

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Tuesday, 3 May 2011**

**(Extract from book 6)**

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**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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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, 3 May 2011**

**Innovation, services and small business: Department of Business and Innovation — staff**

- 110. MR PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business):
- (1) What is the total number of executive and non-executive staff employed by the Department of Business and Innovation and the former Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development who were either —
    - (a) made redundant (whether voluntarily or involuntarily);
    - (b) had employment terminated by the department; or
    - (c) whose employment ceased as a result of a voluntary separation or resignation.
  - (2) What is the total gross cost of all payments made to these staff as a result of these redundancies, terminations and separations, between 2 December 2010 and 2 March 2011 inclusive.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

- (1) 58 employees separated from the Department of Business and Innovation and the former Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, between 2 December 2010 and 2 March 2011. These separations include:
  - (a) 1 employee who, as a result of an internal restructure, accepted a separation package;
  - (b) 1 employee who was terminated by the department as a result of a serious disciplinary matter;
  - (c) 56 employees whose employment ceased as a result of retirements, transfer to other departments and resignations.
- (2) The total gross cost of all exit payments made to these staff, such as for long service leave and other accrued leave entitlements was \$359 100.

**Attorney-General: Department of Justice — staff**

- 111. MR PAKULA** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Attorney-General):
- (1) What is the total number of executive and non-executive staff employed by the Department of Justice who were either —
    - (a) made redundant (whether voluntarily or involuntarily);
    - (b) had employment terminated by the department; or
    - (c) whose employment ceased as a result of a voluntary separation or resignation.
  - (2) What is the total gross cost of all payments made to these staff as a result of these redundancies, terminations and separations, between 2 December 2010 and 2 March 2011 inclusive.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) 259 employees separated from the Department of Justice between 2 December 2010 and 2 March 2011. Of these:
  - (a) 1 employee negotiated a redundancy;
  - (b) no employees were terminated by the department;
  - (c) 258 employees ceased employment as a result of voluntary separation or resignation, compared with 224 staff for the same period the year before.
- (2) The total gross cost of all exit payments made to these staff, such as for long service leave and other accrued leave entitlements, was \$1 246 715.06

**Corrections: corrections facilities — contraband**

- 119. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): How often is the minister informed about contraband found in corrections facilities, and how is the minister informed.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Only major contraband seizures in the prison system are brought to my attention, following their detection. However, the commissioner for corrections, as my delegate, closely monitors more routine seizures made in prison.

Where necessary, I am notified of major contraband seizures through written and verbal briefings.

**Corrections: corrections facilities — contraband**

- 120. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): At which corrections facilities are scanners used to detect contraband.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

There is a range of apparatus able to be used across the system to detect contraband.

In all maximum and medium-security facilities there are walk-through metal detectors to detect metallic contraband secreted on staff, visitors and other persons upon entering the prison. Walk-through metal detectors are also used to scan prisoners returning from prison industries. Hand-held metal detectors are used in all prisons.

In all maximum and medium-security facilities, X-ray machines are used to detect contraband in personal belongings and prisoners' property.

At the maximum-security Metropolitan Remand Centre, Melbourne Assessment Prison and Barwon Prison, there are walk-through ion scanners capable of detecting drugs and explosives on persons entering the prison.

There are also portable ion scanners and mobile phone detection devices that can be used at all facilities when required.

Subject to licensing approval, Corrections Victoria will soon trial at the maximum-security women's prison, the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, a low-dose X-ray body scanner with a view to detecting contraband secreted on or within the person.

**Corrections: HM Prison Ararat — contraband and drug testing**

- 121. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Ararat Prison, since 1 December 2010:
- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
  - (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
  - (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
  - (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
    - (a) random general;
    - (b) random identified drug users;
    - (c) drug-free incentive program;
    - (d) reception;
    - (e) targeted;
    - (f) through programs; and
    - (g) voluntary testing.
  - (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
  - (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
  - (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
  - (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
  - (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at Ararat Prison:

- (1) There were two items of contraband seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were no items of contraband seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of one item of containing 16 prescription medication tablets and one smoking implement.
- (4) Not applicable, as per (2) above.
- (5) There were 202 drug tests carried out on prisoners at Ararat Prison.
- (6) Of the 202 tests conducted at Ararat Prison, there were:
  - (a) 102 random general drug tests conducted;
  - (b) Nine drug tests conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) Five drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) 46 drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception;
  - (e) 37 targeted drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (f) Three drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests were conducted on prisoners.

- (7) Of the 202 tests conducted at Ararat Prison, there were:
- (a) No positive random general drug test results for prisoners;
  - (b) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners participating in the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners tested at the time of their reception;
  - (e) No positive targeted drug test returned for prisoners; and
  - (f) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners through programs.
- (8) Not applicable, as no positive results detected.
- (9) There were 2352 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband at Ararat Prison.
- (10) While the number of seizures is recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at Ararat Prison.
- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at Ararat Prison.

**Corrections: HM Prison Barwon — contraband and drug testing**

**122. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Barwon Prison, since 1 December 2010:

- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
- (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
- (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
- (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
  - (a) random general;
  - (b) random identified drug users;
  - (c) drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) reception;
  - (e) targeted;
  - (f) through programs; and
  - (g) voluntary testing.
- (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
- (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
- (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
- (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
- (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at Barwon Prison:

- (1) There were ten items of contraband seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were three items of contraband seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of four seizures of prescription medication tablets, three syringes, one knife and two tool items.
- (4) The contraband seized from visitors consisted of one item of cannabinoids, one item of white power and one smoking implement.
- (5) There were 628 drug tests carried out on prisoners at Barwon Prison.
- (6) Of the 628 tests conducted at Barwon Prison, there were:
  - (a) 91 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) 36 drug tests conducted on prisoners who were random identified drug users;
  - (c) 34 drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) 102 drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception;
  - (e) 365 targeted drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (f) No drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests conducted on prisoners.
- (7) Of the 628 tests conducted at Barwon Prison, there were:
  - (a) Two positive random general drug test results returned for prisoners;
  - (b) Three positive drug test results returned for prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners participating in the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) Seven positive drug test results returned for prisoners tested at the time of their reception; and
  - (e) 21 targeted positive drug test results for prisoners.
- (8) The positive drug test results revealed the illicit use of benzodiazepines, cannabinoids and buprenorphine.
- (9) There were 3565 cell searches undertaken for contraband at Barwon Prison.
- (10) While seizures of contraband are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at Barwon Prison.
- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at Barwon Prison.

**Corrections: Beechworth Correctional Centre — contraband and drug testing**

- 123. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Beechworth Correctional Centre, since 1 December 2010:
- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
  - (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
  - (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
  - (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:

- (a) random general;
  - (b) random identified drug users;
  - (c) drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) reception;
  - (e) targeted;
  - (f) through programs; and
  - (g) voluntary testing.
- (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
- (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
- (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
- (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
- (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at the Beechworth Correctional Centre:

- (1) There were two contraband items seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were no contraband items seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of one item of a prescription medication tablet and one knife.
- (4) Not applicable, as per (2) above.
- (5) There were 602 drug tests carried out on prisoners at the Beechworth Correctional Centre.
- (6) Of the 602 tests conducted at the Beechworth Correctional Centre there were:
  - (a) 36 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) One drug test conducted on a prisoner who was an identified drug user;
  - (c) No drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) 29 drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception;
  - (e) 495 targeted drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (f) 41 drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests conducted on prisoners.
- (7) Of the 602 tests conducted at the Beechworth Correctional Centre there were:
  - (a) One positive random general drug test result returned;
  - (b) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) One positive drug test result returned for a prisoner tested at the time of reception; and
  - (d) Two positive drug test results for prisoners targeted to be tested.
- (8) The positive drug test results revealed the illicit use of opiates and cannabinoids.
- (9) There were 400 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband Beechworth Correctional Centre.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at the Beechworth Correctional Centre.

- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches the Beechworth Correctional Centre.

**Corrections: HM Prison Dhurringile — contraband and drug testing**

- 125. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Dhurringile Prison, since 1 December 2010:
- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
  - (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
  - (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
  - (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
    - (a) random general;
    - (b) random identified drug users;
    - (c) drug-free incentive program;
    - (d) reception;
    - (e) targeted;
    - (f) through programs; and
    - (g) voluntary testing.
  - (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
  - (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
  - (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
  - (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
  - (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at Dhurringile Prison:

- (1) Three items of contraband were seized from prisoners.
- (2) Five items of contraband were seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of one item of white powder, one item of prescription medication containing 30 tablets, and one syringe.
- (4) The contraband seized from visitors consisted of four alcohol-related items and one knife.
- (5) There were 351 drug tests carried out on prisoners at Dhurringile Prison.
- (6) Of the 351 tests conducted at Dhurringile Prison there were:
  - (a) 60 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) No drug tests conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;

- (d) 27 drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception;
  - (e) 255 targeted drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (f) Nine drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests conducted on prisoners.
- (7) Of the 351 tests conducted at Dhurringile Prison:
- (a) No positive random general drug test results for prisoners;
  - (b) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners tested at the time of their reception;
  - (c) Three positive drug test results for prisoners who were targeted to be tested; and
  - (d) One positive drug test result returned for prisoners through programs.
- (8) The positive drug test results revealed the illicit use of opiates, benzodiazepines and cannabinoids.
- (9) There were 359 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband at Dhurringile Prison.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at Dhurringile Prison.
- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at Dhurringile Prison.

**Corrections: Judy Lazarus Transition Centre — contraband and drug testing**

**127. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre, since 1 December 2010:

- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
- (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
- (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
- (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
  - (a) random general;
  - (b) random identified drug users;
  - (c) drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) reception;
  - (e) targeted;
  - (f) through programs; and
  - (g) voluntary testing.
- (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
- (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
- (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
- (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
- (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.



**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre:

- (1) There were four items of contraband seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were no items of contraband seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of one burnt CD, two Playstation games, and one poker chip set.
- (4) Not applicable, as per (2) above.
- (5) There were 1826 drug tests carried out on prisoners at the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre.
- (6) Of the 1826 tests conducted at the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre, there were:
  - (a) Nine random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) No drug tests conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) No drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception;
  - (e) No drug tests conducted on prisoners who were targeted to be tested;
  - (f) 1817 drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No drug tests conducted on prisoners through voluntary testing.
- (7) Of the 1826 tests conducted at the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre, there were:
  - (a) No positive random general drug test results; and
  - (b) One positive drug test result returned for a prisoner through programs.
- (8) The one positive drug test result revealed the illicit use of buprenorphine.
- (9) 187 cell searches were undertaken for contraband at the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre.
- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at the Judy Lazarus Transition Centre.

**Corrections: HM Prison Langi Kal Kal — contraband and drug testing**

- 128. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Langi Kal Kal Prison, since 1 December 2010:
- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
  - (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
  - (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
  - (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:

- (a) random general;
  - (b) random identified drug users;
  - (c) drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) reception;
  - (e) targeted;
  - (f) through programs; and
  - (g) voluntary testing.
- (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
- (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
- (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
- (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
- (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at Langi Kal Kal Prison:

- (1) There were no items of contraband seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were no items of contraband seized from visitors.
- (3) Not applicable, as per (1) above.
- (4) Not applicable, as per (2) above.
- (5) There were 280 drug tests carried out on prisoners at Langi Kal Kal Prison.
- (6) Of the 280 tests conducted at Langi Kal Kal Prison, there were:
  - (a) 36 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) No drug tests conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) Nine drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception at the location;
  - (e) 235 drug tests conducted on prisoners who were targeted to be tested;
  - (f) No drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests conducted on prisoners.
- (7) Of the 280 tests conducted at Langi Kal Kal Prison, there were:
  - (a) No positive random general drug test results;
  - (b) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners tested at the time of their reception at the location; and
  - (c) No positive drug test results for prisoners who were targeted to be tested.
- (8) Not applicable, as no positive results detected.
- (9) There were 757 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband at Langi Kal Kal Prison.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at Langi Kal Kal Prison.

- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at Langi Kal Kal Prison.

**Corrections: HM Prison Loddon — contraband and drug testing**

**129. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Loddon Prison, since 1 December 2010:

- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
- (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
- (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
- (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
  - (a) random general;
  - (b) random identified drug users;
  - (c) drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) reception;
  - (e) targeted;
  - (f) through programs; and
  - (g) voluntary testing.
- (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
- (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
- (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
- (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
- (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at Loddon Prison:

- (1) There were 11 items of contraband seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were two items of contraband seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of three syringes, five knives, two tool items and one smoking implement.
- (4) The contraband seized from visitors consisted of one item of prescription medication containing six tablets, and one knife.
- (5) There were 448 drug tests carried out on prisoners at Loddon Prison.
- (6) Of the 448 tests conducted at Loddon Prison, there were:
  - (a) 101 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) Five drug tests conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) One drug test conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;

- (d) 153 drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception;
  - (e) 168 drug tests conducted on prisoners who were targeted for testing;
  - (f) 20 drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests were conducted on prisoners.
- (7) Of the 448 tests conducted at Loddon Prison, there were:
- (a) One positive random general drug test result;
  - (b) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners participating in the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) Four positive drug test results returned for prisoners tested at the time of their reception;
  - (e) Two positive drug test results for prisoners who were targeted to be tested; and
  - (f) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners through programs.
- (8) The positive results revealed the illicit use of amphetamines, opiates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids and buprenorphine.
- (9) There were 2064 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband at Loddon Prison.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at Loddon Prison.
- (11) There is no data available for how many times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at Loddon Prison.

**Corrections: Melbourne Assessment Prison — contraband and drug testing**

- 131. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Melbourne Assessment Prison, since 1 December 2010:
- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
  - (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
  - (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
  - (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
  - (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
    - (a) random general;
    - (b) random identified drug users;
    - (c) drug-free incentive program;
    - (d) reception;
    - (e) targeted;
    - (f) through programs; and
    - (g) voluntary testing.
  - (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
  - (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
  - (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
  - (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.

(11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at the Melbourne Assessment Prison:

- (1) There were ten items of contraband seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were no items of contraband seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of one cannabinoid item, one smoking implement, one knife and seven tool items.
- (4) Not applicable, as per (2) above.
- (5) There were 156 drug tests carried out on prisoners at the Melbourne Assessment Prison.
- (6) Of the 156 tests conducted at the Melbourne Assessment Prison there were:
  - (a) 46 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) Seven drug tests were conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No drug tests were conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) 16 drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception;
  - (e) 87 drug tests conducted on prisoners who were targeted to be tested;
  - (f) No drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests conducted on prisoners.
- (7) Of the 156 tests conducted at the Melbourne Assessment Prison there were:
  - (a) Three positive random general drug test results returned for prisoners;
  - (b) Two positive drug test results returned for prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) Two positive drug test results returned for prisoners tested at the time of their reception; and
  - (d) 11 positive drug test results for prisoners who were targeted to be tested.
- (8) The positive test results revealed the illicit use of benzodiazepines, opiates, cannabinoids and anti-psychotics.
- (9) There were 1525 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband at the Melbourne Assessment Prison.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at the Melbourne Assessment Prison.
- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at the Melbourne Assessment Prison.

**Corrections: Metropolitan Remand Centre — contraband and drug testing**

**132. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to the Metropolitan Remand Centre, since 1 December 2010:

- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
- (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.

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- (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
- (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
  - (a) random general;
  - (b) random identified drug users;
  - (c) drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) reception;
  - (e) targeted;
  - (f) through programs; and
  - (g) voluntary testing.
- (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
- (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
- (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
- (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
- (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at the Metropolitan Remand Centre:

- (1) There were 32 items of contraband seized from prisoners.
- (2) There were six items of contraband seized from visitors.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of one cannabinoids item, three items of white powder, 10 items of prescription medication tablets, three home-made alcohol items, three syringes, two smoking implements, eight knives, and two batons.
- (4) The contraband seized from visitors consisted of three items of cannabinoids, one item of prescription medication containing 60 tablets, one syringe, and one smoking implement.
- (5) There were 738 drug tests carried out on prisoners at the Metropolitan Remand Centre.
- (6) Of the 738 tests conducted at the Metropolitan Remand Centre there were:
  - (a) 63 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) 26 drug tests conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) 34 drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) Nine drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception at the location;
  - (e) 606 targeted drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (f) No drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No voluntary drug tests conducted on prisoners.
- (7) Of the 738 tests conducted at the Metropolitan Remand Centre there were:
  - (a) Seven positive drug test results returned for prisoners as random general requests;

- (b) Three positive drug test results returned for prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No positive drug test results returned for prisoners participating in the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) One positive drug test result returned for prisoners tested at the time of their reception; and
  - (e) 39 positive drug test results for prisoners who were targeted to be tested.
- (8) The positive drug test results revealed the illicit use of amphetamines, opiates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids and buprenorphine.
- (9) There were 5124 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband at the Metropolitan Remand Centre.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at the Metropolitan Remand Centre.
- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at the Metropolitan Remand Centre.

**Corrections: HM Prison Tarregower — contraband and drug testing**

**134. MR JENNINGS** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to Tarregower Prison, since 1 December 2010:

- (1) How many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners.
- (2) How many items of contraband have been seized from visitors.
- (3) In relation to prisoners, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (4) In relation to visitors, what items and how many instances of each item of contraband have been detected.
- (5) How many drug tests have been carried out on prisoners.
- (6) Of these tests, how many were selected through the following categories:
  - (a) random general;
  - (b) random identified drug users;
  - (c) drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) reception;
  - (e) targeted;
  - (f) through programs; and
  - (g) voluntary testing.
- (7) Of these tests, how many have been found positive.
- (8) In the case of positive tests, what illegal substances were detected.
- (9) How many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken.
- (10) For each search, how many items of contraband were seized.
- (11) How many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

For the period 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011 at Tarregower Prison:

- (1) There were six items of contraband seized from prisoners.

- (2) There was one item of contraband seized from a visitor.
- (3) The contraband seized from prisoners consisted of one prescription medication tablet, three knives and two tools.
- (4) The contraband seized from a visitor was one tool.
- (5) There were 53 drug tests carried out on prisoners at Tarrengower Prison.
- (6) Of the 53 drug tests conducted, there were:
  - (a) 18 random general drug tests conducted on prisoners;
  - (b) No drug tests conducted on prisoners who were identified drug users;
  - (c) No drug tests conducted on prisoners as part of the drug-free incentive program;
  - (d) 12 drug tests conducted on prisoners at the time of their reception at the location;
  - (e) 23 drug tests conducted on prisoners who were targeted to be tested;
  - (f) No drug tests conducted on prisoners through programs; and
  - (g) No drug tests conducted on prisoners through voluntary testing.
- (7) There were no positive drug test results.
- (8) Not applicable, as per (7) above.
- (9) There were 498 searches, including cell searches, undertaken for contraband at Tarrengower Prison.
- (10) While seizures are recorded, there is currently no data available for how many items of contraband were seized per search at Tarrengower Prison.
- (11) There is no data available for the number of times canine teams have been used in contraband searches at Tarrengower Prison.

**Health: Ballarat Health Services — funding**

**142. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the minister sought and/or received departmental briefings on providing an additional —
  - (a) 20 doctors; and
  - (b) 80 additional nurses at Ballarat Health Services.
- (2) Has the minister sought and/or received departmental briefings on the capital works required for the provision of 60 additional beds at Ballarat Health Services.
- (3) Has the minister written to the Premier and/or the Treasurer asking that the additional \$88.4m to Ballarat Health Services be included in the 2011–12 state budget.
- (4) Has the provision of an additional \$88.4m to Ballarat Health Services 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 additional funding for Ballarat Health Services in 2011–12; if so, what was that formal action.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- The government is advancing the implementation of its election commitments and is being supported by all relevant departments, including the Department of Health.



**Health: Ballarat District Nursing and Healthcare — funding**

- 155. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the government’s commitment of \$1.8 million to Ballarat District Nursing and Healthcare:
- (1) Has the minister sought and/or received advice from the department 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.
    - (b) did the minister accept the recommendation.
  - (2) Has the minister written to the Premier and/or the Treasurer asking that the commitment be included in the 2011–12 state budget.
  - (3) Has the provision for the commitment 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 \$1.8 million in 2011–12; if so, what was that formal action.
  - (5) Will the proposed capital works for the Ballarat District Nursing and Healthcare be commenced in time for the centenary celebrations.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- The government is advancing the implementation of its election commitments and is being supported by all relevant departments, including the Department of Health.

**Environment and climate change: Alpine National Park — cattle grazing**

- 160. MR BARBER** — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*, in which it is an offence to conduct any scientific experiment involving animals without a scientific procedures field licence: Has the minister or the Department sought to obtain this licence at any point prior to, or following, the re-introduction of cattle to the Alpine National Park for the purposes of ‘scientific research’; if so, when did this occur and what are the results of the application; if not, what remedial course of action is going to apply.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The investigation into the effectiveness of fuel and fire management in Victoria’s high country, using the strategic cattle grazing research trial, does not require a scientific procedures field licence under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (the act).

The research being conducted does not fall within the definition of a ‘scientific procedure’ as defined under section 3(1) of the act.

When and if required, all animal ethics approvals for the long-term research trial will be obtained.

**Agriculture and food security: wild dogs and dingoes — control**

- 174. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the government’s intention to commence aerial baiting of wild dogs and the ecological function of dingoes:

- (1) Has the minister undertaken a comprehensive review of recent research that concludes that dingoes function ecologically to reduce the activity or abundance of mesopredators such as foxes.
- (2) Has the minister conducted research to determine if the population density of dingoes is ecologically effective in terms of their impact on mesopredators.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities.

**Corrections: female prisoners — numbers**

**176. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to the 2009 interdepartmental review into the 30 per cent increase in women’s imprisonment which resulted in more female prisoners in the Victorian criminal justice system than at any time since 1892:

- (1) Has the review been completed.
- (2) If the review has not been completed, what time frame has been given for its completion.
- (3) If the review has been completed, what were the main findings of the review as to an explanation for the sudden leap in women’s imprisonment.
- (4) Will the findings of the review be publicly available.
- (5) Will the minister respond to the findings and recommendations of the review.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) There was no interdepartmental review in 2009 into the increase in the number of women prisoners in Victoria.

As part of ongoing prison demand management, Corrections Victoria consulted with a number of stakeholders across the justice system in 2009–10 about factors underlying the growth, in Victoria, in the rate of increase in the women’s prisoner population. Key factors identified were:

- an increase in policing resources and operations focused on drug related crime;
- an increase in the seriousness of female offending behaviour; and
- an increase in the use of remand, as a consequence of offence type and seriousness.

- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) Not applicable.

**Corrections: Melbourne Assessment Prison — prisoner deaths**

**177. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to deaths in custody at the Melbourne Assessment Prison (MAP):

- (1) How many prisoner deaths occurred at MAP in 2009 and what were the dates of each death.
- (2) How many prisoner deaths occurred at MAP in 2008 and what were the dates of each death.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) In 2009, there were three prisoner deaths at the Melbourne Assessment Prison, which occurred on 8 March, 27 August and 27 December.
- (2) In 2008, there was one prisoner death at the Melbourne Assessment Prison, which occurred on 23 November.

**Roads: Ballarat-Buninyong Road — upgrade**

**180. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads): In relation to the proposal to provide \$4.5 million to upgrade Ballarat-Buninyong Road:

- (1) Has the minister sought, and received, advice from the Department of Transport on the upgrade; if so, did that advice recommend a time line for the upgrade, what date was recommended and did the minister accept the recommendation.
- (2) Has the minister asked that funds for the upgrade be included in the 2011–12 budget by writing to the —
  - (a) Premier; and
  - (b) Treasurer.
- (3) Has the provision of \$4.5 million for the upgrade 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 \$4.5 million for the upgrade in 2011–12.

**ANSWER:**

(1)-(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 budget will be presented on 3 May 2011 and will be subject to the usual legislative and public scrutiny.

**Education: Kyneton Secondary College — funding**

**182. MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to funding to upgrade Kyneton Secondary College:

- (1) Has the minister asked that funding be included in the 2011–12 Budget by writing to the —
  - (a) Premier; and
  - (b) Treasurer.
- (2) Has the provision of funding been included in any budget submission made by the minister for the 2011–12 budget.
- (3) Has the minister taken any formal action to ensure funding for the upgrade is provided in 2011–12.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The facilities upgrade at Kyneton Secondary College is referred to in the college's master plan. The plan has been funded and is a response to local discussions concerning the potential merging of Kyneton Secondary College and Kyneton Primary School.

Any announcements of funding will be made through a future state budget.

**Water: Melbourne Water — ministerial briefing**

**186. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Melbourne Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Melbourne Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Melbourne Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Southern Rural Water — ministerial briefing**

**187. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Southern Rural Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Southern Rural Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Southern Rural Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Goulburn Valley Water — ministerial briefing**

**188. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Goulburn Valley Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Goulburn Valley Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Goulburn Valley Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water — ministerial briefing**

**189. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Lower Murray Water — ministerial briefing**

**190. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Lower Murray Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Lower Murray Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Lower Murray Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Barwon Water — ministerial briefing**

**191. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Barwon Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Barwon Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Barwon Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Central Highlands Water — ministerial briefing**

**192. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Central Highlands Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Central Highlands Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Central Highlands Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Coliban Water — ministerial briefing**

**193. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Coliban Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Coliban Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Coliban Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: East Gippsland Water — ministerial briefing**

**194. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from East Gippsland Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from East Gippsland Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by East Gippsland Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Gippsland Water — ministerial briefing**

**195. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Gippsland Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Gippsland Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Gippsland Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Goulburn-Murray Water — ministerial briefing**

**196. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Goulburn-Murray Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Goulburn-Murray Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Goulburn-Murray Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: North East Water — ministerial briefing**

**197. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from North East Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from North East Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by North East Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: South Gippsland Water — ministerial briefing**

**198. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from South Gippsland Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from South Gippsland Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by South Gippsland Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Western Water — ministerial briefing**

**199. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Western Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Western Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Western Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Westernport Water — ministerial briefing**

**200. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Westernport Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Westernport Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Westernport Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Wannon Region Water Authority — ministerial briefing**

**201. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Wannon Region Water Authority.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Wannon Region Water Authority.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Wannon Region Water Authority.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: City West Water — ministerial briefing**

**202. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from City West Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from City West Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by City West Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: Yarra Valley Water — ministerial briefing**

**203. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):

- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from Yarra Valley Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from Yarra Valley Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by Yarra Valley Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.

**Water: South East Water — ministerial briefing**

**204. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water):



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- (1) Has the minister received a briefing from South East Water.
- (2) If not, has the minister requested a briefing from South East Water.
- (3) If no briefing has been requested, why has the minister not sought to be briefed by South East Water.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The minister receives briefings and requests briefings from the water authorities as required.