

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5, 6 and 7 May 2015

(Extract from book 6)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

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
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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
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
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
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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 Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. A. Somyurek, MLC
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, 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 — Acting 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
Batin, 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
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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	Kororoit	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 Perera and Ms Ryall.
(*Council*): Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem and Mr Purcell.

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

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Battin, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson 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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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.
Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Assembly.
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.
The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

Tuesday, 5 May 2015

Education

2. **Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Education— has the Government made any funding commitments to the Knox Innovation, Opportunity and Sustainability Centre in Wantirna; if so:
- (1) How much funding.
 - (2) How will it be utilised.

ANSWER:

I provide this correction to the previous reply and I am informed as follows:

This Government is committed to providing students with practical learning experiences to equip them with skills for their future careers.

That is why we have based our Tech School initiative on elements of successful models such as the Knox Innovation, Opportunity and Sustainability Centre (KIOSC) at Swinburne University in Wantirna.

As the KIOSC was established under the previous Australian Government's Trade Training Centres in Schools Program, funding required to construct and equip the facility was provided by the Commonwealth Government under the provisions of a Project Specific Schedule.

The Government has committed \$1 million per annum to KIOSC to provide professional development, training and support and act as a demonstration centre for the implementation of our ten Tech Schools.

Roads and road safety

4. **Ms VICTORIA** to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — when will the speed limit through the shopping precinct on Canterbury Road in Heathmont be lowered from 70 kilometres per hour to 60 kilometres per hour.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

As a safety measure to address the high number of crashes that have occurred on Canterbury Road between Great Ryrie Street and Bedford Road, VicRoads will lower the speed limit along this section of road from 70 km/h to 60 km/h. The decision to lower the speed limit was made in consultation with Victoria Police and the Maroondah City Council.

VicRoads has advised me that the 60 km/h speed zone will be implemented by the end of May 2015.

Education

26. **Ms SANDELL** to ask the Minister for Education— what is the timeline for upgrades to Carlton Primary School and will that upgrade meet the Government's commitment of \$10 million in this term of government.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Government has a strong and ambitious agenda to grow educational opportunity for all Victorians. We understand that education is the window of opportunity for people as well as a key driver of economic success and prosperity for our state. Our immediate priority is to progress the election commitments in our portfolios—in particular our promise to provide \$530 million to upgrade and build new schools, \$50 million to build new and refurbish existing kindergartens, and \$320 million to support TAFEs. We also plan to establish 10 new Tech Schools across the state for students in Years 7 to 12.

The Victorian Government has committed \$10 million to Carlton Primary School to deliver new classrooms and facilities and to make the school a demonstration centre of early and primary education.

The Department will work with the school to plan and deliver the project, ensuring the best outcome for the school and local community. In the meantime, the school is encouraged to maintain its facilities as usual, using funds allocated annually through the Student Resource Package.

Education

- 27.** Ms SANDELL to ask the Minister for Education— what are the stages of the planning process for a new school in Docklands and how many of those stages will be undertaken in 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Developing a new school is a significant investment and involves a number of stages to ensure that public money is invested in the right place at the right time. These stages include demographic assessment—to determine, confirm and quantify need, a site suitability assessment—to identify the most appropriate site, followed by land acquisition, design and finally construction.

The Victorian Government has committed to making the Victoria the Education State. Central to this is ensuring all Victorian students have access to 21st century school facilities.

As part of this commitment the Government is investing an initial \$530 million to upgrade and build new schools, including \$77 million for a package of eight new schools in growth areas, three new schools in inner Melbourne, the redevelopment of the Footscray education precinct, and \$10 million for new classrooms and facilities at Carlton Primary School.

This Government is committed to restarting the planning process for a school in Docklands. In 2015 the Department of Education and Training will undertake a new demographic assessment to confirm the need for a school in Docklands and surrounding suburbs.

The Department will also restart negotiations with the City of Melbourne and other government agencies to confirm the best location to deliver a school to meet the needs of families that live in the Docklands and inner Melbourne.

Planning

- 28.** Ms SANDELL to ask the Minister for Planning— what is the timeframe for building the Boundary Road pedestrian crossing.

ANSWER:

The question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should be directed to the Hon Luke Donnellan MP, Minister for Roads & Road Safety.

Public transport

114. **Mr HIBBINS** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — With reference to the Government’s election commitment of a second entrance and two extra Myki readers at Prahran Station:

- (1) What are the details of the proposed works.
- (2) When will the works be completed.
- (3) What is the total budget for the works.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

- (1) The Victorian Government remains committed to providing an additional entry/exit point with two additional myki readers toward the High Street end of Platform 1 (City bound platform) at Prahran station.

This initiative will improve connectivity and ease of access for commuters accessing High Street including access for tram Route 6 which operates between Melbourne University and Glen Iris. At the conclusion of the project both Platform 1 and 2 will have two entry/exit locations.

(2-3)

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has completed scoping of the proposal including engagement with the City of Stonnington. Works are expected to be completed by end of the 2014–15 financial year, utilising existing internal PTV funds.

Public transport

116. **Mr HIBBINS** to ask the Minister for Public Transport — Will the Minister expand eligibility for public transport concession fares to post-graduate and international students.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Public transport concessions are provided to allow Victorians access to jobs and services. Around 35-40 per cent of public transport customers are entitled to, and use, concession fares.

Public transport fares in Victoria generally provide exceptional value for all customers. The maximum fare a full fare customer will pay for a day’s travel across Melbourne is \$7.52. Periodical passes provide exceptional value for as low as \$4.62 per day (based on a Zone 1+2 70 day pass). Concession fares are 50 per cent of a full fare.

Reflecting the contribution international students make to Victoria, the Victorian Government recently launched the International Undergraduate Student Education pass (iUSEpass) which provides eligible international students with discounted travel. The Government recognises that public transport costs for many students are significant, so we supported the new initiative to provide some extra help, making Victoria an even more attractive place to study. The iUSEpass provides travel at 50 per cent of a full fare annual pass and is co-funded by partner institutions.

The longstanding exclusion of postgraduate students from the concession fare policy reflects the fact that a greater proportion of postgraduate students are working full time and may not require additional financial support. Postgraduate students with low incomes that meet the eligibility criteria for government support through Centrelink can receive a Low Income Health Care Card. This card entitles the postgraduate student to public transport concession fares.

Concession fares are available to international exchange students, students with refugee status and students who receive an Australian Awards Scholarship.

Education

132. **Mr WAKELING** to ask the Minister for Education — With reference to the Victorian Government's payment of Gonski funding for the years 2016 to 2019:

- (1) How much Gonski funding will be allocated each year.
- (2) Will each school be advised of their individual allocations for each year; if so, when will each school be advised.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Government is currently finalising the 2015-16 budget and an announcement on the State's Gonski funding contributions will be made shortly.

The Government is committed to transparency of Gonski funding allocations. Schools will receive advice in September when they receive their indicative Student Resource Package.

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Wednesday, 6 May 2015

Public transport

- 115.** Mr HIBBINS to ask the Minister for Public Transport — With reference to proposed rail service increases for Hawksburn and Toorak Stations:
- (1) What are the details of the service increases.
 - (2) When will increases come into effect.
 - (3) Will the Minister monitor patronage at Hawksburn and Toorak Stations to ensure service levels are adequate.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to delivering a world class public transport system for Melbourne. To drive this commitment we are building the Melbourne Metro, removing fifty of the most dangerous level crossings and purchasing rolling stock.

- (1-2) Public Transport Victoria (PTV) is planning to introduce new metropolitan rail services at the end of 2015, including services on the Frankston line. PTV will release full details of the timetable changes closer to implementation.
- (3) PTV monitors the level of crowding on metropolitan train services through passenger count surveys (known as Load Standard Surveys). The results of surveys are used in determining how Melbourne's train system needs to evolve to meet the needs of passengers.

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Thursday, 7 May 2015

Housing, disability and ageing

113. Mr HIBBINS to ask the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing — For each of the public housing estates in the Prahran electorate including the Horace Petty Estate, Kings Street, Bangs Street, Union Street Windsor and Inkerman Heights St Kilda:

- (1) What is the annual maintenance budget.
- (2) What is the annual capital works budget.
- (3) What is the annual security budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total output cost for housing assistance in 2015-16 is budgeted for \$420.8 million, which is over \$20 million more than was budgeted by the previous government in 2014-15—a 5.5% increase. This additional expenditure enables the Director of Housing to spend more on maintenance, capital works and security in the Member's electorate and across Victoria.

Housing, disability and ageing

143. Ms SANDELL to ask the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing — What is the total number of public housing properties and their occupancy and vacancy rates in the Carlton, North Carlton, North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington areas.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Member would be aware that the total number of public housing properties varies subject to maintenance, renovation, upgrade, disposal or relocation. The Member would also appreciate that occupancy and vacancy rates fluctuate on a daily basis.

As the Member's question does not specify a date for the relevant figures, I can advise the Member that the government estimates that it will hold 85279 dwellings at the end of this financial year.

In addition to this, the government expects to acquire 371 new dwellings in the 2015-16 financial year.

Specific to the areas listed by the Member, I am pleased to inform the Member that the government intends to spend a further \$7.5 million on upgrading properties on the Carlton estate which will secure more properties in this area.