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**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
22, 23 and 24 August 2006
(Extract from book 11)**

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.

Tuesday, 22 August 2006

Planning: minister's office — alcohol purchases

4067. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to alcohol purchased by the Minister's Office since 1 January 2002, what was the —

- (a) date of each purchase;
- (b) value of each purchase; and
- (c) items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

To isolate alcohol expenses, if there are any, from general catering expenses would involve an examination of individual transactions and would place an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and resources.

Energy industries: Victorian Energy Networks Corporation — interstate and overseas travel

4105. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: In relation to interstate and overseas travel by the members and staff of the Victorian Energy Networks Corporation in 2003–04:

- (1) How many trips were undertaken.
- (2) What costs were associated with the travel.

ANSWER:

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

On advice from the Victorian Energy Networks Corporation, 1 overseas trip to New Zealand and 36 interstate trips were taken by VENCORP staff in relation to its functions. In providing this answer, I am counting two people travelling on the same trip as two separate trips.

The total cost has been estimated to be \$24,266. As the Honourable Member will be aware, VENCORP is not funded out of Consolidated Revenue and hence this cost is not an impost on the taxpayer.

Energy industries: Equipment Advisory Committee — interstate and overseas travel

4109. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: In relation to interstate and overseas travel by the members and staff of the Equipment Advisory Committee in 2003–04:

- (1) How many trips were undertaken.
- (2) What costs were associated with the travel.

ANSWER:

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

On advice from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, no trips were taken.

Planning: minister's office — alcohol purchases

5425. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to alcohol purchased by the Minister's Office since 30 June 2004, what was the —

- (a) the date of each purchase;
- (b) the value of each purchase; and
- (c) the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

To isolate alcohol expenses, if there are any, from general catering expenses would involve an examination of individual transactions and would place an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and resources.

Resources: minister's office — alcohol purchases

5433. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Resources: In relation to alcohol purchased by the Minister's Office since 30 June 2004, what was the —

- (a) the date of each purchase;
- (b) the value of each purchase; and
- (c) the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

One component of the Ministerial office budget is hospitality expenses. From time to time hospitality is provided for functions held by my office. Hospitality expenses for my office are moderate.

Energy industries: Office of the Mining Warden — capital works

6513. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: In relation to the Office of the Mining Warden's allocation of funds to major capital works, including major maintenance, replacement and upgrades, what were the priority major projects that were approved for the year 2004–05 and were each of these priority projects achieved.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Mining Warden has not allocated any funding for major capital works or other major projects during 2004/05 or 2005/06.

Resources: minister's office — mobile telephones

6668. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Resources: What was the cost of providing mobile telephone services to the Minister's staff for 2004–05.

ANSWER:

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

The research required to answer this question would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

Planning: minister's office — furnishings

7463. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

According to records held by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, office furniture to the value of \$1248 was purchased for the Minister for Planning during the 2004–05 financial year.

Energy industries: minister's office — furnishings

7472. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

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

All furniture and electrical goods within my office are on loan from the Department of Infrastructure and remain the property of the Department of Infrastructure.

Industrial relations: Innovation, Industry and Regional Development — entertainment expenses

7492. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): What was the total amount spent by the Minister's department on entertainment expenses including alcohol, food, admission to Commonwealth Games events, admission to other entertainment events, special gifts, all transport and corporate box leasing for their invited guests and those who were hosting them at the Commonwealth Games.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government and the M2006 Corporation jointly provided hosting opportunities for Ministers and senior Departmental officers during the Commonwealth Games. The entertainment expenses form part of the whole of Games budget. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the government's financial report on the Games.

Energy industries: Infrastructure — entertainment expenses

7515. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: What was the total amount spent by the Minister’s department on entertainment expenses including alcohol, food, admission to Commonwealth Games events, admission to other entertainment events, special gifts, all transport and corporate box leasing for their invited guests and those who were hosting them at the Commonwealth Games.

ANSWER:

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

There was no expenditure by the Department of Infrastructure (Energy and Security).

Industrial relations: charter flights

7534. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): In relation to all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes used by the Minister in 2004–05 what was the —

- (a) date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Nil.

Planning: charter flights

7548. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes used by the Minister in 2004–05 what was the —

- (a) date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

According to records held by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, no chartered flights were used by the Minister for Planning during the 2004–05 financial year.

Industrial relations: media research and public opinion polling

- 7576. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): For each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —
- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
 - (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
 - (c) the cost;
 - (d) the personnel conducting the project;
 - (e) whether it was put to tender;
 - (f) recommendations made; and
 - (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Planning: media research and public opinion polling

- 7590. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): For each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —
- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
 - (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
 - (c) the cost;
 - (d) the personnel conducting the project;
 - (e) whether it was put to tender;
 - (f) recommendations made; and
 - (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

Energy industries: media research and public opinion polling

- 7599. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: For each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —
- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
 - (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
 - (c) the cost;

- (d) the personnel conducting the project;
- (e) whether it was put to tender;
- (f) recommendations made; and
- (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

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

- (a) DOI Energy Consumer Information Pack
- (b) Approved on 20 June 2005 and final payment made on 14 September 2005
- (c) The total cost was \$16,000 GST excluded
- (d) Quantum Market Research group
- (e) Yes, this was put out to three market research companies, listed on the Government's supplier list
- (f) The research showed the primary issues that impacted Victorian households in relation to energy consumption
- (g) This research has determined the information requirements for energy consumers going forward

Resources: media research and public opinion polling

7600. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Resources: For each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —

- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
- (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
- (c) the cost;
- (d) the personnel conducting the project;
- (e) whether it was put to tender;
- (f) recommendations made; and
- (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) does not conduct media research or public opinion polling.

In regard to agencies and authorities, providing a consolidated response detailing media research and public opinion polling conducted by each individual agency and authority within my administration would place an undue strain on Departmental resources.

Information and communication technology: media research and public opinion polling

7608. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Information and Communication Technology: For each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —

- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;

- (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
- (c) the cost;
- (d) the personnel conducting the project;
- (e) whether it was put to tender;
- (f) recommendations made; and
- (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

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

There was no media research or public opinion polling conducted by any agency or authority within my administration as Minister for Information and Communication Technology in 2004/05.

Planning: minister's office — international travel

- 7632. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

According to the records of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, no international travel was undertaken by the Minister for Planning or ministerial staff during the 2004–05 financial year.

Sport and recreation: minister's office — international travel

- 7634. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation: What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In both my Ministerial portfolio responsibilities, I undertook international travel with members of my Ministerial staff at a total cost of \$94,216 in 2004–05.

This travel was to Greece for the Athens Olympic Games, the United Kingdom for the Queen's Baton Relay launch and India to meet with the Indian Commonwealth Games Organising Committee and to address the Indian Trade and Investment Forum.

Commonwealth Games: minister's office — international travel

- 7635. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Commonwealth Games: What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

In both my Ministerial portfolio responsibilities, I undertook international travel with members of my Ministerial staff at a total cost of \$94,216 in 2004–05.

This travel was to Greece for the Athens Olympic Games, the United Kingdom for the Queen’s Baton Relay launch and India to meet with the Indian Commonwealth Games Organising Committee and to address the Indian Trade and Investment Forum.

Attorney-General: minister’s office — interstate travel

7672. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Attorney-General): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Information on airfare, taxi, personal and accommodation expenses for interstate travel only is not readily available, as the Department’s financial system does not distinguish between different types of travel (e.g. interstate and intrastate travel).

It would place an unreasonable burden on the Department’s time and resources to collect this information.

Sport and recreation: minister’s office — interstate travel

7676. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation: What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am advised that in total for both my Ministerial portfolio responsibilities, the cost of interstate travel for 2004–05 was \$10,598, excluding expenses associated with interstate taxi hire.

Commonwealth Games: minister’s office — interstate travel

7677. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Commonwealth Games: What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am advised that in total for both my Ministerial portfolio responsibilities, the cost of interstate travel for 2004–05 was \$10,598, excluding expenses associated with interstate taxi hire.

Sport and recreation: minister’s office — intrastate travel

7718. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation: What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am advised that in total for both my Ministerial portfolio responsibilities, the cost of intrastate travel for 2004–05 was \$360, excluding Minister’s vehicle & driver costs and general costs of travel throughout Melbourne.

Commonwealth Games: minister's office — intrastate travel

7719. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Commonwealth Games: What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am advised that in total for both my Ministerial portfolio responsibilities, the cost of intrastate travel for 2004–05 was \$360, excluding Minister's vehicle & driver costs and general costs of travel throughout Melbourne.

Energy industries: minister's office — intrastate travel

7725. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

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

The cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05 is \$5,942.01.

Planning: minister's office — entertainment expenses

7758. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Nil entertainment expenses.

Planning: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7800. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Any alcohol costs incurred in 2005 would be included within a general hospitality accounting code. To isolate such expenses from other hospitality expenses would involve an examination of individual invoices and would place an unreasonable burden on public time and resources.

Resources: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7810. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Resources: What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

One component of the Ministerial office budget is hospitality expenses. From time to time hospitality is provided for functions held by my office. Hospitality expenses for my office are moderate.

Planning: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7842. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation (for the Minister for Planning): What expenses were incurred by each Department and Agency for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The answer to this question is provided in the response to Question no. 7800.

Water: Bendigo — feasibility study

8123. THE HON. DAMIAN DRUM — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the \$100,000 feasibility study conducted by GHD Consulting into options to supply water to Bendigo from the Goulburn water system, was the security of water allocations to the Campaspe irrigation district part of the original terms of reference of this study and if so what were the consultant's findings in respect of this matter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The security of water allocations to the Campaspe irrigation district were not a part of the original terms of reference of this study.

Water: Bendigo — feasibility study

8124. THE HON. DAMIAN DRUM — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the \$100,000 feasibility study conducted by GHD Consulting into options to supply water to Bendigo from the Goulburn water system, were the economic and social benefits to the Bendigo and Heathcote region part of the original terms of reference of this study and if so what were the consultant's findings in respect of this matter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The economic and social benefits to the Bendigo and Heathcote region were not a part of the original terms of reference of the study. However the benefits of improved water security to the region were clearly identified in the Our Water Our Future Bendigo Regional Action Plan that was released in September 2005.

Water: Bendigo — feasibility study

8126. THE HON. DAMIAN DRUM — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the \$100,000 feasibility study conducted by GHD Consulting into options to supply water to Bendigo from the Goulburn water system, how many irrigators in the Campaspe

irrigation district have indicated to the Government, Coliban Water, or consultants acting on their behalf that they would be willing to sell their water.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

From the survey conducted by GHD Consulting of the 140 Campaspe District Irrigators, 58 responses were received and of these 13 expressed an interest in considering selling their water.

Water: Bendigo — feasibility study

8127. THE HON. DAMIAN DRUM — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the \$100,000 feasibility study conducted by GHD Consulting into options to supply water to Bendigo from the Goulburn water system, what is the estimated quantity of all combined water rights from irrigators in the Campaspe irrigation district who have indicated to the Government, Coliban Water, or consultants acting on their behalf that they would be willing to sell their water rights.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information was not asked for or provided in the questionnaire that GHD Consulting sent to irrigators.

Police and emergency services: Emergency Services Superannuation Scheme — advertising and credit card expenditure

8194. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the Emergency Services Superannuation Scheme's expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Your question should be referred to the Minister for Finance, who has responsibility for the Emergency Services Superannuation Scheme.

Corrections: CORE – The Public Correctional Enterprise — entertainment expenses

8302. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by CORE — The Public Correctional Enterprise, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and

- (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

CORE – The Public Correctional Enterprise no longer exists. It merged with the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner to become Corrections Victoria on 1 July 2003.

Corrections: Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner — entertainment expenses

8303. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Correctional Services Commissioner’s Office, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner no longer exists. It merged with CORE – The Public Correctional Enterprise to become Corrections Victoria on 1 July 2003.

Police and emergency services: Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal — entertainment expenses

8347. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Your question should be referred to the Attorney-General, who has responsibility for the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal.

Corrections: Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner — communications staff

8424. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner no longer exists. It merged with CORE – The Public Correctional Enterprise to become Corrections Victoria on 1 July 2003.

Corrections: CORE – The Public Correctional Enterprise — communications staff

8425. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the CORE – The Public Correctional Enterprise – are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

CORE – The Public Correctional Enterprise no longer exists. It merged with the Office of the Correctional Services Commissioner to become Corrections Victoria on 1 July 2003.

Commonwealth Games: Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Pty Ltd — communications staff

8648. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Sport and Recreation: As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Pty Ltd are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) One officer was engaged at 30 June 2006.
- (2) The base salary band for this officer was \$120,000 - \$130,000.
- (3) The job title for this officer was Program Manager, Issues Management and Public Liaison

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.*

Wednesday, 23 August 2006

Education and training: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7849. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): What expenses were incurred by each Department and Agency for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Alcohol is purchased in accordance with government and departmental hospitality guidelines. The information requested is unable to be provided as the Department operates on a decentralised payment system. Manual checks across the Department would need to be carried out to extract the detailed level of information requested which would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Education and training: ministerial staff — cost

7891. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Aged care: ministerial staff — number

7915. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Aged Care: How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Housing: ministerial staff — number

7922. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Housing: How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Education and training: ministerial staff — number

7933. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Education and training: minister's office — secondments

7975. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

There were no public servants on secondment to my private office at 1 March 2006 who were not counted within the Ministerial staffing budget.

Education and training: ministerial staff — number

8025. THE HON. BILL FORWOOD — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training):

- (1) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have as at 30 June 2005.
- (2) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have as at 2 May 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Energy industries: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd — payments

8058. THE HON. GRAEME STONEY — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: In relation to payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Minister's department or private office or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration for each project since 1 January 2005:

- (1) What amount was paid.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What was the purpose of the project.

ANSWER:

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

For the period 1 January 2005 to 31 May 2006 (the date the question was raised), there were no payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Minister's department or private office or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration.

Corrections: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd — payments

8060. THE HON. GRAEME STONEY — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Minister's department or private office or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration for each project since 1 January 2005:

- (1) What amount was paid.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What was the purpose of the project.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) There were no payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by Corrections Victoria, my private office, or by the Adult Parole Board between 1 January 2005 and 30 May 2006*.

The only payments made by the Department of Justice to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd over the specified period did not relate to my responsibilities as Minister for Corrections.

*The date that the question was asked.

Education and training: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd — payments

8062. THE HON. GRAEME STONEY — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Minister's department or private office or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration for each project since 1 January 2005:

- (1) What amount was paid.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What was the purpose of the project.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

No payments have been made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Department of Education and Training or my private office since 1 January 2005.

To search for details of payments made by agencies and statutory bodies under my administration would require an unreasonable diversion of time and resources.

Environment: Sustainability and Environment — consultancies

8113. THE HON. DAMIAN DRUM — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Environment):

- (1) What consultancies were undertaken by the Department of Sustainability and Environment in 2005–06.
- (2) What was the full cost of these consultancies.
- (3) Which companies or organisations undertook these consultancies.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Details of payments made to consultancies undertaken by the Department of Sustainability and Environment during the 2005–06 financial year will be published in the Department’s Annual Report, which will be made publicly available later this year.

Education and training: Adult, Community and Further Education Board — advertising and credit card expenditure

8184. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Adult, Community and Further Education Board’s expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Registered Schools Board — advertising and credit card expenditure

8185. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Registered Schools Board’s expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority — advertising and credit card expenditure

8186. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority’s expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Institute of Teaching — advertising and credit card expenditure

8187. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Institute of Teaching’s expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission — advertising and credit card expenditure

8188. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission’s expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Qualifications Authority — advertising and credit card expenditure

8189. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Qualifications Authority's expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Adult Multicultural Education Services Authority — advertising and credit card expenditure

8190. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Adult Multicultural Education Services Authority's expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Council of Adult Education — advertising and credit card expenditure

8191. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Council of Adult Education's expenditure for 2004–05, what was the —

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Police and emergency services: Country Adult Parole Board — entertainment expenses

8292. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Country Adult Parole Board, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

This question should have been referred to me in my capacity as Minister for Corrections.

You should also note that there is no such entity as the Country Adult Parole Board in Victoria. The Adult Parole Board, however, does exist, and did not incur any entertainment expenses during the 2005–06 financial year.

Education and training: Council of Adult Education — entertainment expenses

8336. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Council of Adult Education, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Adult Multicultural Education Services — entertainment expenses

8337. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Adult Multicultural Education Services, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —

- (i) date;
- (ii) cost;
- (iii) number of guests;
- (iv) purpose; and
- (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Schools Innovation Commission — entertainment expenses

8338. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Schools Innovation Commission is no longer in operation.

Education and training: Victorian Qualifications Authority — entertainment expenses

8339. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Victorian Qualifications Authority, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission — entertainment expenses

8340. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Institute of Teaching — entertainment expenses

8341. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Victorian Institute of Teaching, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority — entertainment expenses

- 8342. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority Board, what were the:
- (a) total costs; and
 - (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Registered Schools Board — entertainment expenses

- 8343. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Registered Schools Board, what were the:
- (a) total costs; and
 - (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Merit Protection Board — entertainment expenses

- 8344. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Merit Protection Board, what were the:
- (a) total costs; and
 - (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —

- (i) date;
- (ii) cost;
- (iii) number of guests;
- (iv) purpose; and
- (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This is a question best directed to the Minister for Education Services.

Education and training: Adult, Community and Further Education Board — entertainment expenses

8345. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to entertainment expenses incurred in 2005–06 by the Adult, Community and Further Education Board, what were the:

- (a) total costs; and
- (b) itemised details of all expenditure in excess of \$500, including the —
 - (i) date;
 - (ii) cost;
 - (iii) number of guests;
 - (iv) purpose; and
 - (v) name of service provider.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Adult, Community and Further Education Board — communications staff

8363. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Adult, Community and Further Education Board are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Merit Protection Board — communications staff

8364. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Merit Protection Board are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This is a question best directed to the Minister for Education Services.

Education and training: Registered Schools Board — communications staff

8365. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Registered Schools Board are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority — communications staff

8366. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Institute of Teaching — communications staff

8367. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Victorian Institute of Teaching are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission — communications staff

8368. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Qualifications Authority — communications staff

8369. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Victorian Qualifications Authority are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Schools Innovation Commission — communications staff

8370. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Schools Innovation Commission is no longer in operation.

Education and training: Adult Multicultural Education Service — communications staff

8371. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Adult Multicultural Education Service are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Council of Adult Education — communications staff

8372. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Council of Adult Education are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Office of Learning and Teaching — communications staff

8373. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Office of Learning and Teaching are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Office of Strategy and Review — communications staff

8374. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Office of Strategy and Review are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Office of School Education — communications staff

8375. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Office of School Education are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Office of Resources Management and Strategy — communications staff

8376. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Office of Resources Management and Strategy are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Office of Training and Tertiary Education — communications staff

8377. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Office of Training and Tertiary Education are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Corrections: Corrections Victoria — communications staff

8437. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Corrections): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Corrections Victoria are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) One.
- (2) The classification for this position is VPS 5. The salary band for this position is \$65 589 to \$79 357.

(3) Public Affairs Manager.

Health: Human Services — communications staff

8650. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA— To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Health): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Department of Human Services are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My response to the question is that as the Human Services portfolio is dynamic and expanding the range, volume and quality of services it provides across all programs to Victorians, there is a need to let Victorians know about how to access these new and improved services.

To this end, any public servant in the Department of Human Services who receives a query about the program they are working on may find themselves communicating on the matter. On this basis, it would be an unreasonable diversion to provide the information requested.

Education and training: Education and Training — communications staff

8655. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): As at 30 June 2006:

- (1) How many officers in the Department of Education and Training are engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations.
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers.
- (3) What is the job title for each of these officers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Schools Innovation Commission — expenditure

8697. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Schools Innovation Commission's expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Schools Innovation Commission is no longer in operation.

Education and training: Adult, Community and Further Education Board — expenditure

8699. **THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Adult, Community and Further Education Board’s expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Registered Schools Board — expenditure

8700. **THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Registered Schools Board’s expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority — expenditure

8701. **THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority’s expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Institute of Teaching — expenditure

8702. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Institute of Teaching's expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission — expenditure

8703. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Learning and Employment Skills Commission's expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Victorian Qualifications Authority — expenditure

8704. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Victorian Qualifications Authority's expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Adult Multicultural Education Services Authority — expenditure

8705. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Adult Multicultural Education Services Authority's expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: Council of Adult Education — expenditure

8706. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): In relation to the Council of Adult Education's expenditure for 2005–06, what was the:

- (a) advertising expenditure; and
- (b) credit card expenditure.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

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, 24 August 2006

Energy industries: minister's office — alcohol purchases

- 5432. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: In relation to alcohol purchased by the Minister's Office since 30 June 2004, what was the —
- (a) the date of each purchase;
 - (b) the value of each purchase; and
 - (c) the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

One component of the Ministerial office budget is hospitality expenses. From time to time hospitality is provided for functions held by my office. Hospitality expenses for my office are moderate.

Energy industries: minister's office — mobile telephones

- 6667. THE HON. RICHARD DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: What was the cost of providing mobile telephone services to the Minister's staff for 2004–05.

ANSWER:

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

The research required to answer this question would place an unreasonable burden on the time and resources of the Department.

Environment: minister's office — furnishings

- 7454. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Environment): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

According to the records of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, no furniture items have been purchased for the office of the Minister for Environment.

Water: minister's office — furnishings

7456. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Water): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

According to the records of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, no furniture items have been purchased for the office of the Minister for Water.

Education services: minister's office — furnishings

7469. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

For my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Education Services and Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, the total cost was \$831.82.

Education and training: minister's office — furnishings

7470. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): What furniture items, including moveable furniture, fixed furniture and electrical goods were purchased for the Minister's private office in 2004–05 and what was the total cost of the items purchased.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The total cost was \$717.85.

Education services: Education and Training — entertainment expenses

7512. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What was the total amount spent by the Minister's department on entertainment expenses including alcohol, food, admission to Commonwealth Games events, admission to other entertainment events, special gifts, all transport and corporate box leasing for their invited guests and those who were hosting them at the Commonwealth Games.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

entertainment expenses form part of the Whole of Games budget. The accounts are still being received and when collated will be included in the Government's financial report on the Games.

Education and training: Education and Training — entertainment expenses

7513. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): What was the total amount spent by the Minister's department on entertainment expenses including alcohol, food, admission to Commonwealth Games events, admission to other entertainment events, special gifts, all transport and corporate box leasing for their invited guests and those who were hosting them at the Commonwealth Games.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Women's affairs: charter flights

7542. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Women's Affairs): In relation to all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes used by the Minister in 2004–05 what was the —

- (a) date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The answer is nil.

Education services: charter flights

7554. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): In relation to all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes used by the Minister in 2004–05 what was the —

- (a) date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

For my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Education Services and Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, the total cost was \$4,345.00.

Energy industries: charter flights

7557. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: In relation to all chartered flights, including helicopters and light planes used by the Minister in 2004–05 what was the —

- (a) date;
- (b) carrier;
- (c) destination;
- (d) cost; and
- (e) purpose.

ANSWER:

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

Date	Carrier	Destination	Cost	Purpose
6/7/04	Australasian Jet Aircraft Charter & Management Pty Ltd	Warrnambool	3,280	Portfolio related event.
7/7/04	Australasian Jet Aircraft Charter & Management Pty Ltd (arranged by DPC)	Portland	1,975	
Total			5,255	

Education services: media research and public opinion polling

7596. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): For each department, agency and authority within the Minister’s administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —

- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
- (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
- (c) the cost;
- (d) the personnel conducting the project;
- (e) whether it was put to tender;
- (f) recommendations made; and
- (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This is a question best directed to the Minister for Education and Training.

Education and training: media research and public opinion polling

- 7597. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): For each department, agency and authority within the Minister's administration, what are the details of all media research and public opinion polling conducted in 2004–05, including —
- (a) the title of each poll or item of research;
 - (b) the date approved and duration of contract;
 - (c) the cost;
 - (d) the personnel conducting the project;
 - (e) whether it was put to tender;
 - (f) recommendations made; and
 - (g) any actions taken by the department or Minister.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Details of all media research and public opinion polling are:

- (1) Report on Attitudes of Teachers and the General Population.
- (2) 2 August 2004 for eight weeks.
- (3) The Victorian Institute of Teaching.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Key findings established baseline marketing data that allow the Institute to set measurable marketing objectives and develop specific communications strategies.
- (6) The results of the research were released by the Institute's Chairperson to coincide with the Institute's promotional campaign for World Teachers' Day 2004.

Environment: minister's office — international travel

- 7623. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Environment): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

According to records held by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, no international travel was undertaken by the Minister for Environment and ministerial staff during the 2004–05 financial year.

Water: minister's office — international travel

- 7625. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS** — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Water): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

According to records held by the Department of Sustainability and Environment, no international travel was undertaken by the Minister for Water and ministerial staff during the 2004–05 financial year.

Education services: minister’s office — international travel

7638. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all international travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

For my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Education Services and Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, the total cost was \$23,170.27.

Education services: minister’s office — interstate travel

7680. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What was the cost, including airfares, accommodation and expenses, of all interstate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

For my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Education Services and Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, the total cost was \$211.69.

Education services: minister’s office — intrastate travel

7722. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What was the cost, including airfares, air charter, accommodation and expenses of all intrastate travel undertaken by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

For my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Education Services and Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, the total cost was \$6,067.76

Education services: minister’s office — entertainment expenses

7764. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: minister's office — entertainment expenses

7765. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Ministerial expenses for hospitality, entertainment and light refreshments were \$3,182.34.

Energy industries: minister's office — entertainment expenses

7767. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: What entertainment expenses, including restaurant and catering, were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff in 2005.

ANSWER:

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

One component of the Ministerial office budget is hospitality expenses. From time to time hospitality is provided for functions held by my office. Hospitality expenses for my office are moderate.

Education services: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7806. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education and training: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7807. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education and Training): What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

One component of the Ministerial office budget is hospitality expenses. From time to time hospitality is provided for functions held by my office. Hospitality expenditure for my office is moderate.

Energy industries: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7809. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: What expenses were incurred by the Minister and ministerial staff for the purchase of alcohol in 2005.

ANSWER:

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

One component of the Ministerial office budget is hospitality expenses. From time to time hospitality is provided for functions held by my office. Hospitality expenses for my office are moderate.

Education services: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7848. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What expenses were incurred by each Department and Agency for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This is a question best directed to the Minister for Education and Training.

Energy industries: minister's office — alcohol purchases

7851. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries: What expenses were incurred by each Department and Agency for the purchase of alcohol for the Minister ministerial staff and the Minister's office in 2004–05.

ANSWER:

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

One component of the Ministerial office budget is hospitality expenses. From time to time hospitality is provided for functions held by my office. Hospitality expenses for my office are moderate.

Industrial relations: ministerial staff — cost

7870. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education services: ministerial staff — cost

7890. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): What was the total cost associated with the engagement of ministerial staff, including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover in 2005.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The engagement of ministerial staff including salaries, superannuation and WorkCover falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Health: ministerial staff — number

7911. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Health): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Industrial relations: ministerial staff — number

7912. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education services: ministerial staff — number

7932. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): How many ministerial staff were employed by the Minister at 1 March 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Industrial relations: minister's office — secondments

7954. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

Education services: minister's office — secondments

7974. THE HON. PHILIP DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): How many public servants were on secondment to the Minister's private office at 1 March 2006 and were not counted within the ministerial staffing budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Nil.

Environment: pest plant management — European blackberry

7988. THE HON. PETER HALL — To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Environment): In relation to pest plant management —

- (1) Is European Blackberry classified as a pest plant.
- (2) What progress has been made with developing blackberry "rust" as a biological control of this plant.
- (3) What steps are being taken to eradicate blackberries from the Alpine National Park.
- (4) What steps are being taken to eradicate the identified pest plants in the new Otways National Park.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

European Blackberry is classified as a pest plant.

- Blackberry is a declared noxious weed under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.
- Blackberry is also recognised as a Weed of National Significance (WONS) and a declared target for control under the Biological Control Act 1984.

Significant progress has been made with developing a fungus to biologically control blackberry.

- Releases of the Blackberry Leaf Rust fungus have been made in Victoria since the early 1980's. In 1991 a strain of blackberry rust was released that has been highly effective in reducing the main blackberry type in Victoria.
- With the support of the Government's Weeds and Pests on Public Land Initiative, eight additional new strains of rust fungus were released last year to tackle the more resistant blackberry types.
- The impact of the new releases of fungus is currently under investigation. Early indications suggest that the rust can successfully reduce the density of certain blackberry types. A report on the findings of the investigation will be prepared in 2007. Research into new biological control agents for blackberry is continuing.

Blackberry is widely established within the Alpine National Park and significant steps are being taken to strategically manage it through containment and protection of critical assets. The Government's blackberry control program in the Alpine National Park focuses on:

- Eradication of outlying localised infestations to contain the further spread;
- Controlling the weed to protect key biodiversity assets such as Spotted tree frog habitat and keeping areas used for camping and recreation clean; and
- Controlling blackberry at priority sites on the boundary of public and private land under the Good Neighbour program.

Roving weed crews have been employed to undertake these strategic works.

Significant steps are being taken to eradicate identified pest plants in the new Greater Otways National Park:

- Eighty-one locations of significant biodiversity have been identified where weeds are impacting on the natural values and where eradication is feasible. The weeds at these sites will be eradicated through an on-going control program.
- The Government is also working in partnership with the local community and neighbouring land managers to participate in a joint effort to control weeds at other sites where weeds are impacting on other natural and amenity areas.

Education services: Education and Training — home-schooling inquiries

7989. THE HON. PETER HALL — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): In relation to the number of parent enquiries to the Department of Education and Training about home schooling and the number of actual registrations of home schooling families for each year since 1995 in each region —

- (1) How many people enquire of the department each year in each region.
- (2) How many people are actually registered each year in each region.
- (3) What in-service courses do department officials attend to be fully informed about home education, current research and knowledge in the area and the skills and needs of home educators.
- (4) What self-evaluation procedures, in regards to home education, are there for the department to learn what it is doing well and where clients consider there could be improvements.
- (5) Is this information also available for years prior to 1995.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

This is a question best directed to the Minister for Education and Training.

Local government: ministerial staff — number

8013. THE HON. BILL FORWOOD — To ask the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have in relation to all of her Ministerial capacities as at 30 June 2005.
- (2) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have in relation to all of her Ministerial capacities as at 2 May 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of Ministerial staff falls within the budget of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Education services: ministerial staff — number

8016. THE HON. BILL FORWOOD — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services):

- (1) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have in relation to all of her Ministerial capacities as at 30 June 2005.
- (2) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have in relation to all of her Ministerial capacities as at 2 May 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier.

Health: ministerial staff — number

8029. THE HON. BILL FORWOOD — To ask the Minister for Aged Care (for the Minister for Health):

- (1) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have as at 30 June 2005.
- (2) How many ministerial staff (in full-time equivalent terms) did the Minister have as at 2 May 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities as the engagement of ministerial staff falls within the budget of the Department of Premier & Cabinet.

Education services: Shannon's Way Pty Ltd — payments

8061. THE HON. GRAEME STONEY — To ask the Minister for Energy Industries (for the Minister for Education Services): In relation to payments made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by the Minister's department or private office or agency or statutory body under the Minister's administration for each project since 1 January 2005:

- (1) What amount was paid.
- (2) On what dates were the payments made.
- (3) What was the purpose of the project.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

With regard to the Department of Education and Training, this is a question best directed to the Minister for Education and Training.

As Minister for Education Services and Minister for Employment and Youth Affairs, no payments have been made to Shannon's Way Pty Ltd by my private office since 1 January 2005.