

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

7 August to 20 August 2015

(Extract from book 11)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
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Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

**OFFICE-HOLDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

Speaker:

The Hon. TELMO LANGUILLER

Deputy Speaker:

Mr D. A. NARDELLA

Acting Speakers:

Mr Angus, Mr Blackwood, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Carbines, Mr Crisp, Mr Dixon, Ms Edwards, Ms Halfpenny,
Ms Kilkenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr McGuire, Ms McLeish, Mr Pearson, Ms Ryall, Ms Thomas,
Mr Thompson, Ms Thomson, Ms Ward and Mr Watt.

Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Premier:

The Hon. D. M. ANDREWS

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:

The Hon. J. A. MERLINO

Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. J. GUY

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. D. J. HODGETT

Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. L. WALSH

Deputy Leader of The Nationals:

Ms S. RYAN

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

Member	District	Party	Member	District	Party
Allan, Ms Jacinta Marie	Bendigo East	ALP	McLeish, Ms Lucinda Gaye	Eildon	LP
Andrews, Mr Daniel Michael	Mulgrave	ALP	Merlino, Mr James Anthony	Monbulk	ALP
Angus, Mr Neil Andrew Warwick	Forest Hill	LP	Morris, Mr David Charles	Mornington	LP
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	Mulder, Mr Terence Wynn	Polwarth	LP
Battin, Mr Bradley William	Gembrook	LP	Naphthine, Dr Denis Vincent	South-West Coast	LP
Blackwood, Mr Gary John	Narracan	LP	Nardella, Mr Donato Antonio	Melton	ALP
Blandthorn, Ms Elizabeth Anne	Pascoe Vale	ALP	Neville, Ms Lisa Mary	Bellarine	ALP
Brooks, Mr Colin William	Bundoora	ALP	Noonan, Mr Wade Matthew	Williamstown	ALP
Bull, Mr Joshua Michael	Sunbury	ALP	Northe, Mr Russell John	Morwell	Nats
Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ²	Gippsland South	Nats
Burgess, Mr Neale Ronald	Hastings	LP	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
Carbines, Mr Anthony Richard	Ivanhoe	ALP	Pakula, Mr Martin Philip	Keysborough	ALP
Carroll, Mr Benjamin Alan	Niddrie	ALP	Pallas, Mr Timothy Hugh	Werribee	ALP
Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Paynter, Mr Brian Francis	Bass	LP
Couzens, Ms Christine Anne	Geelong	ALP	Pearson, Mr Daniel James	Essendon	ALP
Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
D'Ambrosio, Ms Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Pesutto, Mr John	Hawthorn	LP
Dimopoulos, Mr Stephen	Oakleigh	ALP	Richardson, Mr Timothy Noel	Mordialloc	ALP
Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Nepean	LP	Richardson, Ms Fiona Catherine Alison	Northcote	ALP
Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Ryall, Ms Deanne Sharon	Ringwood	LP
Edbrooke, Mr Paul Andrew	Frankston	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian ¹	Gippsland South	Nats
Edwards, Ms Janice Maree	Bendigo West	ALP	Ryan, Ms Stephanie Maureen	Euroa	Nats
Eren, Mr John Hamdi	Lara	ALP	Sandell, Ms Ellen	Melbourne	Greens
Foley, Mr Martin Peter	Albert Park	ALP	Scott, Mr Robin David	Preston	ALP
Fyffe, Mrs Christine Anne	Evelyn	LP	Sheed, Ms Suzanna	Shepparton	Ind
Garrett, Ms Jane Furneaux	Brunswick	ALP	Smith, Mr Ryan	Warrandyte	LP
Gidley, Mr Michael Xavier Charles	Mount Waverley	LP	Smith, Mr Timothy Colin	Kew	LP
Graley, Ms Judith Ann	Narre Warren South	ALP	Southwick, Mr David James	Caulfield	LP
Green, Ms Danielle Louise	Yan Yean	ALP	Spence, Ms Rosalind Louise	Yuroke	ALP
Guy, Mr Matthew Jason	Bulleen	LP	Staikos, Mr Nicholas	Bentleigh	ALP
Halfpenny, Ms Bronwyn	Thomastown	ALP	Staley, Ms Louise Eileen	Ripon	LP
Hennessy, Ms Jill	Altona	ALP	Suleyman, Ms Natalie	St Albans	ALP
Hibbins, Mr Samuel Peter	Prahran	Greens	Thomas, Ms Mary-Anne	Macedon	ALP
Hodgett, Mr David John	Croydon	LP	Thompson, Mr Murray Hamilton Ross	Sandringham	LP
Howard, Mr Geoffrey Kemp	Buninyong	ALP	Thomson, Ms Marsha Rose	Footscray	ALP
Hutchins, Ms Natalie Maree Sykes	Sydenham	ALP	Tilley, Mr William John	Benambra	LP
Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Koroit	ALP	Victoria, Ms Heidi	Bayswater	LP
Katos, Mr Andrew	South Barwon	LP	Wakeling, Mr Nicholas	Ferntree Gully	LP
Kealy, Ms Emma Jayne	Lowan	Nats	Walsh, Mr Peter Lindsay	Murray Plains	Nats
Kilkenny, Ms Sonya	Carrum	ALP	Ward, Ms Vicki	Eltham	ALP
Knight, Ms Sharon Patricia	Wendouree	ALP	Watt, Mr Graham Travis	Burwood	LP
Languiller, Mr Telmo Ramon	Tarneit	ALP	Wells, Mr Kimberley Arthur	Rowville	LP
Lim, Mr Muy Hong	Clarinda	ALP	Williams, Ms Gabrielle	Dandenong	ALP
McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Ovens Valley	Nats	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP
McGuire, Mr Frank	Broadmeadows	ALP			

¹ Resigned 2 February 2015

² Elected 14 March 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; Greens — The Greens;
Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals.

Legislative Assembly committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Allan, Ms D’Ambrosio, Mr Morris, Mr Mulder, Ms Neville, Ms Ryan, Ms Sandell, Mr Scott and Mr Wells.

Standing Orders Committee — The Speaker, Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Brooks, Mr Clark, Mr Hibbins, Mr Hodgett, Ms Kairouz, Mr Nardella, Ms Ryan and Ms Sheed.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.
(*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh. (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge.

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Nardella and Ms Ryall.
(*Council*): Mr Elasmr, Mr Melhem and Mr Purcell.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.
(*Council*): Ms Patten, Mr Somyurek.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Young.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards, Ms Kealy, Ms McLeish and Ms Sheed. (*Council*): Mr Finn.

House Committee — (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson. (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson, and Mr Wells. (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley. (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kealy, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto. (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva.

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ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers and published in the questions on notice database in the period shown.

7 August to 20 August 2015**Euroa electorate****Question 248**

Question asked by: Member for Euroa
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 26 May 2015

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises that Victoria is in need of an infrastructure strategy to support the broader vision for Victoria, together with a pipeline of priorities for investment. In addition to the Victorian Government's Project 10,000, which outlines a number of priority improvements to roads and rail and employment opportunities across Victoria, the Government is also establishing Infrastructure Victoria, which will advise the Government on key planning projects and infrastructure priorities. A potential motorway connection between the Metropolitan Ring Road at Greensborough and the Eastern Freeway will be considered in this context.

Dandenong electorate**Question 271**

Question asked by: Member for Dandenong
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 28 May 2015

REPLY:

The Dandenong Police station provides a 24-hour response to the community and operates a busy police gaol facility. Currently, police officers supervise and manage people in the Dandenong Police Station cells.

The 2015-16 State Budget provides \$148.6 million over four years to implement the government's commitment to transition the management of police cells to civilian police custody officers. Dandenong Police Station will be one of the first stations to receive police custody officers.

Police custody officers will relieve police officers of police cell management duties and allow those police officers to be back out on the streets tackling crime and keeping our community safe.

South-West Coast electorate**Question 284**

Question asked by: Member for South-West Coast
Directed to: Treasurer
Asked on: 10 June 2015

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government has fixed the Coalition's botched Fire Services Property Levy, so firefighters and emergency services workers in the South-West Coast electorate can get the resources they need to protect our homes and save more lives.

The previous Coalition Government botched the implementation of the Levy, setting the Levy's rates too low to fund our firefighters properly.

This error under-funded Victoria's fire services by \$21.8 million in 2014-15. Without any changes, firefighters and families in South-West Coast would have been short- changed even further this year by \$63.3 million.

This would've put people and properties across Victoria at risk. The 2015-16 Victorian Budget covers up the shortfall the Coalition left behind, and boosts resources for Victoria's fire services.

It is a 0.2 per cent increase compared to the Coalition's original estimate in the 2014-15 Budget.

This ensures that our emergency services in South-West Coast region are adequately funded and able to best service the community when we need it most.

All revenue collected through the Levy goes to supporting the State's fire services. As the 2015-16 Budget states, our Government's significant additional support for the fire services is funded through general revenue, not the Levy.

The Government guarantees that home owners, business operators and farmers in your electorate will not be serviced by under resourced fire protection services because of the previous Government left behind.

Geelong electorate

Question 289

Question asked by: Member for Geelong
Directed to: Minister for Local Government
Asked on: 10 June 2015

REPLY:

This Government supports the concept of a directly elected Mayor at the Greater Geelong City Council, but we have acknowledged that there are issues with this model, which was introduced by the former Government in 2012.

The Government is committed to a comprehensive review of the Local Government Act 1989 as well as other legislation under my responsibility, including the City of Greater Geelong Act 1993. This review will involve extensive consultation with councils, peak bodies and the broader community. I am supportive of debate by the people of Geelong on how the directly elected Mayoral structure has worked and encourage their input on this important issue during the Act review's consultation phase.

Further, in November this year, Greater Geelong will undergo an independent electoral representation review, which will look at councillor numbers and ward structures. While it cannot look at the directly elected Mayor arrangements, it will advise on a changed structure for the 2016 general elections.

The review will involve two separate rounds of community consultation-the first in November/December 2015 and the second in February 2016. I encourage the community of Geelong to actively participate in this review.

Kororoit electorate

Question 343

Question asked by: Member for Kororoit
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 24 June 2015

REPLY:

VicRoads advises me that the proposed works are an obligation under a recently issued planning permit by the Melton City Council. I understand that the permit stipulates that it is the developer's responsibility to provide the necessary turning lanes to the satisfaction of the responsible authority, in this case, VicRoads.

Gippsland East electorate**Question 361**

Question asked by: Member for Gippsland East
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 25 June 2015

REPLY:

Following consultation with the Retailers Advisory Committee and considering their concerns, the Melbourne Market Authority has advised that country retailers will be permitted to access the new wholesale market at Epping and sleep in their vehicles prior to the commencement of trading.

Shepparton electorate**Question 376**

Question asked by: Member for Shepparton
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 4 August 2015

REPLY:

The Victorian Government made a commitment to establish Victoria as the Education State where every Victorian has an equal right to the knowledge and skills to shape their lives. Part of this work is to promote inclusive practices in schools so they can better support all children and young people, including those with disabilities and special needs. The Special Needs Plan is part of this vision because every child deserves a great education to reach their full potential, especially those with special needs who already face additional challenges in their lives.

Work is under way on each of the commitments in the Government's Special Needs Plan. The first major step is a comprehensive review of the Program for Students with Disabilities. A review of the program has begun, which focuses on the specific needs of children and young people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The review is being informed by research, expert input, stakeholder engagement and a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of the Program. It will ensure support and resourcing is sustainable and delivers improved learning and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people with disabilities.

The Department welcomes feedback from parents, carers, students, principals, teachers and disability professionals and advocates on how the program can better support children with special needs. Information about opportunities for getting involved is available at: www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/needs/Pages/psdreview.aspx.

Rowville electorate**Question 377**

Question asked by: Member for Rowville
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 4 August 2015

REPLY:

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is due to commence full scheme rollout in Victoria from 1 July 2016.

Children with a disability or developmental delay, being funded for early childhood intervention services (ECIS) through the Department of Education and Training (the Department), will have streamlined access to the NDIS and be supported through existing block-funding arrangements until the NDIS commences in the area in which they live.

Illoura ECIS is operated by Knox City Council. I am advised that the Department has been informed that Knox City Council is considering ceasing ECIS delivery in light of the Federal Government's implementation of the NDIS. Feedback can be provided online via the Council's website until 11 August 2015. I encourage you to speak to Knox City Council about their decision.

Should Knox City Council decide to cease provision of ECIS the Department will work closely with the Council to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for families and children to other ECIS providers.

If an ECIS community service organisation decides to cease provision, the Department has developed processes to ensure every child continues to receive an ECIS service.

As ECIS transitions to the NDIS, the Andrews Labor Government will continue to fund local ECIS providers. This is why in the 2015-16 State Budget we have included \$9 million for 150 ECIS places and 150 flexible support packages.