

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

10 June to 23 June 2016

(Extract from book 9)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry (to 22 May 2016)

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
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
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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry (from 23 May 2016)

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 Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
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Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry (from 20 June 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, and Minister for Emergency Services (from 10 June 2016) [Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation 10 June to 20 June 2016]	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	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 Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for International Education and Minister for Corrections	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 Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
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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 G. A. Tierney, MLC

**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 ²	Polwarth	LP
Battin, Mr Bradley William	Gembrook	LP	Napthine, Dr Denis Vincent ³	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
Britnell, Ms Roma ¹	South-West Coast	LP	Noonan, Mr Wade Matthew	Williamstown	ALP
Brooks, Mr Colin William	Bundoora	ALP	Northe, Mr Russell John	Morwell	Nats
Bull, Mr Joshua Michael	Sunbury	ALP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁴	Gippsland South	Nats
Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
Burgess, Mr Neale Ronald	Hastings	LP	Pakula, Mr Martin Philip	Keysborough	ALP
Carbines, Mr Anthony Richard	Ivanhoe	ALP	Pallas, Mr Timothy Hugh	Werribee	ALP
Carroll, Mr Benjamin Alan	Niddrie	ALP	Paynter, Mr Brian Francis	Bass	LP
Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Pearson, Mr Daniel James	Essendon	ALP
Couzens, Ms Christine Anne	Geelong	ALP	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Pesutto, Mr John	Hawthorn	LP
D'Ambrosio, Ms Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Richardson, Mr Timothy Noel	Mordialloc	ALP
Dimopoulos, Mr Stephen	Oakleigh	ALP	Richardson, Ms Fiona Catherine Alison	Northcote	ALP
Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Nepean	LP	Riordan, Mr Richard ⁵	Polwarth	LP
Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Ryall, Ms Deanne Sharon	Ringwood	LP
Edbrooke, Mr Paul Andrew	Frankston	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian ⁶	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	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

¹Elected 31 October 2015

²Resigned 3 September 2015

³Resigned 3 September 2015

⁴Elected 14 March 2015

⁵Elected 31 October 2015

⁶Resigned 2 February 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

Legislative Assembly committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Ms D’Ambrosio, Mr Morris, 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 Bourman, Mr Elasmarr and Mr Melhem.

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 and Ms McLeish. (*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*): Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing.

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

10 June to 23 June 2016**Frankston electorate****Question 397****Question asked by: Member for Frankston****Directed to: Minister for Equality****Asked on: 6 August 2015****REPLY:**

I am pleased to inform you that new funding of \$100,000 has gone to headspace Frankston (auspiced through the Youth Support and Advocacy Service), to fund Peninsula Pride. The funding will expand the Healthy Equal Youth project to the Mornington Peninsula and will fill a geographical gap. The program will be directly connected to headspace therefore enabling the programs to leverage one another. The place-based project will provide resources, information to support local LGBTI youth and also assist the development of local youth groups, utilising web-based/social media strategies to engage and develop youth leadership. The integration with headspace is particularly useful in the on-line/social media space.

I am also pleased to inform you that I had the pleasure of launching this newly funded program on 26 August. It was truly inspirational to see the good work being done by and for the young people of Frankston. This is a program that will help them to start their adult lives on a firm footing of equality, and counter the damage done by the inequality that many LGBTI Victorians are still subject to.

This is part of a government commitment of \$1.3 million this year to fund programs to reduce discrimination and enhance the wellbeing of Victoria's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people.

Many of these programs are run by young people, for young people, which makes them all the more successful at engaging at the right level.

Warrandyte electorate**Question 7102****Question asked by: Member for Warrandyte****Directed to: Minister for Public Transport****Asked on: 14 April 2016****REPLY:**

I am pleased to advise that as of 5 June 2016, a timetable change was introduced on this route to better reflect current traffic conditions. From 6.00 am to 8.00 am, frequency times for buses operating between the Pines and Blackburn station have been adjusted to reduce gaps in services.

PTV will continue to work with the operator, Transdev to monitor the service and identify if any further improvements are required.

Sandringham electorate**Question 7512**

Question asked by: Member for Sandringham
Directed to: Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Asked on: 27 April 2016

REPLY:

The power outage at Sandringham Shopping Centre and Sandringham Village on Saturday, 23 April 2016, was a result of an unplanned outage caused by a possum coming into contact with a transformer. The outage was reported at 6.38pm and power was restored at 8.03pm.

The electricity distribution business for this area, United Energy, provides information on planned and unplanned outages on its website including the number of affected customers, estimated restoration time and the cause of the fault. United Energy also has a 24 hour faults and emergencies line for customers in the event of a fault or emergency. During this incident, real time outage information was on the United Energy website and its customer relations call centre was actively taking calls so recorded information was not required.

My Department is working closely with Distribution Businesses and Emergency Management Victoria to improve communication on power outages. Options being explored include SMS notifications and social media.

Morwell electorate**Question 7523**

Question asked by: Member for Morwell
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 3 May 2016

REPLY:

The Level Crossing Removal Authority has had regular discussions with Australian Paper regarding the level crossing removal project on the Cranbourne—Pakenham line. This has included gauging Australian Paper's feedback on the design of the elevated structure, as well as consulting with the company regarding the planning of freight movements during the construction phase of the project. This consultation will continue as the project progresses.

I can assure you that Australian Paper freight trains from Gippsland will be able to travel along the elevated rail structure.

The elevated rail design minimises impact to rail freight movements. As the design is being built over the existing rail line, construction can predominantly occur while trains are still running. In contrast, removing all nine level crossings by sending the rail line under the road at each crossing location would require around 230 days of rail line closures over two years of construction, thereby having a detrimental impact on all rail freight services from Gippsland.

Dandenong electorate**Question 7524**

Question asked by: Member for Dandenong
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 3 May 2016

REPLY:

The \$33 million Local Industry Fund for Transition (LIFT) is a key initiative under the Government's \$46.5 million Towards Future Industries: Victoria's Automotive Plan. LIFT aims to support capital investment by businesses that

results in new sustainable jobs and helps Melbourne's North, West and South-East and the Geelong region build their economic base.

LIFT provides grants of up to \$2 million to support businesses located or wishing to locate, operations in the above regions for projects to be completed within 18 months. Projects are expected to provide opportunities for retrenched automotive workers and, for the Geelong region, retrenched workers from Alcoa's Point Henry and Anglesea operations. Applicants are expected to work with the Skills & Job Centres and/or Auto Skills Australia regarding their project's workforce requirements.

Under LIFT, the Victorian Government has allocated \$10 million to the South-East region and is seeking applications for projects located in the Local Government Areas of Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Casey, Frankston, Knox, Monash, Whitehorse, Maroondah, Cardinia and Yarra Ranges.

LIFT has a two-stage application process and is currently for expressions of interest. A number of full applications have been received for projects located in the South-East and these are under assessment.

On 18 April 2016, Minister D'Ambrosio announced the first LIFT grant of \$300 000 to Recyclable Packaging to establish a second manufacturing plant in Seaford (City of Frankston). The project is expected to create ten new sustainable jobs, upskill three current staff, create two new jobs at other organisations and create a further 10-15 new jobs after two years and will stimulate economic activity in the South-East.

Macedon electorate

Question 7528

Question asked by: Member for Macedon
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 3 May 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government, as promised, has installed a signalised pedestrian operated crossing on Melbourne-Lancefield Road in Romsey to provide the safest crossing facility for school children and the local community.

As also promised, the Victorian Government has funded a study of the Barry Street intersection with Melbourne-Lancefield Road in Romsey to improve the safety and operation of this intersection.

VicRoads is currently finalising arrangements to engage a specialist traffic engineering consultant who will assist in identifying the best possible treatment option to address the community's concerns.

VicRoads will work closely with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, the Romsey community and the affected stakeholders during this process.

VicRoads advises me that the study is programmed to commence in July 2016.

Nepean electorate

Question 7535

Question asked by: Member for Nepean
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 4 May 2016

REPLY:

The Point Nepean Road Study identified potential short-term and long-term improvements to the road network on the southern peninsula. In accordance with the findings of the study, VicRoads has a long-term plan for a new arterial road in the existing reservation for the freeway extension and to grade-separate the Jetty Road intersection with the freeway. A cost estimate for this treatment has not yet been determined.

Macedon electorate**Question 7536**

Question asked by: Member for Macedon
Directed to: Minister for Tourism and Major Events
Asked on: 4 May 2016

REPLY:

I wish to thank Ms Thomas for her question and her support for the Wander Victoria campaign.

The Wander Victoria campaign is part of a long-term strategy to encourage more Melburnians to visit our wonderful regions. It aims to build desire to travel and provide information to increase knowledge of key experiences and destinations.

The campaign includes a series of films that showcase regional Victoria's natural attractions and key experiences. These films are being shown through television, cinema, digital and social media advertising and are supported by public relations and cooperative marketing activity with travel partners.

Daylesford and the Macedon Ranges is a beautiful part of Victoria's offering of tourism experiences including food, wine and produce, spa and wellbeing, natural attractions and many charming villages and towns.

Businesses and experiences within the Daylesford Macedon Ranges region are being directly showcased as part of the Wander Victoria campaign including on digital and social media, the wandervictoria.com website, through social media promotions and in articles and stories with media including the Huffington Post and The Urban List.

In addition, Visit Victoria is working with Daylesford Macedon Ranges Tourism (DMRT) on a cooperative marketing campaign that includes promotion of the region with Broadsheet and Time Out.

Operators can get involved in and leverage the campaign by working with DMRT, ensuring they have a listing and uploading a 'deal' on visitvictoria.com and using the hashtag #wandervictoria in their own social media activity.

I'm pleased to say the initial reaction to the campaign has been very positive, with the films attracting over 6 million views through digital channels alone.

South Barwon electorate**Question 7537**

Question asked by: Member for South Barwon
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 4 May 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of Life Saving Victoria (LSV) volunteers, including those of the Jan Juc Surf Life Saving Club, who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community in and around the water.

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget provided \$6 million to redevelop four LSV clubhouses. This vital money will help these clubs improve the facilities and amenities used by their volunteers and the wider community.

The Government will continue to work with LSV in relation to funding requests to redevelop its clubhouses.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Dandenong electorate**Question 7556**

Question asked by: Member for Dandenong
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 24 May 2016

REPLY:

The very high unemployment rate in Doveton and in some other locations in Victoria, highlights the need for the Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN). While the state average unemployment rate sits at 5.6 per cent (April 2016), it is true that some communities experience much higher rates of joblessness.

The 2016-17 State Budget committed over \$12 billion to build schools, upgrade hospitals and health facilities, expand the rail network and cut congestion. These investments will directly create more than 15 000 jobs in the short term and stimulate growth in the long term. The Government is also supporting Victorian businesses with real potential to expand into new markets and develop new products, generating even more jobs into the future.

The recent budget also allocated \$53 million for Jobs Victoria to support disadvantaged Victorians into the workforce and ensure all Victorians benefit from the State's strong economy. As we invest in jobs growth across the State, with more and more opportunities for work, the Government is determined that disadvantaged Victorians are not left behind and are able to share in the social and economic benefits that come from employment.

JVEN is the major initiative under Jobs Victoria and will deliver a significant increase in resources to expand delivery of employment assistance to high need communities across Victoria. The program will assist Victorian jobseekers who are long-term unemployed (six months plus) or at risk of long-term unemployment who are either ineligible for Commonwealth assistance or who require additional and complementary assistance.

Applications for the first round of funding close on 20 June 2016, and I expect that JVEN services will commence from August 2016. In assessing applications for funding, proposals must demonstrate labour market need — for example that the location has high unemployment and gaps in employment service delivery. Accordingly, we would expect that JVEN services will be funded in areas with unemployment rates well above the average.

An important element of JVEN will be close engagement with employers. JVEN providers will work with local employers to identify vacancies and support jobseekers into those roles, providing post-placement support to maximise on-going employment. Centrally, Jobs Victoria workforce specialists will work with large employers to identify job opportunities that will be referred back to the network of providers for job preparation and matching. This will include identifying job opportunities on major investment projects and linking jobseekers to opportunities generated through Government initiatives such as the Major Projects Skills Guarantee (requiring contractors to engage apprentices for at least 10 per cent of the project work).

Complementing the JVEN program, the Government has also funded four place-based projects as part of the \$10.8 million Community Revitalisation Program announced in the 2016 budget. One of these projects is in Dandenong, and will work with local service providers, industry and Government to achieve the wrap-around holistic support that disadvantaged job seekers need to find and keep a job.

I thank you for your question, and look forward to providing further information as the program is implemented.

Ringwood electorate**Question 7559**

Question asked by: Member for Ringwood
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 24 May 2016

REPLY:

An upgrade for Ringwood station and Bus Interchange, to improve the bus interchange and commuter parking, was completed earlier this year.

As part of this upgrade, the commuter car park was expanded by 42 spaces adjacent to Ringwood station on Thanet Court, utilising vacant VicTrack land.

For further details, see <http://www.ringwoodgoingplaces.com.au/content/252/ringwood-station>.

As part of the recently committed \$20 million commuter car parking fund, the Government will continue to work with focal government areas such as the City of Maroondah to examine options for additional car parking within their respective municipalities.

Essendon electorate**Question 7599**

Question asked by: Member for Essendon
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 24 May 2016

REPLY:

The Recruit Smarter initiative is an Australian-first that sees the Victorian Government partnering with major corporate and non-government organisations in a collaborative effort to tackle bias in recruitment. Recruit Smarter is designed to address unconscious bias in recruitment practices and garner the well-researched benefits that a diverse workforce can generate, including more innovation, creativity and higher productivity.

Unconscious bias occurs where managers and human resources departments make unintentional assumptions against job candidates based on gender, age, culture, background or religion. The initial steps of Recruit Smarter will involve an 18 month pilot program that will focus on unconscious bias in recruitment practices. The pilot program will tackle this issue by removing personal details such as name, age and gender when assessing people's job applications.

The Government is currently working closely with participating organisations and its research partner, the University of Melbourne's Centre for Ethical Leadership to plan and execute the next steps of the initiative.

Pascoe Vale electorate**Question 7564**

Question asked by: Member for Pascoe Vale
Directed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs
Asked on: 24 May 2016

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Pascoe Vale for her interest in and support for applications in her electorate for the new Capacity Building and Participation (CBP) Program. This program consolidates a range of grant programs across the multicultural affairs portfolio and aims to support multicultural communities—both new and established—to participate in all aspects of Victorian life.

This will be achieved by creating opportunities through small grassroots activities for multicultural communities, young people, women, seniors, refugees and asylum seekers to get involved and to connect by:

- providing much needed support to enable small ethno-specific organisations, seniors clubs and community language schools to thrive;
- supporting activities that build an understanding of gender equity and family violence prevention within multicultural communities; and
- encouraging strategic partnerships which deliver more responsive and coordinated support to unlock new opportunities for regional multicultural communities, refugees and asylum seekers.

Applications for the competitive CBP Program closed on 28 April 2016. A high volume of quality applications have been received and are currently being assessed by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, with panel representation from the Victorian Multicultural Commission and across the Victorian Government. The assessment process requires adequate time for deliberation to ensure that the projects that best meet community needs are supported. It is anticipated that applicants will be advised of outcomes early in the new Financial Year.

More information on the CBP Program and other grants programs can be found by visiting www.multicultural.vic.gov.au or by calling the Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship on (03) 9651 0661.

Hastings electorate

Question 7577

Question asked by: Member for Hastings
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 25 May 2016

REPLY:

Under the Franchise Agreement, Metro Trains Melbourne (MTM) is required to remove all graffiti from rolling stock, and from station precincts. Offensive graffiti is removed as a matter of priority.

The reported graffiti on the signal box near Bittern station is not within the station precinct at Bittern. This means MTM has no contractual obligation to clean the graffiti in question.

MTM has agreed to clean the graffiti on the signal box near Bittern station as a good will gesture towards the local community.

Public Transport Victoria and MTM receive many requests to remove graffiti from locations that are not covered by the current Franchise Agreement and it is not always possible to attend to all such locations. Every effort is made to cover as many locations on the metropolitan train network as possible.

There are strict safety guidelines and requirements for doing any work near train tracks. It is a regulatory requirement that only personnel who have undergone training in rail safe working procedures and practices be allowed to work near train tracks. Thorough risk assessment needs to be done by MTM before making such allowances. For this reason it is not possible to let the constituent to carry out graffiti removal work on the signal box near Bittern station.

MTM does grant a third party access permit, which allows individuals and organisations to get involved in graffiti removal work. This permit can be applied for directly from MTM.

Forest Hill electorate**Question 7585**

Question asked by: Member for Forest Hill
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 25 May 2016

REPLY:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through the 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state; ensuring that every community has access to a great local school, and every child gets the chance to succeed.

The infrastructure requirements of all schools, including Orchard Grove Primary School, are considered through the budget process when determining future priorities for the capital works program. The challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools in Victoria, all in varying condition. The Government will continue to use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating funding in future State Budgets.

Essendon electorate**Question 7633**

Question asked by: Member for Essendon
Directed to: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Asked on: 8 June 2016

REPLY:

It is a pleasure to receive a constituency question from the Member for Essendon on housing matters.

In his 18 months of service, this Member has consistently displayed his dedication to housing for those least well off in his community. He is regular in contact with my office, advocating on behalf of residents of his community in their individual housing matters, as well as advocating for better solutions in housing across his electorate where so many social housing tenants live. It is a testament to the Member's repeated advocacy and effort that the Andrews Labor Government has provided funds to upgrade two rooming houses in his electorate, making more of our most vulnerable Victorians' lives more liveable, and giving them a clearer pathway out of homelessness.

The upgrades of the two rooming house projects located in Ascot Vale and Flemington are currently being designed. Lodgement of town planning applications with Council is anticipated to be in late September 2016.

Work at both sites will commence following permits being granted by Council.

I look forward to continuing to update the Member for Essendon and his community as these important works progress.