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(HANSARD)**

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FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5 and 7 February 2008

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CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TUESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2008

122.	<i>Mr Rich-Phillips (South Eastern Metropolitan Region): notice of motion</i>	181	938.	<i>Environment and climate change: bushfires— fuel reduction</i>	198
512.	<i>Treasurer: land tax</i>	181	941.	<i>Environment and climate change: bushfires — prevention</i>	199
513.	<i>Treasurer: stamp duty</i>	181	952.	<i>Environment and climate change: Maryvale — pulp mill</i>	199
569.	<i>Senior Victorians: residential aged care facilities</i>	182	956.	<i>Planning: planning scheme amendments</i>	199
571.	<i>Mental health: mental health residential services</i>	182	995.	<i>Women’s affairs: minister’s office — expenses</i>	200
596.	<i>Mental health: youth specific alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	183	1015.	<i>Public transport: Ferntree Gully bus services</i>	201
599.	<i>Mental health: inpatient psychiatric beds</i>	183	1017.	<i>Roads and ports: intersection upgrades</i>	202
601.	<i>Mental health: dual diagnosis workforce</i>	183	1045.	<i>Tourism and major events: employment</i>	203
623.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	184	1046.	<i>Tourism and major events: employment</i>	203
624.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	184	1047.	<i>Tourism and major events: employment</i>	204
625.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	185	1059.	<i>Women’s affairs: women with disabilities — family violence</i>	204
626.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	185	1060.	<i>Women’s affairs: women with disabilities — family violence</i>	204
627.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	186	1061.	<i>Women’s affairs: women with disabilities — family violence</i>	205
628.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	186	1069.	<i>Public transport: Sunshine rail extension</i>	205
629.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	187	1070.	<i>Public transport: Sunshine rail extension</i>	206
630.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding</i>	187	1071.	<i>Public transport: Melton rail service</i>	206
639.	<i>Mental health: early intervention services</i>	188	1072.	<i>Public transport: Melton rail service</i>	206
680.	<i>Public transport: myki ticketing system</i>	188	1073.	<i>Public transport: Melton rail service</i>	207
729.	<i>Mental health: workforce</i>	189	1076.	<i>Public transport: Seymour rail services</i>	207
730.	<i>Mental health: drug withdrawal and detoxification services</i>	189	1079.	<i>Public transport: rail — crime</i>	210
731.	<i>Mental health: drug information nights</i>	189	1080.	<i>Health: hospital investments</i>	211
732.	<i>Mental health: drug treatment beds</i>	190	1082.	<i>Roads and ports: Yarra Street, Warrandyte — pedestrian crossing</i>	211
733.	<i>Mental health: drug and alcohol counselling sessions</i>	190	1083.	<i>Sports, recreation and youth affairs: Office of Youth — mentoring</i>	212
755.	<i>Health: psychogeriatric services</i>	190	1089.	<i>Public transport: buses</i>	213
786.	<i>Health: hospitals — throughput capacity</i>	191	1093.	<i>Public transport: bus route 246 — service standards</i>	214
803.	<i>Planning: Parliamentary Secretary for Planning</i>	191	1096.	<i>Water: food bowl modernisation project</i>	214
813.	<i>Public transport: rail — patronage</i>	192	1099.	<i>Environment and climate change: piers and jetties</i>	215
848.	<i>Public transport: rail — Rowville route</i>	196	1123.	<i>Community services: supported residential services — mental illness</i>	216
872.	<i>Water : sewerage — Yarra Valley</i>	196	1134.	<i>Mental health: practitioners — drug and alcohol use</i>	216
873.	<i>Water: sewerage — Yarra Valley</i>	196	1135.	<i>Mental health: pharmacotherapy</i>	217
894.	<i>Environment and climate change: national parks</i>	197	1158.	<i>Public transport: buses — Nightrider service</i>	217
917.	<i>Senior Victorians: disability services — mental health</i>	198	1163.	<i>Roads and Ports: Victoria and King streets intersection, Doncaster — traffic lights</i>	218
			1195.	<i>Community services: Slow to Recover program</i>	218
			1202.	<i>Senior Victorians: seniors card holders</i>	218
			1204.	<i>Housing: Carlton</i>	219

CONTENTS

<p>1205. <i>Housing: East Reservoir</i>..... 219</p> <p>1206. <i>Housing: acquisitions</i>..... 220</p> <p>1207. <i>Housing: Northcote</i>..... 220</p> <p>1209. <i>Water: tax equivalent payments</i>..... 221</p> <p>1244. <i>Community services: Disability Advisory Council of Victoria</i>..... 221</p> <p>1257. <i>Education: Ferntree Gully Primary School site</i>..... 222</p> <p>1267. <i>Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham</i>..... 222</p> <p>1380. <i>Industry and trade: Crown land sales</i>..... 222</p> <p>1385. <i>Health: Crown land sales</i>..... 223</p> <p>1575. <i>Environment and climate change: regional water authorities</i>..... 223</p> <p>1576. <i>Environment and climate change: Melbourne metropolitan retail water businesses</i>..... 223</p> <p>1577. <i>Environment and climate change: Melbourne Water Corporation</i>..... 224</p>	<p>1421. <i>Education: Adult Multicultural Education Services</i>..... 232</p> <p>1422. <i>Education: Centre for Adult Education</i>..... 233</p> <p>1582. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — eastern region</i>..... 233</p> <p>1583. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — northern region</i>..... 233</p> <p>1584. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — southern region</i>..... 233</p> <p>1585. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — western region</i>..... 234</p> <p>1586. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — national parks</i>..... 234</p> <p>1587. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — state forests</i>..... 234</p> <p>1588. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — Parks Victoria</i>..... 234</p> <p>1589. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — eastern region</i>..... 235</p> <p>1590. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — northern region</i>..... 235</p> <p>1591. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — southern region</i>..... 235</p> <p>1592. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — western region</i>..... 235</p> <p>1593. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — national parks</i>..... 236</p> <p>1594. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — state forests</i>..... 236</p> <p>1595. <i>Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — Parks Victoria</i>..... 236</p> <p>1596. <i>Environment and climate change: advisory list of rare or threatened plants</i>..... 237</p> <p>1597. <i>Environment and climate change: advisory list of vertebrate fauna</i>..... 237</p> <p>1612. <i>Education: schools — illicit substance use</i>..... 237</p>
THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2008	
<p>543. <i>Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct</i>..... 225</p> <p>545. <i>Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct</i>..... 225</p> <p>546. <i>Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct</i>..... 226</p> <p>547. <i>Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct</i>..... 226</p> <p>548. <i>Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct</i>..... 226</p> <p>774. <i>Environment and climate change: sawlog auction system</i>..... 227</p> <p>965. <i>Sport, recreation and youth affairs: program funding</i>..... 227</p> <p>982. <i>Children and early childhood development: minister’s office — expenses</i>..... 227</p> <p>1011. <i>Water: rebates</i>..... 228</p> <p>1053. <i>Education: disability discrimination complaints</i>..... 228</p> <p>1087. <i>Attorney-General: speed cameras</i>..... 228</p> <p>1088. <i>Public transport: passenger information display system</i>..... 229</p> <p>1256. <i>Agriculture: feral dog bounty</i>..... 230</p> <p>1311. <i>Industry and trade: contractors</i>..... 230</p> <p>1312. <i>Industry and trade: contractors</i>..... 230</p> <p>1386. <i>Education: Crown land sales</i>..... 231</p> <p>1389. <i>Children and early childhood development: legal proceedings</i>..... 231</p> <p>1397. <i>Education: Eltham North Primary School — access</i>..... 232</p> <p>1418. <i>Education: Adult, Community and Further Education Board</i>..... 232</p> <p>1420. <i>Education: Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission</i>..... 232</p>	

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 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, 5 February 2008

Mr Rich-Phillips (South Eastern Metropolitan Region): notice of motion

- 122.** **MR VINEY** — To ask Mr Rich-Phillips: In relation to the Member's Notice of Motion dealing with public infrastructure investment, when does the Member intend moving that motion in the Legislative Council.

ANSWER:

The motion dealing with public infrastructure investment was moved on 6 June 2007.

Treasurer: land tax

- 512.** **MR D. M. DAVIS**—To ask the Minister for Education (for the Treasurer): What was the total amount of land tax collected in 2005–06 on properties in the following municipalities:

- (a) Bayside;
- (b) Boroondara;
- (c) Glen Eira;
- (d) Kingston;
- (e) Monash;
- (f) Port Phillip;
- (g) Stonnington; and
- (h) Whitehorse.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In line with the practice in other States, land tax is assessed on the aggregate value of all property held by the property owner so it is not possible to say exactly what tax is collected on an individual property basis or by municipality location.

Treasurer: stamp duty

- 513.** **MR D. M. DAVIS**—To ask the Minister for Education (for the Treasurer): What was the total amount of stamp duty collected in 2005–06 on properties in the following municipalities:

- (a) Bayside;
- (b) Boroondara;
- (c) Glen Eira;
- (d) Kingston;
- (e) Monash;

- (f) Port Phillip;
- (g) Stonnington; and
- (h) Whitehorse.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Stamp duty is levied at uniform rate regardless where the property is located and therefore this information is not collected.

Senior Victorians: residential aged care facilities

569. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services: In relation to the closure of public sector residential aged care facilities in Victoria:

- (1) How many public sector residential aged care facilities closed in the calendar years 2000 to 2007 respectively.
- (2) What were the names of each of the abovementioned facilities and how many high care and low care licences did they hold.
- (3) How many public sector residential aged care facilities are currently earmarked for closure.
- (4) How many public sector residential aged care facilities have been identified as in need of redevelopment or upgrade.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) In 2002 one public sector residential aged care facility ceased to operate.
In 2003 one public sector residential aged care facility ceased to operate.
In 2007 one public sector residential aged care facility ceased to operate.
- (2) Frankston Aged Care—30 high care
Midland Hostel—23 low care
Pleasant Homes—39 low care
- (3) None.
- (4) Over the life of all facilities maintenance and upgrading is continually required. All public sector residential aged care facilities meet current standards as set by the Commonwealth Government. Since 2000, forty-five residential aged care facilities have been identified for redevelopment and a total of \$424.1 million allocated for that purpose. In addition the Government has committed to the redevelopment of a further two facilities in the current term.

Mental health: mental health residential services

571. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (For the Minister for Aged Care): In relation to aged persons mental health residential services:

- (1) What funding was allocated for aged persons mental health residential services in the financial years 2004–05 to 2007–08 respectively.
- (2) What funding is allocated to aged persons mental health residential services in 2007–08 by DHS region.
- (3) How many aged persons mental health residential services beds are there in each DHS region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1-3) Information on mental health funding to services can be found in the *Public Hospitals and Mental Health Services Policy and Funding Guidelines* at the following website: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg/>.

The numbers of aged persons mental health residential services beds are generally reported by health services in their annual reports.

Mental health: youth specific alcohol services and initiatives — funding

596. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to mental health funding for youth specific alcohol services and initiatives:

- (1) How much money was spent on youth specific alcohol services and initiatives in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) How much money from the 2007–08 budget has been allocated to youth specific services and initiatives.
- (3) Which specific youth alcohol services and initiatives will receive funding in the 2007–08 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much funding will each of these services and initiatives receive in the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3) and (4) -

All youth services funded through the Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Program are funded to address the range of licit and illicit substances, including alcohol.

Mental health: inpatient psychiatric beds

599. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds:

- (1) How many child specific, adolescent specific, and child and adolescent inpatient psychiatric beds are currently operational in Victorian public hospitals.
- (2) At which hospitals are these beds located.
- (3) How many of these beds are currently operational at each hospital for children, for adolescents, and for children and adolescents.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1-3) The numbers of operational child and adolescent beds are generally reported by health services in their annual reports.

Mental health: dual diagnosis workforce

601. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to Victoria’s dual diagnosis workforce:

What qualifications qualify a dual diagnosis specialist to be called a ‘clinician’:

- (1) How many staff (EFT) are currently employed as dual diagnosis clinicians at the Eastern Dual Diagnosis Team.
- (2) How many staff (EFT) are currently employed as dual diagnosis clinicians at the Northern Nexus.
- (3) How many staff (EFT) are currently employed as dual diagnosis clinicians at the Southern Dual Diagnosis Team.
- (4) How many staff (EFT) are currently employed as dual diagnosis clinicians at the Western SUMITT.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1)–(4)

A clinician is a term typically used to refer to a person working within Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug services who holds a qualification in either: Medicine, Psychiatry, Nursing, Clinical Psychology, Social Work or Occupational Therapy, and is eligible to work in the area of mental health and/or addiction medicine by virtue of their registration, or eligibility for membership of their professional association.

The number of effective full-time staff employed in dual diagnosis teams is determined by Health Services as the employer. DHS does not routinely collect this information at an activity level.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

623. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Loddon Mallee Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the Loddon Mallee Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the Loddon Mallee Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Loddon Mallee Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.
- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Loddon Mallee Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)–

General Information regarding funding for alcohol and drug services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

624. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Hume Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the Hume Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.

- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the Hume Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Hume Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.
- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Hume Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)–

General Information regarding funding for alcohol and drug services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

625. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Grampians Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the Grampians Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the Grampians Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Grampians Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.
- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Grampians Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)–

General Information regarding funding for alcohol and drug services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

626. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Gippsland Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the Gippsland Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the Gippsland Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Gippsland Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.

- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Gippsland Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)–

General Information regarding funding for alcohol and drug services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

627. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Barwon South Western Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the Barwon South Western Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the Barwon South Western Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Barwon South Western Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.
- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Barwon South Western Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6)–

General Information regarding funding for alcohol and drug services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

628. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Southern Metropolitan Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the Southern Metropolitan Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the Southern Metropolitan Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Southern Metropolitan Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.
- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Southern Metropolitan Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) -

General Information regarding funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

629. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the North and West Metropolitan Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the North and West Metropolitan Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the North and West Metropolitan Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the North and West Metropolitan Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.
- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the North and West Metropolitan Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) -

General Information regarding funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: drug and alcohol services and initiatives — funding

630. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Eastern Metropolitan Region:

- (1) What amount of money was spent on drug and alcohol services and initiatives located in the Eastern Metropolitan Region in the years 2003–04, 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07.
- (2) What amount of money from the 2007–08 drug services budget has been allocated for services and initiatives located within the Eastern Metropolitan Region.
- (3) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Eastern Metropolitan Region that received funds in the 2006–07 budget.
- (4) Exactly how much money did each service and initiative receive from the 2006–07 budget.
- (5) What is the name and location of drug and alcohol services and initiatives in the Eastern Metropolitan Region that will receive funds in the 2007–08 budget.
- (6) Exactly how much money will each service and initiative receive from the 2007–08 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6) -

General Information regarding funding for drug and alcohol services and initiatives across the State for the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08 is available in the corresponding Budget Papers for each year identified.

Mental health: early intervention services

639. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Community Services (for the Minister for Mental Health) with reference to funding for early intervention services:

- (1) What amount of funding from the 2006–07 mental health budget went to early intervention services.
- (2) What is the name and location of early intervention initiatives and/or services that received funding.
- (3) Exactly how much funding, in dollar terms, went to each of these separate services/initiatives.
- (4) How much funding is committed to each of these services or initiatives in the 2007–08 budget.
- (5) How does the Government define “early intervention”.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1) Information on current and previous years’ state budgets can be found at:
<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/budget/index.htm>

(2) Names and locations of services can be found on the mental health web site:
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/mentalhealth/services/index.htm>

(3&4)

Information on mental health funding to services can be found in the *Public Hospitals and Mental Health Services Policy and Funding Guidelines* at the following website: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/pfg/>.

(5) The Victorian Government supports the definition employed by the *National Mental Health Strategy*, which defines mental health early intervention as “interventions targeting people displaying the early signs and symptoms of a mental health problem or mental disorder in people developing or experiencing a first episode of mental disorder”.

State-funded child and youth mental health services play key roles in reducing the prevalence of mental health problems and minimising their severity and impact.

Public transport: myki ticketing system

680. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Industry and State Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the proposed myki transport ticketing system being developed by the Transport Ticketing Authority: Will transport users be able to purchase a short term myki after the roll out of the new system, both full fare and concession, from all myki ticket purchase machines at all stations.

ANSWER:

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

The Government will announce details in relation to these matters at the appropriate time.

Mental health: workforce

729. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to Victoria’s alcohol and other drug workforce: How many workers (equivalent full-time) employed within drug treatment services were fully funded by the DHS in each of the financial years 1999-2000 to 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data as stored in Departmental archives and other information sources does not allow the precise question to be answered in the way it has been asked.

Mental health: drug withdrawal and detoxification services

730. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to waiting times for residential drug withdrawal and detoxification services:

- (1) What was the average waiting time for residential drug withdrawal and detoxification services in each of the financial years 1999-2000 to 2006–07.
- (2) How are waiting times calculated.
- (3) Does the Government’s calculation of waiting times for these services take into account the period between the initial contact and assessment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The average waiting time for residential drug withdrawal services has reduced from nine working days in 1999/2000 to six working days in 2006/2007.
- (2) Waiting times are calculated as the number of working days elapsed from when a client is screened/identified as requiring a particular treatment type, to the actual commencement of this treatment type.
- (3) See (2)

Mental health: drug information nights

731. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to drug information nights for parents:

- (1) How many drug information nights were run using the \$11 million set aside for drug prevention announced as part of the Government’s Saving Lives initiative in 2000.
- (2) On what dates were these information nights held.
- (3) At what locations were these information nights held.
- (4) How many parents, in total, attended these information nights.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1), (2), (3), (4) -

Detailed information about the information sessions held seven years ago is not held by the Department of Human Services.

Mental health: drug treatment beds

732. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to drug treatment beds:

- (1) How does the Government define a ‘treatment bed’ as outlined in a media release from the Premier’s office on 28 November 2000 entitled “Drugs: It’s our problem, lets fight it together”.
- (2) How many DHS funded treatment beds were operational in each of the financial years 1999-2000 to 2006-07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Treatment beds include those provided in supported accommodation, residential withdrawal and residential rehabilitation services.
- (2) The number of DHS funded beds has increased from 432 in 1999–2000 to 754 in 2006–2007.

Mental health: drug and alcohol counselling sessions

733. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to drug and alcohol counselling sessions for families: How many drug and alcohol counselling sessions for families as outlined in a media release from the Premier’s office on 28 November 2000 entitled “Drugs: It’s our problem, lets fight it together” were funded and provided by the Government in each of the financial years 1999–2000 to 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Departmental data is not stored in a way that enables this specific question to be answered.

Health: psychogeriatric services

755. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): In relation to psycho-geriatric services:

- (1) How much funding have psycho geriatric services received in each of the financial years 2003–04 to 2007–08.
- (2) To which programs and services are the 2007–08 psycho geriatric funds allocated.
- (3) What is the Minister’s approach to address the growing demand for psycho geriatric services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The question raised sits within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Mental Health.

Health: hospitals — throughput capacity

786. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): For each of the calendar years 1999 to 2007 what was the total annual throughput capacity for each maternity unit for each suburban and rural public hospital.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Throughput capacity in public hospitals in Victoria is variable and is managed in order to respond to demand. This means that health services increase and decrease capacity as required, utilising additional staff when demand increases through nurse bank and other arrangements. There is no such category as ‘maternity throughput capacity’ in Victoria.

Planning: Parliamentary Secretary for Planning

803. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Planning: Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August, 2007, what support was provided for Ms Liz Beattie, MP and at what cost, in her capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Planning for —

- (a) telephone and other communication support;
- (b) car hire and rental car access including dates, destination and purpose;
- (c) air flights, where to, on what date and how much did each flight cost;
- (d) meal and entertainment costs;
- (e) staff assisting him, their effective full time number and cost to the department; and
- (f) any other support or reimbursement provided including details of the nature and cost of the support or reimbursement.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The following support was provided to Ms Liz Beattie MP in her capacity as Parliamentary Secretary for Planning for the period specified:

- (a) Telecommunication support between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007
 - Mobile telephone \$245
 - Broadband \$120
 - Desk phone and facsimile machine cannot be accurately costed as these items are included in the total telecommunication costs of the Office of the Minister for Planning
- (b) Car hire between 25 of November 2006 and 2 August 2007
 - Nil
- (c) Airflights between 25 of November 2006 and 2 August 2007

- A return flight to Sydney \$474
- (d) Entertainment costs between 25 of November 2006 and 2 August 2007
 - Nil
- (e) Staff assistance from 25 of November 2006 to 2 August 2007
 - Provided by the Office of the Minister for Planning
- (f) Other support between 25 of November 2006 to 2 August 2007
 - \$365 for accommodation in Sydney
 - \$726 for a printer
 - \$940 for personal computer (purchased)
 - \$183 for official photographs
 - \$45 to attend a Local Government business breakfast
 - two road directories (approximately \$100)

Public transport: rail — patronage

813. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Connex patronage:

- (1) How many outwards Metcard validations were recorded at each of the following railway stations on Wednesday, 22 August 2007:
 - (a) Flinders Street;
 - (b) Melbourne Central;
 - (c) Southern Cross;
 - (d) Parliament;
 - (e) Flagstaff;
 - (f) Richmond;
 - (g) South Yarra;
 - (h) Caulfield;
 - (i) Oakleigh;
 - (j) Dandenong;
 - (k) Berwick;
 - (l) Pakenham;
 - (m) Bentleigh;
 - (n) Cheltenham;
 - (o) Mordialloc;
 - (p) Frankston;
 - (q) Cranbourne;
 - (r) Windsor;
 - (s) Balaclava;
 - (t) Middle Brighton;
 - (u) Sandringham;
 - (v) Camberwell;
 - (w) Ashburton;

- (x) Surrey Hills;
 - (y) Box Hill;
 - (z) Blackburn;
 - (aa) Mitcham;
 - (ab) Ringwood;
 - (ac) Croydon;
 - (ad) Lilydale;
 - (ae) Bayswater;
 - (af) Boronia;
 - (ag) Belgrave;
 - (ah) Clifton Hill;
 - (ai) Heidelberg;
 - (aj) Eltham;
 - (ak) Diamond Creek;
 - (al) Hurstbridge;
 - (am) Preston;
 - (an) Reservoir;
 - (ao) Epping;
 - (ap) North Melbourne;
 - (aq) Footscray;
 - (ar) Newport;
 - (as) Williamstown;
 - (at) Altona;
 - (au) Werribee;
 - (av) Sunshine;
 - (aw) St Albans;
 - (ax) Watergardens;
 - (ay) Essendon;
 - (az) Broadmeadows;
 - (ba) Craigieburn;
 - (bb) Melton;
 - (bc) Somerville; and
 - (bd) Hastings.
- (2) For each section of the 15 electrified lines and one non-electrified line identified in Connex's monthly detailed performance reporting as shown on the www.connexmelbourne.com.au internet site, what has been the percentage change in total estimated patronage between May 2006 and May 2007 as indicated by Department of Infrastructure surveys.
- (3) How many individual train trips were cancelled on each of the lines shown in (1) on Wednesday, 22 August 2007.

ANSWER:

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

(1) Outwards Metcard Validations for 22 August 2007

- (a) Flinders Street 60,983

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

(b)	Melbourne Central	45,269
(c)	Southern Cross	23,820
(d)	Parliament	31,352
(e)	Flagstaff	15,913
(f)	Richmond	5,312
(g)	South Yarra	6,571
(h)	Caulfield	3,605
(i)	Oakleigh	2,846
(j)	Dandenong	2,100
(k)	Berwick	1,438
(l)	Pakenham	771
(m)	Bentleigh	1,699
(n)	Cheltenham	1,602
(o)	Mordialloc	1,061
(p)	Frankston	2,737
(q)	Cranbourne	866
(r)	Windsor	1,797
(s)	Balaclava	2,077
(t)	Middle Brighton	1,213
(u)	Sandringham	1,140
(v)	Camberwell	3,624
(w)	Ashburton	689
(x)	Surrey Hills	1,848
(y)	Box Hill	9,249
(z)	Blackburn	2,387
(aa)	Mitcham	2,382
(ab)	Ringwood	2,590
(ac)	Croydon	1,612
(ad)	Lilydale	1,259
(ae)	Bayswater	1,038
(af)	Boronia	1,348
(ag)	Belgrave	682
(ah)	Clifton Hill	1,637
(ai)	Heidelberg	1,692
(aj)	Eltham	1,347
(ak)	Diamond Creek	386
(al)	Hurstbridge	267
(am)	Preston	1,381
(an)	Reservoir	2,250
(ao)	Epping	1,416
(ap)	North Melbourne	874
(aq)	Footscray	4,147
(ar)	Newport	1,971
(as)	Williamstown	262

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

(at)	Altona	676	
(au)	Werribee	1,791	
(av)	Sunshine	2,850	
(aw)	St Albans	1,785	
(ax)	Watergardens (Sydenham)	2,556	
(ay)	Essendon	2,847	
(az)	Broadmeadows	1,186	
(ba)	Craigieburn	331	
(bb)	Melton	1,089	
(bc)	Somerville	0	* See note 2 below
(bd)	Hastings	0	* See note 2 below

Notes:

- 1 Ticket validations do not equate to patronage because of fare evasion and passengers with valid tickets who choose not to validate.
 - 2 Ticketing equipment is fitted onboard Stony Point trains; stations beyond Frankston do not have ticketing equipment.
 - 3 The total number of validations recorded onboard Stony Point services was not available.
 - 4 Outwards Metcard validations' has been taken to mean recorded entries by passengers commencing trips at the stations concerned.
- (2) The May Load Standard Surveys undertaken by the Department of Infrastructure are not designed to measure patronage but are used to monitor the level of crowding on train services. The load surveys data is used by Connex and the Government to review the structure and level of services provided across the network.
- (3) **Cancelled Train Trips on 22 August 2007**

Line	Services Cancelled
Alamein	0
Belgrave	0
Broadmeadows	0
Cranbourne	0
Epping	1
Frankston	2
Glen Waverley	1
Hurstbridge	0
Lilydale	0
Pakenham	0
Sandringham	3
Stony Point	7
Sydenham	3
Upfield	1
Werribee	1
Williamstown	0

Public transport: rail — Rowville route

848. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Australian Labor Party's 1999 public transport election policy plan to identify a preferred train route to Rowville via Glen Waverley or Huntingdale:

- (1) Has a decision been made not to go ahead with the plan; if so —
 - (a) when was the decision made;
 - (b) why was the decision made;
 - (c) who made the decision; and
 - (d) did the Government consult with any key stakeholders about the decision.
- (2) Does the Government have plans to go ahead with the plan in the future; if so, when.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The Government has made no decision regarding a Rowville rail project. In October 2006, the Wellington Road SmartBus service commenced operation, providing a high quality, limited stop bus service between Rowville and Caulfield, via Huntingdale Station.
- (2) Although Government has no plans at this time to construct Rowville railway, it is cognisant of the need not to preclude such an option.

Water : sewerage — Yarra Valley

872. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the Government's plan to accelerate septic tank replacement and following the release of the Yarra Valley Water Plan: When is work scheduled to commence on replacing residents septic tanks with a reticulated sewage system in —

- (a) Warrandyte.
- (b) South Warrandyte; and
- (c) Park Orchards.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The indicative commencement date provided by Yarra Valley Water for replacing septic tanks for Warrandyte and Park Orchards is 2010/2011.

This information has been submitted to the Essential Services Commission in the Yarra Valley Water Draft Water Plan.

Subject to approval being granted by the Essential Services Commission, Yarra Valley Water will replace the septic tanks at around 2,500 properties by 2012/2013 in the City of Manningham which includes Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards areas. Suburb specific information is not available at this stage.

Water: sewerage — Yarra Valley

873. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the Government's plan to accelerate septic tank replacement in the District of Warrandyte and following the release of the Yarra Valley Water Plan: How many residences are

scheduled to have their septic tanks replaced with a reticulated sewage system in each of the years 2008 to 2010.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The indicative commencement date provided by Yarra Valley Water for replacing septic tanks for Warrandyte and Park Orchards is 2010/2011.

This information has been submitted to the Essential Services Commission in the Yarra Valley Water Draft Water Plan.

Subject to approval being granted by the Essential Services Commission, Yarra Valley Water will replace septic tanks at around 2,500 properties by 2012/2013 in the City of Manningham which includes Warrandyte, South Warrandyte and Park Orchards areas. Suburb specific information is not available at this stage.

Environment and climate change: national parks

894. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: Is the ecological integrity of national parks measured in Victoria; if so, how is it measured.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. Parks Victoria has a monitoring framework which includes the collection of data in three broad areas:
 - i. Management Activity - number of programs and area treated;
 - ii. Management Effectiveness - trends in threats such as pest plants and animals;
 - iii. Management outcomes - condition of native vegetation or populations of threatened species.
2. The recent *State of the Parks* report highlighted that approximately 500 monitoring programs were occurring across the parks network, focusing on a wide range of issues such as threatened flora and fauna, native vegetation and pest plants and animals.
3. Parks Victoria has been working with a range of other agencies and organisations to progressively introduce standardised monitoring systems for a range of threatening processes in parks. Increasingly, these programs use scientifically-based experimental management principles to help measure their effectiveness in achieving the desired outcomes.
4. Examples include various fox control programs at Wilson’s Promontory, the Grampians, Little Desert and Hattah-Kulkyne national parks, the program known as ‘Southern Ark’ in East Gippsland that is delivered in partnership with DSE, and the English Broom weed program in the Alpine National Park. New protocols have recently been introduced in partnership with DSE to also measure ecological change resulting from fire.
5. Parks Victoria has recognised that although there are a wide range of monitoring programs being undertaken in parks to measure ecological integrity, more integrated systems are now required. As a response to the findings of the *State of the Parks* report, Parks Victoria is developing a new initiative called “*The Signs of Healthy Parks*” ecological monitoring program, which will be modelled on best practice integrated monitoring programs from other agencies such as Parks Canada and the U.S. National Parks Service. The *Signs of Healthy Parks* program will be developed to ensure that monitoring programs in parks provide early warning signs of change and are able to measure the effectiveness of on-ground management actions.

Senior Victorians: disability services — mental health

917. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Senior Victorians): In relation to pension-level residents of supported residential services (SRS) who suffer from a mental illness:

- (1) How many Victorians currently residing in supported residential accommodation suffer from a mental illness.
- (2) What procedures are in place to link residents who suffer from a mental illness with appropriate treatment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Latest research states approximately 1 in 5 Victorians suffer from a mental illness.
- (2) There are a number of programs that link people with a mental illness who are living in a SRS with appropriate treatment and support services:
 - SRS Service Coordination and Support Program funds suitably qualified and experienced workers to engage with and provide support, information, assessment and referral services to residents with a mental illness or disability not currently linked into appropriate services.
 - The Community Connections Program funds assertive outreach workers to proactively find, engage, assess and link residents with disabilities and people who are living in other forms of marginalised housing into the services they need, this includes those with a mental illness.
 - SRS residents with severe mental illness are eligible to receive support from the specialist mental health service system.

Environment and climate change: bushfires — fuel reduction

938. MRS PETROVICH — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: How many Department of Sustainability and Environment staff were involved in fire suppression and prevention activities in each of the years 2000 to 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Model of Fire Cover tallies the personnel available and endorsed for fire suppression operations in the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Department of Primary Industries, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria and VicForests. The Model of Cover identified the following personnel numbers for fire suppression:

2000	2,296
2001	2,464
2002	2,632
2003	2,785
2004	2,751
2005	2,806
2006	3,232

Environment and climate change: bushfires — prevention

941. MRS PETROVICH — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: How much money was invested into the provision of fire equipment in each of the years 2000 to 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Expenditure on plant and equipment, relating to fire is as follows:

1999/2000	\$3,908,690
2000/01	\$4,370,107
2001/02	\$4,521,190
2002/03	\$6,523,117
2003/04	\$5,998,478
2004/05	\$9,351,273
2005/06	\$9,849,592
2006/07	\$10,827,716
Total	\$55,350,163.00

The figures above do not include purchases of and expenditure on minor equipment such as boots, overalls and sleeping bags, which are expensed in the year in which they are purchased.

Environment and climate change: Maryvale — pulp mill

952. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: How many tonnes of pulpwood was sold from state forests to the Paperlinx pulp mill at Maryvale in the financial years 2005–06 and 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- Australian Paper (a subsidiary of PaperlinX Limited) receives pulpwood from State forest at its Maryvale mill under separate agreements administered by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and VicForests.
- In 2005–06, 356,180.51 tonnes of pulpwood from State forest was supplied to Australian Paper under the Wood Pulp Agreement with the Department of Sustainability and Environment.
- In 2006–07, 355,590.82 tonnes of pulpwood from State forest was supplied to Australian Paper under this same agreement.
- The matter of the volume of pulpwood supplied to Australian Paper under agreements with VicForests should be referred to the Treasurer.

Planning: planning scheme amendments

956. MR GUY — To ask the Minister for Planning: In relation to requests to the Minister for final approval of planning scheme amendments:

- (1) How many requests still required the Minister's approval as at 19 September 2007.
- (2) What is the average turnaround time of approvals.

- (3) Which councils and shires are currently waiting on planning scheme amendments to be approved by the Minister.
- (4) How many planning scheme amendments have been rejected since November 2006.
- (5) How many planning scheme amendments have taken longer than 30 days for approval from the Minister since November 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. On 19 September 2007 there were 46 amendments that had been adopted by Councils and submitted for approval.
2. The average turnaround time for approvals is 37 business days.
3. Councils that have submitted planning scheme amendments for approval are: Boroondara, Brimbank, Campaspe, Casey, Frankston, Greater Bendigo, Greater Geelong, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melton, Mildura, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula, Mount Alexander, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Swan Hill, Towong, Wellington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Yarra and Yarra Ranges.
4. Since November 2006, 7 planning scheme amendments have been refused.
5. The target of 30 days in 80% of cases applies to the department completing an assessment of an adopted amendment so that a decision can be made. This reasonably recognises that while there are some proposals that are complex and can take longer, most can be reported on by the department within 30 days. This target has been met consistently since it was introduced in February.

Women's affairs: minister's office — expenses

995. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Women's Affairs): Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007 what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister for:

- (a) staff salaries and on-costs;
- (b) number of Ministerial staff (including driver);
- (c) any other Ministerial office operating costs (recurrent expenses);
- (d) Minister's and/or office international flights;
- (e) Minister's and/or office domestic flights;
- (f) Minister's and/or office charter flights;
- (g) travel related expenses (international);
- (h) travel related expenses (domestic);
- (i) entertainment/hospitality expenses; and
- (j) alcohol costs.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I did not hold a Ministerial portfolio between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007.

Public transport: Ferntree Gully bus services

1015. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport) In relation to bus services in the electorate of Ferntree Gully:

- (1) How many bus stops within the electorate —
 - (a) are there in total;
 - (b) display electronic timetable information;
 - (c) display printed timetable information; and
 - (d) do not display timetable information at all.
- (2) Are there any plans to upgrade bus stops that do not display printed timetable information to do so; if so, how many bus stops will be upgraded in 2007–08.
- (3) Are there any plans to upgrade bus stops to electronically display timetable information; if so, how many stops will be upgraded in 2007–08.
- (4) How frequently do buses operate on bus routes 900, 755, 732 and 693 on —
 - (a) weekday peak periods;
 - (b) weekday non-peak periods;
 - (c) weekday periods after 7.00 p.m.;
 - (d) Saturdays; and
 - (e) Sundays.
- (5) By what percentage have bus passenger numbers increased or decreased between 18 September 2006 and 18 September 2007 on the 900, 755, 732 and 693 bus routes on —
 - (a) weekday peak periods;
 - (b) weekday non-peak periods;
 - (c) weekday periods after 7.00 p.m.;
 - (d) Saturdays; and
 - (e) Sundays.
- (6) Are there any plans to investigate the reason for any decrease in patronage.
- (7) Are there any plans to increase the frequency of buses on the 900, 755, 732 or 693 bus routes; if so, for each route —
 - (a) how frequently will buses operate on —
 - (i) weekday peak periods;
 - (ii) weekday non-peak periods;
 - (iii) weekday periods after 7.00 p.m.;
 - (iv) Saturdays; and
 - (v) Sundays;
 - (b) when will the additional bus services be operational.

ANSWER:

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

1. The Department of Infrastructure does not keep information about the number of bus stops in each electorate.
2. Metlink has developed a program to display high quality printed timetable information at bus stops. It is intended to provide information at all bus stops, however due to the high number of bus stops, it will take some years to implement the program across the entire metropolitan area.

3. The rollout of electronic timetable displays will increase as the Orbital and SmartBus networks are progressively implemented across the metropolitan area over the next few years.
4. The frequency of buses on Routes 900, 755, 732 and 693 is as follows:

	Route 900	Route 755	Route 732	Route 693
(a) Weekday peak periods	15 min	30 min	20 min	30 min
(b) Weekday non-peak periods	15 min	30 min	20 min	30 min
(c) Weekday periods after 7.00 pm	15/30 min	30 min	30 min	60 min
(d) Saturdays	30 min	60 min	30 min	60 min
(e) Sundays	30 min	No service	No service	60 min

(min = minutes)

5. The patronage figures for bus Routes 900, 755, 732 and 693 between the dates requested are not readily available and would require an unnecessary diversion of resources to answer.
6. When the metropolitan bus service review is undertaken in this area, opportunities will be explored to encourage patronage on all these bus routes.
7. There are no plans to increase the frequency of bus Route 900 as it is already operating in accordance with SmartBus frequency standards.

Bus Routes 755 and 693 will be included in the metropolitan bus service review for this area. Any frequency changes to these routes will be considered at that time.

A new Sunday service is currently under development for bus Route 732 and will be implemented later this year.

Roads and ports: intersection upgrades

1017. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): In relation to the intersection of Burwood Highway and Westley Street:

- (1) What criteria will VicRoads use to monitor the operation and safety of the intersection.
- (2) How many other intersections are considered to be a greater priority.
- (3) How many motor vehicle accidents have occurred at the next most prioritised intersection.
- (4) How many fatalities have occurred at the next most prioritised intersection.
- (5) What formula is used in prioritising intersections for upgrade work.
- (6) Does a motor vehicle accident have to occur prior to it being considered for upgrade works.
- (7) Does a fatality have to occur prior to it being considered for upgrade works.
- (8) Over the past five years, what is the average number of prioritised intersection upgrades completed per annum.

ANSWER:

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

VicRoads conducts regular reviews of intersections across Victoria. Factors such as the number and severity of crashes that have taken place are considered when assessing possible safety improvements. Congestion and delays to traffic are considered when reviewing the operation of the intersection.

Intersection upgrades are considered and prioritised on a state-wide basis. There are many factors considered in determining which intersections are upgraded. These include, but are not limited to, crash reduction factors, the number of crashes, the severity of crashes and growth factors.

The intersection of Burwood Highway and Westley Street, is one of many across the State where one casualty crash has occurred in the past five years.

The Victorian Government remains committed to road safety, having invested over \$500 million into road safety since 1999. This investment has seen over 1,500 road safety projects delivered across the state.

Tourism and major events: employment

1045. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): How many people were employed in the tourist industry in former logging areas in Western Victoria in each of the years 2000–06.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Tourism is a vital industry in regional Victoria and is responsible for 61,000 direct and indirect jobs.

At a local level, only limited tourism employment figures are available.

According to the *Tourism and Transport Forum Australia Victorian Tourism Employment Atlas 2005*, direct tourism employment in the Tourism Victoria Campaign Regions in Western Victoria where logging was a traditional industry is:

- Great Ocean Road: approximately 9,000 people - an increase of 21% since 1997-98.
- Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges: approximately 2,200 people - an increase of 18% since 1997-98.

Tourism and major events: employment

1046. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): How many people were employed in the tourist industry in former logging areas in Northern Victoria in each of the years 2000–06.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Tourism is a vital industry in regional Victoria and is responsible for 61,000 direct and indirect jobs.

At a local level, only limited tourism employment figures are available.

According to the *Tourism and Transport Forum Australia Victorian Tourism Employment Atlas 2005*, direct tourism employment in the Tourism Victoria Campaign Regions in Northern Victoria where logging was a traditional industry is:

- Murray: approximately 7,100 people - an increase of 4% since 1997-98.
- Goldfields: approximately 5,300 people - an increase of 14% since 1997-98.
- Grampians: approximately 1,800 people - an increase of 0.4% since 1997-98.

Tourism and major events: employment

1047. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): How many people were employed in the tourist industry in former logging areas in Eastern Victoria in each of the years 2000–06.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Tourism is a vital industry in regional Victoria and is responsible for 61,000 direct and indirect jobs.

At a local level, only limited tourism employment figures are available.

According to the *Tourism and Transport Forum Australia Victorian Tourism Employment Atlas 2005*, direct tourism employment in the Tourism Victoria Campaign Regions in Eastern Victoria where logging was a traditional industry is:

- Yarra Valley and the Dandenong Ranges: approximately 8,000 people - an increase of 14% since 1997-98.
- Gippsland: approximately 4,600 people - an increase of 7% since 1997-98.
- Victoria’s High Country: approximately 2,800 people - an increase of 14% since 1997-98.

Women’s affairs: women with disabilities — family violence

1059. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Women’s Affairs): In relation to overseas research, which states that women with disabilities are 40% more likely to receive family violence than other women: What research has been undertaken in Victoria to look at the extent of women with disabilities experiencing family violence.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- The Family Violence Benchmark Data Project now under way will identify integrated benchmark data for the family violence service system, including police, courts and support services. The data will record who is using the family violence service system and how many service users are able to access an integrated service. The data will provide information about the numbers of women with disabilities accessing services in Victoria.
- The Department of Planning and Community Development is not aware of any research that specifically looks at the incidence of family violence experienced by women with disabilities in Victoria. I understand that estimates of the percentage of women with disabilities who experience family violence differ.

Women’s affairs: women with disabilities — family violence

1060. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Women’s Affairs): What resources have been specifically allocated to women with disabilities experiencing family violence.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- As part of the training program provided to family violence workers, a training unit will be delivered later this year to provide staff with the skills base to ensure women with disabilities are provided with appropriate support from family violence services.

- Furthermore, in 2007–08, Disability Services Division of the Department of Human Services will develop a cross sector training program including a flexible learning resource for use by staff supporting women with a disability who may be experiencing family violence. The learning strategy will also assist staff in disability services and family violence services to enhance their skills in supporting women with a disability and also establish ongoing professional development networks.
- Recurrent funding of \$138,820 is provided to The Victorian Women with Disabilities Network, in partnership with Women’s Health Victoria, for the Advocacy Information Service (AIS). The AIS has produced a framework to address violence, called *A Framework for Influencing Change—Responding to Violence against Women with Disabilities, 2007-2009*.
- Within Victorian Courts, a range of training programs is provided for staff to assist them to respond to court clients with different needs. This includes specific training in relation to supporting and providing services to people with disabilities. Training occurs on a regular basis and is provided by trainers with specialist expertise in the area of violence against women and the needs of women with disabilities.

Women’s affairs: women with disabilities — family violence

1061. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Women’s Affairs): What percentage of the Government’s family violence funding is specifically allocated to women with disabilities.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides over \$25 million per annum in funding for crisis, outreach and counselling and support services for women and children experiencing family violence. All family violence services are required to provide an accessible service environment for women with disabilities.
- Codes of Practice and Guidelines developed for these services describe minimum standards of service to be provided to all women and children accessing these services, including women with disabilities.
- The Family Violence Court Division and the Specialist Family Violence Services in the Magistrates’ Court provide a range of additional support to women seeking protection, including women with disabilities. To ensure these services are responsive to the needs of women with disabilities, diversity training is provided to staff on commencement.

Public transport: Sunshine rail extension

1069. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): Has the Department of Infrastructure completed a study into the electrification of the train service to the west of Sunshine; if so —

- (a) when was the study completed; and
- (b) who were the consultants engaged (if any).

ANSWER:

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

A high level study to consider the feasibility of electrification of train services to Melton/Bacchus Marsh, Geelong and Sunbury was completed in July 2007 by consultants, Interfleet Technology.

Part of the Department of Infrastructure’s responsibility is to consider the future public transport needs of the State, and that is the purpose for which the report was prepared.

Government has not made a decision in relation to future electrification projects.

Public transport: Sunshine rail extension

1070. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): Has the Department of Infrastructure completed a study into the electrification of the train service to the west of Sunshine; if so —

- (a) what would it cost to electrify the line to Bacchus Marsh;
- (b) what would it cost to electrify the line to Melton, including any passing loops;
- (c) what would it cost to electrify the line as far as Ravenhall/Caroline Springs; and
- (d) what would be the cost of any necessary new trains, should the service be electrified.

ANSWER:

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

A high level study to compare the feasibility of electrification of train services to Melton/Bacchus Marsh, Geelong and Sunbury was completed in July 2007 by consultants Interfleet Technology.

Part of the Department of Infrastructure’s responsibility is to consider the future public transport needs of the State, and that is the purpose for which the report was prepared.

Government has not made a decision in relation to future electrification projects.

Public transport: Melton rail service

1071. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): Has the Department of Infrastructure completed estimations on the projected frequency and journey times of a projected electrified rail line to Melton; if so, what are those projected frequencies and journey times.

ANSWER:

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

A high level study to compare the feasibility of electrification of train services to Melton/Bacchus Marsh, Geelong and Sunbury was completed in July 2007 by consultants Interfleet Technology.

Part of the Department of Infrastructure’s responsibility is to consider the future public transport needs of the State, and that is the purpose for which the report was prepared.

Government has not made a decision in relation to future electrification projects.

Public transport: Melton rail service

1072. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): Has the Department of Infrastructure completed estimations on the projected future patronage levels of an electrified train line to Melton; if so, what is the projected patronage, and the projected increase in patronage over 2006 levels, for —

- (a) Bacchus Marsh;
- (b) Melton;
- (c) Melton East;

- (d) Rockbank;
- (e) Caroline Springs;
- (f) Deer Park; and
- (g) Ardeer.

ANSWER:

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

A high level study to compare the feasibility of electrification of train services to Melton/Bacchus Marsh, Geelong and Sunbury was completed in July 2007 by consultants Interfleet Technology.

Part of the Department of Infrastructure's responsibility is to consider the future public transport needs of the State, and that is the purpose for which the report was prepared.

Government has not made a decision in relation to future electrification projects.

Public transport: Melton rail service

- 1073. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): Has the Department of Infrastructure completed estimations on the projected future need for bus routes to link in with an electrified train line to Melton; if so, what are those bus routes, and where would they run.

ANSWER:

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

A high level study to compare the feasibility of electrification of train services to Melton/Bacchus Marsh, Geelong and Sunbury was completed in July 2007 by consultants Interfleet Technology.

Part of the Department of Infrastructure's responsibility is to consider the future public transport needs of the State, and that is the purpose for which the report was prepared.

Government has not made a decision in relation to future electrification projects.

Public transport: Seymour rail services

- 1076. MR KOCH** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the V/Line Seymour line during the period 1 September to 11 October 2007:

- (1) How many times did each of the 5.35 a.m., 6.00 a.m., 6.25 a.m., 7.04 a.m., 8.03 a.m. and 8.38 a.m. Seymour to Southern Cross weekday trains, or their morning equivalents prior to the 30 September 2007 timetable change, arrive at Southern Cross station —
 - (a) early;
 - (b) on time to the second;
 - (c) less than 1 minute late;
 - (d) 1 minute to less than 2 minutes late;
 - (e) 2 minutes to less than 6 minutes late;
 - (f) 6 minutes to less than 10 minutes late;
 - (g) 10 minutes to less than 11 minutes late;
 - (h) 11 minutes to less than 15 minutes late;
 - (i) 15 minutes to less than 20 minutes late;

- (j) 20 minutes to less than 30 minutes late; and
 - (k) 30 minutes or more late.
- (2) How many times did each of the 4.32 p.m., 5.10 p.m., 5.40 p.m., 6.13 p.m., 6.33 p.m., 6.42 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Southern Cross to Seymour weekday trains, or their afternoon or evening equivalents prior to the 30 September 2007 timetable change, arrive at Seymour station —
- (a) early;
 - (b) on time to the second;
 - (c) less than 1 minute late;
 - (d) 1 minute to less than 2 minutes late;
 - (e) 2 minutes to less than 6 minutes late;
 - (f) 6 minutes to less than 10 minutes late;
 - (g) 10 minutes to less than 11 minutes late;
 - (h) 11 minutes to less than 15 minutes late;
 - (i) 15 minutes to less than 20 minutes late;
 - (j) 20 minutes to less than 30 minutes late; and
 - (k) 30 minutes or more late.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) For the 29 weekdays between 1 September 2007 and 11 October 2007, trains departing Seymour for Southern Cross Railway Station at 5.35 am, 6.00 am, 6.25 am, 7.04 am, 8.03 am and 8.38 am (or its morning equivalent prior to the 30 September 2007 timetable change) were reported to arrive at their destination in the following time-bands:

	Services scheduled to depart from Seymour at (or equivalent service prior to 30 September 2007):					
Arriving at destination	5.35 am	6.00 am	6.25 am	7.04 am	8.03 am	8.38 am
(a) early	13	26	1	2	4	6
(b) on time to the second	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)
(c) less than 1 minute late	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)
(b) & (c) <i>between 59 seconds early and 59 seconds late</i>	12	2	8	5	4	5
(d) 1 minute to less than 2 minutes late	2	0	3	2	3	3
(e) 2 minutes to less than 6 minutes late	1	1	12	14	11	8
(f) 6 minutes to less than 10 minutes late	0	0	3	4	4	3
(g) 10 minutes to less than 11 minutes late	0	0	1	0	1	0
(h) 11 minutes to less than 15 minutes late	0	0	1	1	0	2
(i) 15 minutes to less than 20 minutes late	0	0	0	0	0	2

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

		Services scheduled to depart from Seymour at (or equivalent service prior to 30 September 2007):					
Arriving at destination		5.35 am	6.00 am	6.25 am	7.04 am	8.03 am	8.38 am
(j)	20 minutes to less than 30 minutes late	0	0	0	1	0	0
(k)	30 minutes or more late	0	0	0	0	1	0

Note: The 5.35 am and the 8.03 am train services from Seymour did not operate on 11 September.

- (2) For the 29 weekdays between 1 September 2007 and 11 October 2007, trains departing Southern Cross Railway Station for Seymour at 4.32 pm, 5.10 pm, 5.40 pm, 6.13 pm, 6.33 pm, 6.42 pm and 7.30 pm (or its afternoon or evening equivalent prior to the 30 September 2007 timetable change) were reported to arrive at their destination in the following time-bands:

		Services scheduled to depart from Southern Cross at (or equivalent service prior to 30 September 2007):						
Arriving at destination - see note (B)		4.32 pm	5.10 pm	5.40 pm	6.13 pm	6.33 pm	6.42 pm	7.30 pm
(a)	early	18	9	12	14	8	1	10
(b)	on time to the second	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)
(c)	less than 1 minute late	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)	see note (A)
<i>(b) & (c) between 59 seconds early and 59 seconds late</i>		2	5	2	3	2	2	6
(d)	1 minute to less than 2 minutes late	2	3	1	2	1	0	0
(e)	2 minutes to less than 6 minutes late	4	6	8	4	4	2	5
(f)	6 minutes to less than 10 minutes late	1	3	2	0	2	3	3
(g)	10 minutes to less than 11 minutes late	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
(h)	11 minutes to less than 15 minutes late	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
(i)	15 minutes to less than 20 minutes late	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
(j)	20 minutes to less than 30 minutes late	1	0	1	2	2	1	1
(k)	30 minutes or more late	0	1	0	3	2	0	4

Notes:

Note (A) - on time information reported by V/Line does not support a distinction as specified in parts (b) and (c) of Questions 1 and 2. The equivalent reported punctuality figure for these two categories is 'services arriving between 59 seconds early and 59 seconds late'.

Note (B) - arrival times for services departing from Southern Cross Station are reported at destination. Seymour was the destination for all services referred to in Question 2, other than the 6.13 pm and the 6.33 pm

services whose destinations were Albury and Shepparton respectively. The 6.42 pm service commenced operation on 1 October 2007.

The 4.32 pm, 5.10 pm and the 5.40 pm services from Southern Cross Station did not operate on 25 September 2007 due to a suburban train incident.

Public transport: rail — crime

1079. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (1) Between 1 July and 30 September 2007, how many offences occurred on public transport vehicles, at railway stations, tram or bus stops or on land such as commuter car parks owned by VicTrack, the Department of Infrastructure or other public transport stakeholders, in each of the following categories —
 - (a) arson;
 - (b) property damage;
 - (c) burglary (aggravated);
 - (d) burglary (other);
 - (e) theft of motor vehicle;
 - (f) theft from motor vehicle;
 - (g) theft of bicycle;
 - (h) theft (other);
 - (i) deception;
 - (j) handling of stolen goods;
 - (k) drugs (cultivate, manufacture or traffic);
 - (l) drugs (possess or use);
 - (m) going equipped to steal;
 - (n) regulated public order;
 - (o) justice procedures;
 - (p) weapons or explosives;
 - (q) harassment;
 - (r) behaviour in public;
 - (s) family incidents;
 - (t) homicide;
 - (u) rape;
 - (v) sexual assault;
 - (w) robbery;
 - (x) assault; and
 - (y) abduction or kidnapping.

- (2) How many of each category of offence in (1) was alleged to have been committed by persons aged —
 - (a) under 18;
 - (b) 18 to 59; and
 - (c) 60 and over.

ANSWER:

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

(1 & 2)

These questions should be directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services as data on criminal activity at railway stations and other public transport infrastructure is collated and held by Victoria Police.

Health: hospital investments

1080. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Part 3, Division 3, section 29 of the *Health Services Act 1988* which allows public hospitals to make external investments:

- (1) For each investment currently held by hospitals or health services over the amount of \$500,000, what is the name of the entity which provided the investment advice to the service.
- (2) What are the investment criteria used by each hospital or health service to —
 - (a) determine each investment entered into; and
 - (b) assess investment performance for each investment.
- (3) What fees have been paid and how have they been structured for each investment over \$500,000 made by each public hospital or health service.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. The department does not maintain a list of the names of the entities that provide investment advice to hospitals and health services. Hospital investment decisions are the responsibility of hospital Boards of Management and do not require approval by the department.
2. (a) All hospitals are expected to have an investment policy, developed in accordance with the requirements of the Health Services Act 1988, The Prudential Risk Management Framework For The State's Financial Markets Activities (Issued by DTF in March 2001), The Financial Management Act 1994 and Trustee Act 1958. These documents provide a broad framework to assist hospital Boards of Management to manage the investments held on behalf of public hospitals. All investments are to be assessed for risk in accordance with the investment policies prepared in accordance with the guidance provided by these documents.
 - (b) It is the role of hospital Boards of Management to perform an analysis of hospital investments.
3. Any fees related to their investments are expected to be in accordance with the normal commercial agreements for such investments.

Roads and ports: Yarra Street, Warrandyte — pedestrian crossing

1082. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): In relation to the pedestrian crossing scheduled to be installed in Yarra Street, Warrandyte: When is the contract for the works expected to be awarded.

ANSWER:

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

The Government has provided funding for the installation of pedestrian operated signals in Yarra Street, Warrandyte and I am pleased to advise that the contract for these works was awarded on 6 September 2007. Construction is currently in progress and the installation is expected to be completed in December 2007.

Sports, recreation and youth affairs: Office of Youth — mentoring

1083. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs): In relation to the Office of Youth document titled 'Leading the Way':

- (1) How is the Government facilitating it's commitment to increase best practice mentoring programs for young people.
- (2) Has a baseline for better mentoring policy and program development been established.
- (3) How has information about mentoring been made more accessible to young people, potential and current volunteer mentors and other stakeholders.
- (4) What new information has been made available to young people about mentoring since this document was released.
- (5) Has young people's participation in mentoring programs increased since this document's release and what evidence is there to support this.

ANSWER:

I am informed that/as follows:

- (1) The Government is facilitating it's commitment to increase best practice mentoring programs for young people by releasing two good practice guides:
 - *A Guide to Effective Practice for Mentoring Young People (2006)*, aimed at helping the design, delivery and evaluation of mentoring programs and projects for young people; and
 - *A Guide to Supporting Effective Programs for Mentoring Young People (2007)*, to assist mentoring practitioners and organisations to develop and implement mentoring programs based on best practice.
 - Both guides were prepared in consultation with the youth mentoring sector including the Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance and the National Youth Mentoring Network.
- (2) Through the good practice guides, checklists for better mentoring policy and program development have been established. The guides include detailed information around program development, program implementation and operations, review and program improvement, and policies and procedures.
- (3) Information about mentoring has been made more accessible to young people, potential and current volunteer mentors and other stakeholders through the regional coordination projects in Gippsland, Grampians and metropolitan Melbourne. The Government also has a partnership with the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust which is supporting the delivery of youth mentoring programs into more areas of the state, by funding three regional coordination projects in Hume, Loddon Mallee and Barwon South West regions, completing state-wide coverage. These projects:
 - coordinate effective regional delivery of new and existing mentoring programs and related activities;
 - identify, document and share best practice mentoring models; and
 - strengthen community collaboration and capacity for the delivery of mentoring programs to develop cross-sectoral and whole of community approaches to mentoring.

The mentoring pages of the Office for Youth website www.youth.vic.gov.au have also been strengthened including:

- information about mentoring projects
 - the good practice guides available for download; and
 - links to the Victorian Youth Mentoring Alliance and the National Youth Mentoring Network.
- (4) Since the release of *Leading the Way*, new information including program brochures and DVDs, have been made available to young people through youth mentoring organisations. A generic suite of tools for young people is currently being planned by young people across the state.
- (5) Young people’s participation has increased as a result of the establishment of twelve targeted projects to support new and existing mentoring and skill-based programs. The number and capacity of mentoring programs in disadvantaged communities has expanded while building on existing models, practices and networks in communities. The projects provide regular reporting on their progress.

Public transport: buses

1089. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (1) What were the 10 most popular bus routes in Melbourne on Monday, 22 October 2007.
- (2) How many adult and concession Metcards respectively were validated on each route on that date.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) The 10 most popular bus routes in Melbourne on 22 October 2007 (calculated from validation data) were:

Route Number and Name

- 1 700 Box Hill - Mordialloc
- 2 703 Middle Brighton - Blackburn
- 3 220 Sunshine - City - Gardenvale
- 4 246 Elsternwick - Clifton Hill - La Trobe University Bundoora
- 5 216 Caroline Springs - City - Brighton Beach
- 6 828 Hampton - Berwick Railway Station (via Dandenong)
- 7 737 Croydon - Monash University
- 8 888 Nunawading - Chelsea (via Springvale & Edithvale)
- 9 291 Box Hill - Heidelberg (via Doncaster Shoppingtown)
- 10 250 Garden City / Port Melbourne - City - La Trobe University Bundoora

- (2) In responding to this question it is assumed that the Member is referring to the number of adult and concession validations on each of the top 10 bus routes, as listed in the response to question 1. On the basis of this interpretation, the following table is provided.

The number of Adult (full fare) validations and Concession validations on the 10 most popular bus routes in Melbourne on 22 October 2007 were:

Route Number and Name	Number of Adult (full fare) validations	Number of Concession validations
700 Box Hill - Mordialloc	3,417	4,218
703 Middle Brighton - Blackburn	2,463	3,152
220 Sunshine - City - Gardenvale	2,418	2,993

Route Number and Name	Number of Adult (full fare) validations	Number of Concession validations
246 Elsternwick - Clifton Hill - La Trobe University Bundoora	2,190	2,410
216 Caroline Springs - City - Brighton Beach	1,453	2,256
828 Hampton - Berwick Railway Station (via Dandenong)	857	2,362
737 Croydon - Monash University	1,028	2,117
888 Nunawading - Chelsea (via Springvale & Edithvale)	1,259	1,868
291 Box Hill - Heidelberg (via Doncaster Shoppingtown)	1,064	1,990
250 Garden City / Port Melbourne - City - La Trobe University Bundoora	1,495	1,543

Note:

- Ticket validations do not equate to patronage because of fare evasion and passengers with valid tickets who do not validate.

Public transport: bus route 246 — service standards

1093. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Bus Route 246 Latrobe University and Clifton Hill to Elsternwick:

- (1) Is there currently a 21 minute gap between the 5.35 p.m. and 5.56 p.m. weekday departures from the corner of Bridge Road and Hoddle St to Elsternwick.
- (2) Although some buses originate at Latrobe University, can the timetable be altered southbound on weekdays to deliver an equivalent afternoon peak hours service to the 10 minute frequency provided from Elsternwick to Clifton Hill for departures from Elsternwick between 3.56 p.m. and 5.56 p.m.

ANSWER:

In responding to this question it is assumed that the Member is referring to the southbound service to Elsternwick (not from Elsternwick). On the basis of this interpretation the answer is:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This question does not seek factual information, but rather seeks an announcement of Government policy.

Water: food bowl modernisation project

1096. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the Food Bowl Modernisation project:

- (1) When will the pipeline route be selected.
- (2) Where will the booster pumping station be built.
- (3) Where will the power come from.
- (4) Will property owners be fully compensated at market rates for the loss of value and loss of production associated with the pipeline coming through their land.
- (5) What financial or other feasibility studies have been carried out for this major capital project.

- (6) Why is an Environmental Effects Study (EES) not being undertaken.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The final Sugarloaf Pipeline route is expected to be confirmed and announced in early 2008.
- (2) The final location of the Booster Pump Station is yet to be decided. The location of the pump station and its final dimensions are currently being assessed as part of the project's engineering and design process.
- (3) As the project is still in the engineering and design stage, the final source of power has yet to be determined. A number of options are being considered. Melbourne Water expects to be able to answer more detailed questions on this matter in the coming months.
- (4) Yes. Once the location of the easement is determined, a valuation will be undertaken on the property to determine what level of compensation will be paid to the property owner. If the owner is not happy with that valuation, Melbourne Water will pay a reasonable sum for a valuer, chosen by the property owner, to also value the property. Following that there will be negotiation to reach an agreed value.
- (5) A feasibility study of the project was carried out by the Department of Sustainability and Environment and was published in June 2007. A copy of this study is available on the Our Water Our Future website.
- (6) An Environment Effects Statement (EES) Referral was submitted to the Minister for Planning on 8 November 2007. The Minister has a minimum of 20 working days to consider this referral and determine whether an EES is required for the project.

Environment and climate change: piers and jetties

- 1099. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: How much money was spent maintaining jetties and piers in Victoria in each financial year from 2002–03 to 2006–07.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In 1995/96, when responsibility for piers and jetties was transferred from the commercial ports to the Department, there was inadequate funding allocated for both capital works and maintenance. This was the conclusion of the Government's independent review in 2002 of the 1995 port reforms.

The government has responded to this by increasing the funding via a number of programs:

- Coastal Risk Program—Introduced in 2001/02 and ongoing—Provides \$1m per annum for local ports including piers and jetties
- *Provincial Victoria, Moving Forward* initiative—Introduced in 2006/07—\$20m per annum over 4 years for capital works, and \$10m per annum over 4 years for maintenance works.

Funding for maintenance is also part of the recurrent operational funding provided to local port operators, who manage the piers and jetties. This funding is also used to maintain other assets such as breakwaters, navigation aids, slipways and dredging equipment.

The estimated proportion of this funding directed to piers and jetties, as detailed below, is based on the relative replacement value of piers and jetties versus the replacement value of all assets at each of the local ports.

2002/03	\$3.9 million
2003/04	\$3.9 million

2004/05	\$4.0 million
2005/06	\$3.4 million
2006/07	\$4.9 million

In 2007/08, the Government committed a further \$10m over 4 years for major upgrades to key piers and jetties in Port Phillip and Westernport bays, including Flinders, Frankston, Mornington, Queenscliff and Rosebud (see Budget Paper 3, page 333).

Community services: supported residential services — mental illness

1123. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Senior Victorians): In relation to pension-level residents of supported residential services (SRS) —

- (1) How many of these residents suffer from a mental illness.
- (2) What procedures are in place to link residents who suffer from a mental illness with appropriate treatment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Latest research states approximately 1 in 5 Victorians suffer from a mental illness.
- (2) There are a number of programs that link people with a mental illness who are living in a SRS with appropriate treatment and support services:
 - SRS Service Coordination and Support Program funds suitably qualified and experienced workers to engage with and provide support, information, assessment and referral services to residents with a mental illness or disability not currently linked into appropriate services.
 - The Community Connections Program funds assertive outreach workers to proactively find, engage, assess and link residents with disabilities and people who are living in other forms of marginalised housing into the services they need, this includes those with a mental illness.
 - SRS residents with severe mental illness are eligible to receive support from the specialist mental health service system.

Mental health: practitioners — drug and alcohol use

1134. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to drug or alcohol use by practitioners in Victoria’s public health system in each of the years 2000 to 2007:

- (1) How many were reported to relevant registration boards for suspected drug or alcohol addiction.
- (2) How many were found by relevant review boards to be impaired due to such addiction.
- (3) How many were suspended by relevant review boards for being impaired due to such addiction.
- (4) How many were forced by relevant review boards to undergo a support, rehabilitation and monitoring program for impaired practitioners due to such addiction.
- (5) As part of the above program, how many were forced to undergo drug testing.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

(1-5)

Data in relation to these issues is a matter for the relevant registration and review boards.

Mental health: pharmacotherapy

1135. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to the provision of pharmacotherapy in Victoria:

- (1) How many of Victoria’s 490 General Practitioners (GP’s) who are approved as pharmacotherapy prescribers did so in the financial year 2006–07.
- (2) How many GP’s who prescribed pharmacotherapy in 2006–07 had five or more clients.
- (3) How many GP’s who prescribed pharmacotherapy in 2006–07 are located in each Department of Human Services region.
- (4) How many pharmacies currently dispense pharmacotherapy.
- (5) How many pharmacies are approved to dispense pharmacotherapy.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Department of Human Services approves medical practitioners to provide pharmacotherapy treatment services, and issues permits to prescribe for particular patients. Like all medical treatments, these services are a private matter between the doctor and their patient and the government does not track the number of active permits or treatments at a given time by a particular doctor.
- (2), (3)
See (1).
- (4) In October 2007, 403 Victorian pharmacies had at least one pharmacotherapy client.
- (5) As at October 2007, 449 Victorian pharmacies were authorised to dispense pharmacotherapies.

Public transport: buses — Nightrider service

1158. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Minister’s press release of 31 July 2007, *Nightrider bus service popular with late night revellers*, regarding the popularity of the Nightrider: What are the patronage figures for each month from March 2007 to October 2007 on the Nightrider bus service along the Croydon route which passes through Doncaster.

ANSWER:

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

Patronage for the period March 2007 to September 2007 on the Croydon Nightrider bus service is as follows:

Month	Patronage
March	1897
April	1840
May	1822

Month	Patronage
June	1979
July	1669
August	1740
September	1493
October	Not Available

Roads and Ports: Victoria and King streets intersection, Doncaster — traffic lights

1163. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Roads and Ports): What was the final total cost of the installation of traffic lights at the corner of Victoria Street and King Street, East Doncaster.

ANSWER:

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

In June 2006, the then Minister for Transport announced that \$600,000 would be invested to install traffic signals at this intersection. The final cost of the project was within this budget allocation.

Community services: Slow to Recover program

1195. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to the ABI: Slow to Recover Program in each of the years 2000 to 2007:

- (1) How many people accessed paediatric services through the Program.
- (2) How many people accessed adult services through the Program.
- (3) How many private providers provided services to ABI: Slow to Recover patients.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This data as requested is not a standard data set that is stored or reported in a way that enables this specific question to be answered.

Senior Victorians: seniors card holders

1202. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Senior Victorians): In relation to benefits to Seniors Card holders:

- (1) How many Seniors Card holders took advantage of the two off-peak travel vouchers for travel within Victoria offered to them in the financial years —
 - (a) 2004–05;
 - (b) 2005–06; and
 - (c) 2006–07.
- (2) What was the most frequently visited destination for Seniors Card holders who took advantage of these vouchers for 2006–07.
- (3) Has the Government considered any alternative arrangements for benefits for Seniors Card holders.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The issue raised falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Public Transport.

Housing: Carlton

1204. MS LOVELL — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Housing): In relation to the Carlton Housing Redevelopment:

- (1) Has a developer from the short list of five been chosen yet; if so, which developer was chosen.
- (2) Has the Office of Housing met with all the tenants and been able to accommodate their needs.
- (3) When can all tenants expect to be settled into the redeveloped complex.
- (4) How much is the project likely to cost.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Progressively from 2010.
- (4) The project is likely to cost the government \$50 million. The overall project cost is estimated to be \$250 million.

Housing: East Reservoir

1205. MS LOVELL — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Housing): In relation to the East Reservoir public housing redevelopment:

- (1) How many residences will be built, and how many bedrooms will each residence contain, providing a break-down of the number of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom residences.
- (2) Will the Office of Housing undertake a suitable consultation phase with the residents prior to temporary re-housing.
- (3) Have residents been consulted on the Government's decision to redevelop the public housing flats.
- (4) How long will construction take and when can tenants expect to move into the redeveloped site.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) A minimum of 39 new dwellings will be built and a mixture of units provided to accommodate singles, families and people with disabilities. The design phase will determine the numbers of bedrooms in the various units.
- (2/3) The Office of Housing has already started consulting with the current residents and will continue to do so.
- (4) Construction is expected to start in the 2008–09 financial year and to be completed by 2010–11.

Housing: acquisitions

1206. MS LOVELL — To ask the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Housing): In relation to the financial year 2007–08:

- (1) How many new acquisitions is the Office of Housing expected to make.
- (2) How many properties are expected to be leased by the Office of Housing.
- (3) How many properties is the Office of Housing expected to purchase.
- (4) How many properties is the Office of Housing expected to build.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) During 2007–08, the Office of Housing expects to acquire over 1,150 social housing units.
- (2) At the end of the 2007–08 financial year, the Office of Housing is expecting to hold some 1,100 properties that are leased from the private sector for transitional and public housing.
- (3) Of the acquisitions planned for 2007–08, around 180 are expected to involve purchases of existing properties,
- (4) Over 290 are expected to be achieved through construction, and the balance expected to be purchased or constructed in partnership with the non-government sector through joint venture arrangements or through leasing.

Housing: Northcote

1207. MS LOVELL — To ask the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Housing): In relation to the housing estate redevelopment at 1 Roberts Street, Northcote:

- (1) Has the preferred design for the redevelopment been finalised by Fooks Martin Sandow Architects.
- (2) How many residences will be built, and how many bedrooms will each residence contain, providing a break-down of the number of 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom residences.
- (3) Has the Office of Housing taken on board the needs and concerns of current tenants, and how are these being incorporated into the plans.
- (4) When is construction likely to begin and when is it likely to be complete.
- (5) How many of the relocated tenants have indicated they wish to return to the Roberts St housing estate.
- (6) Where have original tenants been relocated to.
- (7) Will on-site car parking be a feature of the new development.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The preferred design for the redevelopment is in the process of being finalised by Fooks Martin Sandow Anson Architects and scheduled to be completed early next year.
- (2) The preferred design for the redevelopment is in the process of being finalised by Fooks Martin Sandow Anson Architects and scheduled to be completed early next year.
- (3) The Office of Housing has taken on board the needs and concerns of 1 Roberts Street tenants and the local community. A Community Advisory Committee, chaired by Fiona Richardson MP was established in April 2007 to assist the Office of Housing in facilitating consultation with residents and the local community about

the redevelopment project. Feedback from these consultation meetings were incorporated in the design. The community was given further opportunity to comment on the proposed design on 22 September and 26 November 2007.

- (4) Construction is likely to commence in 2009 and is likely to be completed in 2010.
- (5) To date, thirty six (36) tenants have indicated they wish to return.
- (6) The majority of the original tenants have been relocated to the Inner suburbs of Melbourne.
- (7) The preferred design for the redevelopment is in the process of being finalised by Fooks Martin Sandow Anson Architects and scheduled to be completed early next year.

Water: tax equivalent payments

1209. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Water): In relation to tax equivalent payments payable to the Government by the water authorities: Is the 50 per cent deferred ‘forgiven’ or has this 50 per cent been set aside by the water authorities.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Income tax equivalent payments under the National Tax Equivalent Regime by State-owned corporations arose out of the competition policy reforms of the mid 1990s agreed to by all States, Territories and the Commonwealth.

There is no policy that stipulates a 50 per cent tax equivalent payment by water authorities. The National Tax Equivalent Regime requires that government businesses pay an amount to State governments that is equivalent to the Commonwealth company income tax that they would pay if they were privately owned companies. The amount is assessed as 30% of profit; which is equal to the company tax rate.

Deferred tax liabilities are future tax payment obligations in accordance with the requirements of Accounting Standard *AASB 112 Income Taxes*. They are required to be reported in the financial statements to provide details of likely future tax payments.

Deferred tax liabilities cannot be “forgiven” by the Government, as this would contravene the accounting standard. These liabilities are future tax payment obligations in accordance with the requirements of the standard and will result in a tax payment to Government at a later date.

Community services: Disability Advisory Council of Victoria

1244. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Community Services): On which dates from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 did the Minister meet with members of the Disability Advisory Council of Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The former Ministers for Community Services, the Hon. Sherryl Garbutt and the Hon. Gavin Jennings, met with members of the Disability Advisory Council on the following occasions:

- 21 July 2006;
- 2 August 2006;
- 28 March 2007;

30 May 2007.

Education: Ferntree Gully Primary School site

1257. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education): In relation to the former Ferntree Gully Primary School site on Dorset Road, Ferntree Gully:

- (1) Has a decision been made for the future use of the two heritage buildings —
 - (a) if so, what is the purpose of use and when will the use of the buildings commence; and
 - (b) if not, what is the reason preventing the use.
- (2) Has any decision been made in regards to the future use of the open space on the site —
 - (a) if so, what is the purpose of use and when will the use of the open site commence; and
 - (b) if not, what is the reason preventing the use.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is currently working with the local Council to determine the future use for the former Ferntree Gully Primary School site.

This includes consideration of the two remaining heritage buildings, with a view to Council rezoning the site for alternative purposes. It is hoped that the rezoning amendment will be able to commence early in the new year.

Police and emergency services: Nepean Highway–Bay Road, Cheltenham

1267. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the traffic lights at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road and in particular the light sequencing which governs west bound traffic turning right from Karen Street in a northerly direction into the Nepean Highway which is monitored by a red light camera:

- (1) When was the red light camera first installed.
- (2) Since its installation how many infringement notices have been issued on a monthly basis against vehicles completing the above defined traffic movement.
- (3) Noting the angle and width of the turn, has the additional time and slower speed necessary to complete the turn been taken into account.
- (4) Noting the high volume of traffic infringement notices for the intersection from motorists who have never incurred a fine in 40 years, among other drivers, and taking into account the physical characteristics of the intersection. is there merit in adjusting the time allowance at which a fine is imposed.
- (5) How does the number of fines issued compare with comparable intersections.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There is no road safety camera monitoring traffic turning right from Karen St into the Nepean Highway.

Industry and trade: Crown land sales

1380. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade: Since 1 January 2002, what Crown land has been sold by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, setting out in tabular form —

- (a) the location of the land;
- (b) the status of the land;
- (c) any assessments made of the land;
- (d) the method of sale (eg. tender, expression of interest); and
- (e) the price received for the sale of the land.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Minister for Finance is the only Minister that has power to sell Crown land. Therefore DIIRD has not sold any Crown Land since 1 January 2002.

Health: Crown land sales

1385. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Health): Since 1 January 2002, what Crown land has been sold by the Department of Human Services, setting out in tabular form —

- (a) the location of the land;
- (b) the status of the land;
- (c) any assessments made of the land;
- (d) the method of sale (eg. tender, expression of interest); and
- (e) the price received for the sale of the land.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Minister for Finance is the only Minister that has power to sell Crown land.

Environment and climate change: regional water authorities

1575. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: For the financial year 2006–07, what was the total amount spent on advertising and promotion by the Regional Water Authorities and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in media and communications roles by the Authorities.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question should more appropriately be asked of the Minister for Water, as administration of the Regional Water Authorities falls under his portfolio responsibilities.

Environment and climate change: Melbourne metropolitan retail water businesses

1576. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: For the financial year 2006–07, what was the total amount spent on advertising and promotion by the Melbourne Metropolitan Retail Water Businesses and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in media and communications roles by the businesses.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question should more appropriately be asked of the Minister for Water, as administration of the Melbourne Metropolitan Retail Water Businesses falls under his portfolio responsibilities.

Environment and climate change: Melbourne Water Corporation

1577. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: For the financial year 2006–07, what was the total amount spent on advertising and promotion by the Melbourne Water Corporation and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in media and communications roles by the Corporation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question should more appropriately be asked of the Minister for Water, as the administration of the Melbourne Water Corporation falls under his portfolio responsibilities.

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 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, 7 February 2008

Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct

543. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) What is the total number of occasions and the total number of days the Minister has stayed free of charge at Falls Creek including the name of the accommodation provided in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (2) Did the Minister receive free of charge any meals, alcohol, ski passes, ski lift passes and ski hire at Falls Creek and if so, what was received for free in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (3) How many times has the Minister stayed free of charge at Falls Creek in the company of his staff in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have not stayed at any Falls Creek accommodation facilities capacity as Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct

545. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) What is the total number of occasions and the total number of days the Minister has stayed free of charge at Mount Baw Baw, including the name of the accommodation provided in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (2) Did the Minister receive free of charge any meals, alcohol, ski passes, ski lift passes and ski hire at Mount Baw Baw and if so, what was received for free in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (3) How many times has the Minister stayed free of charge at Mount Baw Baw in the company of his staff in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have not stayed at Mount Baw Baw accommodation facilities in my capacity as Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct

546. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) What is the total number of occasions and the total number of days the Minister has stayed free of charge at Mount Buller and/or Mount Stirling including the name of the accommodation provided in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (2) Did the Minister receive free of charge any meals, alcohol, ski passes, ski lift passes and ski hire at Mount Buller and/or Mount Stirling and if so, what was received for free in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (3) How many times has the Minister stayed free of charge at Mount Buller and/or Mount Stirling in the company of his staff in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have not stayed at any Mount Buller or Mount Stirling accommodation facilities in my capacity as Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct

547. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) What is the total number of occasions and the total number of days the Minister has stayed free of charge at Mount Hotham including the name of the accommodation provided in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (2) Did the Minister receive free of charge any meals, alcohol, ski passes, ski lift passes and ski hire at Mount Hotham and if yes, what was received for free in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (3) How many times has the Minister stayed free of charge at Mount Hotham in the company of his staff in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have not stayed at Mount Hotham accommodation facilities in my capacity as Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Environment and climate change: ministerial conduct

548. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) What is the total number of occasions and the total number of days the Minister has stayed free of charge in any State and/or National Park region in Victoria including the name of the State and/or National Park and the name of the accommodation provided in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.
- (2) Did the Minister receive free of charge any meals and/or alcohol, and if so, what was received for free in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.

- (3) How many times has the Minister stayed free of charge at State and National Park region in the company of his staff in the calendar years 2003 to 2007 respectively.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have not stayed at any State or National Park accommodation facilities in my capacity as Minister for Environment and Climate Change.

Environment and climate change: sawlog auction system

- 774. MR VOGELS** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In relation to VicForests new sawlog auction system: Can the Minister guarantee that there will be no further reduction of sawlog timber below 450,000m³.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The volume of sawlog timber that is put to auction is an operational decision made by VicForests, which falls under the responsibility of the Treasurer.

Sport, recreation and youth affairs: program funding

- 965. MR GUY** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs): What is the total amount of funding provided to each Sport and Recreation Victoria funding program to support local community clubs since 1 July 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Brumby Government, through Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) provides significant financial assistance for the development and administration of a wide range of sport and recreation programs and services.

Since 1 July 2006, the Brumby Government has provided \$69.3M towards the development of Community sport and recreation.

Children and early childhood development: minister's office — expenses

- 982. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): Between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007 what are the details of expenses of the office of the Minister for:

- (a) staff salaries and on-costs;
- (b) number of Ministerial staff (including driver);
- (c) any other Ministerial office operating costs (recurrent expenses);
- (d) Minister's and/or office international flights;
- (e) Minister's and/or office domestic flights;
- (f) Minister's and/or office charter flights;
- (g) travel related expenses (international);
- (h) travel related expenses (domestic);
- (i) entertainment/hospitality expenses; and

- (j) alcohol costs.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I did not hold a Ministerial portfolio between 25 November 2006 and 2 August 2007.

Water: rebates

1011. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the \$150 rebate scheme for AAAA-rated washing machines which ceased on 1 December 2003:

- (1) Why was this rebate scheme terminated after just two months of operation.
- (2) Will this rebate be offered again —
 - (a) if so, when will the rebate be offered and for how long will the rebate be available; and
 - (b) if not, why will this rebate scheme not be re-introduced.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change (for the Minister for Water): I am informed that:

The rebate to which you refer was offered for AAAA-rated washing machines under the Water Smart Gardens and Homes Rebate Scheme between 1 October 2003 and 1 December 2003. The rebate for this product was only ever planned to last for the two month period.

One of the objectives of offering the rebate was to shift the market for washing machines away from inefficient top-loaders to more water efficient models, including front-loaders. This has encouraged manufacturers to make more water efficient models and encouraged households to purchase such machines. As a result of this, the cost of water efficient machines has also decreased.

There are currently no plans to re-introduce the rebate for washing machines in Victoria under the Water Smart Homes and Gardens Scheme. The market now contains a large number of water efficient washing machines, such machines have come down in price and the community has been educated as to the benefits of these machines.

Education: disability discrimination complaints

1053. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education): How much money has been paid out by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in confidential settlements to Complainants in relation to education matters under disability discrimination legislation.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Disclosure of any information relating to the confidential settlement of matters involving the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development under disability discrimination legislation would compromise confidentiality and would be a breach of those settlements.

Attorney-General: speed cameras

1087. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Attorney-General): In relation to highway fixed, intersection fixed, analogue red light, Hume Freeway point-to-point, West Gate Freeway

highway fixed, Western Ring Road highway fixed, and CityLink highway fixed speed cameras during each of the months of July, August, September and October 2007:

- (1) Were all cameras operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week; if not, for what periods and on what days was each camera inoperable.
- (2) For what reason was each camera identified in as inoperable (1) turned off.
- (3) How much per hour on average did each camera generate in revenue.
- (4) How many infringement notices were issued per hour on average for each camera.
- (5) How many infringement notices were withdrawn and for what reasons.
- (6) What were the locations of the top 20 revenue generating speed cameras.
- (7) How much was generated in revenue at each of these sites.
- (8) With each type of camera how many faults were —
 - (a) reported; and
 - (b) identified.
- (9) How many requests for withdrawal of infringement notices were received.
- (10) Where is it expected that new fixed digital, point-to-point or red light cameras will be installed between October 2007 and 30 June 2008.

ANSWER:

The Honourable the Attorney-General: I am advised that:

The responsibility for the road safety camera system rests with the Minister for Police & Emergency Services.

Public transport: passenger information display system

1088. MR KOCH — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Connex Passenger Information Display System (PIDS):

- (1) Were all the PIDS screens defective at Parliament station at 8.34 a.m. on Monday 22 October 2007; if not, were any defective and, if so, how many.
- (2) Between what times was the system down on the above date.
- (3) Were PIDS at any other locations similarly affected; if so, at what locations, between what times and how many screens.
- (4) What was the cause.

ANSWER:

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

Connex has advised the Department of Infrastructure of the following:

1. No fault was logged to indicate that all the Passenger Information Displays (PIDs) were defective at Parliament Station at 8.34 am on 22 October 2007. Only one PID monitor was defective at that time.
2. Not Applicable.
3. Yes, two PIDs were faulty at Flagstaff Station.
4. Faulty cathode ray picture tubes.

Agriculture: feral dog bounty

- 1256. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade (for the Minister for Agriculture): Are there plans to increase the number of shooting clubs from which members are eligible to claim the bounty on the shooting of feral dogs; if not, what are the reasons for no increase.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As part of the Government's bushfire recovery response, the Department of Primary Industries conducted a bounty for the collection of fox scalps and wild dog skin pieces. The bounty period began in April and lasted for seven months. There is no intention to increase the number of hunting organisations eligible to claim the Bushfire Recovery Fox and Wild Dog Bounty as the last collection of bounty materials was on 16 November 2007.

Industry and trade: contractors

- 1311. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade: For the financial year 2006–07 what were the names and purposes of all contractors employed by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, setting out in tabular form —
- (a) the name of the contractor;
 - (b) the date the contract was entered into;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the value of the contract;
 - (e) the expected term of the contract; and
 - (f) the amount paid on the contract in the period.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The details of all DIIRD contracts over \$100,000 are published on the Government's Contracts Publishing System available through the website of the Victorian Government Purchasing Board.

Details of contracts less than \$100,000 are not held centrally and therefore cannot be reported without an unreasonable diversion of my Department's resources.

Industry and trade: contractors

- 1312. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Industry and Trade: For the period 1 July to 30 November 2007 what were the names and purposes of all contractors employed by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, setting out in tabular form —
- (a) the name of the contractor;
 - (b) the date the contract was entered into;
 - (c) the purpose of the contract;
 - (d) the value of the contract;
 - (e) the expected term of the contract; and
 - (f) the amount paid on the contract in the period.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The details of all DIIRD contracts over \$100,000 are published on the Government's Contracts Publishing System available through the website of the Victorian Government Purchasing Board.

Details of contracts less than \$100,000 are not held centrally and therefore cannot be reported without an unreasonable diversion of my Department's resources.

Education: Crown land sales

1386. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education): Since 1 January 2002, what Crown land has been sold by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, setting out in tabular form —

- (a) the location of the land;
- (b) the status of the land;
- (c) any assessments made of the land;
- (d) the method of sale (eg. tender, expression of interest); and
- (e) the price received for the sale of the land.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The question should be redirected to the Minister for Finance who is responsible for the sale of Crown land under the Land Act 1958.

Children and early childhood development: legal proceedings

1389. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development): In each of 2004–05, 2005–06 and 2006–07:

- (1) How much did the State Government spend on legal proceedings brought against it in relation to students with disabilities including —
 - (a) wages of internal and externally appointed legal practitioners;
 - (b) all other staff involved in work related to the proceedings;
 - (c) back filling teachers involved in preparation and attendance for the cases; and
 - (d) back fill for stress leave.
- (2) How much did the Government spend in payouts (damages), both through court order and negotiation settlement in relations to claims brought against them in relation to students with disabilities.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Details of legal expenses incurred by Departments and agencies are publicly available and can be found in the Government Legal Services Annual Report.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not collect data regarding expenditure on, or costs associated with, internal legal practitioners, teachers and other staff regarding legal proceedings brought against it in relation to students with disabilities.

Disclosure of any information relating to the confidential settlement of matters involving the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development under disability discrimination legislation would compromise confidentiality and would be a breach of those settlements.

Education: Eltham North Primary School — access

1397. MRS KRONBERG — To ask the Treasurer (for Minister for Education): In relation to VicRoads Wattletree Road Bridge, Bridge Replacement Project in Eltham North: What contingency plans does the Government have for safe access and egress by school children and parents should the Nillumbik Shire Council forge ahead with their plans to develop the land immediately opposite the Eltham North Primary School, thus drastically reducing the amount of space to safely alight from cars.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports. The Department will work with Nillumbik Shire Council and VicRoads to ensure any effects on students are managed.

Education: Adult, Community and Further Education Board

1418. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education): For the financial year 2006–07, what was the total amount spent on advertising and promotion by the Adult, Community and Further Education Board and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in media and communications roles by the Board.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be directed to the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation.

Education: Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission

1420. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education): For the financial year 2006–07, what was the total amount spent on advertising and promotion by the Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in media and communications roles by the Commission.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be directed to the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation.

Education: Adult Multicultural Education Services

1421. MR D. M. DAVIS — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education): For the financial year 2006–07, what was the total amount spent on advertising and promotion by the Adult Multicultural Education Services and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in media and communications roles by the agency.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be directed to the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation.

Education: Centre for Adult Education

- 1422. MR D. M. DAVIS** — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education): For the financial year 2006–07, what was the total amount spent on advertising and promotion by the Centre for Adult Education and how many full-time equivalent staff were employed in media and communications roles by the Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This matter does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be directed to the Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — eastern region

- 1582. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2003 there were 240 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Eastern Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 240 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria–2003*, 49 taxa have been recorded in the Gippsland Region of DSE.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — northern region

- 1583. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2003 there were 240 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Northern Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 240 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria–2003*, 79 taxa have been recorded in the North West Region of DSE and 41 have been recorded in the North East Region of DSE.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — southern region

- 1584. MRS COOTE** — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2003 there were 240 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Southern Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 240 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2003*, 33 taxa have been recorded in the Port Phillip Region of DSE.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — western region

1585. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2003 there were 240 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Western Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 240 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2003*, 74 taxa have been recorded in the South West Region of DSE.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — national parks

1586. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2003 there were 240 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in national parks.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 240 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2003*, 87 taxa have been recorded in national parks.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — state forests

1587. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2003 there were 240 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in state forests.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 240 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2003*, 43 taxa have been recorded in State Forest.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — Parks Victoria

1588. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2003 there were 240 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in reserves managed by Parks Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 240 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2003*, 141 taxa have been recorded on land managed by Parks Victoria.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — eastern region

1589. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2005 there were 270 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Eastern Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 270 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria–2005*, 52 taxa have been recorded in the Gippsland Region of DSE.

I also wish to point out that differences in the number of threatened species on lists produced in different years should not be interpreted as indicating changes in conservation status—it is more likely to indicate improvements in our understanding of conservation status, or taxonomic changes that result in additional species being recognised as threatened.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — northern region

1590. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2005 there were 270 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Northern Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 270 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria–2005*, 81 taxa have been recorded in the North West Region of DSE and 44 have been recorded in the North East Region of DSE

I also wish to point out that differences in the number of threatened species on lists produced in different years should not be interpreted as indicating changes in conservation status—it is more likely to indicate improvements in our understanding of conservation status, or taxonomic changes that result in additional species being recognised as threatened.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — southern region

1591. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2005 there were 270 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Southern Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 270 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria–2005*, 33 taxa have been recorded in the Port Phillip Region of DSE.

I also wish to point out that differences in the number of threatened species on lists produced in different years should not be interpreted as indicating changes in conservation status—it is more likely to indicate improvements in our understanding of conservation status, or taxonomic changes that result in additional species being recognised as threatened.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — western region

1592. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2005 there were 270 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in the Western Region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 270 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2005*, 82 taxa have been recorded in the South West Region of DSE.

I also wish to point out that differences in the number of threatened species on lists produced in different years should not be interpreted as indicating changes in conservation status—it is more likely to indicate improvements in our understanding of conservation status, or taxonomic changes that result in additional species being recognised as threatened.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — national parks

1593. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2005 there were 270 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in national parks.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 270 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2005*, 91 taxa have been recorded in national parks.

I also wish to point out that differences in the number of threatened species on lists produced in different years should not be interpreted as indicating changes in conservation status—it is more likely to indicate improvements in our understanding of conservation status, or taxonomic changes that result in additional species being recognised as threatened.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — state forests

1594. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2005 there were 270 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in state forests.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 270 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2005*, 25 taxa have been recorded in state forests.

I also wish to point out that differences in the number of threatened species on lists produced in different years should not be interpreted as indicating changes in conservation status—it is more likely to indicate improvements in our understanding of conservation status, or taxonomic changes that result in additional species being recognised as threatened.

Environment and climate change: vascular plant taxa — Parks Victoria

1595. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: In 2005 there were 270 vascular plant taxa considered endangered: How many of these were in reserves managed by Parks Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the 270 vascular plant taxa listed as endangered on the *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria—2005*, 152 taxa have been recorded on land managed by Parks Victoria.

I also wish to point out that differences in the number of threatened species on lists produced in different years should not be interpreted as indicating changes in conservation status—it is more likely to indicate improvements in our understanding of conservation status, or taxonomic changes that result in additional species being recognised as threatened.

Environment and climate change: advisory list of rare or threatened plants

1596. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: Why is the Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria not revised on an annual basis.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Sustainability and Environment has an aim of reviewing the Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria every three years. This is considered an appropriate frequency for two main reasons:

- Over 4,500 species of plants are recorded from Victoria. Over 1,800 of these are considered rare or threatened. The task of assessing the conservation status of such large numbers of taxa is very time consuming. To do it annually would consume an unreasonable amount of time of Victoria's expert botanists, time that would be better spent in the field improving our knowledge of the ecology and taxonomy of Victoria's flora.
- The rate of change in the conservation status of Victoria's plants is not so rapid as to warrant such frequent assessment.

Environment and climate change: advisory list of vertebrate fauna

1597. MRS COOTE — To ask the Minister for Environment and Climate Change: Why is the Advisory List of Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria not revised on an annual basis.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Sustainability and Environment has an aim of reviewing the Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria every three years.

This is considered an appropriate frequency because the rate of change in the conservation status of Victoria's fauna and the rate of accumulation of new information about the conservation status of Victoria's fauna are not so rapid as to warrant annual assessment.

Education: schools — illicit substance use

1612. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Treasurer (for the Minister for Education) With reference to measures within schools to tackle illicit substance use:

- (1) Are government school teachers subject to a drug policy.
- (2) What measures are taken if a government school teacher is —

- (a) caught in possession of an illicit substance;
 - (b) suspected to be under the influence of an illicit substance;
 - (c) proven to be under the influence of an illicit substance;
 - (d) suspected to be under the influence of alcohol; and
 - (e) proven to be under the influence of alcohol.
- (3) Is drug testing ever used by the Department of Education in relation to drug and alcohol use by government school teachers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has as its paramount obligation its duty of care to students.

Teachers in government schools are required to abide by the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector employees, the Standards for Professional Practice and Ministerial Order 165 (Conduct and Duties) which includes clauses relating to unacceptable alcohol and drug use.

Breaches of these requirements are dealt with in accordance with the Department's *Procedures for Managing Complaints, Unsatisfactory Performance or Serious Misconduct* which provide that the principles of natural justice must be observed. Depending on the nature and severity of the breach a range of actions is available to deal with the matter including a reprimand, a fine or termination of employment. The *Procedures* require that suspected criminal conduct be reported to the police.

The Department also has an obligation to ensure the safety and well-being of its employees and provides assistance through its Employee Assistance Program.

The Employee Assistance Program provides a short term solution focused counselling service consisting of up to four sessions for any work related or personal issue which may be used as part of an intervention and support for an employee when alcohol or illicit drug use has been identified.