station —

- (1) At 6.34 p.m. on 1 April 2009 did the two monitors simultaneously display false information for two different trains on the Burnley group lines and —
- (a) if so, was the incident due to a software error;
  - (b) if not, what was the cause.
- (2) What checks have been or will be built into replacement screens installed to avoid a repeat of the errors.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) No.
- (a) Not applicable.
  - (b) Two monitors will simultaneously display the same departure time for two different train lines when one of these lines is a connecting service for the other. This is the case for the Burnley group lines when Alamein line passengers are advised to take the Lilydale/Belgrave train from Parliament Station and connect at Richmond Station.
- (2) Displaying information simultaneously on Public Information Displays is not a system error when displayed for the purpose of advising passengers of connecting services.

**Health: Werribee Mercy Hospital**

**2028.** Mrs SHARDEY to ask the Minister for Health with reference to the Mercy Hospital Werribee —

- (1) Is the hospital classified as a metropolitan or a rural hospital.
- (2) Are hospital/ambulance bypasses involving the hospital included in the official ambulance bypass figures; if not, what is the incidence of hospital/ambulance bypass from July 2004 to date and how would their inclusion affect the figures overall.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Mercy Public Hospitals Incorporated is defined as a denominational hospital in the *Health Services Act 1988*. Werribee Mercy Hospital is funded as a rural group B in accordance with the *Victoria—public hospitals and mental health services policy and funding guidelines 2008-09*.
- (2) Werribee Mercy Hospital is not included in the State's reported hospital bypass figures. Werribee Mercy Hospital's incidence of hospital bypass for July 2004 to present is 5255 hours. If Werribee Mercy Hospital's hospital bypass incidence is included with the 13 major metropolitan hospitals the incidence of bypass for this entire period would remain under the statewide target of three per cent for total time on hospital bypass.

**Education: Mildura college — lease**

**2029.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the college lease arrangement for the Mildura district, whereby land is rented to tenants and the funds raised are distributed to local schools — what is the annual rent paid on the college lease on the corner of 14th Street and Benetook Avenue in Mildura.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Mildura College Lease property known as Lot 20, Section 29, Block E located on the corner of 14th Street and Benetook Avenue, Mildura is leased to a private individual.

The Information Privacy Act 2000 prohibits the disclosure of personal information without the consent of the individual, or unless a relevant exemption applies, or authorised by law.

**Public transport: rail — Mildura and Ouyen line**

**2032.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the rail line upgrades for Mildura and Ouyen —

- (1) What will be the ongoing maintenance commitment to the upgraded rail lines.
- (2) What is the estimated annual sleeper requirement to maintain the upgraded rail lines to the appropriate safety standards.
- (3) Have sufficient sleepers been contracted to complete the Mildura upgrade.
- (4) Have sufficient sleepers been contracted to complete the Ouyen to Murrayville upgrade.
- (5) When will the contracts for supply of sleepers to complete the works be let.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The upgraded lines are part of V/Line's ongoing maintenance program. \$11.7m in funding has been allocated for maintenance in the 2009/10 financial year.
- (2) V/Line estimates the annual sleeper requirements to maintain the upgraded rail lines to the appropriate safety standards is 20% of sleepers every 5 years.
- (3) Sufficient sleepers have been contracted and installed for the Mildura line. Final inspection and defect rectification is now under way.
- (4) Sufficient sleepers have been contracted to complete the Ouyen to Murrayville upgrade.
- (5) The contracts for supply of sleepers to complete the works have been let. The Mildura upgrade has been completed, and the Ouyen to Murrayville works are expected to be completed by the end of November 2009.

**Education: Building the Education Revolution**

**2043.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) program —

- (1) What charges will the State Government deduct from the BER program for its involvement.
- (2) What charges will the regions deduct from the BER program.
- (3) How will the regions manage the BER program funding expenditure.
- (4) What are the deductions listed at (1)–(3) as a percentage of gross funding at each level of management.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

No charges will be deducted by the State Government or any area of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development from the BER program.

Administrative functions associated with the program are funded separately by the Commonwealth Government.

Regional offices will not play a role in managing the BER program funding expenditure.

**Public transport: Connex — compensation**

**2044.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to compensation payable by Connex as a result of punctuality 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 15 electrified lines, and the sole non-electrified line, that Connex 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 of 11 May 2009:

- (1) (a) 23,109  
 (b) 7,230  
 (c) 6,872  
 (d) Not available.
- (2) (a) Alamein–462; Belgrave–2461; Craigieburn–1455; Cranbourne–1355; Epping–1397; Frankston–2412; Glen Waverley–1864; Hurstbridge–1532; Lilydale–1408; Pakenham–1915; Sandringham–1395; Upfield–619; Watergardens–1399; Werribee–1386; Williamstown–263. (Stony Point figures are recorded as part of the Frankston line.)  
 (b) Alamein–129; Belgrave–768; Craigieburn–461; Cranbourne–232; Epping–404; Frankston–865; Glen Waverley–617; Hurstbridge–501; Lilydale–489; Pakenham–883; Sandringham–331; Upfield–207; Watergardens–427; Werribee–451; Williamstown–71. (Stony Point figures are recorded as part of the Frankston line.)  
 (c) Alamein–133; Belgrave–834; Craigieburn–511; Cranbourne–116; Epping–404; Frankston–781; Glen Waverley–599; Hurstbridge–503; Lilydale–388; Pakenham–916; Sandringham–340; Upfield–135; Watergardens–382; Werribee–539; Williamstown–49. (Stony Point figures are recorded as part of the Frankston line.)  
 (d) Not available.
- (3) (a) \$187,328  
 (b) \$59,658  
 (c) \$59,197  
 (d) Not available.

**Education: Building the Education Revolution**

**2048.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Education with reference to the Federal Government’s Building the Education Revolution program (BER) and the Victorian Schools plan —

- (1) Will any school that does not wish to merge still qualify to be rebuilt, renovated or modernised within ten years.
- (2) Will any school that does not wish to merge still gain state support for its BER application.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government has made clear its policy of not forcing schools to close or merge. The government believes local school communities should make decisions about the future of their school. As such, a school will only close or merge if a school council voluntarily makes a decision to seek formal approval from the Minister that the school close.

School communities and school councils are provided with advice on the predicted population trends and other relevant data and information by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This information is used by school councils when they are deliberating on how best to ensure the ongoing provision of high quality education for their students. When these discussions have resulted in a decision not to merge, individual schools will not be excluded from the Victorian Schools Plan or the Building the Education Revolution.

**Education: Wodonga Senior Secondary College**

**2050.** Mr TILLEY to ask the Minister for Education what is the time line for funding and building the replacement of buildings at Wodonga Senior Secondary College.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government has committed \$1.9 billion to renovate, rebuild or extend a further 500 schools in four years. This is the largest school building program in Victoria's history, and will transform education infrastructure across the State. Since 1999, the Victorian Government has invested \$3.3 billion on capital works in schools to renovate, rebuild or extend schools.

The *Victorian Schools Plan* will see the remainder of the 1600 Government schools rebuilt, renovated or extended over the next ten years. The Government is on track, as nearly three quarters of the 500 schools have received funding in the last three budgets to commence works.

As part of the 2009-10 State Budget the Government allocated \$15 million in funding for the commencement of construction for the Wodonga Regeneration project. \$3 million was allocated for Stage 1 of the Huon campus redevelopment, including the upgrade and extension of the Year 7 building, and a further \$12 million was allocated to complete the redevelopment of the Felltimber junior campus, including the construction of a new performing arts centre. The projects are both fully documented and construction is expected to commence early in the 2009-10 financial year.

This is in addition to the \$4.1 million allocated in 2008-09 for modernisation of Wodonga Primary School and \$8.5 million in 2008-09 for the relocation of the Wodonga South Primary School to a new 'green field' site.

**Education: Wodonga Senior Secondary College**

**2051.** Mr TILLEY to ask the Minister for Education what is the actual cost, to date, of repairing the mould infestation at Wodonga Senior Secondary College and what costs have been quoted for the ongoing containment of the mould.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The total cost of all remediation works and consultants fees as at 5 May 2009 was \$573,289.

The department has implemented an ongoing testing and treatment program at a cost of \$10,000 per month. This ongoing program is required to allow the department to be confident that the remediation works have been successful from a long term viewpoint.

The preliminary analysis of the ongoing test results confirms that the program has been successful over the shorter term. If the current test results are maintained for a further three months, a clearance certificate can be issued confirming that the building has been "cleared" and there is no longer an issue.



**Education: Wodonga Senior Secondary College**

**2052.** Mr **TILLEY** to ask the Minister for Education when was the Department of Education first advised of white ant activity at Wodonga Senior Secondary College and what actions, if any, have been taken to address the problem since that time.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The 2005 school maintenance audit identified a further termite infestation at Wodonga Senior Secondary College. The school was provided with funding to treat the infestation.

In 2008 the Department modified the inspections component of the School Resource Package (SRP) to include funding to finance an annual termite inspection for every school with a history of termite infestations.

Where a school's annual inspection identifies further issues, that school can request additional funding to assist with the treatment and where appropriate, rectification works.

**Public transport: ticket validations**

**2062.** Mr **MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to individual validations, including revalidations of Metcards —

- (1) How many validations were made on each day between 1–7 May 2009 inclusive —
  - (a) on trams;
  - (b) on buses; and
  - (c) at railway stations.
- (2) How many individual trips were estimated to have been made on each day between 1–7 May 2009 inclusive —
  - (a) on trams;
  - (b) on buses; and
  - (c) at railway stations.
- (3) Has the validation rate shown any change in percentage terms between 2006 and 2009 and if, so by what percentage for validations made —
  - (a) on trams;
  - (b) on buses; and
  - (c) at railway stations.
- (4) What is the current percentage of trips made where a passenger has a Metcard and either validates or revalidates —
  - (a) on trams;
  - (b) on buses; and
  - (c) at railway stations.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) 1 May 2009: (a) 152,827; (b) 342,621; (c) 462,791—2 May 2009: (a) 89,711; (b) 133,767; (c) 216,493—3 May 2009: (a) 65,410; (b) 77,560; (c) 163,995—4 May 2009: (a) 138,149; (b) 337,626; (c) 453,663—5 May 2009:

(a) 142,009; (b) 349,859; (c) 466,727—6 May 2009: (a) 142,659; (b) 352,091; (c) 466,931—7 May 2009: (a) 144,597; (b) 353,581; (c) 463,998.

- (2) The Department of Transport (DOT) does not produce estimates of patronage for specific days.
- (3) DOT does not yet have validation figures for 2009, so such a comparison cannot be made.
- (4) The validation rate for each mode is calculated on a quarterly basis. The most recent validation rates available are for the December quarter of 2008. Validations onboard buses are reported as (i) Route Bus and (ii) School Bus:
  - (a) 25.31 per cent; (b)(i) 87.02 per cent (ii) 67.07 per cent; (c) 59.75 per cent.

### **Education: Building the Education Revolution**

**2063.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Education will the Government support applications for Building the Education Revolution funding from schools that reject Regional Office merger proposals for P-10 and P-12 schools.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government has made clear its policy of not forcing schools to close or merge. The Government believes local school communities should make decisions about the future of their school. As such, a school will only close or merge if a school council voluntarily makes a decision to seek formal approval for the school to close.

School communities and school councils are provided with advice on the predicted population trends and other relevant data and information by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This information is used by school councils when they are deliberating on how best to ensure the ongoing provision of high quality education for their students. When these discussions have resulted in a decision not to merge, individual school applications for Building the Education Revolution funding have been supported.

### **Education: Victorian schools plan**

**2064.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Education will schools that reject a P-10 or P-12 merger proposal from a Regional Office be excluded from the Victorian Schools Plan.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government has made clear its policy of not forcing schools to close or merge. The Government believes local school communities should make decisions about the future of their schools. As such, a school will only close or merge if a school council voluntarily makes a decision to seek formal approval from the Minister that the school close.

School communities and school councils are provided with information on the predicted population trends and other relevant data and information. This information is used by school councils when they are deliberating on how best to ensure the ongoing provision of high quality education for their students. When these discussions have resulted in a decision not to merge, individual schools will not be excluded from the Victorian Schools Plan.

### **Public transport: rail — Maryborough line**

**2065.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Public Transport what will the \$27.6 million for the Maryborough rail services be spent on.

**ANSWER:**

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

Of the \$27.6 million, \$19.1 million will fund capital works including track and signalling works, train stabling, station works, and level crossing works. The remaining \$8.5 million will fund the operational costs of one train trip a day in each direction between Maryborough and Ballarat (a total of 14 weekly train trips) over a three year period.

**Public transport: rail — Ouyen–Murrayville line**

**2066.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Public Transport will the 2009–10 budget commitment to continued maintenance on gold and silver rail lines include the Ouyen to Murrayville line; if so, when will the work commence.

**ANSWER:**

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

Works on the Ouyen to Murrayville line will commence in September 2009 and are anticipated to be completed in November 2009. The line is part of V/Line's maintenance program—the annual maintenance commitment is \$11.7 million for the 2009–10 financial year.

**Public transport: Crown land — Warrandyte electorate**

**2067.** Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport what is the address and description of Crown land relevant to the public transport portfolio in the electorate of Warrandyte.

**ANSWER:**

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

There are four crown land parcels at, or in the vicinity of, Ringwood train station used for train services. These are:

**No Description**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | 2,349 m <sup>2</sup> , fronting Albert Street, Ringwood (west of Ringwood Station)     |
| 2 | 2,040 m <sup>2</sup> , fronting Thanet Street, Ringwood (west of Ringwood Station)     |
| 3 | 8,688 m <sup>2</sup> , fronting Maroondah Highway, Ringwood (at Ringwood Station)      |
| 4 | 1,222 m <sup>2</sup> , fronting Maroondah Highway, Ringwood (east of Ringwood Station) |

There also are numerous roads, located on crown land, on which bus services are operated and bus stops are located.

**Public transport: rail — Mildura line**

**2070.** Mr CRISP to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the impact of the Mildura Rail Freight upgrade works on the speed of freight trains travelling from Mildura to Melbourne —

- (1) What will be the track speed capability of the trains.
- (2) What will be the difference in speed on different sections.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The track speed between Geelong and Mildura is 80 km/h freight train standard.
- (2) This speed also applies to broad gauge freight trains between Melbourne and Geelong and freight trains between Melbourne and Ballarat.

**Environment and climate change: Crown land — European wasps**

**2073.** **Mr SMITH** (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change is there a program in place that facilitates the identification and subsequent removal of European wasp nests from public land; if so, what are the details of the program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

European wasps are a common and widespread insect. They are difficult to manage during periods of high abundance and the most effective control currently available is to locate and destroy wasp nests.

Efforts to find and identify European wasp nests on public land depend on the potential risk to visitors, public amenity and on the location.

No formal or specific program exists to search for European wasp nests. However, when nests are found on Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) or Parks Victoria (PV) managed land, targeted and opportunistic control, through poisoning and nest destruction, is undertaken.

Wasps are more likely to be a problem in areas where uneaten food and drink is left out in the open, such as picnic grounds. DSE and PV have a carry in/carry out litter policy which helps to reduce this risk of attracting wasps. An information sheet Living with European Wasps is available through the DSE customer service centre 126 186.

**Public transport: rail — Frankston line**

**2075.** **Mr THOMPSON** (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport what has been the increase in passenger use on the Frankston rail line for —

- (1) 2003–04.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2005–06.
- (4) 2006–07.
- (5) 2007–08.
- (6) 2008–09 to date.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) 1.1 per cent.
- (2) 2.4 per cent.
- (3) 6.9 per cent.
- (4) 6.5 per cent.
- (5) 8.0 per cent.
- (6) Not available.

Note: Growth is measured by the estimated average weekday patronage (passenger boardings) at stations on the Frankston Line (Glen Huntly to Frankston).

**Public transport: rail — Sandringham line**

**2076.** Mr THOMPSON (*Sandringham*) to ask the Minister for Public Transport what has been the increase in passenger use on the Sandringham rail line for —

- (1) 2003–04.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2005–06.
- (4) 2006–07.
- (5) 2007–08.
- (6) 2008–09 to date.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) 3.5 per cent.
- (2) 3.9 per cent.
- (3) 8.7 per cent.
- (4) 10.6 per cent.
- (5) 4.8 per cent.
- (6) Not available.

Note: Growth is measured by the estimated average weekday patronage (passenger boardings) at stations on the Sandringham line (Pahran to Sandringham).

**Police and emergency services: staff training**

**2080.** Mr SMITH (*Warrandyte*) to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services did members of the Minister's staff participate in a training program on 25 November 2008; if so —

- (1) What was the cost of the program.
- (2) At what location did the program take place.
- (3) What was the focus of the program.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) No ministerial staff participated in training on the date of the Question on Notice.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.

**Community services: client support**

**2088.** **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to clients receiving individual support in the 2009–10 Budget —

- (1) What is the average funding that each individual will receive.
- (2) How many clients are currently waiting to receive individual support.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In relation to the number of clients receiving individual support in the 2009-10 State Budget:

- (1) Funding is allocated on an individual basis and the average allocation will not be known until after the end of the 2009-10 financial year.
- (2) The figures for the 2009-10 1/2 yearly report are not currently available and will be available on the website early 2010.

**Public transport: rail — Ferntree Gully station car park**

**2123.** **Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to recent upgrades to parking facilities at Ferntree Gully railway station —

- (1) How many cars on average per day were parking prior to the upgrade.
- (2) How many cars are able to park as a consequence of the upgrade.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) The sealed car park at Ferntree Gully Railway Station provided for 320 parking bays prior to the upgrade. The car park was regularly at capacity.
- (2) Since the upgrade in February 2009, Ferntree Gully Railway Station car park provides for 382 car spaces.

**Roads and ports: wire rope barriers**

**2124.** **Mr BURGESS** to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to cable wire rope barriers —

- (1) Does the three cable barrier that is used on EastLink and the Hume Highway have much stronger posts than the earlier four cable barrier design.
- (2) What are the safety testing results of three cable barriers relating to two wheeled transport.
- (3) What is the cost of the three cable barrier —
  - (a) relative to the working life of the cable; and
  - (b) compared to other types of barriers' working lives.

**ANSWER:**

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

The three cable barrier that is used on EastLink and the Hume Highway has stronger posts than the earlier four cable barrier design and that there is no difference in cost to that of the four cable system.

There is no reliable evidence to indicate that wire rope barriers present a greater or lesser risk to motorcyclists than other barrier types, or no barrier at all. Further, Monash University Accident Research Centre conducted an international review for VicRoads on ways to improve the effectiveness of safety barriers in reducing injuries to motorcyclists. This review formed the basis of a trial of motorcycle barrier protection devices fitted to wire rope barriers and steel guardrails in high risk areas to motorcyclists. VicRoads has commenced trials of barrier protection devices and installation has been completed at nine sites, including two relating specifically to cable wire rope.

**Public transport: rail — Southern Cross station**

**2126.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to rainwater tanks at Southern Cross station —

- (1) How many tanks are installed at the station.
- (2) What is the total capacity of each tank.
- (3) What was the cost of installing the tanks.
- (4) What is the estimated amount of water to be collected by the tanks based on 2008 rainfall.
- (5) Have staff members at the station ever washed down the platforms with potable water.
- (6) What is the substance used to wash down the station platforms.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) Two large rainwater bladders are installed at Southern Cross station.
- (2) The rainwater bladders have a combined capacity to store more than 200,000 litres.
- (3) The cost to date of the project is \$600,000. This has delivered the bladders and associated pipe works to enable water reuse within the station for a range of cleaning and operational purposes.
- (4) It is not possible to calculate this.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Water.

**Public transport: rail — Southern Cross station**

**2127.** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to the \$1.2 million stormwater system designed to save 20 million litres of water a year for Southern Cross station as announced by the Government on 1 February 2007 — why has the system not been put in place.

**ANSWER:**

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

The project to reuse stormwater saved from Southern Cross station roof within the station itself has been put in place, and has been operational since 31 March 2009.

**Public transport: rail — failures**

**2129.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to Connex train services on the Lilydale, Belgrave, Glen Waverley and Alamein lines, between 1 March 2009 and 10 June 2009 —

- (1) How many times, listing the times at which the fault occurred and was rectified, have —
- (a) points failed near —
    - (i) East Richmond;
    - (ii) Burnley;
    - (iii) Camberwell;
    - (iv) Blackburn;
    - (v) Ringwood;
    - (vi) the former 'E' Box near Richmond Junction;
  - (b) signals failed near —
    - (i) East Richmond;
    - (ii) Burnley;
    - (iii) Camberwell;
    - (iv) Blackburn;
    - (v) Ringwood;
    - (vi) the former 'E' Box near Richmond Junction;
  - (c) track circuits failed near —
    - (i) East Richmond;
    - (ii) Burnley;
    - (iii) Camberwell;
    - (iv) Blackburn;
    - (v) Ringwood;
    - (vi) the former 'E' Box near Richmond Junction;
  - (d) other infrastructure failed near —
    - (i) East Richmond;
    - (ii) Burnley;
    - (iii) Camberwell;
    - (iv) Blackburn;
    - (v) Ringwood;
    - (vi) the former 'E' Box near Richmond Junction.
- (2) How many trains on each date for each line were —
- (a) delayed up to six minutes;
  - (b) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
  - (c) delayed 11 minutes or more;
  - (d) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (e) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (f) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (g) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop;
  - (h) cancelled.
- (3) When was each set of points at East Richmond, Burnley, Camberwell, Blackburn, Ringwood and the former 'E' Box near Richmond Junction —
- (a) completely replaced;
  - (b) refurbished.



- (4) How much was spent either replacing or refurbishing each set of points at East Richmond, Burnley, Camberwell, Blackburn, Ringwood and the former 'E' Box near Richmond Junction,

**ANSWER:**

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

Within the question, the Member has made over 50 separate requests for information. Researching and extracting the data required to respond to the question would require significant time and resources. As such, the resources required to extract the data cannot be justified at this time.

**Mental health: drug strategy**

**2131.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant and related drug strategy 2009–12 —

- (1) What is the total cost of implementing each of the key actions mentioned in the report.  
 (2) Will the strategy be evaluated.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant and related drug strategy 2009–12 —

- (1) The strategy is a whole-of-government response to ATS and related drug use in Victoria. It is not possible to put a specific dollar amount against each initiative in the strategy because they involve improvements in current practice and partnerships across a range of primary and specialist service providers implemented over a number of years.  
 (2) The Victorian ATS and related drugs strategy 2009-2012 will be evaluated over the three years of the strategy.

**Mental health: drug strategy**

**2132.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Key Action 5.1 of the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant and related drug strategy 2009–12 —

- (1) When will the website be launched.  
 (2) What is the total cost of the initiative.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to Key Action 5.1 of the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant and related drug strategy 2009–12 —

- (1) It is anticipated that the website dedicated to meeting the needs of parents regarding information about illicit drugs will be launched later this year.  
 (2) The development and implementation of the website will have a total cost of \$4994.

**Mental health: drug strategy**

**2133.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Key Action 5.2 of the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant and related drug strategy 2009–12 —

- (1) When will the Victorian-based Australian Treatment Outcomes Study be published.
- (2) Will the report be publicly available.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

With reference to Key Action 5.2 of the Victorian amphetamine-type stimulant and related drug strategy 2009–12 —

- (1) The conduct of the Victorian methamphetamine Australian Treatment Outcomes Study is dependent upon the successful recruitment and retention of methamphetamine treatment seekers to the study.
- (2) Following the conclusion of the study, any results will be made publicly available.

**Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services**

**2134.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Action 3 under Improving Access in A new blueprint for alcohol and other drug treatment services 2009–13 —

- (1) How will links be enhanced between mental health services and primary needle and syringe programs.
- (2) Which area of mental health services will be affected.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Links between mental health services and Primary Needle and Syringe Programs (NSPs) will be enhanced, firstly, by raising NSP sector awareness of available mental health services and, secondly, by raising the profile of mental health services among the suite of allied health services supporting Primary Health Services for injecting drug users.
- (2) The mental health services that will be involved include Area Mental Health Services, coordinating acute responses from Crisis Assessment and Treatment (CAT) and Homeless Teams in every region, and Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation Support (PDRS) Services, providing recovery support following acute episodes.

**Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services**

**2135.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Action 1 under Excellence and Quality in A new blueprint for alcohol and other drug treatment services 2009–13 —

- (1) What data will the Government collect to capture client outcomes, achievements, emerging issues and service gaps.
- (2) Does the Government collect key performance indicators from funded drug and alcohol service agencies; if so, how is the data measured.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The Alcohol and Other Drug Information System (ADIS) collects information on courses of treatment, episodes of care, primary drug of use and age of client to capture client outcomes, achievements, emerging issues and services gaps.
- (2) DHS routinely collects information from drug and alcohol service agencies on their performance against episodes of care performance indicators through the Alcohol and Other Drug Information System (ADIS). The data is also submitted to the Commonwealth Government to inform the Alcohol and Other Drug National Minimum Data Set, the results of which are used to inform the annual publication "Alcohol and Other Drug treatment services in Australia".

**Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services**

**2136.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Action 5 under Client Centred Principle in A new blueprint for alcohol and other drug treatment services 2009–13 —

- (1) When will the client charter of rights and responsibilities be implemented.
- (2) Has the Government undertaken any consultation in drafting the client charter of rights and responsibilities; if so, who has been consulted.
- (3) What will be the cost to implementing the client charter of rights and responsibilities.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The client charter of rights is currently being implemented as it forms part of the existing Victorian funded alcohol and drug services quality framework.
- (2) The Department of Human Services with the Association of Participating Service Users (APSU) drafted the charter in consultation with consumers. This was then circulated to the sector for comment.
- (3) There is a small cost associated with printing and distribution of a brochure and poster for agencies, however, there is no additional cost associated with implementation.

**Mental health: alcohol and drug treatment services**

**2137.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to Action 3 under Client Centred Principle in A new blueprint for alcohol and other drug treatment services 2009–13 —

- (1) How many after hours treatment services exist for youth and adult forensic clients.
- (2) Where are after hours treatment services that exist for youth and adult forensic clients based.
- (3) How much will the Government spend on improving access to after hours treatment services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are 44 treatment services in Victoria providing after hours appointments for youth and adult forensic clients.
- (2) After hours treatment services for youth and adult forensic clients are provided across the state of Victoria including in the following Department of Human Services regions: Barwon South west (4); Eastern Metropolitan (4); Gippsland (4); Grampians (3); Hume (4); Loddon Mallee (4); North West Metropolitan (14) and Southern Metropolitan (7).

- (3) The Government spends \$423,225 per annum on after hours treatment services for voluntary clients. Between 1 July 2008 and 19 June 2009 the Government provided \$183,600 in additional after hours funding for forensic drug treatment clients.

**Mental health: drug treatment beds**

- 2138. Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Mental Health with reference to waiting lists to access drug treatment beds — does the Government collect data to determine demand for beds; if so, how many people are currently waiting.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian budget papers (Budget Paper No. 3, Budget Estimates) indicate the average number of working days in Victoria from the date of initial screening of a person to the date the person is admitted to a residential service. The current period is between 6 and 7 days.

A range of initiatives are foreshadowed in the blueprint for alcohol and other drug treatment services 2009-2013 to improve data gathering and performance management systems which will deliver better information on service demand.

**Public transport: rail — failures**

- 2142. Mr MULDER** to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to Connex and V/Line train services that pass through North Melbourne station — between 1 March 2009 and 11 June 2009 —

- (1) How many times, including the time and date on which the fault occurred and was rectified, and at which points on both running lines and those that lead to sidings, have —
  - (a) points failed in the area between North Melbourne station and —
    - (i) Kensington station;
    - (ii) South Kensington station;
    - (iii) Macaulay station;
  - (b) signals failed in the area between North Melbourne station and —
    - (i) Kensington station;
    - (ii) South Kensington station;
    - (iii) Macaulay station;
  - (c) track circuits failed in the area between North Melbourne station and —
    - (i) Kensington station;
    - (ii) South Kensington station;
    - (iii) Macaulay station;
  - (d) other infrastructure failed in the area between North Melbourne station and —
    - (i) Kensington station;
    - (ii) South Kensington station;
    - (iii) Macaulay station;
- (2) How many trains on the Connex —
  - (a) Craigieburn line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;

- (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
  - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
  - (iv) cancelled;
  - (v) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (vi) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (vii) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (viii) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop;
- (b) Upfield line were —
- (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
  - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
  - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
  - (iv) cancelled;
  - (v) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (vi) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (vii) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (viii) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop;
- (c) Watergardens line were —
- (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
  - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
  - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
  - (iv) cancelled;
  - (v) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (vi) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (vii) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (viii) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop;
- (d) Werribee line were —
- (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
  - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
  - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
  - (iv) cancelled;
  - (v) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (vi) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (vii) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (viii) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop;
- (e) Williamstown line were —
- (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
  - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
  - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
  - (iv) cancelled;
  - (v) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (vi) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (vii) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (viii) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop.

- (3) How many trains on the V/Line —
- (a) Ararat line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;
  - (b) Ballarat line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;
  - (c) Warrnambool line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;
  - (d) Marshall line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;
  - (e) Bendigo line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;
  - (f) Echuca line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;
  - (g) Swan Hill line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;
  - (h) Seymour line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;

- (i) Shepparton line were —
  - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
  - (ii) delayed between six and ten minutes 59 seconds;
  - (iii) delayed for eleven minutes or more;
  - (iv) cancelled.
- (4) When was each set of points located between North Melbourne and either Kensington, South Kensington or Macaulay last —
  - (a) completely replaced;
  - (b) refurbished.
- (5) How much was spent on each replacement or refurbishment of points located between North Melbourne and either Kensington, South Kensington or Macaulay.

**ANSWER:**

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

Within the question, the Member has made over 90 separate requests for information. Researching and extracting the data required to respond to the question would require significant time and resources. As such, the resources required to extract the data cannot be justified at this time.

**Public transport: rail — failures**

**2145.** Mr MULDER to ask the Minister for Public Transport with reference to Connex train services that pass through Clifton Hill railway station —

- (1) Between 1 March 2009 and 11 June 2009 how many times, including the time and date on which the fault occurred and was rectified, and including both running lines and those that lead to sidings —
  - (a) have points failed in the area between Victoria Park station and —
    - (i) Rushall station;
    - (ii) Westgarth station;
  - (b) have signals failed in the area between Victoria Park station and —
    - (i) Rushall station;
    - (ii) Westgarth station;
  - (c) have track circuits failed in the area between Victoria Park station and —
    - (i) Rushall station;
    - (ii) Westgarth station;
  - (d) have other infrastructure failed in the area between Victoria Park station and —
    - (i) Rushall station;
    - (ii) Westgarth station.
- (2) Between 1 March 2009 and 11 June 2009 how many trains on the —
  - (a) Epping line were —
    - (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
    - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
    - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
    - (iv) cancelled;

- (v) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (vi) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (vii) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (viii) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop;
- (b) Hurstbridge line were —
- (i) delayed by up to six minutes;
  - (ii) delayed between six and 10 minutes 59 seconds;
  - (iii) delayed for 11 minutes or more;
  - (iv) cancelled;
  - (v) diverted to run direct to Flinders Street;
  - (vi) diverted to run direct from Flinders Street;
  - (vii) diverted to operate on the up via the City Loop;
  - (viii) diverted to operate on the down via the City Loop.
- (3) When was each set of points located between Victoria Park and either Rushall or Westgarth station last —
- (a) completely replaced;
  - (b) refurbished.
- (4) How much was spent on each replacement or refurbishment of points located between Victoria Park and either Rushall or Westgarth stations.

**ANSWER:**

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

Within the question, the Member has made 28 separate requests for information. Researching and extracting the data required to respond to the question would require significant time and resources. As such, the resources required to extract the data cannot be justified at this time.

**Community services: children — protective intervention reports**

**2163.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the number of children subject to a protective intervention report —

- (1) How many children were subject to a report in 2007.
- (2) How many children have been convicted of criminal offences resulting in a custodial sentence in 2007.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) 11,340.
- (2) One.

**Community services: children — protective intervention reports**

**2164.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the number of children subject to a protective intervention report —



- (1) How many children were subject to a report in 2008.
- (2) How many children have been convicted of criminal offences resulting in a custodial sentence in 2008.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) 11,761.
- (2) Three.

**Community services: child protection staff — eastern metropolitan region**

**2171.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Eastern Metropolitan Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — eastern metropolitan region**

**2172.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Eastern Metropolitan Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — southern metropolitan region**

**2173.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Southern Metropolitan Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — southern metropolitan region**

**2174.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Southern Metropolitan Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — north-west metropolitan region**

**2175.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the North-West Metropolitan Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — north-west metropolitan region**

**2176.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the North-West Metropolitan Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Barwon-south western region**

**2177.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Barwon South West Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Barwon-south western region**

**2178.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Barwon South West Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Gippsland region**

**2179.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Gippsland Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Gippsland region**

**2180.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Gippsland Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave

arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Grampians region**

**2181.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Grampians Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Grampians region**

**2182.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Grampians Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Hume region**

**2183.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Hume Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Hume region**

- 2184.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Hume Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Loddon Mallee region**

- 2185.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Loddon Mallee Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions 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: child protection staff — Loddon Mallee region**

**2186.** Ms **WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to child protection staff in the Loddon Mallee Region — 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 vacancy rates and the progress of recruitment practices. The collation and cross-checking of a range of operational human resources data concerning the leave arrangements of a large number of staff across departmental regions is a substantial task and it is not proposed to divert the work of departmental officers to collate the data in the format requested.

**Energy and resources: pensioner concessions**

**2192(c).** Mr **HODGETT** to ask the Minister for Energy and Resources 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 informed that as at the date the question was raised:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities. However, I note that energy retailers have a requirement under the *Energy Retail Code* to provide details of the availability of concessions to domestic customers.

**Environment and climate change: Barmah State Park and Hattah-Kulkyne National Park — visitors**

**2198.** Mr WELLER to ask the Minister for Community Development for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change with reference to visitor statistics for the Barmah State Park and the Hattah–Kulkyne National Park for 2007–08 —

- (1) What are the visitor numbers.
- (2) How are they calculated.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Parks Victoria’s visitor counting program does not currently include specific visitor numbers in Barmah State Park or Hattah-Kulkyne National Parks. However, historical estimates up to 2001-2002, based on car counters, estimated that Hattah-Kulkyne National Park had approximately 43 000 visits and Barmah State Park had approximately 48 000 visits.

It is important to note that, following a comprehensive review of visitor numbers in 2002, estimates of visitor numbers using car counters were found to be statistically unreliable and Parks Victoria changed its monitoring methods to a broader social survey to establish total visits to National Parks in Victoria.

In addition to the social survey (phone) method, detailed and statistically reliable visitor counts are undertaken at some of the highest visitation parks only (e.g. Grampians and Alpine national parks).

Estimates of visitor numbers to red gum forests made by consultants and reported in the VEAC report would have based on approximations, based on the above historic Parks Victoria estimates, DSE estimates and Tourism Victoria data.

**Roads and ports: Kelletts Road–Wyandra Way, Rowville — traffic incidents**

**2199.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports at the intersection of Kelletts Road and Wyandra Way in Rowville —

- (1) How many traffic incidents were recorded in —
  - (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.
- (2) How many traffic incidents were considered serious/high severity in —
  - (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.
- (3) How many fatalities were recorded in —
  - (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;



- (e) 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

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

This information is available to the public on the VicRoads' website ([www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch)) for crashes until the end of 2007.

The 2008 data is expected to be loaded into this website by October 2009.

**Roads and ports: Kelletts Road–Karoo Road, Rowville — traffic incidents**

**2200.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports at the intersection of Kelletts Road and Karoo Road in Rowville —

- (1) How many traffic incidents were recorded in —
- (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.
- (2) How many traffic incidents were considered serious/high severity in —
- (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.
- (3) How many fatalities were recorded in —
- (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

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

This information is available to the public on the VicRoads' website ([www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch)) for crashes until the end of 2007.

The 2008 data is expected to be loaded into this website by October 2009.

**Roads and ports: Wellington Road–Lysterfield Road, Lysterfield — traffic incidents**

**2201.** Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports at the intersection of Wellington Road and Lysterfield Road in Lysterfield —

- (1) How many traffic incidents were recorded in —
- (a) 2004–05;

- (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.
- (2) How many traffic incidents were considered serious/high severity in —
- (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.
- (3) How many fatalities were recorded in —
- (a) 2004–05;
  - (b) 2005–06;
  - (c) 2006–07;
  - (d) 2007–08;
  - (e) 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

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

This information is available to the public on the VicRoads’ website ([www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/Home/RoadSafety/StatisticsAndResearch)) for crashes until the end of 2007.

The 2008 data is expected to be loaded into this website by October 2009.

**Corrections: youth — custodial sentences**

- 2205.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Corrections how many young people were on a custodial sentence in —
- (1) 1999–2000.
  - (2) 2004–05.
  - (3) 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The daily average number of sentenced prisoners aged 17-25 by financial year was:

- (1) 1999-2000      666
- (2) 2004-05        546
- (3) 2008-09        494

**Corrections: youth — remand**

- 2206.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Corrections how many young people were on remand in —

- (1) 1999–2000.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The daily average number of remand prisoners aged 17-25 by financial year was:

- (1) 1999-2000     141
- (2) 2004-05       173
- (3) 2008-09       197

**Corrections: youth — custody**

**2207.**     **Ms WOOLDRIDGE** to ask the Minister for Corrections: how many young people were in custody in —

- (1) 1999–2000.
- (2) 2004–05.
- (3) 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The daily average number of prisoners aged 17-25 by financial year was:

- (1) 1999-2000     807
- (2) 2004-05       719
- (3) 2008-09       690

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

**2255.**     **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 for 2008–09 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: State Trustee Ltd — entertainment expenses**

**2256.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the State Trustee Ltd's entertainment expenses for 2008–09 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the State Trustees are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

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

**2257.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance's entertainment expenses for 2008–09 —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Details of financial management and all relevant reporting can be found in the records of the Annual Reports that will be tabled in Parliament in October 2009.

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

**2258.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Victorian Funds Management Corporation's entertainment expenses for 2008–09 what are the itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including —

- (1) Date incurred.
- (2) Cost.

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Victorian Funds Management Corporation (VFMC) are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: Department of Treasury and Finance — expenditure**

**2259.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Department of Treasury and Finance —

- (1) What was the advertising expenditure in 2008–09.
- (2) What was the credit card expenditure in 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Advertising costs, if any, will be included in the annual report that will be tabled in Parliament in October 2009. Use of purchasing cards or credit cards form part of the costs of administration and I further refer the Member to the detailed financial statements contained in the annual reports that will be tabled in Parliament in October 2009.

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

**2262.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer with reference to the Office of the Administrator's (SECV, Vicpower Trading) entertainment expenses for 2008–09 — what are the itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including —

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

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Thank you for your request, however the day to day operations of the Office of the Administrator's (SECV, Vicpower Trading) are handled by its Chief Executive Officer.

**Treasurer: land tax**

**2263.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer what is the estimated amount of land tax expected to be collected from assessments of land tax for 2009 levied at each of the marginal tax rates set out in the 2007–08 land tax scale.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The 2009 land tax year was not levied at the 2007-08 land tax scale.

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

**2266.** Mr WELLS to ask the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission for the Treasurer how many forms of notification of land held on trust were lodged with the State Revenue Office in 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The State Revenue Office does not collate this information and therefore it represents an unreasonable diversion of resources to provide a response.

**Community Services: Disability Advisory Council**

**2269.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the Disability Advisory Council —

- (1) What budget allocation has been made for 2009–10.
- (2) What budget allocation was made for 2008-09.
- (3) What was the total funding allocated to members for remuneration and allowances in 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) The budget allocation for the Victorian Disability Advisory Council in 2009–10 is \$45,000.00.
- (2) The budget allocation for the Victorian Disability Advisory Council in 2008-09 was \$43,000.00.
- (3) The total funding allocated to Victorian Disability Advisory Council members for remuneration in 2008–09 was \$18,427.00 and for allowances \$135.00.

**Community services: Disability Advisory Council**

**2270.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services on which dates did the Minister meet with members of the Disability Advisory Council —

- (1) Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008?
- (2) Between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009?
- (3) Between 1 July 2009 and the date of publication of this question?

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

I meet the members of the Council in a variety of forums at both formal and informal occasions.

**Senior Victorians: Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Victorians**

**2281.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians with reference to the Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Victorians —

- (1) What budget allocation was made for —
  - (a) 2007–08;
  - (b) 2008–09;
  - (c) 2009–10.
- (2) What was the total funding allocated to members for remuneration and allowances in —
  - (a) 2007–08;
  - (b) 2008–09.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- 1 (a) The budget allocation for 2007-08 was \$40,000.
- (b) The budget allocation for 2008-09 was \$40,000.
- (c) The budget allocation for 2009-10 is \$40,000.
- (2) (a) The total funding allocated to members for remuneration and allowances in 2007–08 was \$25,050 remuneration; \$4,448.31 reimbursement of out of pocket expenses.
- (b) The total funding allocated to members for remuneration and allowances in 2008–09 was \$13,790 remuneration; \$2,195.58 reimbursement of out of pocket expenses. The lesser remuneration amount in 2008-09 reflects the focus of the council on Seniors Speak Up community consultations rather than formal working group meetings of the council.

**Senior Victorians: Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Victorians**

**2282.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians on which dates did the Minister meet with members of the Council —

- (1) Between 1 July 2007 and 30 June 2008.
- (2) Between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2009.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

I met the members of the Council in a variety of forums on both formal and informal occasions.

**Senior Victorians: ministerial councils, taskforces and committees**

**2291(c).** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Senior Victorians can the Minister provide a list of all Ministerial Councils, Taskforces and Committees which reported to and/or provided advice and input to the Minister in 2008 and 2009.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Minister receives advice from multiple sources, including taskforces established by government and other bodies outside government which send information to the Minister. It is not possible to accumulate accurate lists over multiple years of all the sources of advice received by the Minister.

**Roads and ports: B-Double routes**

**2339.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports what routes in metropolitan Melbourne have been approved for standard 26 metre B-Double high productivity freight vehicles.

**ANSWER:**

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

This information is publicly available at [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

**Roads and ports: Kent Avenue, Croydon — B-Doubles**

**2342.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports is Kent Avenue in Croydon an approved route for B-Doubles.

**ANSWER:**

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

This information is publicly available at [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

**Roads and ports: Eastfield Road, Croydon — B-Doubles**

**2343.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports is Eastfield Road in Croydon an approved route for B-Doubles.

**ANSWER:**

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

This information is publicly available at [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

**Roads and ports: B-Double routes**

**2344.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports are there any time restrictions placed in B-Doubles using approved B-Double routes; if so, what are the time restrictions.

**ANSWER:**

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

This information is publicly available at [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

**Roads and ports: heavy access routes**

**2345.** Mr HODGETT to ask the Minister for Roads and Ports with reference to the designation of Heavy Access Routes —

- (1) Does local government play a role in the designation; if so, what is it.



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- (2) Does VicRoads consult with local government prior to designation, or does VicRoads advise local government after designation has been made.
- (3) Does local government have any right of veto, such as an appeal or review process.
- (4) What process does VicRoads undertake to generate community consultation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

VicRoads consults with all local councils to identify and approve Heavy Vehicle Access Routes before designation.



**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

**Thursday, 17 September 2009**

**Community services: supported accommodation**

**1338.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to the output performance of Disability Services in the 2006–07 Annual Report of the Department of Human Services and the 4,658 clients in shared supported accommodation — how many of these were clients resident in —

- (1) Government managed shared supported accommodation.
- (2) Non-government managed shared supported accommodation.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The number of clients in government managed shared supported accommodation was 2,362.
- (2) The number of clients in non-government managed shared supported accommodation was 2,296.

**Community services: home and community care**

**1371.** Ms WOOLDRIDGE to ask the Minister for Community Services what is the common level of HACC service provision per week for low needs clients in —

- (1) Metropolitan areas.
- (2) Rural and regional areas.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The HACC program has no official definition of a distinction between low-need and high-need clients.

In terms of geographical distribution, the average weekly usage is very similar in metropolitan and rural and regional areas.