

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**28 and 30 June 2011**

**(Extract from book 10)**

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## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

## **The ministry**

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Deputy Premier, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for Bushfire Response, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development. . . . .	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
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Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship . . . . .	The Hon. N. Kotsiras, MP
Minister for Housing, and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development. . . . .	The Hon. W. A. Lovell, MLC
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Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads . . . . .	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
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Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry . . . . .	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
Minister for Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. R. Smith, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water. . . . .	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Community Services . . . . .	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary . . . . .	Mr D. J. Hodgett, MP

## Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. M. Davis, Mr P. R. Davis, Mr Hall, Ms Lovell, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Scheffer.

**Procedures Committee** — The President, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr D. M. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Pennicuik and Mr Viney

## Legislative Council standing committees

**Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

**Economy and Infrastructure References Committee** — Mr Barber, Ms Broad, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and Mr Somyurek.

**Environment and Planning Legislation Committee** — Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, \*Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Environment and Planning References Committee** — Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Petrovich, Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

**Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

**Legal and Social Issues References Committee** — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Brien, Mr O'Donohue, Mrs Petrovich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

\* *Inquiry into Environment Protection Amendment (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2011*

# *Participating member*

## Joint committees

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Holding, Mr McIntosh, Dr Naphine and Mr Walsh.

**Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Leane, Mr Ramsay and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Mr Battin and Mr McCurdy.

**Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mr Foley, Mr Noonan and Mr Shaw.

**Education and Training Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elasmr and Ms Tierney. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Ms Miller and Mr Southwick.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis. (*Assembly*): Ms Ryall and Mrs Victoria.

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Koch. (*Assembly*): Mr Bull, Ms Duncan, Mr Pandazopoulos and Ms Wreford.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Coote and Ms Crozier. (*Assembly*): Mrs Bauer, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McGuire and Mr Wakeling.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*) Mr Drum, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, and Mr P. Davis.. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Ms Campbell, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Graley, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

**Law Reform Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Petrovich. (*Assembly*): Mr Carbines, Ms Garrett, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Northe.

**Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Kronberg and Mr Ondarchie. (*Assembly*): Ms Graley, Ms Hutchins and Ms McLeish.

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Mr P. Davis, Mr O'Brien and Mr Pakula. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Hennessey, Mr Morris and Mr Scott.

**Road Safety Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elsbury. (*Assembly*): Mr Languiller, Mr Perera, Mr Tilley and Mr Thompson.

**Rural and Regional Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Drum. (*Assembly*): Mr Howard, Mr Katos, Mr Trezise and Mr Weller.

**Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O'Brien and Mr O'Donohue. (*Assembly*): Ms Campbell, Mr Eren, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella and Mr Watt.

## 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 W. R. Tunnecliffe

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**  
**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

**President:** The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:** Mr M. VINEY

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**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. W. A. LOVELL

**Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr J. LENDERS

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

Mr G. JENNINGS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

The Hon. P. R. HALL

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr D. DRUM

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Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Lovell, Hon. Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
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Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee	Northern Victoria	LP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Elsbury, Mr Andrew Warren	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Hon. Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Guy, Hon. Matthew Jason	Northern Metropolitan	LP	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
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Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Koch, Mr David Frank	Western Victoria	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP



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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, 28 June 2011**

**Police and emergency services: police — Sebastopol station**

**150. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): in relation to the government’s commitment to construct a new police station in Sebastopol:

- (1) Has the minister sought and/or received advice from the department or Victoria Police on the delivery of the commitment; if so —
  - (a) did that advice recommend a time line for provision of funding to the project; if so, what was it; and
  - (b) did the minister accept the recommendation.
- (2) Has the minister written to the Premier and/or the Treasurer asking that the funds for the new police station be included in the 2011–12 state budget.
- (3) Has the provision for funding of a new police station in Sebastopol been included in any budget submission made by the minister for the 2011–12 Victorian state budget.
- (4) Has the minister taken any formal action to ensure the provision of funding for the new police station in 2011–12; if so, what was that formal action.
- (5) What number of full-time equivalent sworn Victoria Police officers will be stationed at the new Sebastopol police station following its construction.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

(1), (2), (3), (4) & (5)

When in opposition, the coalition government identified a number of police stations to be upgraded, including the police facilities at North Ballarat and Sebastopol. The government committed to invest \$2.5m to upgrade these facilities to enable them to function fully as police stations.

Funding for the necessary works was confirmed in the 2011–12 state budget when \$30 million was allocated for new and upgraded police stations, including at North Ballarat and Sebastopol. These works will be undertaken by Victoria Police as part of its facilities construction program.

The coalition government is conscious of the need for sufficient police resources across the state, and is aware of the needs of regional Victoria. That is why this government is committed to making Victoria’s streets safe again by addressing statewide police shortages and restoring public safety. Front-line police numbers will be boosted by an additional 1700 recruits, including 100 additional transit police.

Victoria Police recently announced that an extra 600 police officers, including 450 new recruits and 150 existing police members will be redeployed back to front-line duties and assigned to police service areas across the state, with Ballarat to receive an additional 25 police by midyear.

The deployment of police members across the state is the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner of Police and I am aware that police command regularly reviews resource allocation across Victoria to ensure that the changing

needs of the community are met. At times this can involve the reorganisation of police resources to achieve the best overall result for the community.

**Police and emergency services: police — Ballarat North station**

- 151. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): in relation to the government’s commitment to construct a new police station in Ballarat North:
- (1) Has the minister sought and/or received advice from the department or Victoria Police on the delivery of the new police station in; if so —
    - (a) did that advice recommend a time line for provision of funding to the project; if so, what was it; and
    - (b) did the minister accept the recommendation.
  - (2) Has the minister written to the Premier and/or the Treasurer asking that the funds be included in the 2011–12 state budget.
  - (3) Has the provision for funding of the new police station been included in any budget submission made by the minister for the 2011–12 Victorian state budget.
  - (4) Has the minister taken any formal action to ensure the provision of funding for the construction of a new police station in Ballarat North in 2011–12 year.
  - (5) What number of full-time equivalent sworn Victoria Police officers will be stationed at the new Ballarat North police station following its construction.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

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

When in opposition, the coalition government identified a number of police stations to be upgraded, including the police facilities at North Ballarat and Sebastopol. The government committed to invest \$2.5m to upgrade these facilities to enable them to function fully as police stations.

Funding for the necessary works was confirmed in the 2011–12 state budget when \$30 million was allocated for new and upgraded police stations, including at North Ballarat and Sebastopol. These works will be undertaken by Victoria Police as part of its facilities construction program.

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Victoria Police recently announced that an extra 600 police officers, including 450 new recruits and 150 existing police members will be redeployed back to front-line duties and assigned to police service areas across the state, with Ballarat to receive an additional 25 police by midyear.

The deployment of police members across the state is the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner of Police and I am aware that police command regularly reviews resource allocation across Victoria to ensure that the changing needs of the community are met. At times this can involve the reorganisation of police resources to achieve the best overall result for the community.

**Police and emergency services: protective services officers — railway stations**

**224. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): in relation to the government’s commitment to post protective services officers (PSOs) at metropolitan and regional train stations in the 2011–12 financial year, has the minister received advice on which train stations will have PSOs stationed at them; if so, which stations.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The Baillieu government is committed to its election promise to recruit and roll out 940 protective services officers (PSOs) by November 2014. PSOs will patrol every metropolitan railway station and at major regional centres from 6.00 p.m. each day until the last train.

The 2011–12 state budget provides for \$17.8 million for the upgrade and alterations to the police academy to support the recruitment and training of the PSOs, and to develop a business case for the police academy to respond to expected demand.

The coalition has committed \$20 million in its policy for capital works at stations and this commitment stands. There is sufficient funding in the budget to undertake required works in the 2011–12 year. The government is working through the infrastructure needs of all train stations. Funding from the \$20 million commitment will be allocated as required over forward years to undertake infrastructure works as necessary.

Victoria Police is working with the Department of Justice and the Department of Transport on an appropriate roll-out program for the recruitment and training of PSOs. The placement of PSOs will be at the discretion of the Chief Commissioner of Police.

**Public transport: rail — Ballan station**

**225. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): in relation to the government’s commitment to construct an additional platform at Ballan train station:

- (1) Has the minister sought, and received, advice from the Department of Transport on the new platform; if so, did that advice recommend a time line for provision of funding, what date was recommended and did the minister accept the recommendation.
- (2) Has the minister asked that funds for capital works be included in the 2011–12 budget by writing to the —
  - (a) Premier; or
  - (b) Treasurer.
- (3) Has the provision of funds for an additional platform at Ballan train station been included in any budget submission made by the minister for the 2011–12 budget.
- (4) Has the minister taken any formal action to ensure the provision of funding in the 2011–12 financial year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) I have sought and received advice from the Department of Transport concerning the construction of an additional platform at Ballan train station. This advice is currently being reviewed.

(2)–(4)

Consistent with well established conventions adopted by successive Victorian governments, the details of the budget process and the forward estimates over the next four years is a cabinet matter. The 2011–12 state

budget provides \$0.7 million as part of the Public Transport Development Program, to commence planning and development for an additional platform at Ballan train station and a crossing loop at Ballan.

**Public transport: rail — Ballan passing loop**

**226. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): in relation to the Government’s commitment to construct a passing loop at Ballan:

- (1) Has the minister sought, and received, advice from the Department of Transport on the passing loop; if so, did that advice recommend a time line for provision of funding, what date was recommended and did the minister accept the recommendation.
- (2) Has the minister asked that funds for capital works be included in the 2011–12 budget by writing to the —
  - (a) Premier;
  - (b) Treasurer.
- (3) Has the provision of funds for a passing loop at Ballan been included in any budget submission made by the minister for the 2011–12 budget.
- (4) Has the minister taken any formal action to ensure the provision of funding in the 2011–12 financial year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) I have sought and received advice from the Department of Transport concerning the construction of a passing loop at Ballan. This advice is currently being reviewed.

(2)–(4)

Consistent with well established conventions adopted by successive Victorian governments, the details of the budget process and the forward estimates over the next four years is a cabinet matter. The 2011–12 state budget provides \$0.7 million as part of the Public Transport Development Program, to commence planning and development for an additional platform at Ballan train station and a crossing loop at Ballan.

**Consumer affairs: cord safety kits**

**590. MR PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs): how many blind and curtain cord safety kits were distributed by the Department from 1 December 2010 to 31 March 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

At least 15 young children have died in Australia since the early 1990s after becoming entangled in looped curtain and blind cords, including two in Victoria in August and September 2009.

Through Consumer Affairs Victoria, the government is distributing curtain and blind cord safety kits, which work by securing dangerous cords and preventing the strangulation risk to babies and young children.

As at 31 March 2011, a total of 27 364 curtain and blind cord kits had been distributed, including almost 17 000 to individual homes and more than 10 000 to other organisations.

The table below shows the number of kits distributed to individual homes each month since January 2010.

Individual orders peaked after the campaign launched on 28 January 2010. The higher number of orders early in the campaign reflect promotional activities occurring at the time.

Bulk orders were distributed to organisations such as child-care centres, kindergartens, local councils and hospital maternity wards.

**KITS DISTRIBUTED 2010–11**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Individual orders to Victorian homes</b>
January 2010	361
February	5210
March	4152
April	1036
May	738
June	1508
July	1607
August	408
September	364
October	252
November	286
December	129
January 2011	100
February	332
March	193
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUAL ORDERS</b>	<b>16 676</b>
<b>BULK ORDERS *</b>	<b>10 688</b>
<b>TOTAL KITS DISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>27 364</b>

\* No monthly distribution figures available

Consumer Affairs Victoria promotes the kits on its website, via product safety related radio spots on SBS, inclusion in announcements in ethnic media and in Department of Justice media activities.

Since November 2010, Consumer Affairs Victoria has also promoted the kits at more than 70 product safety workshops and presentations across the state.

The government remains committed to this important initiative to save children’s lives.

**Consumer affairs: cord safety kits**

**591. MR PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs): how many blind and curtain cord safety kits were distributed by the Department between 1 January 2010 to 30 November 2010.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

At least 15 young children have died in Australia since the early 1990s after becoming entangled in looped curtain and blind cords, including two in Victoria in August and September 2009.

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Since November 2010, Consumer Affairs Victoria has also promoted the kits at more than 70 product safety workshops and presentations across the state.

The government remains committed to this important initiative to save children’s lives.

**Police and emergency services: police — divisional patrol vans**

**618. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): in relation to the government’s commitment to provide two additional divisional patrol vans in Ballarat:

- (1) Has the minister sought, and received, advice from the Department of Justice or Victoria Police on these vans; if so, did that advice recommend a time line for provision of funding, what date was recommended and did the minister accept the recommendation.
- (2) Has the minister asked that funds for the vans be included in the 2011–12 budget by writing to the —
  - (a) Premier; and
  - (b) Treasurer.
- (3) Has the provision of funds for the vans been included in any budget submission made by the minister for the 2011–12 budget.
- (4) Has the minister taken any formal action to ensure the provision of funding in 2011–12.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

The coalition government is committed to making Ballarat safer under its Community Safety Plan, which as well as funding for two new police stations and CCTV surveillance, includes two additional divisional patrol vans. Funding for these new vehicles is included under the government’s \$602 million commitment for an additional 1700 front-line police.

**Health: Ballarat Health Services — doctors and nurses**

- 624. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: how many nurses and doctors were there at Ballarat Health Services as at —
- (a) 30 June 2006;
  - (b) 30 June 2007;
  - (c) 30 June 2008;
  - (d) 30 June 2009;
  - (e) 30 June 2010;
  - (f) 3 December 2010; and
  - (g) 3 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The information is accessible in the budget papers and Ballarat Health Services annual report.

**Local government: ministerial visits — city of Ballarat**

- 648. MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Local Government): on which dates between 2 December 2010 and 14 April 2011 did the minister visit any locality within the city of Ballarat, and on each occasion:
- (1) Who did the minister meet with.
  - (2) Did the minister make any commitment of public funds; and if so, for each commitment made —
    - (a) what was the dollar value of the commitment;
    - (b) to which individual or group was the commitment of funds made; and
    - (c) for what project or purpose were these funds committed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

I have not as yet visited the City of Ballarat since taking office in November 2010.

**Sport and recreation: ministerial visits — city of Ballarat**

**661. MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Sport and Recreation): on which dates between 2 December 2010 and 14 April 2011 did the minister visit any locality within the city of Ballarat, and on each occasion:

- (1) Who did the minister meet with.
- (2) Did the minister make any commitment of public funds; and if so, for each commitment made —
  - (a) what was the dollar value of the commitment;
  - (b) to which individual or group was the commitment of funds made; and
  - (c) for what project or purpose were these funds committed.

**ANSWER:**

I advise that:

In my capacity as Minister for Sport and Recreation, I visited the city of Ballarat between 2 December 2010 and 14 April 2011 and undertook duties in relation to my portfolio responsibilities.

**Veterans' affairs: ministerial visits — city of Ballarat**

**664. MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Veterans' Affairs): on which dates between 2 December 2010 and 14 April 2011 did the minister visit any locality within the city of Ballarat, and on each occasion:

- (1) Who did the minister meet with.
- (2) Did the minister make any commitment of public funds; and if so, for each commitment made —
  - (a) what was the dollar value of the commitment;
  - (b) to which individual or group was the commitment of funds made; and
  - (c) for what project or purpose were these funds committed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In my capacity as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, I visited the City of Ballarat between 2 December 2010 and 14 April 2011 and undertook duties in relation to my portfolio responsibilities.

**Corrections: prisons — funding**

**687. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): in relation to total prisons funding:

- (1) What amount is allocated to the rehabilitation of prisoners in the 2011–12 financial year, and what proportion of the total funding for prisons does this represent.
- (2) What prisoner rehabilitation programs will be funded in the 2011–12 financial year.



- (3) What amount was spent on the rehabilitation of prisoners in the 2010–11, 2009–10, 2008–09, 2007–08 and 2006–07 financial years, and what proportion of the total funding for prisons did this represent for each year.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) The cost of the rehabilitation of prisoners is embedded in the cost of the overall correctional system and activity. Therefore, this cost cannot be separated out of the whole rehabilitative effort.
- (2) Rehabilitation programs provided in the prison system include educational, casework, vocational, transitional and reintegration programs. Specific programs that reduce the risk of re-offending include violence, drug and alcohol, and sex offender programs. Offending behaviour programs are provided for various groups including high risk offenders, indigenous offenders, female offenders and offenders with an intellectual disability or cognitive impairment. These programs are part of the overall cost for the rehabilitation of prisoners.
- (3) Please refer to response No. 1.

**Crime prevention: community crime prevention program**

**689. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Crime Prevention): in relation to the \$25 million allocated to the Community Crime Prevention Program on page 54 of 2011–12 budget paper no. 3:

- (1) Aside from CCTV, lighting, locks and fencing, what types of initiatives by local government, community groups, sporting groups and business will be eligible for grants.
- (2) Will this funding be available for diversion programs for offenders or people at risk of offending.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

In the 2011–12 state budget, the coalition government allocated \$25 million to deliver Community Crime Prevention Program grants over the next four years. In creating the grants, the government recognises that communities are best placed to identify and prioritise issues of concern regarding local crime.

The Community Crime Prevention Program grants aim to improve safety in local neighbourhoods by funding locally developed and delivered community safety projects.

The grants program includes:

- The **Public Safety Infrastructure Fund** – which will provide grants of up to \$250 000 for Victorian councils to develop major infrastructure systems (including CCTV and supporting technologies) to increase safety in and around council property.
- The **Community Safety Fund** – which will fund a wide range of groups (including community and sporting groups, business associations, community service groups and local councils) to develop and deliver practical community safety initiatives.

The Community Safety Fund grants will be delivered in phases. The first round of funding, which commences in July 2011, will provide grants of up to \$10 000. These grants will provide one-off funding for practical community safety projects — they are not suitable for funding services or programs that require on-going funding, such as diversion programs for offenders or people at risk of offending.

The Department of Justice is currently preparing guidance material for the Community Safety Fund grants, which includes information about applying for the grants. This guidance material is expected to be released in July 2011, when the first round of funding becomes available.

In later rounds of funding, the grants program will engage a number of stakeholders including local government, Victoria Police, key government departments, local businesses and local community groups, to support local partnerships in identifying priority issues in each local community, and to develop local solutions.

### **Crime prevention: Step Back. Think**

**690. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Crime Prevention): what evidence was considered in the decision to allocate \$25 million to the Community Crime Prevention Program and only \$250 000 to the Step Back. Think program.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

In the 2011–12 state budget, the government allocated \$25 million over the next four years to deliver Community Crime Prevention Program grants. In creating the grants, the government recognises that communities are best placed to identify and prioritise issues of concern regarding local crime.

The Community Crime Prevention Program grants aim to improve safety in local neighbourhoods by funding locally developed and delivered community safety projects. The grants funding includes:

- The **Public Safety Infrastructure Fund** – which will provide grants of up to \$250 000 for Victorian councils to develop major infrastructure systems (including CCTV and supporting technologies) to increase safety in and around council property.
- The **Community Safety Fund** – which will fund a wide range of groups (including community and sporting groups, business associations, community service groups and local councils) to develop and deliver practical community safety initiatives. In the first phase of funding commencing in July 2011, the fund will provide grants of up to \$10 000.

In the budget, the government also allocated a significant investment of \$800,000 over the next four years to “Step Back. Think,” a group of young people who are aiming to eradicate alcohol-fuelled violence in Australia.

The funding will assist “Step Back. Think” to improve the quality and effectiveness of its communication material. This includes materials provided through the “Step Back. Think” website, social media sites and direct communication events.

### **Attorney-General: Victoria Legal Aid — funding**

**693. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Attorney-General): why is there no increase in funding for Victoria Legal Aid in the 2011–12 financial year, despite significant police funding increases which the Law Institute of Victoria expects will increase the number of criminal charges laid, and therefore the number of Victorians requiring legal aid representation.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am advised that: Under existing policy parameters, the Victoria Legal Aid budget is approximately \$140–\$150 million per year.

Victoria Legal Aid receives funding from three key sources; the state government, commonwealth government and the Public Purpose Fund.

In the 2011–12 state budget the government allocated \$9.2 million over four years to enable community legal centres (CLCs) to continue to deliver legal advice and assistance. This funding will be administered through Victoria Legal Aid.

The government’s \$9.2 million funding package will ensure that people living in rural and regional Victoria and victims of family violence will continue to have access to these services now and into the future.

The funding also ensures that fewer people are without legal representation, which in turn enables cases to proceed more quickly, and leads to the reduction of waiting lists and delays across the court system.

In particular, the funding package will enable continued services from the following community legal centres:

- Barwon Community Legal Centre (Geelong)
- Central Highlands Community Legal Centre (Ballarat)
- Community Connections, South West Community Legal Centre (Warrnambool)
- Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre (Bendigo)
- Murray Mallee Community Legal Centre (Mildura).

The funding also enables 10 community legal centres across Victoria to continue to provide family violence services.

**Higher education and skills: vocational education and training — concessions and exemptions**

**717. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: in relation to 2011–12 budget paper no. 3, pages 18 and 25, specifically “Vocational education and training — restore concessions and expand exemptions”:

- (1) What amount of funding has been provided in the 2011–12 financial year for —
  - (i) restoration of concessions; and
  - (ii) expansion of exemptions.
- (2) Notwithstanding actual budget allocations in the 2011–12 financial year, will state funding be provided for all students who are eligible for concessional fees (i.e. demand driven funding).
- (3) In relation to eligibility for concessional fees, have these fees also been restored for commonwealth health card holders as applied prior to 1 July 2009.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

1. As outlined in the budget paper no. 3 page 18, total funding of \$24.5 million has been provided in the 2011–12 financial year including:
  - (i) \$14.5 million to reintroduce concessions; and
  - (ii) \$10 million to expand eligibility exemptions.
2. On 18 January 2011 I announced the re-introduction of tuition concession fee places for health care card holders aged 15–24 years (calculated at 1 January 2011) undertaking diploma and advanced diploma courses at a TAFE institute only. Tuition concession fee places are available to all eligible students commencing their training for the 2011 calendar year on or after 1 February 2011. Students eligible for these concession places are required to pay only \$100 per annum in tuition fees.

The \$14.5 million allocated for these concessions during 2011–12 was based on modelling undertaken by the department, and I am confident that it will meet demand for such places this year.

The government is adopting a phased approach to implementation which will provide the opportunity to implement the government’s commitment within existing budgetary parameters, whilst testing and monitoring the demand for concession places.

The review of VET fees and funding arrangements, which I announced on 4 May 2011, will examine the extent to which the design of current government funding mechanisms and fee structures are meeting the objectives of the Victorian training system. This will include a review of concession tuition fees and eligibility exemptions criteria in supporting engagement in training.

The outcomes of the review will inform the use and availability of concessions beyond 2011.

3. As outlined previously, tuition concession fee places are available to all eligible students commencing their training for the 2011 calendar year on or after 1 February 2011 including students who are continuing their higher level training from previous years.

**Agriculture and food security: recreational fishing — funding**

**736. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): in relation to the \$16.2 million dedicated to ‘improving recreational fishing opportunities in regional Victoria’ on page 73 of 2011–12 budget paper no. 3:

- (1) Will this money be distributed through the Recreational Fishing License Trust Account; if not, what are the precise details as to how this money will be administered.
- (2) What are the specific outputs against which this spending will be measured.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) This initiative will be administered as a discrete funding program, in a way that complements the funding that is provided through the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account.
- (2) The new funding will be used to improve opportunities for recreational fishing through a range of initiatives, including:
  - Breed more native and salmonid fish.
  - Develop new recreational fisheries, including the stocking of trout cod, Macquarie perch, freshwater catfish and Australian bass in suitable waterways.
  - Install fish ladders to improve fish migration and production.
  - Investigate opportunities to stock black bream and estuary perch in the Anglesea River, subject to a scientific review of the estuary.
  - Work with relevant authorities to improve access tracks and upgrade existing boat launching facilities for recreational fishing.
  - Conduct more public forums for recreational fishers and department staff to exchange ideas on ways to improve management of Victoria’s fisheries.
  - Work with recreational and commercial fishers to implement measures to protect spawning fish stocks near river mouths.
  - Establish a new recreational fishing multicultural liaison team to work with community leaders to identify and respond to the fishing expectations of Victoria’s diverse and growing population.
  - Increase fisheries patrols on weekends and public holidays.
  - Develop and implement research projects to support recreational fishing.

The spending of this commitment will be measured against the delivery of the programs listed above.

**Agriculture and food security: aerial baiting — funding**

**737. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security):

- (1) How much money is allocated in the budget estimates to pursue aerial baiting.
- (2) Of this amount, how much is allocated to monitoring the effects of this program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) \$460 000.
- (2) \$145 000.

**Public transport: buses — funding**

**748. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): in relation to the 2011–12 state budget, is money specifically allocated for the implementation of recommendations that arose from the recent bus reviews; if so, how much funding is each recommendation receiving.

**ANSWER:**

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

No. In the 2011–12 state budget, the government has focused on delivering the commitments it made to the people of Victoria in the lead-up to the state election 2010.

**Public transport: rail — new stations**

**754. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): in relation to page 103 of 2011–12 budget paper no. 4, which shows \$188 500 dedicated to “New stations in growth areas (metro various)”:

- (1) What stations will be built from this pool of funding.
- (2) In which year are these stations expected to be completed.

**ANSWER:**

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

The amount in the budget papers refers to \$188.5 million not \$188 500 and is for funding for the construction of new stations in Melbourne’s growth areas.

The government has allocated in the 2011–12 state budget, \$78.687 million towards the construction of new stations at Cardinia Road, Lynbrook, Williams Landing and Caroline Springs as part of the Growth Areas Stations Program and a further \$56.2 million in the remaining years. The total investment will be \$188.5 million.

Initiative	2010–11	2011–12	Remaining Years	TEI
New stations in growth areas (metro various)	\$53.6m	\$78.7m	\$56.2m	\$188.5m

Construction works for Cardinia Road and Lynbrook stations are under way, and are scheduled for completion in 2012. Construction for Williams Landing station is scheduled to start later this year and is expected to be completed by end 2012. The time frame for the construction of Caroline Springs station is under review.

**Public transport: taxis — insurance**

**758. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (1) Will the government move to immediately create regulations requiring all taxi owners to have comprehensive insurance for drivers and third parties.
- (2) Does the government have any materials that show the cost to the state of pursuing claims under the Model Taxi Bailment Agreement through civil litigation.
- (3) Prior to the introduction of the Model Taxi Bailment Agreement, did the Department of Transport undertake any investigation or inquiry to ascertain whether or not civil litigation is the most cost effective model for dealing with disputes relating to accidents and compensation.

**ANSWER:**

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

- (1) There is no current proposal to change regulations relating to insurance for taxi operators. However, the taxi industry inquiry being undertaken by Professor Allan Fels is reviewing all aspects of the taxi industry and it will be open to Professor Fels to make recommendations on these matters as he sees fit.
- (2) The state does not incur costs arising from civil litigation in connection with motor vehicle accident damage claims other than the costs associated with the operation of the courts where these matters are determined.
- (3) No investigation or inquiry was made to ascertain whether or not civil litigation is the most cost-effective model for dealing with disputes relating to accidents and compensation. Accident damage claims involving taxis are no different from accident damage claims arising from the use of any other motor vehicle. That is, if insurance is in place, the claim can be dealt with by the insurer(s), or if the at-fault driver is not covered by an insurance contract, the appropriate course to recover accident damage claims is through civil litigation.

**Housing: construction, capital improvement and acquisition — funding**

**760. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Housing: in relation to the 2011–12 state budget and media release dated 13 May 2011, of the \$528 million provided for the 2011–12 financial year, how is this money divided up between new construction, capital improvement and acquisition of property.

**ANSWER:**

I can advise that:

In relation to the 2011–12 state budget and media release dated 13 May 2011, of the \$528 million provided for 2011–12, this money is divided up between:

- new construction: \$376.2 million
- capital improvement: \$139 million
- acquisition of property: \$12.8 million.

**Employment and industrial relations: women on boards, councils and committees**

- 802. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations: in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —
- (a) names of each female member;
  - (b) qualifications of each female member; and
  - (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Manufacturing, exports and trade: women on boards, councils and committees**

- 803. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —
- (a) names of each female member;
  - (b) qualifications of each female member; and
  - (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Education: women on boards, councils and committees**

- 807. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —
- (a) names of each female member;
  - (b) qualifications of each female member; and
  - (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities,

including memberships of each board, to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).



**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, 30 June 2011**

**Higher education and skills: public transport tickets**

**406. MR PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: what was the total cost for public transport tickets allocated to staff employed in the minister's office between the period 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

No public transport tickets were issued to staff employed in my office between 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**Teaching profession: public transport tickets**

**422. MR PAKULA** — To ask the Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession: what was the total cost for public transport tickets allocated to staff employed in the minister's office between the period 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

No public transport tickets were issued to staff employed in my office between 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

**Health: Ballarat Base Hospital — bed numbers**

**621. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many acute beds and subacute beds were there at Ballarat Base Hospital as at —

- (a) 30 June 2006;
- (b) 30 June 2007;
- (c) 30 June 2008;
- (d) 30 June 2009;
- (e) 30 June 2010;
- (f) 3 December 2010; and
- (g) 3 April 2011.

**ANSWER:**

This question has been referred to me as the Minister for Health.

These matters are available in annual reports. The member may wish to look at these published available documents.

**Higher education and skills: ministerial visits — city of Ballarat**

**645. MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: on which dates between 2 December 2010 and 14 April 2011 did the minister visit any locality within the city of Ballarat, and on each occasion:

- (1) Who did the minister meet with.
- (2) Did the minister make any commitment of public funds; and if so, for each commitment made —
  - (a) what was the dollar value of the commitment;
  - (b) to which individual or group was the commitment of funds made; and
  - (c) for what project or purpose were these funds committed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

I have visited numerous municipalities and communities throughout regional and country Victoria during specified periods. I did not visit the city of Ballarat during the specified period but expect to do so in the near future.

**Teaching profession: ministerial visits — city of Ballarat**

**671. MS TIERNEY** — To ask the Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession: on which dates between 2 December 2010 and 14 April 2011 did the minister visit any locality within the city of Ballarat, and on each occasion:

- (1) Who did the minister meet with.
- (2) Did the minister make any commitment of public funds; and if so, for each commitment made —
  - (a) what was the dollar value of the commitment;
  - (b) to which individual or group was the commitment of funds made; and
  - (c) for what project or purpose were these funds committed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

I have visited numerous municipalities and communities throughout regional and country Victoria during specified periods. I did not visit the city of Ballarat during the specified period but expect to do so in the near future.

**Higher education and skills: industry training and advisory boards — funding**

**716. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: in relation to the efficiency savings background brief:

- (1) What was the amount of state funding provided to Industry Training and Advisory Boards (ITABs) in the 2010–11 financial year and budgeted for in 2011–12.
- (2) What is the amount of savings in support for ITABs in the 2011–12 financial year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs) received base funding of \$2.8 million in the 2010–11 financial year with an additional \$1m to build the capability of ITABs to facilitate industry parties to operate in a demand-driven system.

- The 2011–12 Victorian budget provides ongoing support for ITABs of \$2.8 million per year

**Innovation, services and small business: women on boards, councils and committees**

- 800. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —
- (a) names of each female member;
  - (b) qualifications of each female member; and
  - (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Tourism and major events: women on boards, councils and committees**

- 801. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —
- (a) names of each female member;
  - (b) qualifications of each female member; and
  - (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Major projects: women on boards, councils and committees**

- 804. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Major Projects): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —
- (a) names of each female member;
  - (b) qualifications of each female member; and
  - (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Children and early childhood development: women on boards, councils and committees**

**808. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;
- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships of each board, to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Higher education and skills: women on boards, councils and committees**

**809. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;
- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships of each board, to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Regional and rural development: women on boards, councils and committees**

**827. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;

- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Regional cities: women on boards, councils and committees**

**828. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Regional Cities): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister's administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;
- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au)

**Local government: women on boards, councils and committees**

**829. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Local Government): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister's administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;
- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Aboriginal affairs: women on boards, councils and committees**

**830. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;
- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Sport and recreation: women on boards, councils and committees**

**831. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Sport and Recreation): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;
- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Veterans’ affairs: women on boards, councils and committees**

**832. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the minister’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —

- (a) names of each female member;
- (b) qualifications of each female member; and
- (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities,

including memberships to each board to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

**Premier: women on boards, councils and committees**

- 833. MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister of Health (for the Premier): in relation to each department, agency or authority within the Premier’s administration, how many women hold positions on boards, councils or committees, and in relation to each, what are the —
- (a) names of each female member;
  - (b) qualifications of each female member; and
  - (c) the total number of members.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Information regarding board, council and committee appointments can be found on the State Services Authority public entities website. This website enables every Victorian wishing to obtain information about public entities, including memberships of each board, to do so. This information can be found by accessing [www.publicboards.vic.gov.au](http://www.publicboards.vic.gov.au).

Note that data found on the above website does not include a number of board members whose names remain unpublished due to privacy reasons, for example some judicial appointments.

**Health: Bendigo Health — linear accelerator**

- 846. MS BROAD** — To ask the Minister for Health: in relation to the minister’s comment on 11 June 2011 in the *Bendigo Advertiser* that the linear accelerator, due to be decommissioned, will be replaced in the normal way:
- (1) Has funding been allocated for the purchase and installation of a new linear accelerator in the current radiotherapy bunker at Bendigo Health; if not, when will it be allocated.
  - (2) When will the older linear accelerator stop being used.
  - (3) When will the new replacement linear accelerator be commissioned.
  - (4) When will the new replacement linear accelerator arrive.
  - (5) How long will it take to install the new replacement linear accelerator.
  - (6) Will there be disruption to radiotherapy services.
  - (7) How many patients will miss out, be delayed or have to travel before the new replacement linear accelerator is installed.
  - (8) Has Bendigo Health been notified that a replacement linear accelerator will be funded and commissioned at the current radiotherapy bunker site before the new Bendigo hospital is built.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Bendigo Health linear accelerator will be replaced in the normal way and funded through the usual appropriate mechanisms. The coalition government is committed to expanding cancer services in Bendigo and surrounding regions.

The \$630 million Bendigo hospital project will be built along the original time line and will contain an integrated cancer centre on the main acute hospital site as opposed to Labour’s plan to build a smaller hospital sprinkled over several sites.