

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**8, 9 and 10 August 2006**

**(Extract from book 10)**

Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer



# CONTENTS

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### Tuesday, 8 August 2006

1011.	Attorney-General: constitution letter.....	2815
1017(ag).	Tourism: minister's private office.....	2815
1019(ag).	Tourism: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses.....	2815
1020(f).	Attorney-General: charter flights.....	2816
1020(ac).	Police and emergency services: charter flights.....	2816
1020(ag).	Tourism: charter flights.....	2816
1021(g).	Consumer affairs: media research and public opinion polls.....	2817
1021(ag).	Tourism: media research and public opinion polls.....	2817
1022(ag).	Tourism: international travel.....	2818
1023(ag).	Tourism: interstate travel.....	2818
1024(ag).	Tourism: intrastate travel.....	2818
1025(ag).	Tourism: entertainment expenses.....	2818
1026(ag).	Tourism: ministerial staff.....	2819
1027(g).	Consumer affairs: credit cards.....	2819
1027(t).	Gaming: credit cards.....	2819
1027(ag).	Tourism: credit cards.....	2820
1027(aq).	Multicultural affairs: credit cards.....	2820
1028(p).	Commonwealth Games: training expenditure.....	2821
1028(r).	Sport and recreation: training expenditure.....	2821
1028(aa).	Multicultural affairs: training expenditure.....	2822
1028(ag).	Tourism: training expenditure.....	2822
1028(an).	Victorian communities: training expenditure.....	2823
1034(o).	Aboriginal affairs: leasing arrangements.....	2824
1045(h).	Children: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd.....	2824
1045(i).	Community services: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd.....	2824
1055.	Housing: stock acquisition targets.....	2825
1059.	Housing: asset sales.....	2825
1062.	Housing: transitional housing managers.....	2826
1063.	Housing: staffing levels.....	2826
1070.	Housing: public housing stock.....	2826
1071.	Housing: Kenneth Street, Sandringham....	2827

### Wednesday, 9 August 2006

465.	Education services: CASES incident notification forms.....	2829
466.	Education services: CASES incident notification forms.....	2829
973.	Planning: strategic redevelopment sites....	2830
974.	Water: irrigation efficiency.....	2830
996.	Planning: Boyd House.....	2831
997.	Planning: land capability studies.....	2831
999.	Planning: economic impact statement.....	2832

1003.	Planning: new rural zones.....	2832
1010.	Environment: Black Rock seawall.....	2833
1019(f).	Attorney-General: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses.....	2833
1019(ab).	Planning: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses.....	2834
1022(an).	Victorian communities: international travel.....	2834
1023(an).	Victorian communities: interstate travel.....	2835
1024(an).	Victorian communities: intrastate travel.....	2835
1026(d).	WorkCover: ministerial staff.....	2835
1026(n).	Environment: ministerial staff.....	2835
1026(ab).	Planning: ministerial staff.....	2836
1026(ak).	Finance: ministerial staff.....	2836
1026(am).	Major projects: ministerial staff.....	2837
1026(ao).	Water: ministerial staff.....	2837
1027(f).	Attorney-General: credit cards.....	2838
1035(f).	Attorney-General: stress leave.....	2838
1045(t).	Gaming: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd.....	2838
1045(ad).	Racing: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd.....	2839
1045(ai).	Treasurer: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd.....	2839
1053.	Environment: Black Rock seawall.....	2839
1058.	Housing: capital works.....	2840
1066.	Housing: decommissioned housing.....	2840
1067.	Housing: public housing development.....	2840

### Thursday, 10 August 2006

1017(b).	Agriculture: minister's private office.....	2841
1017(aa).	Multicultural affairs: minister's private office.....	2841
1017(ac).	Police and emergency services: minister's private office.....	2841
1019(b).	Agriculture: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses.....	2842
1020(b).	Agriculture: charter flights.....	2842
1020(aa).	Multicultural affairs: charter flights.....	2842
1022(aa).	Multicultural affairs: international travel.....	2843
1023(b).	Agriculture: interstate travel.....	2843
1023(aa).	Multicultural affairs: interstate travel.....	2843
1024(b).	Agriculture: intrastate travel.....	2844
1024(aa).	Multicultural affairs: intrastate travel.....	2844
1025(j).	Corrections: entertainment expenses.....	2844
1025(ac).	Police and emergency services: entertainment expenses.....	2845
1026(b).	Agriculture: ministerial staff.....	2845
1027(q).	Local government: credit cards.....	2846
1028(o).	Aboriginal affairs: training expenditure....	2846
1030(j).	Corrections: government surveys.....	2847
1034(j).	Corrections: leasing arrangements.....	2847
1034(r).	Sport and recreation: leasing arrangements.....	2847
1035(j).	Corrections: stress leave.....	2848

# CONTENTS

---

1035(u).	<i>Health: stress leave</i> .....	2848
1035(v).	<i>Aged care: stress leave</i> .....	2848
1035(w).	<i>Housing: stress leave</i> .....	2849
1035(ac).	<i>Police and emergency services: stress leave</i> .....	2849
1038(j).	<i>Corrections: web site costs</i> .....	2849
1045(p).	<i>Commonwealth Games: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd</i> .....	2849
1045(q).	<i>Local government: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd</i> .....	2850
1045(r).	<i>Sport and recreation: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd</i> .....	2850
1060.	<i>Housing: public housing waiting list</i> .....	2850
1061.	<i>Housing: public housing vacancies</i> .....	2851
1064.	<i>Housing: public housing purchases</i> .....	2851
1073.	<i>Housing: public housing redevelopment</i> .....	2852

**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, 8 August 2006**

**Attorney-General: constitution letter**

**1011.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Attorney-General with reference to a letter from Mr Ian Armstrong dated 14 June 2005 seeking guidance on the Victorian Constitution — noting that eight months have elapsed since the letter was sent when will Mr Armstrong receive a reply.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Mr Armstrong has been sent a reply.

**Tourism: minister's private office**

**1017(ag).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Tourism — what furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of all such items purchased.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The following items were purchased for my office in 2004–05:

4 clerical chairs                      Total cost: \$282.60.

**Tourism: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses**

**1019(ag).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Tourism — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.
- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government and the M2006 Corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior Departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games. The entertainment expenses form part of the

whole-of-Games budget. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the government's financial report on the Games.

**Attorney-General: charter flights**

**1020(f).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Attorney-General — what are the details of all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister in 2004–05, indicating for each flight —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Carrier.
- (3) Destination.
- (4) Cost.
- (5) Purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The Department's ledger does not include account codes that separately identify chartered flights. To determine the cost and other details requested would necessitate a review of all invoices in relation to travel in 2004–05. This would place an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and resources.

**Police and emergency services: charter flights**

**1020(ac).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — what are the details of all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister in 2004–05, indicating for each flight —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Carrier.
- (3) Destination.
- (4) Cost.
- (5) Purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The financial records of the Department of Justice identify two chartered flights in the name of the Minister for Police & Emergency Services in 2004–05 (16 October 2004 and 11 November 2004). In both cases the Carrier was Australasian Jet Pty Ltd. The first flight was from Essendon to Nhill to Essendon at a cost of \$2,490. The second flight was from Essendon to Wangaratta to Essendon at a cost of \$1,936.

Information relating to the purposes of these flights is not collected by the Department of Justice.

**Tourism: charter flights**

**1020(ag).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Tourism — what are the details of all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister in 2004–05, indicating for each flight —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Carrier.
- (3) Destination.

- (4) Cost.
- (5) Purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Nil.

**Consumer affairs: media research and public opinion polls**

**1021(g).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer Affairs — with reference to each department, agency and authority under the Minister's administration — what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —

- (1) The title of each poll or item of research.
- (2) The date approved and duration of contract.
- (3) The personnel conducting the project.
- (4) Whether it was put to tender.
- (5) The recommendations made.
- (6) Any actions taken by the department or the Minister.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

This question has been answered by Q. 7607.

There was no media research or public opinion polling conducted by any agency or authority within my administration as Minister for Consumer Affairs in 2004–05.

**Tourism: media research and public opinion polls**

**1021(ag).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Tourism — with reference to each department, agency and authority under the Minister's administration — what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —

- (1) The title of each poll or item of research.
- (2) The date approved and duration of contract.
- (3) The personnel conducting the project.
- (4) Whether it was put to tender.
- (5) The recommendations made.
- (6) Any actions taken by the department or the Minister.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

My office does not seek or receive this information.

**Tourism: international travel**

**1022(ag). Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Tourism — What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

**Tourism: interstate travel**

**1023(ag). Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Tourism — What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

**Tourism: intrastate travel**

**1024(ag). Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Tourism — What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses, of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Ministers and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

**Tourism: entertainment expenses**

**1025(ag). Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Tourism — With reference to the entertainment expenses incurred by Ministers and ministerial staff—

- (1) What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (2) What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) What expenses were incurred by each department and agency under the Minister's administration for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister, ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

**Tourism: ministerial staff**

**1026(ag).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Tourism — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

(1 & 2)

These questions do not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

- (3) In my capacity as Minister for Tourism, one public servant from the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development was seconded to my office at 1 March 2006.

**Consumer affairs: credit cards**

**1027(g).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer Affairs — Does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Government Credit Cards are not issued to Ministers or their staff.

**Gaming: credit cards**

**1027(t).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming — Does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Government Credit Cards are not issued to Ministers or their staff.

**Tourism: credit cards**

**1027(ag).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Tourism — Does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Ministers and their staff are not eligible to be card holders, as stipulated in the Purchasing Card Rules for Use and Administration Guidelines, issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

**Multicultural affairs: credit cards**

**1027(aq).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs — Does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

No Government issued credit cards are held by me or my staff.

**Commonwealth Games: training expenditure**

**1028(p).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Commonwealth Games — With reference to expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses or like events by each department, agency or authority within their administration for the period 1 January 2004 to 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What was the name of each conference, course seminar, workshop or like event attended indicating —
  - (a) the locality;
  - (b) the venue;
  - (c) the purpose;
- (2) What was the cost of each event including —
  - (a) accommodation;
  - (b) entertainment;
  - (c) meals and refreshments;
  - (d) travel;
  - (e) taxis and hire cars;
  - (f) other expenses.
- (3) Was the event was externally organised; if so, by which company and at what cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Due to the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Sport and recreation: training expenditure**

**1028(r).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Sport and Recreation — With reference to expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses or like events by each department, agency or authority within their administration for the period 1 January 2004 to 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What was the name of each conference, course seminar, workshop or like event attended indicating —
  - (a) the locality;
  - (b) the venue;
  - (c) the purpose;
- (2) What was the cost of each event including —
  - (a) accommodation;
  - (b) entertainment;

- (c) meals and refreshments;
  - (d) travel;
  - (e) taxis and hire cars;
  - (f) other expenses.
- (3) Was the event was externally organised; if so, by which company and at what cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Due to the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Multicultural affairs: training expenditure**

**1028(aa).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — With reference to expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses or like events by each department, agency or authority within their administration for the period 1 January 2004 to 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What was the name of each conference, course seminar, workshop or like event attended indicating —
- (a) the locality;
  - (b) the venue;
  - (c) the purpose;
- (2) What was the cost of each event including —
- (a) accommodation;
  - (b) entertainment;
  - (c) meals and refreshments;
  - (d) travel;
  - (e) taxis and hire cars;
  - (f) other expenses.
- (3) Was the event was externally organised; if so, by which company and at what cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Due to the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Tourism: training expenditure**

**1028(ag).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Tourism — With reference to expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses or like events by each department, agency or authority within their administration for the period 1 January 2004 to 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What was the name of each conference, course seminar, workshop or like event attended indicating —
- (a) the locality;

- (b) the venue;
  - (c) the purpose;
- (2) What was the cost of each event including —
- (a) accommodation;
  - (b) entertainment;
  - (c) meals and refreshments;
  - (d) travel;
  - (e) taxis and hire cars;
  - (f) other expenses.
- (3) Was the event was externally organised; if so, by which company and at what cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Government cannot justify diversion of the Department's time and resources required to gather this information and answer these questions.

**Victorian communities: training expenditure**

**1028(an).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — With reference to expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses or like events by each department, agency or authority within their administration for the period 1 January 2004 to 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What was the name of each conference, course seminar, workshop or like event attended indicating —
- (a) the locality;
  - (b) the venue;
  - (c) the purpose;
- (2) What was the cost of each event including —
- (a) accommodation;
  - (b) entertainment;
  - (c) meals and refreshments;
  - (d) travel;
  - (e) taxis and hire cars;
  - (f) other expenses.
- (3) Was the event was externally organised; if so, by which company and at what cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Due to the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Aboriginal affairs: leasing arrangements**

**1034(o).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs — As at 1 March 2006 what is the total cost of leasing arrangements over the term of each contract for head office accommodation that has been entered into by all departments, agencies and authorities under the Minister's administration.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Minister for Finance is the responsible Minister for entering into lease agreements for departmental head office accommodation. The Victorian Government Property Group within the Department of Treasury & Finance maintains lease documentation including lease costs.

There are no authorities under my administration.

**Children: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(h).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Children with reference to government payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) No payments have been made to the company by the private office.

This information is not routinely collected from agencies or statutory bodies within my portfolio and the resources required to collect it could not be justified.

- (2) & (3)

Information on all consultancies engaged by the Department of Human Services during this period will be referred to in the relevant Department of Human Services Annual Reports.

**Community services: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(i).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Community Services with reference to government payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) No payments have been made to the company by the private office.

This information is not routinely collected from agencies or statutory bodies within my portfolio and the resources required to collect it could not be justified.

(2) & (3)

Information on all consultancies engaged by the Department of Human Services during this period will be referred to in the relevant Department of Human Services Annual Reports.

### **Housing: stock acquisition targets**

**1055. Mr THOMPSON** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing —

- (1) What were the Office of Housing's stock acquisition targets in —
  - (a) 2003–04;
  - (b) 2004–05;
  - (c) 2005–06 to date.
- (2) What is the Office of Housing's actual stock acquisition total for —
  - (a) 2003–04;
  - (b) 2004–05;
  - (c) 2005–06 to date.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- 1) Details of Office of Housing's stock acquisition targets are published in the annual State Government Budget Paper Number 3.
- 2) With respect to actual stock acquisition totals for 2003–04 and 2004–05, this information can be obtained from the Annual Summary of Housing Assistance Programs via the Office of Housing web site at [www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au).

The 2005–06 information will be available in the Summary of Assistance Programs for 2005–06 which will be published after the end of the financial year.

### **Housing: asset sales**

**1059. Mr THOMPSON** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing with reference to each asset sale that has taken place since 30 June 2004 —

- (1) What was the sale price.
- (2) Who was the buyer of the asset.
- (3) Was there a tender process.
- (4) What was the valuation of the asset prior to sale.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Office of Housing disposes of assets consistent with Victorian Government Land Monitor guidelines.

The time and resources necessary to obtain and collate detailed information on individual sales that have taken place since 30 June 2004 cannot be justified.

Further, the provision of details of specific sales, including, prices and buyer information, cannot be provided for privacy reasons.

**Housing: transitional housing managers**

**1062.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — how many public housing properties are now being managed by transitional housing managers.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As of the end of 2004–2005 there were 3,586 public housing properties managed by transitional housing managers

**Housing: staffing levels**

**1063.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — what are the details relating to staffing levels in the Office of Housing during —

- (a) 2003–04.
- (b) 2004–05.
- (c) 2005–06 to date.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Financial Year	FTE Full Time Equivalent	Date of Count
(a) 2003–04	983.9	30 June 2004
(b) 2004–05	937	30 June 2005
(c) 2005–06 to 31 May 06	919.8	31 May 2006

**Housing: public housing stock**

**1070.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing with reference to single dwelling public housing developed in Melbourne in the postwar period —

- (1) How many Office of Housing dwellings are there in metropolitan Melbourne.
- (2) How many Office of Housing dwellings have been sold to the occupiers in the past six years.
- (3) What is the current program for the maintenance, modernisation or upgrades of the dwellings.
- (4) What is the forward program for the sale of the dwellings and the subsequent improvement of the current housing stock.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- 1. Information relating to the Office of Housing asset portfolio can be obtained from the Annual Summary of Housing Assistance Programs via the Office of Housing web site at [www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au).
- 2. As above, information relating to the Office of Housing’s sales program can be obtained from the Annual Summary of Housing Assistance Programs via the Office of Housing web site at [www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au).

3. Information relating to the Office of Housing's program for maintenance and physical improvement can be obtained from the State Government Budget Papers 2006–07 via the Department of Human Services web site at [www.dhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au).
4. Information relating to the Office of Housing's asset management strategy can be obtained from Sustaining our Housing — Asset Management Strategy 2004 to 2009 on the Office of Housing web site at [www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au).

**Housing: Kenneth Street, Sandringham**

- 1071.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — what stock does the Office of Housing currently hold on the south side of Kenneth Street, Sandringham.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

To protect the privacy of our tenants, the Office of Housing does not disclose addresses.



**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

**Wednesday, 9 August 2006**

**Education services: CASES incident notification forms**

**465.** Mr PERTON to ask the Minister for Education Services — how many Computerised Administrative Software Environment (CASES) incident notification forms were lodged by schools where the incident detailed involved ‘fighting/assault’ in each of 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The data lodged through this system is not relied upon for statistical purposes as schools are required to report all incidents and possible incidents in and around government schools.

The data is a record of suspected incidents on and off school grounds involving 500,000 students and 55,000 teachers and staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The system is used to coordinate and evaluate the quality of the response to the incident rather than recording the seriousness of the incident.

The number of CASES incident notification forms involving assault lodged by schools up to and including 4 May 2004 was as follows:

Year	Reported number of assaults
2001	3517
2002	2841
2003	1920
2004	505

**Education services: CASES incident notification forms**

**466.** Mr PERTON to ask the Minister for Education Services — how many Computerised Administrative Software Environment (CASES) incident notification forms were lodged by schools where the incident detailed involved ‘fighting/assault’ and the injured person was a member of staff in each of 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The data lodged through this system is not relied upon for statistical purposes as schools are required to report all incidents and possible incidents in and around government schools.

The data is a record of suspected incidents on and off school grounds involving 500,000 students and 55,000 teachers and staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The system is used to coordinate and evaluate the quality of the response to the incident rather than recording the seriousness of the incident.

The number of CASES incident notification forms lodged by schools involving ‘fighting/assault’ and the injured person was a member of staff up to and including 4 May 2004 was as follows:

Year	Reported number of staff assaults
2001	836
2002	539
2003	208
2004	114

**Planning: strategic redevelopment sites**

**973.** Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Planning — where are the ‘strategic redevelopment sites’ referred to in the Government’s policy statement *Our Environment Our Future* and what proportion of new dwellings in urban areas were located at these sites in 2004–05.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The concept of strategic redevelopment sites referred to in *Our Environment Our Future* is based on a definition in *Melbourne 2030* being areas within the built-up urban area designated for new residential development. This includes activity centres and major redevelopment projects able to provide ten or more dwellings in or close to activity centres and with good access to public transport. The location of activity centres are specified in *Melbourne 2030*.

In addition, the *2005 Urban Development Program Annual Report* released in December 2005 identifies an adequate supply of major redevelopment projects identified across metropolitan Melbourne.

**Water: irrigation efficiency**

**974.** Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the irrigation efficiency target in the Government’s environmental policy *Our Environment Our Future* —

- (1) How does the Government measure the efficiency of irrigation systems
- (2) What was the efficiency of the respective systems across the state in 2004–05, or the most recent year for which the data is available.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, who have collated data and other information from relevant Rural Water Authorities, that:

**With reference to (1):**

The efficiency of irrigation systems is determined using available information from respective water authorities across Victoria. This information has been collated by DSE. Irrigation system efficiency is a measure of the efficiency of irrigation supply systems from the point where water is diverted from a river (or other body of water), to the point where water is delivered to a farm or industry, giving an indication of the proportion of water that is lost from an irrigation delivery system during transmission. Irrigation system efficiency for most systems is derived by dividing the total volume of water delivered to irrigators from the irrigation district by the total volume of water diverted from the river into the irrigation system, and then multiplying by 100 to get a percentage figure. This

method can vary slightly for some regions to account for changes in water stored in lakes, and also for outfalls from irrigation systems back into rivers.

**With reference to (2):**

Based on the above calculation methods, the efficiencies of the respective systems across the state in 2004–05 are as follows:

Authority	Irrigation System	Irrigation System Efficiency 2004/05 (%)
<i>Goulburn-Murray Water Districts</i>	Goulburn	74.12
	Murray Valley	70.79
	Torrumbarry	66.89
	Murray System (Tresco & Nyah districts)	92.23
<i>Lower Murray Water Districts</i>	Red Cliffs	92.91
	Robinvale	96.03
	Merbein	88.52
<i>FMIT District</i>	FMIT	84.95
<i>Southern Rural Water Districts</i>	Macalister	72.30
	Werribee	69.21
	Bacchus Marsh	83.05

**Planning: Boyd House**

**996.** Mr BAILLIEU to ask the Minister for Planning — with reference to non-executive members of the Heritage Council visiting, in their Heritage Council role, the property at 664–666 Riversdale Road, Camberwell, known as ‘Boyd House’, since October 1999 —

- (1) How many visits have been made.
- (2) On what dates where visits made.
- (3) Who were the visiting members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are records of two visits to the site undertaken by two different panels of 3 members.
- (2) These visits occurred on 8 June, 2002 and 16 July, 2003
- (3) The members were John Dwyer, Tim Hubbard and Malcolm McDonald (on 8.6.2002) and Chris Gallagher (Chair of the Council), Peter Beaumont and Meredith Gould (on 16.7.2003)

I must also point out that the Heritage Council is free to inform itself and carry out any investigations that it thinks fit. This may have involved visits without the knowledge of Heritage Victoria or its staff, however I would anticipate that such visits would have occurred with the owner’s knowledge.

**Planning: land capability studies**

**997.** Mr BAILLIEU to ask the Minister for Planning with reference to funding provided to local councils to support land capability studies since the introduction of new rural zones in 2004 —

- (1) What is the total amount of funding provided to local councils.
- (2) Which councils received funding.
- (3) How much was granted to each council that received funding.
- (4) How many and which requests were rejected and what was the amount in each case.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The question refers to funding that has been made available to support local government through the process of transition to the new rural zones, which were introduced in 2004.

The Government initially provided \$50,000 to the Municipal Association of Victoria to support Councils. Due to strong interest the Government increased the amount to \$150,000 to be provided through the MAV to support Councils to carry out the task of applying the new zones.

Recognising that rural councils have limited resources to implement the new zones, I wrote to Councils with an offer to assist them in the translation of the new zones. As a result of my offer, many Councils have replied in support of the direct translation. At the request of these Councils, I have translated their zones, meaning considerable savings to Councils in the preparation of amendments.

**Planning: economic impact statement**

**999.** Mr BAILLIEU to ask the Minister for Planning — was an economic impact statement prepared in relation to the introduction of new rural zones.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The zones were introduced into the Victoria Planning Provisions in 2004 following a 3 year program of consultation that included social, environmental and economic considerations.

The introduction of the improved rural zones is part of this Government's commitment to protecting Victoria's productive agricultural regions. Rural zones that protect the rights of farmers to farm and prevent ad hoc development will bring significant economic benefit by assisting in protecting the interests of farmers and the State's \$15 billion agricultural industry.

**Planning: new rural zones**

**1003.** Mr BAILLIEU to ask the Minister for Planning with reference to the translation of new rural zones undertaken by the Government since August 2005 — how many land-holders have been informed directly by the Government of the proposed change to their zoning.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that the rural zones are not "new".

The zones were introduced into the Victoria Planning Provisions in 2004 in response to wide concern that the existing zones did not protect the right to farm and were leading to land use conflicts.

The introduction of the rural zones followed an extensive consultation with the community across Victoria. Consultation with the wider community and a full range of interest groups in rural and regional Victoria started in 2001 with a series of workshops in regional Victoria. These workshops led to the appointment of a Rural Zones Review Reference Group and 4 project teams with broad rural and regional representation. The Reference Group released a discussion and options paper in March 2003 that was widely circulated and formed the basis for draft

rural zones released for consultation. The Department of Sustainability and Environment presented to a number of community meetings sponsored by the Victorian Farmers Federation during the consultation period. This resulted in more than 2700 submissions about the draft rural zones. These submissions together with input from the VFF and MAV formed the basis for the final zones. It was clear through this process that the new rural zones would replace the existing zones.

**Environment: Black Rock seawall**

**1010.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Environment with reference to the answer given to question number 890 and noting that as at 14 March 2006 the seawall opposite Second Street had still not been repaired —

- (1) Has any further assessment of the damage been made by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- (2) What is the program for the repair of the wall.
- (3) Is the estimated cost of repairs still \$10,000; if not, what is now the estimated cost of repairs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In February 2006, the acting Minister for Environment, Ms Candy Broad MLC responded to Question No 890 regarding the repairs to the Black Rock seawall, Black Rock. The reply stated that, following representations to the Minister for Environment from the Member for Higinbotham Province, Noel Pullen MP, the Department of Sustainability and Environment would undertake repairs to the Black Rock seawall opposite Second Street, Black Rock.

The Department has undertaken a number of repairs to the seawall in 2005/06, of which some have been in the vicinity of Second Street, Black Rock. Repairs have included:

- Oct 05 Seawall repairs – near Second Street – \$2,904
- Feb 06 Seawall repairs – Half Moon Bay boat ramp – \$12,826
- Mar 06 Capping replacement and seawall repairs – near Second Street – \$13,018
- May 06 Steel removal from seabed – near clock tower – \$2,178

Following further representations to the Minister for Environment from the Member for Higinbotham Province, Noel Pullen MP, Department Officers have recently confirmed a previously undetected hole in the seawall remains near Second Street, Black Rock. Due to the fluctuating sand levels the hole may have been covered during past inspections.

The Department of Sustainability will now proceed to obtain a quote to undertake the works and repair the seawall as soon as possible.

**Attorney-General: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses**

**1019(f).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Attorney-General — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.

- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The Victorian Government and the M2006 corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for ministers and senior departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games.

The entertainment expenses form part of the whole-of-Games budget.

The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the government's financial report on the Games.

**Planning: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses**

**1019(ab).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Planning — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.
- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games.

These entertainment expenses form part of the whole-of-Games budget.

The accounts are still being received and, when collated, will be included in the Government's financial report on the games.

**Victorian communities: international travel**

**1022(an).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Minister did not travel overseas during that year.

**Victorian communities: interstate travel**

**1023(an).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Victoria is leading Australia in strengthening communities and addressing climate change, water use and waste reduction issues. Victoria works constantly with other States and the Commonwealth on further progressing these issues. The costs for this commitment are part of overall Ministerial expenditure.

**Victorian communities: intrastate travel**

**1024(an).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses, of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Ministers and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Bracks Government is committed to governing for all Victorians and ensures that there are regular visits undertaken to regional Victoria. The cost of these visits is part of overall Ministerial expenditure.

**WorkCover: ministerial staff**

**1026(d).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

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

(1) and (2)

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet

(3) I am advised that there were no public servants on secondment to my office at 1 March 2006 that were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**Environment: ministerial staff**

**1026(n).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The first two parts of this question do not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover, falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

With reference to (3), Departments provide Ministers with a Department Liaison Officer for their portfolio areas, and any additional administrative assistance as required.

**Planning: ministerial staff**

**1026(ab).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Planning — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The first two parts of this question do not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover, falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

With reference to (3), Departments provide a Department Liaison Officer to Ministers for their portfolio areas, and any additional administrative assistance as required.

**Finance: ministerial staff**

**1026(ak).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

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

(1) and (2)

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet

(3) I am advised that there were no public servants on secondment to my office at 1 March 2006 that were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget

**Major projects: ministerial staff**

**1026(am). Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

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

(1) and (2)

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet

(3) I am advised that there were no public servants on secondment to my office at 1 March 2006 that were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**Water: ministerial staff**

**1026(ao). Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Water — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The first two parts of this question do not fall within my portfolio responsibility, as the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover, falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

With reference to (3), Departments provide Ministers with a Department Liaison Officer for their portfolio areas, and any additional administrative assistance as required.

**Attorney-General: credit cards**

**1027(f).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Attorney-General — Does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Government Credit Cards are not issued to Ministers or their staff.

**Attorney-General: stress leave**

**1035(f).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Attorney-General — With reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister's administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's resources to provide the information specified by the question. Please specify a time frame for the information that you require.

**Gaming: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(t).** **Ms ASHER** to ask the Minister for Gaming with reference to government payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

There were no payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Office of Gaming and Racing, my private office, or any statutory bodies under my administration between 1 January 2005 and 2 May 2006\*.

\*The date that the question was asked.

**Racing: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(ad).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Racing with reference to government payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

There were no payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Office of Gaming and Racing, my private office, or any statutory bodies under my administration between 1 January 2005 and 2 May 2006\*.

\*The date that the question was asked.

**Treasurer: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(ai).** Ms ASHER to ask the Treasurer with reference to government payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

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

There were no payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd.

**Environment: Black Rock seawall**

**1053.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Environment with reference to the answer given to question number 890 and noting that as at 4 May 2006 the seawall opposite Second Street had still not been repaired —

- (1) Has any further assessment of the damage been made by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- (2) What is the program for the repair of the wall.
- (3) Is the estimated cost of repairs still \$10,000; if not, what is now the estimated cost of repairs.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The answer to this question has been covered in the reply given to Question No. 1010.

**Housing: capital works**

**1058.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — what are the details of the capital works budget for the Office of Housing for 2004–05.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that information regarding the Office of Housing capital works program is available from the summary of Housing Assistance document available on the Office of Housing web site. [www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au)

**Housing: decommissioned housing**

**1066.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — how many properties currently owned by the Office of Housing have been decommissioned from 1 July 2005 to date.

- (1) What was the sale price.
- (2) Who was the buyer of the asset.
- (3) Was there a tender process.
- (4) What was the valuation of the asset prior to sale.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information relating to the Office of Housing’s disposals program can be obtained from the Annual Summary of Housing Assistance Programs via the Office of Housing web site at [www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au).

The Office of Housing disposes of assets consistent with Victorian Government Land Monitor guidelines.

The time and resources necessary to obtain and collate detailed information on individual sales that have taken place since 30 June 2004 cannot be justified.

Further, the provision of details of specific sales, including, prices and buyer information, cannot be provided for privacy reasons.

**Housing: public housing development**

**1067.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing with reference to the proposed public housing development at Lot 54 Kingloch Parade, Wantirna — why has the Minister not responded to concerns of the local community in relation to —

- (1) The density of the development.
- (2) The housing mix for the area.
- (3) The existing neighbourhood character.
- (4) The lack of parking.
- (5) Other concerns as raised in the petition of residents tabled on 6 June 2001 in the House.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Office of Housing responded to the concerns of the local community by withdrawing its original development application in October 2002. During the following three years the Office of Housing has met with Council officers and local residents in an attempt to provide a satisfactory outcome in providing much needed social housing for the Knox municipality.

**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, 10 August 2006**

**Agriculture: minister's private office**

**1017(b).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture — what furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of all such items purchased.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In 2004/05, no furniture items (including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods) were purchased for the Minister for Agriculture's private office.

**Multicultural affairs: minister's private office**

**1017(aa).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of all such items purchased.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs the costs for my private office are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts for my office are not managed in such a way as to separate expenditure as Premier and as Minister for Multicultural Affairs and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Police and emergency services: minister's private office**

**1017(ac).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — what furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of all such items purchased.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Please refer to Question 1017j where I have answered the same question as Minister for Corrections.

**Agriculture: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses**

**1019(b).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture — what was the total amount spent by all Government departments for invited guests and those who were hosting guests on entertainment expenses at the Commonwealth Games including —

- (1) Alcohol.
- (2) Food.
- (3) Admission to Commonwealth Games events.
- (4) Admission to other entertainment events.
- (5) Special gifts.
- (6) All transport and corporate box leasing.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior Departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games. These entertainment expenses form part of the whole-of-Games budget. These accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government’s financial report on the Games.

**Agriculture: charter flights**

**1020(b).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture — what are the details of all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister in 2004–05, indicating for each flight —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Carrier.
- (3) Destination.
- (4) Cost.
- (5) Purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

All chartered flights used by the Minister for Agriculture in 2004–05 were return flights to Bendigo. The details are as follows:

Date	Carrier	Cost	Purpose
30/10/04	Bendigo Aviation	\$1,510	Industry and community consultation.
19/07/04	Australasian Jet	\$841	
30/03/05	Jetcity	\$1,677	

**Multicultural affairs: charter flights**

**1020(aa).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what are the details of all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes, used by the Minister in 2004–05, indicating for each flight —

- (1) Date.
- (2) Carrier.

- (3) Destination.
- (4) Cost.
- (5) Purpose.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Accounts for my office are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts are not managed in such a way as to separate expenditure across my Ministerial portfolios and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Multicultural affairs: international travel**

**1022(aa).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, my costs are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts for my office are not managed in such as way as to separate expenditure as Premier and as Minister for Multicultural Affairs and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Agriculture: interstate travel**

**1023(b).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture — What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The cost of interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and his staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005 was \$10,400.

**Multicultural affairs: interstate travel**

**1023(aa).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, my costs are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts for my office are not managed in such a way as to separate expenditure as Premier and as Minister for Multicultural Affairs and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Agriculture: intrastate travel**

**1024(b).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture — What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses, of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Ministers and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The cost of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Minister and his staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005 was \$12,100.

**Multicultural affairs: intrastate travel**

**1024(aa).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses, of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Ministers and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, my costs are managed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Accounts for my office are not managed in such a way as to separate expenditure as Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and to do so would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Corrections: entertainment expenses**

**1025(j).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Corrections — With reference to the entertainment expenses incurred by Ministers and ministerial staff—

- (1) What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (2) What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) What expenses were incurred by each department and agency under the Minister's administration for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister, ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, entertainment expenses incurred in 2005 totalled \$290.
- (2) According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, no alcohol expenses were incurred in 2005.

- (3) No alcohol was purchased for the Minister, Ministerial Staff or Minister's Office by the Department of Justice or the Adult Parole Board in 2004–05.

**Police and emergency services: entertainment expenses**

**1025(ac).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — With reference to the entertainment expenses incurred by Ministers and ministerial staff—

- (1) What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (2) What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) What expenses were incurred by each department and agency under the Minister's administration for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister, ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, entertainment expenses incurred in 2005 totalled \$290.

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, no alcohol expenses were incurred in 2005.

No alcohol was purchased for the Minister, Ministerial Staff or Minister's Office by the Department of Justice or the following statutory agencies in 2004–05:

- Victoria Police;
- Firearms Appeals Committee;
- Police Appeals Board;
- Victoria State Emergency Service;
- Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board;
- Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Appeals Commission;
- Country Fire Authority;
- Country Fire Authority Appeals Commission;
- Victoria Emergency Management Council; and
- Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority.

**Agriculture: ministerial staff**

**1026(b).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture — With reference to the total cost and engagement of ministerial staff —

- (1) How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister as at 1 March 2006.
- (2) What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (3) How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office as at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Staff working within the office of the Minister for Agriculture are employed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet. I would refer you to the Annual reports of that department which detail the arrangements relating to staff working within ministerial offices.

**Local government: credit cards**

**1027(q).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Local Government — Does the Minister and/or staff of the Minister hold one or more credit cards issued by the Government; if so, what is the total value of purchases on each such credit card since 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 and of the purchases made —

- (1) What was the date of each purchase.
- (2) What was the cost of each purchase.
- (3) Who is the credit card provider.
- (4) What was the criteria for issue.
- (5) What was the criteria for usage.
- (6) What is the spending limit.
- (7) What type of authority is required for purchase.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

No Government issued credit cards are held by me or my staff.

**Aboriginal affairs: training expenditure**

**1028(o).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs — With reference to expenditure on conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses or like events by each department, agency or authority within their administration for the period 1 January 2004 to 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What was the name of each conference, course seminar, workshop or like event attended indicating —
  - (a) the locality;
  - (b) the venue;
  - (c) the purpose;
- (2) What was the cost of each event including —
  - (a) accommodation;
  - (b) entertainment;
  - (c) meals and refreshments;
  - (d) travel;
  - (e) taxis and hire cars;
  - (f) other expenses.
- (3) Was the event was externally organised; if so, by which company and at what cost.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Due to the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide a response would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

**Corrections: government surveys**

**1030(j).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Corrections — With reference to all surveys commissioned and conducted by all government departments, agencies or authorities under the Minister's administration between 1 March 2004 and 1 March 2006 —

- (1) What is the total number of surveys that have been commissioned or conducted.
- (2) What is the total cost of the surveys including —
  - (a) Production costs.
  - (b) The cost of the contracted firms conducting the surveys.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Neither Corrections Victoria nor the Adult Parole Board commissioned any surveys for the period 1 March 2004 to 1 March 2006.

**Corrections: leasing arrangements**

**1034(j).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Corrections — As at 1 March 2006 what is the total cost of leasing arrangements over the term of each contract for head office accommodation that has been entered into by all departments, agencies and authorities under the Minister's administration.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The Minister for Finance enters into leases on behalf of the Department of Justice and the Adult Parole Board.

**Sport and recreation: leasing arrangements**

**1034(r).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Sport and Recreation — As at 1 March 2006 what is the total cost of leasing arrangements over the term of each contract for head office accommodation that has been entered into by all departments, agencies and authorities under the Minister's administration.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Minister for Finance is the responsible Minister for entering into lease agreements for head office accommodation. The Victorian Government Property Group within the Department of Treasury & Finance maintains lease documentation including lease costs.

I am advised of the following:

The World Swimming Championships Corporation paid \$80,793 in rent for its head office accommodation from 16 February 2005 to 7 April 2006.

The Victorian Institute of Sport paid \$197,000 in rent for its head office accommodation in 2005–06. The lease has another 8 years to run, with leasing costs adjusted for CPI annually.

As at 1 March 2006, no other agencies under my administration had leasing arrangements in place for head office accommodation.

**Corrections: stress leave**

**1035(j).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Corrections — With reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister’s administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable burden on the Department’s resources to provide the information specified by the question. Please specify a time frame for the information that you require.

**Health: stress leave**

**1035(u).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Health — With reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister’s administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

To provide details would be an unreasonable diversion of my Department’s resources.

**Aged care: stress leave**

**1035(v).** **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Aged Care — With reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister’s administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

To provide details would be an unreasonable diversion of my Department’s resources.

**Housing: stress leave**

**1035(w).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — With reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister’s administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

To provide details would be an unreasonable diversion of my Department’s resources.

**Police and emergency services: stress leave**

**1035(ac).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — With reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister’s administration — what is the total number of staff that have taken time off because of stress-related illnesses and of these —

- (1) What is the total number of days taken off by these staff.
- (2) What is the estimated cost of these staff absences
- (3) What are the details of each case.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

It would be an unreasonable burden on the Department’s resources to provide the information specified by the question. Please specify a time frame for the information that you require.

**Corrections: web site costs**

**1038(j).** Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Corrections — What is the total number of web sites currently owned, operated or administered by each department, agency or authority within the Minister’s jurisdiction what has been the total cost for the design, administration and maintenance of each web site from 1 March 2004 to 1 March 2006.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Corrections Victoria does not have its own web site, however, it does provide content for the Department of Justice web site. The cost associated with the administration of Corrections Victoria’s content for the Department of Justice web site for the period 1 March 2004 to 1 March 2006, is approximately \$14,000. The Adult Parole Board of Victoria does not have its own web site and has not incurred any related costs.

**Commonwealth Games: Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(p).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Commonwealth Games with reference to government payments made to Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that no payments have been made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by my Department, private office or the statutory body under my administration.

**Local government: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(q).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Local Government with reference to government payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The answer is nil.

**Sport and recreation: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd**

**1045(r).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Sport and Recreation with reference to government payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd since 1 January 2005 —

- (1) What payments have been made to the company by the Minister's department or private office, or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What projects were paid for with the payments.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that no payments have been made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by my Department, private office or statutory bodies under my administration.

**Housing: public housing waiting list**

**1060.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — what was the number of applicants on the waiting list for access for public housing for the —

- (1) September 2005 quarter for —
  - (a) each public housing region;
  - (b) the whole of Victoria;
  - (c) each segment within the waiting list.
- (2) December 2005 quarter for —
  - (a) each public housing region;

- (b) the whole of Victoria;
  - (c) each segment within the waiting list.
- (3) March 2006 quarter for —
- (a) each public housing region;
  - (b) the whole of Victoria;
  - (c) each segment within the waiting list.
- (4) June 2006 quarter for —
- (a) each public housing region;
  - (b) the whole of Victoria;
  - (c) each segment within the waiting list.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that information about public housing waiting lists is available on the Office of Housing web site ([www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au)).

**Housing: public housing vacancies**

**1061.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — in 2004–05, for each public housing region —

- (1) What was the total number of houses unoccupied.
- (2) What was the average length of vacancy.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that there were 749 direct tenure public rental properties vacant as at 30 June 2005. The average turnaround time for direct tenure public rental properties that became vacant in 2004–05 was 38 days.

The following table provides a regional breakdown of the number of vacant tenantable properties as at 30 June 2005.

Region	Vacancies as at 30 June 2005	Average Turnaround Time 2004–05 (days)
Eastern Metropolitan	46	33
North and West Metropolitan	206	43
Southern Metropolitan	152	38
Barwon South Western	60	36
Gippsland	110	39
Grampians	58	36
Hume	40	32
Loddon Mallee	77	34
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>749</b>	<b>38</b>

**Housing: public housing purchases**

**1064.** Mr THOMPSON to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing with reference to the purchase of public housing property by the Office of Housing —

- (1) How many houses has the Office purchased in —
  - (a) 2003–04;
  - (b) 2004–05;
  - (c) 2005–06 to date.
  
- (2) What is the address of each property purchased in —
  - (a) 2003–04;
  - (b) 2004–05;
  - (c) 2005–06 to date.
  
- (3) How many bedrooms are there in each property purchased in —
  - (a) 2003–04;
  - (b) 2004–05;
  - (c) 2005–06 to date.
  
- (4) What was the purchase price of each property purchased in —
  - (a) 2003–04;
  - (b) 2004–05;
  - (c) 2005–06 to date.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The time and resources necessary to obtain and collate detailed information on individual purchases cannot be justified

Further, the provision of details of specific purchases and prices, cannot be provided for privacy reasons.

**Housing: public housing redevelopment**

**1073. Mr THOMPSON** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing with reference to the redevelopment of public housing estates —

- (1) What is the itemised list of estates earmarked for redevelopment, including a progress report on each public housing site.
- (2) Whether the redevelopment of these estates involves contributions in kind from the not-for-profit sector or private developers, including details of the type of contribution made towards each such redevelopment.
- (3) What are the details of public estates where the Government has already undertaken or proposes to undertake the subdivision and sell the land for private sector development.
- (4) What are the details of the type of contractual arrangement the Government proposes to negotiate with private developers to encourage a mix of private and public housing developments on Government-owned sites.
- (5) What are the details of private investors who have submitted a joint venture proposal for the redevelopment of public housing estates.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Progress on redevelopment and neighbourhood renewal projects is summarised below:

<b>Redevelopment</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Victory Boulevard, Ashburton	Completed
Long Gully, Bendigo	Completed
Rathdowne Street, Carlton	Underway
Peace Court, Doveton	Underway
Thomson Estate, Geelong East	Completed
Kensington Estate, Kensington	Underway
Maidstone/Braybrook Estate	Underway
Raglan/Ingles Sts, Port Melbourne	Completed
Elizabeth Street, Richmond	In planning
Parkside Estate, Shepparton	Underway
Mark/Rundle Estate, Wodonga	Underway

<b>Neighbourhood Renewal Area</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Wendouree West	Underway
Latrobe Valley (East Morwell Churchill Moe and Traralgon)	Underway
Collingwood Public Housing Estate	Underway
Atherton Gardens (in Fitzroy)	Underway
East Eaglehawk (Bendigo)	Underway
Long Gully (Bendigo)	Underway
Parkside (Shepparton)	Underway
Seymour	Underway
Maidstone and Braybrook	Underway
Corio/Norlane (Geelong)	Underway
Colac	Underway
Ashwood/Ashburton/Chadstone	Underway
Doveton	Underway
Werribee	Underway
Broadmeadows	Underway
Heidelberg West	Underway
East Reservoir	Underway
Delacombe (Ballarat)	Underway
Hastings.	Underway

- (2) None of the redevelopments to date involve contributions in kind from the not-for-profit sector or private developers.
- (3) The Government proposes, has commenced or has undertaken subdivisions at the following estates: Ashburton, Kensington, Port Melbourne, Parkside (Shepparton) and Wodonga.
- (4) The types of contractual arrangements being used to encourage a mix of public and private housing on Government-owned sites accord with existing guidelines and policies, such as those for the purchase and sale of land, the Code of Practice for the Building and Construction Industry, the Partnerships Victoria policy and

the relevant rules governing such contracts, such as the Directions under the Project Development and Construction Management Act.

- (5) No joint venture proposals have been submitted by private sector investors for the redevelopment of public housing estates.