

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

18, 19 and 20 July 2006

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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, 18 July 2006

Environment: weed management strategy

976. Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Environment —

- (1) Does the Government report annually on progress with implementation of its Weed Management Strategy; if so, are these reports published and if not, why not.
- (2) Did the Government undertake a review of the Weed Management Strategy by June 2005 as originally proposed; if so, what was the result of this review and will it be made available to members of Parliament.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Annual reporting on the implementation of the Weed Management Strategy occurs through the annual reports of the Victorian Catchment Management Council, DSE, Parks Victoria and in some cases Catchment Management Authorities.

Many of the actions of the Weed Management Strategy are being progressed through the current initiative — Tackling Weeds on Private Land. Reporting on this initiative occurs through annual achievement reports.

The Catchment Management Council also produces a “Health of Our Catchments” report card that monitors progress on weed management over a five-year time frame.

Annual reporting on operational delivery occurs through the Regional Catchment Investment Plan reporting process.

All of the above reports except for the operational delivery reports are available to the public through the relevant web sites.

The regional weed action plans are an effective tool to set priorities. They are the regional expression of the Weed Management Strategy.

Evaluations of the regional pest plans and the Victorian Pest Management Framework are being completed.

Environment: recharge zones

978. Mr WALSH to ask the Minister for Environment with reference to critical salinity recharge zones within all catchments across Victoria —

- (1) Has the Government identified all recharge zones.
- (2) Is there a central register of recharge zones; if so can the register be accessed by the public.
- (3) Which of the critical recharge zones identified by the Government have been revegetated in the last five years.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- Critical salinity recharge zones are identified in regional salinity management plans.
- Catchment Management Authorities work with their communities to prepare salinity management plans. These plans are strongly informed by the mapping of both recharge and discharge zones.
- Through this planning and mapping work, Victoria now has recharge and discharge zones mapped for all parts of the State where salinity is an issue. These are available through the Victorian Government web site.
- In addition, a number of recently published salinity management plans show these critical salinity management areas and are available to the public from Catchment Management Authorities.
- In recent years much has been learned about the underlying causes of salinity. For instance, it is now clear that revegetation is not the only approach to salinity management. Other critical approaches include protection and enhancement of existing vegetation, perennial pasture establishment, property management planning, education, salt interception schemes, diversion schemes and productive use of saline land. Together these form the comprehensive approach currently used to manage salinity across Victoria.
- Singling out revegetation in specific recharge zones does not give a complete picture of the joint efforts of the community, government and industry to manage salinity.
- The Government continues to work to improve the knowledge base and to address the impacts of salinity through investing \$152 Million over 7 years into the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. This commitment has leveraged a further \$152 million from the Commonwealth government, giving a total of \$304 million over 7 years.
- Some of the outcomes of this investment are: over 26,000 hectares of revegetation, over 15,000 hectares of perennial pasture establishment, and over 18,000 hectares of vegetation protected. Associated with this has been the development of over 1200 farm plans per year.

Gaming: minister's private office

1017(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming — 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:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, the answer is nil.

Victorian communities: minister's private office

1017(an). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — 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:

Accounts for the purchase of furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods for my office are not managed by the Department for Victorian Communities and therefore the answer is nil.

Environment: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(n). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment — 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.

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

Local government: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(q). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Local Government — 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 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. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Gaming: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(t). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Gaming — 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.

Racing: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — 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.

Victorian communities: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(an). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — 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 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. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Water: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(ao). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Water — 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.

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

Women's affairs: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(ap). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Women's Affairs — 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 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. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Multicultural affairs: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(aq). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs — 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 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. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Commonwealth Games: charter flights

1020(p). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Commonwealth Games — 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:

There were no flights chartered in 2004–05.

Sport and recreation: charter flights

1020(r). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Sport and Recreation — 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:

There were no flights chartered in 2004–05.

Premier: credit cards

1027(a). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Premier — does the Premier and/or staff of the Premier 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:

Ministers and their staff are not eligible to be cardholders under the Government Purchasing Card rules, so therefore the answer is nil.

Health: credit cards

1027(u). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Health — 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:

Neither the Minister nor staff hold credit cards issued by the Government.

Aged care: credit cards

1027(v). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Aged Care — 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:

Neither the Minister nor staff hold credit cards issued by the Government.

Multicultural affairs: credit cards

1027(aa). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for 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.

Planning: credit cards

1027(ab). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Planning — 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:

Neither I nor my staff hold any credit cards issued by the Victorian Government.

Premier: training expenditure

1028(a). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Premier — 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:

To provide an answer to your question would be too resource intensive and be an unreasonable diversion of the time and resources of my Department.

Consumer affairs: training expenditure

1028(g). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Attorney-General for the Minister for Consumer 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 advised that:

It would be an unreasonable diversion of the Department's time and resources to provide an answer to this question.

Environment: training expenditure

1028(n). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment — 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:

Given the broad nature of this question, the research required to provide this information would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

Water: training expenditure

1028(ao). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Water — 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:

Given the broad nature of this question, the research required to provide this information would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

Environment: departmental publications

1029(n). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment — with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister’s administration from 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 — what are the details of all publications produced indicating in each case —

- (1) The title.
- (2) The date of issue.
- (3) Details of distribution.
- (4) The numbers printed.
- (5) The cost of production.
- (6) The purpose of production.
- (7) Who it was printed by.
- (8) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Details of major publications are included in each organisation’s annual report of operations and are publicly available in accordance with the Minister for Finance’s Financial Reporting Direction 22A issued under the Financial Management Act of 1994.

Health: departmental publications

1029(u). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health — with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister’s administration from 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 — what are the details of all publications produced indicating in each case —

- (1) The title.
- (2) The date of issue.
- (3) Details of distribution.
- (4) The numbers printed.
- (5) The cost of production.

- (6) The purpose of production.
- (7) Who it was printed by.
- (8) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

To provide details of payment made would be an unreasonable diversion of my department's resources.

Housing: departmental publications

1029(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 from 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 — what are the details of all publications produced indicating in each case —

- (1) The title.
- (2) The date of issue.
- (3) Details of distribution.
- (4) The numbers printed.
- (5) The cost of production.
- (6) The purpose of production.
- (7) Who it was printed by.
- (8) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

To provide details of payment made would be an unreasonable diversion of my department's resources.

Water: departmental publications

1029(ao). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Water — with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Minister's administration from 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 — what are the details of all publications produced indicating in each case —

- (1) The title.
- (2) The date of issue.
- (3) Details of distribution.
- (4) The numbers printed.
- (5) The cost of production.
- (6) The purpose of production.
- (7) Who it was printed by.
- (8) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Details of major publications are included in each organisation's annual report of operations and are publicly available in accordance with the Minister for Finance's Financial Reporting Direction 22A issued under the Financial Management Act of 1994.

Premier: strategic communications branch

1032. Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Premier with reference to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Strategic Communications Branch including the Media Monitoring Rationalisation section — as at March 1 2006, how many staff are employed either on a full-time, part-time, casual or other arrangement such as external contractors.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As at 1 March 2006 there were 18 staff employed within the Strategic Communications Branch including the Media Monitoring Unit.

Local government: leasing arrangements

1034(q). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment for the Minister for Local Government — 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.

All of the administrative requirements of the Victoria Grants Commission, including accommodation, are met by the Department for Victorian Communities and as such the Commission does not have any separate leasing arrangements.

Gaming: leasing arrangements

1034(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming — 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:

Leasing agreements for the Office of Gaming and Racing and the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation are entered into by the Minister for Finance.

Health: leasing arrangements

1034(u). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health — 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:

My department advises that this information is not routinely collected from agencies or authorities within my portfolio and the resources required to collect it could not be justified, however some information relevant to this request is referred to in the DHS Annual Report.

Housing: leasing arrangements

1034(w). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — 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:

My department advises that this information is not routinely collected from agencies or authorities within my portfolio and the resources required to collect it could not be justified, however some information relevant to this request is referred to in the DHS Annual Report.

Premier: stress leave

1035(a). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Premier — with reference to each department, agency, and authority under the Premier’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:

The Department does not collect this type of data and therefore this question cannot readily be answered.

Gaming: workers compensation costs

1037(t). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Gaming — with reference to each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s jurisdiction, including the Ministerial Office — how many employees, both permanent and non-permanent, are currently on workers compensation as a result of workplace injury and what is the estimated cost resulting from these claims.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were no employees of the Office of Gaming and Racing, or any agencies under the Minister's administration, who were on workers compensation as at 28 March 2006.

Please note that the employment of ministerial staff does not fall within my portfolio responsibility. The engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Premier: web site costs

1038(a). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Premier — what is the total number of websites currently owned, operated or administered by each department, agency or authority within the Premier'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 informed that:

The Department and its agencies host 19 websites. Due to the diverse technologies and variety of development, maintenance and support arrangements in place, to provide accurate costs on the design, administration and maintenance of each web site would be too resource intensive and an unreasonable diversion of the time and resources of my Department.

Health: web site costs

1038(u). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Health — what is the total number of websites 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 informed that:

I refer the Member to www.dhs.vic.gov.au which has links to other relevant websites.

As many DHS staff contribute time to providing the rich content on the websites, to impute the costs would be an onerous and unnecessary diversion of resources.

Health: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd

1045(u). **Ms ASHER** to ask the Minister for Health — 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.

Aged care: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd

- 1045(v).** Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Aged Care — 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.

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, 19 July 2006

Education services: question on notice 274

826. Mr PERTON to ask the Minister for Education Services — why has question number 274 asked on 16 September 2003 not been answered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The answer to this question has already been tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 25 October 2005.

Education services: questions on notice 302, 304–307

827. Mr PERTON to ask the Minister for Education Services — why have questions number 302, 304, 305, 306 and 307 asked on 16 September 2003 not been answered.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The answers to these questions have already been tabled in the Legislative Assembly as follows: 302, 306 and 307 tabled on 7 February 2006; and 304 and 305 tabled on 8 June 2006.

WorkCover: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(d). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

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

Corrections: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(j). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Corrections — 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.

Police and emergency services: Commonwealth Games entertainment expenses

1019(ac). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — 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.

WorkCover: charter flights

1020(d). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

I did not charter any flights as Minister for WorkCover during that time period.

Corrections: charter flights

1020(j). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Corrections — 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 do not identify any chartered flights in the name of the Minister for Corrections in 2004–05.

Gaming: charter flights

1020(t). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Gaming — 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:

It would be an unreasonable diversion of the Department's time and resources to provide an answer to this question.

Racing: charter flights

1020(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — 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:

It would be an unreasonable diversion of the Department’s time and resources to provide an answer to this question.

Finance: charter flights

1020(ak). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — 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:

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

I did not charter any flights as Minister for Finance during that time period.

Major projects: charter flights

1020(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — 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:

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

I did not charter any flights as Minister for Major Projects during that time period.

Victorian communities: charter flights

1020(an). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — 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 Sustainability and Environment.

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.

WorkCover: media research and public opinion polls

1021(d). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Environment: media research and public opinion polls

1021(n). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment — 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 that:

Given the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide this information would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

Finance: media research and public opinion polls

1021(ak). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Major projects: media research and public opinion polls

1021(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Water: media research and public opinion polls

1021(ao). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Water — 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 that:

Given the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide this information would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

Racing: international travel

1022(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — 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 advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, expenses incurred in my capacity as Minister for Racing and by my ministerial staff in relation to international travel in 2005 were \$8,360.08 for airfares and \$1,959.01 for accommodation.

Racing: interstate travel

1023(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — 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 advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, expenses incurred in my capacity as Minister for Racing and by my ministerial staff in relation to interstate travel in 2005 were \$1,723.63 for airfares.

WorkCover: intrastate travel

1024(d). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Racing: intrastate travel

1024(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — 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 advised that:

According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, there were no expenses incurred in my capacity as Minister for Racing or by my ministerial staff in relation to intrastate travel in 2005.

Finance: intrastate travel

1024(ak). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Major projects: intrastate travel

1024(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Racing: entertainment expenses

1025(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — 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, no entertainment expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2005.
- (2) According to the financial records of the Department of Justice, no 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) According to the financial records of the Department of Justice and each Racing statutory authority, no expenses were incurred for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister, ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

WorkCover: credit cards

1027(d). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

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

Corrections: credit cards

1027(j). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Corrections — 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:

Neither I, nor my staff, have any credit cards issued by the Government.

Housing: credit cards

1027(w). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — 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:

Neither the Minister nor staff hold credit cards issued by the Government.

Police and emergency services: credit cards

1027(ac). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services — 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:

Neither I, nor my staff, have any credit cards issued by the Government.

Finance: credit cards

1027(ak). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — 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:

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

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

Major projects: credit cards

1027(am). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — 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:

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

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

WorkCover: training expenditure

1028(d). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Finance: training expenditure

1028(ak). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Major projects: training expenditure

1028(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Aged care: departmental publications

1029(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 from 1 January 2005 to 1 March 2006 — what are the details of all publications produced indicating in each case —

- (1) The title.
- (2) The date of issue.
- (3) Details of distribution.
- (4) The numbers printed.
- (5) The cost of production.
- (6) The purpose of production.
- (7) Who it was printed by.
- (8) Whether tenders were called.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

To collect and provide details would be an unreasonable diversion of my department’s resources.

WorkCover: government surveys

1030(d). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Environment: government surveys

1030(n). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Environment — 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 informed that:

Given the broad nature of the question, the research required to provide this information would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

Health: government surveys

1030(u). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health — 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 informed that:

To provide details of payment made would be an unreasonable diversion of my department’s resources.

Aged care: government surveys

1030(v). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Aged Care — 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 informed that:

To collect and provide details would be an unreasonable diversion of my department's resources.

Housing: government surveys

1030(w). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — 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 informed that:

To provide details of payment made would be an unreasonable diversion of my department's resources.

Finance: government surveys

1030(ak). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Major projects: government surveys

1030(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Water: government surveys

1030(ao). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Water — 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 informed that:

Given the broad nature of this question, the research required to provide this information would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

WorkCover: external legal advice

1033(d). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — what was the total amount spent on external legal advice by each department, agency or other authority under the Minister’s administration in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Health: external legal advice

1033(u). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health — what was the total amount spent on external legal advice by each department, agency or other authority under the Minister’s administration in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services does not routinely collect information on such costs from the hundreds of agencies under the authority of the Minister for Health and so this information is not readily available.

Racing: leasing arrangements

1034(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — 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:

Leasing agreements of the Office of Gaming and Racing, the Racing Appeals Tribunal and the Bookmaker & Bookmakers Clerk’s Registration Committee are entered into by the Minister for Finance. Greyhound Racing Victoria and Harness Racing Victoria own the properties that they occupy.

Victorian communities: leasing arrangements

1034(an). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Victorian Communities — 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.

There are no authorities under my administration.

Racing: workers compensation costs

1037(ad). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Racing — with reference to each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s jurisdiction, including the Ministerial Office — how many employees, both permanent and non-permanent, are currently on workers compensation as a result of workplace injury and what is the estimated cost resulting from these claims.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were no employees of the Office of Gaming and Racing, or any agencies under the Minister’s administration, who were on workers compensation as at 28 March 2006.

Please note that the employment of ministerial staff does not fall within my portfolio responsibility. The engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Housing: Shannon’s Way Pty Ltd

1045(w). Ms ASHER to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — 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.

Water: water authority dividends

1054. Mr RYAN to ask the Minister for Water with reference to the answer given to question number 985 and noting that this reply provided details of dividends received from regional water authorities only — how much in dividends did Victoria’s water authorities, both regional and non-regional, pay into the consolidated fund in each of 1998–99, 1999–2000, 2000–01, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2003–04 and 2004–05 in accordance with their obligations under the Public Authorities (Dividends) Act 1983.

ANSWER:

I am advised that the following dividends were transferred by Melbourne Water, the metropolitan retailers and the regional water authorities into the consolidated fund:

Year	Regional Water Authorities (\$ million)	Melbourne Water and metropolitan retailers (\$ million)
1998–99	11.26	269.5
1999–00	11.57	271.9
2000–01	9.91	301.3
2001–02	7.34	268.7
2002–03	2.22	352.8
2003–04	1.18	240.1
2004–05	1.80	161.8

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, 20 July 2006

Aged care: external legal advice

1033(v). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Aged Care — what was the total amount spent on external legal advice by each department, agency or other authority under the Minister's administration in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services does not routinely collect information on such costs from the hundreds of agencies under the authority of the Minister for Health and so this information is not readily available.

Housing: external legal advice

1033(w). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — what was the total amount spent on external legal advice by each department, agency or other authority under the Minister's administration in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services does not routinely collect information on such costs from the hundreds of agencies under the authority of the Minister for Health and so this information is not readily available.

Finance: external legal advice

1033(ak). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — what was the total amount spent on external legal advice by each department, agency or other authority under the Minister's administration in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Major projects: external legal advice

1033(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — what was the total amount spent on external legal advice by each department, agency or other authority under the Minister's administration in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

WorkCover: leasing arrangements

1034(d). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Agriculture for the Minister for WorkCover — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Aged care: leasing arrangements

1034(v). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Aged Care — 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:

My department advises that this information is not routinely collected from agencies or authorities within my portfolio and the resources required to collect it could not be justified, however some information relevant to this request may be referred to in the DHS Annual Report

Finance: leasing arrangements

1034(ak). **Mr HONEYWOOD** to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Finance — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Major projects: leasing arrangements

1034(am). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Treasurer for the Minister for Major Projects — 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:

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

The broad nature of the question and given that identical questions have been asked across government indicates that this is not a genuine inquiry but a speculative question and as such a response would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Aged care: web site costs

1038(v). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Aged Care — what is the total number of websites 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 informed that:

I refer the Member to www.dhs.vic.gov.au which has links to other relevant websites.

As many DHS staff contribute time to providing the rich content on the websites, to impute the costs would be an onerous and unnecessary diversion of resources.

Housing: web site costs

1038(w). Mr HONEYWOOD to ask the Minister for Health for the Minister for Housing — what is the total number of websites 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 informed that:

I refer the Member to www.dhs.vic.gov.au which has links to other relevant websites.

As many DHS staff contribute time to providing the rich content on the websites, to impute the costs would be an onerous and unnecessary diversion of resources.

