

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

22, 23 and 24 May 2007

(Extract from book 7)

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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 Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.
 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, 22 May 2007

Aboriginal affairs: heritage projects

- 43. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs: In relation to Aboriginal Heritage Projects:
- (1) How many Heritage projects were carried out between the Bracks Government and Victorian Aboriginal communities in —
 - (a) 2003;
 - (b) 2004;
 - (c) 2005; and
 - (d) 2006.
 - (2) How much was spent in each year.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The information requested is reported on in financial years.

The following Aboriginal Heritage Management Projects were carried out with Aboriginal community partners in the financial years 2003–2004 through to 2005–2006:

Financial Year	Number of Projects	Amount
2003–2004	6	\$50,000
2004–2005	10	\$93,000
2005–2006	12	\$87,150

The figures for 2006–2007 will be available at the end of this financial year.

Community services: Disability Justice Advocacy

- 47. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Community Services: Will the Disability Justice Advocacy Inc be funded for the duration of this Parliament, that is until 2010.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government does not currently provide funding to Disability Justice Advocacy Inc. The Commonwealth Government currently provide funding to Disability Justice Advocacy Inc.

Industry and state development: external legal advice

- 63. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development: In relation to the portfolio of Industry and State Development, would the Minister provide in table form for 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 1 July 2006 to date —
- (a) The names of the legal firms or consultancies from which the department obtained external advice;
 - (b) The nature and purpose of each piece of legal advice obtained through the firms listed;
 - (c) The expenditure by the Department on the legal firms and advice referred to above; and
 - (d) The tender or advertising arrangements used in each of the above pieces of legal advice.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

A summary of consultancies is featured in the DIIRD Annual Report.

Small business: external legal advice

- 65. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Small Business: In relation to the portfolio of Small Business, would the Minister provide in table form for 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 1 July 2006 to date —
- (a) The names of the legal firms or consultancies from which the department obtained external advice;
 - (b) The nature and purpose of each piece of legal advice obtained through the firms listed;
 - (c) The expenditure by the Department on the legal firms and advice referred to above; and
 - (d) The tender or advertising arrangements used in each of the above pieces of legal advice.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

A summary of consultancies is featured in the DIIRD Annual Report.

Industry and state development: public relations staff and consultancies

- 68. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development: In relation to your portfolio of Industry and State Development:
- (1) What is the number and cost of staff working in his office.
 - (2) What is the number of staff working in each Public Relations Unit indicating —
 - (a) the total operating budget; and
 - (b) the total promotional budget.
 - (3) What contracts have been entered into in 2005–06 for public relations and/or communications strategies with outside consultants or persons giving —
 - (a) the person/company contracted;
 - (b) the date of the contract;
 - (c) the contract sum;
 - (d) the amount paid; and

- (e) a brief summary of work done.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Information about the number of staff working in my office is routinely included in the Annual Report of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Information about staffing and expenditure of the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development is included in its Annual Report.

Information about consultancies for public relations and communications is also included in the Annual Report for the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development.

Small business: public relations staff and consultancies

70. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Small Business: In relation to your portfolio of Small Business:

- (1) What is the number and cost of staff working in his office.
- (2) What is the number of staff working in each Public Relations Unit indicating —
 - (a) the total operating budget; and
 - (b) the total promotional budget.
- (3) What contracts have been entered into in 2005–06 for public relations and/or communications strategies with outside consultants or persons giving —
 - (a) the person/company contracted;
 - (b) the date of the contract;
 - (c) the contract sum;
 - (d) the amount paid; and
 - (e) a brief summary of work done.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Information about the number of staff working in my office is routinely included in the Annual Report of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Information about staffing and expenditure of the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development is included in its Annual Report.

Information about consultancies for public relations and communications is also included in the Annual Report for the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development.

Industry and state development: departmental staff

74. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development:

- (1) At 31 December 2006 how many members of the Victorian Public Service were employed by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development at:
 - (a) VPS Remuneration Band 1;
 - (b) VPS Remuneration Band 2;

- (c) VPS Remuneration Band 3;
 - (d) VPS Remuneration Band 4; and
 - (e) VPS Remuneration Band 5.
- (2) What was the full-time equivalent number of staff in each of those bands.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Details of staff numbers can be found in the DIIRD Annual Report.

Water, environment and climate change: septic tank replacement program

119. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Government’s plan to accelerate the Septic Tank Replacement program:

- (1) How many residences in the District of Warrandyte are scheduled to have their septic tanks replaced with a reticulated sewerage system for each calendar year from 2007 to 2010.
- (2) When is work scheduled, specifically within the District of Warrandyte for the suburbs of Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards, to replace septic tanks with a reticulated sewerage system.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Plans for connection of lots in the Warrandyte district to sewer are part of Yarra Valley Water’s Backlog Sewerage Program, and will be outlined in Yarra Valley Water’s Water Plan for 2008–2013.

The draft 2008–2013 Water Plan will become available from the Essential Services Commission website later this year.

As the work plan is preliminary and subject to change, as well as subject to approval of the 2008–2013 Water Plan by the Essential Services Commission, no further information can be made available at this time.

Small business: Koori Business Network

135. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Small Business: In relation to the Koori Business Network, what was the total amount of funding to the Koori Business Network in each calendar year from 2003 to 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Koori Business Network Financial Years Ending 30 June				
Year	2003/04	2004 / 05	2005 / 06	2006 / 07
\$000’s	554	1,300	1,300	1,200

Mental health: Aboriginal chroming

136. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many Aboriginal children between the ages of 10 and 18 were treated for chroming in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Information System (ADIS) records information on clients presenting for treatment to drug and alcohol services.

Data is collected for 'Volatile Substances' as a primary drug of concern but does not record or distinguish between the type of volatile substance.

Education: Greenhills Primary School

239. MR ATKINSON — To ask the Minister for Education: In relation to Greenhills Primary School located in the Eltham District:

- (1) Does the school qualify for an upgrade or redevelopment as part of the Bracks' Government 2006 Election Policy commitment under the *Victorian School Plan*.
- (2) If the school does qualify —
 - (a) what will be undertaken as part of the redevelopment;
 - (b) when will the upgrade/redevelopment commence; and
 - (c) when will the various stages be completed.
- (3) If the School does not qualify for an upgrade or redevelopment under *The Victorian School Plan* please explain why.

ANSWER:

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

The Bracks Government's Victorian School Plan is a ten year plan which will deliver the largest school building program in Victoria's history.

Education is this Government's number one priority. The Bracks Government has committed a massive \$1.9 billion over this term, which will see another 500 schools being built or modernised.

All schools will participate in the Building Futures framework which provides the conceptual framework that puts improved educational outcomes for students at the core of all planning and investment decisions.

I find your interest in this issue fascinating given the Liberal Party's track record on Education. When last in Government, your party cut funds to education, closed schools, sacked teachers and increased class sizes. More than 300 public schools were closed, 9000 teachers were sacked.

I welcome your renewed interest.

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Wednesday, 23 May 2007

Public transport: Siemens trains

59. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (1) When did the Department first become aware of problems with the brakes on the Siemens train.
- (2) When did Connex first begin to investigate the problem with the brakes on the Siemens trains.
- (3) When was the first incident of a train overshooting a platform.
- (4) When was the first fault with the Siemens trains brakes logged by a driver.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Although it is rare for trains to overshoot platforms, such incidents do occur from time to time on Melbourne's train system and around the world. Such incidents are not confined to Siemens trains. Where a train overshoots or exhibits some other potentially safety-related problem, it is generally withdrawn from service, inspected and if necessary, modified to prevent a repetition.

From 12 November to 15 November 2006 a spate of overshoots involving Siemens trains occurred, leading Connex to conclude that the trains concerned might be subject to a systematic fault.

- (1) The Department became aware of the Siemens braking problem on 15 November 2006.
- (2) Connex commenced investigations immediately after the first incident (12 November 2006) to determine the nature of the problem.
- (3) The incident which occurred on 12 November 2006 was the first in the November spate of overshoots.
- (4) 12 November 2006.

Education: Western Victoria Region

115. MR VOGELS — To ask the Minister for Education: How many public education facilities were closed within Western Victoria Region in each calendar year from 2000 until 2006 — what were the names.

ANSWER:

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

The following school closures have occurred within Western Victoria Region during the time period in question:

- Wando Vale Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2000
- Gerangamete Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2001
- Lexton Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2001
- Ewing House School for Deaf Children — voluntary closure on 31 December 2002

- Wareek Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2002
- Harrow Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2002
- Dean Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2003
- Kingston Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2004
- Bessiebelle Primary School — voluntary closure on 31 December 2005

In all cases of school closures the school councils and communities voluntarily recommended the school closure in order to better meet the needs of the students and the interests of the local community through alternative education provision.

Public transport: Combino trams

133. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (1) When will the Combino trams be taken out of service to carry out special maintenance identified by their manufacturer relating to cracks in the frames.
- (2) Will any tram services be cancelled as a result of this maintenance. If so, will Yarra Trams be penalised for these cancelled services.
- (3) How many trams of this type are there in the Yarra trams fleet and how many kilometres has each tram travelled in its operating life.
- (4) How long is the repair task expected to take on each tram.
- (5) Has documentation on the nature of the problem been provided to the Minister from the manufacturer.
- (6) Have condition reports on each tram been carried out and have they been provided to the Minister.
- (7) Will the Victorian government bear any of the cost associated with these repairs.

ANSWER:

I am advised as follows :

- (1) Some interim remediation work and some prototyping has already been carried out and it is expected that Siemens will progressively commence the major remediation work this year.
- (2) Yarra Trams does not envisage the need to cancel services as a result of the program.
- (3) There are 38 D1 class (3-module) and 21 D2 class (5-module) Combino trams. Yarra Trams advises that the tram kilometre readings for each tram as of end of March 2007 were:

D1 Class Trams

Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms
3501	236075	3511	Preston Workshops	3521	206630	3531	191600
3502	210135	3512	222460	3522	210463	3532	185793
3503	235699	3513	230098	3523	212370	3533	199470
3504	219505	3514	221791	3524	219800	3534	183444
3505	104607	3515	224391	3525	196367	3535	123350
3506	226130	3516	230319	3526	192280	3536	184963
3507	In Germany	3517	219428	3527	194520	3537	186729

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms
3508	232398	3518	161601	3528	187707	3538	184226
3509	235662	3519	224442	3529	203038		
3510	231783	3520	209222	3530	191701		

D2 Class Trams

Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms	Tram No	Kms
5001	188189	5007	133307	5013	124080	5019	130147
5002	133871	5008	127138	5014	Preston Workshops	5020	129278
5003	051356	5009	125759	5015	128500	5021	126584
5004	133748	5010	118400	5016	135985		
5005	138599	5011	120156	5017	133216		
5006	135428	5012	136842	5018	134256		

- (4) Modification works are expected to take between 10 and 15 weeks per tram.
- (5&6) Documentation and condition reports on each tram have been provided to the Department of Infrastructure and Yarra Trams.
- (7) Siemens has allocated funding for the rectification program and the Government is not expected to bear any of the rectification costs.

Education: funding

- 170. MR P. R. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Education: What were the total defined dollar commitments for 1999-2000 for each category of —
- (a) Victorian Independent schools;
 - (b) Victorian Catholic schools; and
 - (c) Victorian Government schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Education does not categorise education dollar commitments in the manner [ie category (a) & (b)] as you have outlined above. Information in relation to grants and other payments to non-Government schools is published and can be found in the Department of Education & Training Annual reports for the years you have requested

Information in relation to category (c) is published and can be found on the MCEETYA website.

Education: funding

- 171. MR P. R. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Education: What were the total defined dollar commitments for 2000-01 for each category of —
- (a) Victorian Independent schools;
 - (b) Victorian Catholic schools; and
 - (c) Victorian Government schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Education does not categorise education dollar commitments in the manner [ie category (a) & (b)] as you have outlined above. Information in relation to grants and other payments to non-Government schools is published and can be found in the Department of Education & Training Annual reports for the years you have requested

Information in relation to category (c) is published and can be found on the MCEETYA website.

Education: funding

172. MR P. R. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Education: What were the total defined dollar commitments for 2001–02 for each category of —

- (a) Victorian Independent schools;
- (b) Victorian Catholic schools; and
- (c) Victorian Government schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Education does not categorise education dollar commitments in the manner [ie category (a) & (b)] as you have outlined above. Information in relation to grants and other payments to non-Government schools is published and can be found in the Department of Education & Training Annual reports for the years you have requested

Information in relation to category (c) is published and can be found on the MCEETYA website.

Education: funding

173. MR P. R. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Education: What were the total defined dollar commitments for 2002–03 for each category of —

- (a) Victorian Independent schools;
- (b) Victorian Catholic schools; and
- (c) Victorian Government schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Education does not categorise education dollar commitments in the manner [ie category (a) & (b)] as you have outlined above. Information in relation to grants and other payments to non-Government schools is published and can be found in the Department of Education & Training Annual reports for the years you have requested

Information in relation to category (c) is published and can be found on the MCEETYA website.

Education: funding

174. MR P. R. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Education: What were the total defined dollar commitments for 2003–04 for each category of —

- (a) Victorian Independent schools;
- (b) Victorian Catholic schools; and
- (c) Victorian Government schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Education does not categorise education dollar commitments in the manner [ie category (a) & (b)] as you have outlined above. Information in relation to grants and other payments to non-Government schools is published and can be found in the Department of Education & Training Annual reports for the years you have requested

Information in relation to category (c) is published and can be found on the MCEETYA website.

Education: funding

175. MR P. R. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Education: What were the total defined dollar commitments for 2004–05 for each category of —

- (a) Victorian Independent schools;
- (b) Victorian Catholic schools; and
- (c) Victorian Government schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Education does not categorise education dollar commitments in the manner [ie category (a) & (b)] as you have outlined above. Information in relation to grants and other payments to non-Government schools is published and can be found in the Department of Education & Training Annual reports for the years you have requested

Information in relation to category (c) is published and can be found on the MCEETYA website.

Education: funding

176. MR P. R. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Education: What were the total defined dollar commitments for 2005–06 for each category of —

- (a) Victorian Independent schools;
- (b) Victorian Catholic schools; and
- (c) Victorian Government schools.

ANSWER:

The Department of Education does not categorise education dollar commitments in the manner [ie category (a) & (b)] as you have outlined above. Information in relation to grants and other payments to non-Government schools is published and can be found in the Department of Education & Training Annual reports for the years you have requested.

Information in relation to category (c) is published and can be found on the MCEETYA website.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

253. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: What was the school attendance for indigenous children in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

In 2002 the school attendance rate for Indigenous children was 88.4 per cent

In 2003 the school attendance rate for Indigenous children was 83 per cent
 In 2004 the school attendance rate for Indigenous children was 85.6 per cent
 In 2005 the school attendance rate for Indigenous children was 82.4 per cent
 In 2006 the school attendance rate for Indigenous children was 86.2 per cent

However, note that reliable attendance data is not available for the period requested. The data collection process in previous years only recorded attendance for a small proportion of Indigenous children whereas the current data collection system now records attendance for all Indigenous children.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

254. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: How many indigenous children were enrolled in Victorian schools in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

This information can be sourced through the ABS website.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

257. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: How many indigenous children were enrolled at Orbost Schools in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

In 2002 there were 16 Indigenous children enrolled in Orbost Government schools
 In 2003 there were 39.9 Indigenous children enrolled in Orbost Government schools
 In 2004 there were 45 Indigenous children enrolled in Orbost Government schools
 In 2005 there were 50.9 Indigenous children enrolled in Orbost Government schools
 In 2006 there were 46 Indigenous children enrolled in Orbost Government schools

NOTE: Data from non-government schools has not been reported on at this level.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

258. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: How many indigenous children were enrolled in Shepparton Schools in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

In 2002 239.5 Indigenous children were enrolled in Shepparton Government schools.
 In 2003 502.2 Indigenous children were enrolled in Shepparton Government schools.
 In 2004 557 Indigenous children were enrolled in Shepparton Government schools.
 In 2005 572 Indigenous children were enrolled in Shepparton Government schools.
 In 2006 618 Indigenous children were enrolled in Shepparton Government schools.

NOTE: Data from non-government schools has not been reported on at this level.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

259. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: How many indigenous children were eligible to attend schools in Shepparton in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

There is no data available on the number of indigenous children in Shepparton who were eligible to attend school during the reference period as the ABS does not project the indigenous population at this small area level.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

260. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: How many indigenous children were eligible to attend schools in Orbost in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

There is no data available on the number of indigenous children in Orbost who were eligible to attend school during the reference period as the ABS does not project the indigenous population at this small area level.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

261. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: What was the truancy rate for indigenous children in Victoria in each calendar from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

The department collects truancy data at a state level and does not disaggregate this information down to individual cohort groups.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

262. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: What was the truancy rate for indigenous children in Eastern Victoria in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

The department collects truancy data at a state level and does not disaggregate this information down to individual cohort groups.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

263. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: What was the truancy rate for indigenous children in Western Victoria in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

The department collects truancy data at a state level and does not disaggregate this information down to individual cohort groups.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

264. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: What was the truancy rate for indigenous children in Northern Victoria in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

The department collects truancy data at a state level and does not disaggregate this information down to individual cohort groups.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

265. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: What was the truancy rate for indigenous children in Metropolitan Melbourne in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

The department collects truancy data at a state level and does not disaggregate this information down to individual cohort groups.

Public transport: Aboriginal support

266. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): What additional support is given to indigenous Victorians to assist them to gain a drivers licence.

ANSWER:

The answer is :

The question does not fall within my portfolio responsibility and should be directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports.

Finance, WorkCover and the Transport Accident Commission: transport accident scheme

314. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Education (for the Minister for Finance, WorkCover and TAC): With reference to the expansion of the Transport Accident Commission scheme to include people with a catastrophic injury:

- (1) What work has been undertaken on the TAC scheme.
- (2) When will the expansion of this scheme be introduced.
- (3) What is the scope of such a scheme.
- (4) Who will be included in the scheme.
- (5) Which studies and reports were undertaken that were used to indicate the viability of the expanded TAC scheme.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The premise on which this question is based is incorrect as the TAC scheme already includes people with a catastrophic injury, and has done so since its inception in 1987.

In cases of catastrophic injury not covered by workers' compensation, the transport accident scheme or the laws of negligence; support mechanisms in place include the public health system, Victims of Crime legislation (where appropriate) or in very limited cases, private insurance products.

No state or territory in Australia currently has a universal no-fault scheme and, in the absence of the Commonwealth taking a leadership role, Victoria is examining the available options.

That work is ongoing.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

320. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: How many indigenous children in Victoria were eligible to attend school in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

The number of indigenous children in Victoria who were eligible to attend schools in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006 is published and can be found on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

Education: Aboriginal schoolchildren

321. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Education: How many indigenous children at Lake Tyres were eligible to attend school in each calendar year from 2002 to 2006.

ANSWER:

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

There is no data available on the number of indigenous children at Lake Tyres who were eligible to attend school during the reference period as the ABS does not project indigenous population by age group at this small area level.

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*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.
Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.
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, 24 May 2007

Innovation: public relations staff and consultancies

- 66. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Innovation):
- (1) What is the number and cost of staff working in his office.
 - (2) What is the number of staff working in each Public Relations Unit indicating —
 - (a) the total operating budget; and
 - (b) the total promotional budget.
 - (3) What contracts have been entered into in 2005–06 for public relations and/or communications strategies with outside consultants or persons giving —
 - (a) the person/company contracted;
 - (b) the date of the contract;
 - (c) the contract sum;
 - (d) the amount paid; and
 - (e) a brief summary of work done.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) All ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.
- (2) The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has 21 communications staff.
The total operating budget is less than \$2.3 million and the total promotional budget is less than \$7.3 million.
- (3) Details of contracts over \$100,000 are available at www.contracts.vic.gov.au

Regional and rural development: public relations staff and consultancies

- 67. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development):
- (1) What is the number and cost of staff working in his office.
 - (2) What is the number of staff working in each Public Relations Unit indicating —
 - (a) the total operating budget; and
 - (b) the total promotional budget.
 - (3) What contracts have been entered into in 2005–06 for public relations and/or communications strategies with outside consultants or persons giving —
 - (a) the person/company contracted;

- (b) the date of the contract;
- (c) the contract sum;
- (d) the amount paid; and
- (e) a brief summary of work done.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) All ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.
- (2) The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has 21 communications staff.
The total operating budget is less than \$2.3 million and the total promotional budget is less than \$7.3 million.
- (3) Details of contracts over \$100,000 are available at www.contracts.vic.gov.au

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: Bayswater football and cricket clubs

- 120. MRS PETROVICH** — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs): When will funding previously promised for the viewing deck at facilities utilised by Bayswater Football and Cricket Clubs be allocated.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The commitment made by the Government in the lead up to the 2006 State Election in relation to the viewing deck at Bayswater Park will be delivered through a project management arrangement with Knox City Council. Funds for the project will be available from 1 July 2007.

Sport and Recreation Victoria will work closely with the Council in finalising the funding agreement for the project.