

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

23 and 24 October 2012

(Extract from book 17)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

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The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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Premier and Minister for the Arts	The Hon. E. N. Baillieu, MP
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Minister for Innovation, Services and Small Business, and Minister for Tourism and Major Events	The Hon. Louise Asher, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Finance	The Hon. R. W. Clark, MP
Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, and Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade	The Hon. R. A. G. Dalla-Riva, MLC
Minister for Health and Minister for Ageing	The Hon. D. M. Davis, MLC
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Minister for Planning	The Hon. M. J. Guy, MLC
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Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Roads	The Hon. T. W. Mulder, MP
Minister for Ports, Minister for Major Projects, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Minister for Gaming, Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. M. A. O'Brien, MP
Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	The Hon. E. J. Powell, MP
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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

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

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

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

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

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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 Carroll, Mr Foley 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.

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

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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'Donohue. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks, Ms Campbell, Mr Gidley, Mr Nardella, Dr Sykes 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

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FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Mr M. VINEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Crozier, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr O'Brien, Ms Pennicuik, Mr Ramsay, Mr Tarlamis

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The Hon. D. M. DAVIS

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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Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr David Roland Joseph	Western Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Hon. Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary	Northern Victoria	ALP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Davis, Hon. David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Davis, Mr Philip Rivers	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
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
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Tarlamis, Mr Lee Reginald	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
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, 23 October 2012

Finance: government departments — efficiency savings

8203. MR BARBER — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to the table displayed on page 2 of the 2011–12 Budget Efficiency Savings Background Brief detailing projected efficiency savings, what were the original spending costs for each of the measures listed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The original spending costs for each of the measures listed are not held by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

The summary of efficiency savings totalling \$1.569 billion was prepared prior to the 2010 state election by the Liberal-Nationals coalition in opposition, and was publicly released on 25 November 2010 along with coalition election policy commitment costings.

Original spending costs cannot be directly sourced from published departmental annual reports or the budget papers due to the way in which data is presented and categorised in these documents.

The government is committed to achieving the efficiency savings outlined in the 2011–12 budget and departmental budgets have been reduced accordingly.

Public Transport: rail — regional link

8517. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Regional Rail Link project, what will be the impact on freight movements through the RRL1 corridor from Deer Park to Sunshine.

ANSWER:

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

Rail freight operators currently use the track between Sunshine and Deer Park. These arrangements are expected to continue after the completion of the Regional Rail Link.

Public Transport: rail — regional link

8575. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Regional Rail Link Works bus replacement event on the Sydenham, Ballarat and Bendigo lines on the 10–12 August 2012:

- (1) Did the Department of Transport have a disability access plan for this bus replacement event.
- (2) Were customer service staff working at the bus replacement event qualified to determine the level of disability of commuters.
- (3) Were there commuters with disabilities who were unable to alight a bus and were left behind.
- (4) Were all commuters who requested a special needs seat provided with one.
- (5) How many customer complaints were submitted in relation to this bus replacement event.

- (6) Was there overcrowding on buses.

ANSWER:

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

(1-4)

Metro and V/Line were responsible for the operation of rail replacement buses and their staff assisted passengers during the bus replacement event. Staff have been trained to arrange alternative transportation on request if a bus is not wheelchair accessible or if the priority seating is fully occupied. Four passengers in wheelchairs were offered taxis when they were unable to board a bus. There are no records of any passengers requesting a special needs seat.

(5) Seven

- (6) Buses by definition cannot be overcrowded as they are licensed to carry a specific number of passengers. Metro advises that 23 per cent of all rail replacement buses that operated over the weekend were at capacity. V/Line has advised that patronage on the weekend of the rail replacement was down 27 per cent as compared to the average weekend patronage in August.

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.*

Wednesday, 24 October 2012

Housing: minister’s office — staff

360. Hon. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Housing: What is the total number of staff employed in their ministerial office as at 5 April 2011 and the total number of staff (including ministerial staff and staff seconded from departments) that have worked in the minister’s private office at any time during the period between 2 December 2010 and 5 April 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Further to the answer to question no. 673 tabled on 13 October 2011, the following information is provided.

The total number of ministerial staff and seconded departmental staff employed in the private offices of all ministers and parliamentary secretaries is summarised as follows:

- a. As at 30 June 2006, there was a total of 212 staff;
- b. As at 30 June 2007, there was a total of 214 staff;
- c. As at 30 June 2008, there was a total of 210 staff;
- d. As at 30 June 2009, there was a total of 210 staff; and
- e. As at 30 June 2010, there was a total of 212 staff.

The total number of ministerial staff and seconded departmental staff employed in each private office is as follows (please note that data as at 30 June 2006 can only be identified per portfolio rather than as individual ministerial offices):

Minister	30-Jun-06
Premier’s office	72
Arts, Women’s Affairs	4
Aged Care, Aboriginal Affairs	6
Agriculture	3
Attorney-General, Industrial Relations	10
Community Services, Children	5
Deputy Premier	7
Educational Services, Employment & Youth	8
Education & Training	7
Energy, Industry & Resources	6
Finance, Major Projects	10
Gaming & Racing, Tourism	7
Health	9

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Wednesday, 24 October 2012

Minister	30-Jun-06
Premier's office	72
Information & Communications, Consumer Affairs	6
Local Government	6
Manufacturing & Exports, Small Business	7
Police & Emergency Services	9
Sport & Recreation, Commonwealth Games	7
Transport	10
Treasurer, Innovation, S&RD	10
Parliamentary Secretary to Cabinet	3
Total	212

Minister	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-08	30-Jun-09	30-Jun-10
Premier's office	73	49	49	52
Hon. Jacinta Allan	8	8	7	8
Hon. Daniel Andrews	5	10	10	9
Hon. Peter Batchelor	10	10	10	9
Hon. John Brumby	9			
Hon. Bob Cameron	5	6	6	7
Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio				6
Hon. Joe Helper	7	7	9	8
Hon. Tim Holding	8	11	11	12
Hon. Rob Hulls	8	10	9	9
Hon. Gavin Jennings	7	11	10	9
Hon. Lynne Kosky	8	6	7	
Hon. John Lenders	9	8	10	10
Hon. Justin Madden	7	9	9	9
Hon. James Merlino	6	6	7	7
Hon. Maxine Morand		5	5	6
Hon. Lisa Neville	7	10	9	8
Hon. Martin Pakula			6	8
Hon. Tim Pallas	5	8	9	8
Hon. Bronwyn Pike	8	9	9	9
Hon. Tony Robinson		8	8	8
Hon. Theo Theophanous	9	9		
Hon. John Thwaites	7			
Hon. Richard Wynne	5	8	8	8
Parliamentary Secretary to Cabinet	3	2	2	2
Total	214	210	210	212

For ease of comparison, the total number of ministerial staff employed in the private offices of all ministers is summarised as follows, as at 5 April 2011:

Premier's office	29
Hon. Peter Ryan	10
Hon. Louise Asher	5
Hon. Robert Clark	3
Hon. Richard Dalla-Riva	4
Hon. David Davis	5
Hon. Hugh Delahunty	3
Hon. Martin Dixon	4
Hon. Matthew Guy	4
Hon. Peter Hall	4
Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras	5
Hon. Wendy Lovell	5
Hon. Andrew McIntosh	4
Hon. Terry Mulder	4
Hon. Dr Denis Napthine	4
Hon. Michael O'Brien	5
Hon. Jeanette Powell	4
Hon. Gordon Rich-Phillips	2
Hon. Ryan Smith	5
Hon. Peter Walsh	5
Hon. Kim Wells	4
Hon. Mary Wooldridge	4
Cabinet office	4
Total	126

Children and early childhood development: minister's office — staff

440. Hon. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister's private office and their position titles as at 5 April 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Further to the answer to question no. 673 tabled on 13 October 2011 and the answer to question no. 347 tabled on 28 March 2012 the following information is provided.

The total number of ministerial staff and seconded departmental staff employed in the private offices of all ministers and parliamentary secretaries is summarised as follows:

- a. As at 30 June 2006, there was a total of 212 staff;
- b. As at 30 June 2007, there was a total of 214 staff;
- c. As at 30 June 2008, there was a total of 210 staff;

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

- d. As at 30 June 2009, there was a total of 210 staff; and
- e. As at 30 June 2010, there was a total of 212 staff.

The total number of ministerial staff and seconded departmental staff employed in each private office is as follows (please note that data as at 30 June 2006 can only be identified per portfolio rather than as individual ministerial offices):

Minister	30-Jun-06
Premier's office	72
Arts, Women's Affairs	4
Aged Care, Aboriginal Affairs	6
Agriculture	3
Attorney-General, Industrial Relations	10
Community Services, Children	5
Deputy Premier	7
Educational Services, Employment & Youth	8
Education & Training	7
Energy, Industry & Resources	6
Finance, Major Projects	10
Gaming & Racing, Tourism	7
Health	9
Information & Communications, Consumer Affairs	6
Local Government	6
Manufacturing & Exports, Small Business	7
Police & Emergency Services	9
Sport & Recreation, Commonwealth Games	7
Transport	10
Treasurer, Innovation, S&RD	10
Parliamentary Secretary to Cabinet	3
Total	212

Minister	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-08	30-Jun-09	30-Jun-10
Premier's office	73	49	49	52
Hon. Jacinta Allan	8	8	7	8
Hon. Daniel Andrews	5	10	10	9
Hon. Peter Batchelor	10	10	10	9
Hon. John Brumby	9			
Hon. Bob Cameron	5	6	6	7
Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio				6
Hon. Joe Helper	7	7	9	8
Hon. Tim Holding	8	11	11	12
Hon. Rob Hulls	8	10	9	9
Hon. Gavin Jennings	7	11	10	9
Hon. Lynne Kosky	8	6	7	

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 24 October 2012

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Minister	30-Jun-07	30-Jun-08	30-Jun-09	30-Jun-10
Hon. John Lenders	9	8	10	10
Hon. Justin Madden	7	9	9	9
Hon. James Merlino	6	6	7	7
Hon. Maxine Morand		5	5	6
Hon. Lisa Neville	7	10	9	8
Hon. Martin Pakula			6	8
Hon. Tim Pallas	5	8	9	8
Hon. Bronwyn Pike	8	9	9	9
Hon. Tony Robinson		8	8	8
Hon. Theo Theophanous	9	9		
Hon. John Thwaites	7			
Hon. Richard Wynne	5	8	8	8
Parliamentary Secretary to Cabinet	3	2	2	2
Total	214	210	210	212

For ease of comparison, the total number of ministerial staff employed in the private offices of all ministers is summarised as follows, as at 5 April 2011:

Premier's office	29
Hon. Peter Ryan	10
Hon. Louise Asher	5
Hon. Robert Clark	3
Hon. Richard Dalla-Riva	4
Hon. David Davis	5
Hon. Hugh Delahunty	3
Hon. Martin Dixon	4
Hon. Matthew Guy	4
Hon. Peter Hall	4
Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras	5
Hon. Wendy Lovell	5
Hon. Andrew McIntosh	4
Hon. Terry Mulder	4
Hon. Dr Denis Napthine	4
Hon. Michael O'Brien	5
Hon. Jeanette Powell	4
Hon. Gordon Rich-Phillips	2
Hon. Ryan Smith	5
Hon. Peter Walsh	5
Hon. Kim Wells	4
Hon. Mary Wooldridge	4
Cabinet office	4
Total	126

Youth affairs: minister's office — staff

462. Hon. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Housing (for the Minister for Youth Affairs): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the minister's private office and their position titles as at 5 April 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As at 5 April 2011 there were no departmental staff seconded to my ministerial office from the Department of Human Services.

There was one staff member from the department working in my office as a department liaison officer.

Ageing: ministerial visits — city of Ballarat

630. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Ageing: 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 have visited numerous municipalities and communities throughout regional and country Victoria during the specific periods and in the course of doing so I have undertaken a number of engagements.

Health: ministerial visits — city of Ballarat

644. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Health: 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 have visited numerous municipalities and communities throughout regional and country Victoria during the specific periods and in the course of doing so I have undertaken a number of engagements.

Water: Mordialloc Creek — dredging

8555. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the Mordialloc Creek dredging:

- (1) What is the total dollar commitment made to the Mordialloc Creek dredging in the:
 - (a) 2011–12 budget;
 - (b) 2012–13 budget; and

- (c) 2012–13 budget forecast for 2013–14.
- (2) What is the total dollar expenditure made by the government so far on stage 2 of the Mordialloc Creek dredging.
- (3) What is the total dollar commitment made to Kingston City Council or their representatives for Mordialloc Creek dredging by the government.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In relation to the information requested on the Mordialloc Creek dredging:

- (1) (a) \$2.0 million has been allocated in 2011–12;
- (b) \$2.0 million has been allocated in 2012–13; and
- (c) \$2.0 million has been allocated in 2013–14.
- (2) The Department of Sustainability and Environment is providing funding to the Kingston City Council to undertake stage 2 of the Mordialloc Creek dredging, with funding allocations of \$2.0 million per annum in 2012–13 and 2013–14. The balance of \$2.0 million in 2011–12 was for stage 1 of the project.
- (3) A total of \$6 million has been committed to Kingston City Council for Mordialloc Creek dredging by the government.

Public Transport: tolls — Dingley bypass

8577. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): Given that the Premier ruled out tolling existing road projects in his interview with an ABC 774 program, will the minister:

- (a) categorically rule out tolling any part of the Dingley Arterial; and
- (b) confirm that no government department has produced information on tolling the Dingley Arterial.

ANSWER:

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

The government has no plans to introduce tolls on the Dingley Arterial. I remind the member that it was the former government that ruled out tolls on the Scoresby freeway and then reversed that decision.

Public Transport: tolls — Dingley bypass

8578. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): Given that the Premier ruled out tolling existing road projects in his interview with an ABC 774 program, will the Minister:

- (a) categorically rule out tolling any part of the South Road extension and Dandenong Bypass; and
- (b) confirm that no government department has produced information on tolling the South Road extension and Dandenong Bypass.

ANSWER:

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

The government has no plans to introduce tolls on the South Road extension and Dandenong Bypass. I remind the member that it was the former government that ruled out tolls on the Scoresby freeway and then reversed that decision.

Public Transport: tolls — Peninsula Link

8579. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): Given that the Premier ruled out tolling existing road projects in his interview with an ABC 774 program, will the Minister:

- (a) categorically rule out tolling any part of the Peninsula Link; and
- (b) confirm that no government department has produced information on tolling the Peninsula Link.

ANSWER:

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

The government has no plans to introduce tolls on the Peninsula Link. I remind the member that it was the former government that ruled out tolls on the Scoresby freeway and then reversed that decision.

Public Transport: tolls — Western Port Highway–South Gippsland Freeway

8580. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): Given that the Premier ruled out tolling existing road projects in his interview with an ABC 774 program, will the Minister:

- (a) categorically rule out tolling any part of the Western Port Highway–South Gippsland Freeway; and
- (b) confirm that no government department has produced information on tolling the Western Port Highway–South Gippsland Freeway.

ANSWER:

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

The government has no plans to introduce tolls on the Western Port Highway–South Gippsland Freeway. I remind the member that it was the former government that ruled out tolls on the Scoresby freeway and then reversed that decision.

Public Transport: tolls — Monash Freeway

8581. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport): Given that the Premier ruled out tolling existing road projects in his interview with an ABC 774 program, will the Minister:

- (a) categorically rule out tolling any part of the Monash Freeway east of Warrigal Road; and
- (b) confirm that no government department has produced information on tolling the Monash Freeway east of Warrigal Road.

ANSWER:

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

The government has no plans to introduce tolls on the Monash Freeway east of Warrigal Road. I remind the member that it was the former government that ruled out tolls on the Scoresby freeway and then reversed that decision.

Community Services: training programs — Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre

8582. MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre:

- (1) Of the 45 new beds to be added to the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre, how many will be used for 18–21 year old juvenile offenders being held on remand.
- (2) What progress has been made on the plan to develop an industry, employment and training option for young people at this centre and when will it be ready.
- (3) Will young people on remand be able to access these programs.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Young people aged over 18 years are remanded by the Courts to the adult prison system. Therefore, none of the 45 new beds will be used for 18–21 year olds being held on remand.
- (2) The Industry Employment and Training Program has commenced at Malmsbury with clients actively engaged in three streams; Grounds Maintenance, Painting and Decorating, and Community Work. Those clients who are assessed as suitable have access to these programs.
- (3) Malmsbury accommodates 18–21 year old offenders sentenced under the dual track system to a youth justice centre. Malmsbury does not accommodate young people on remand.

Community Services: training programs — Parkville Youth Residential Centre

8583. **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to the Parkville Youth Residential Centre: Will young people on remand be able to access these programs.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Parkville Youth Residential Centre (PYRC) accommodates young people aged from 10 to 15 years of age who have been remanded or sentenced by the Courts to a youth residential centre.

The focus for young people of this age is on education as required under the *Education & Training Reform Act 2006*, and the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development are working together to ensure these young people have access to a high quality education while in custody.

In 2013, a fully integrated education model will be introduced across all youth justice centres in Victoria. This model will provide enhanced tailored education for young people who have previously been excluded from mainstream education. In the short period that the interim model has been running there is reported improvements of up to two years in students' level of literacy and numeracy. The school forms a central component of an Education Framework which will include TAFEs and other educational providers.

PYJP also houses young women aged between 18 and 21, who have been sentenced under the dual track system. While general education including literacy and numeracy is critical for these young women, the focus is on pathways to employment through the completion of relevant articulated TAFE certificates courses.

These educational programs are provided for young people on remand.

Community Services: youth justice facilities — assaults

8584. **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development (for the Minister for Community Services): In relation to assaults occurring in Victoria's youth justice facilities:

- (1) How many assaults occurred in 2011 involving:
 - (a) clients;
 - (b) staff; and
 - (c) visitors.

- (2) How many assaults occurred between 1 January 2012 and 30 June 2012 involving:
- (a) clients;
 - (b) staff; and
 - (c) visitors.

ANSWER:

I am informed that in relation to assaults in Victoria’s youth justice facilities:

- (1) The number of alleged assaults occurring in 2011 were:
- (a) and (b) 88 client to client; 26 client to staff; 4 staff to client
 - (c) nil
- (2) The number of alleged assaults occurring between 1 January 2012 and 30 June 2012 were:
- (a) and (b) 22 client to client; 2 client to staff; 3 staff to client
 - (c) nil

Children and Early Childhood Development: kindergarten grants — recipients

8590. MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: In relation to your announcement on 30 May 2012 of the recipients of the last funding round of kindergarten capital grants:

- (1) Can you provide a list of the successful grant recipients and the amount received for —
- (a) integrated Children’s Centres; and
 - (b) renovation and refurbishment grants.

ANSWER:

I am informed the following projects received a grant from the 2011–12 Children’s Facilities Capital Program.

Children’s Facilities Capital Program-2011–12 Integrated Children’s Centre grants

Centre Name	Grant Amount Received
Avoca Children’s and Family Centre	\$529 901
Barwon Heads Kindergarten	\$1 000 000
Banyan Fields Child and Family Centre	\$1 297 200
Kathleen Millikan Children’s Centre	\$600 000
Newbury Child and Community Centre	\$1 069 000
Grovedale Early Learning Hub	\$2 000 000
Olympic Village Preschool	\$840 000
Leopold Community and Children’s Centre	\$1 500 000
Botanica Springs Children’s & Community Centre	\$1 500 000
Parkdale Integrated Children’s Hub	\$1 500 000
Orbost Pre School	\$166 400
Henry Road East Integrated Children’s Centre	\$1 469 580
Alamanda Early Years Centre	\$1 432 000
Keon Park Community Centre	\$1 500 000
Yarram District Hub	\$1 107 605

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Children's Facilities Capital Program-2011-12 Early Learning Facility Upgrade grants

Centre Name	Grant Amount Received
St Andrew's Anglican Kindergarten Aberfeldie Inc.	\$300 000
Gum Nut Preschool & Childcare	\$300 000
Carey Street Kindergarten	\$144 759
Baxter Preschool	\$300 000
Beechworth Montessori Children's Group	\$300 000
Kardina Kids Early Learning and Care	\$300 000
Bonbeach Preschool	\$300 000
Woodhouse Grove Kindergarten	\$300 000
Brighton Baptist Kindergarten Inc.	\$200 500
Brown Hill Kindergarten	\$300 000
Buninyong Kindergarten	\$300 000
Kororoit Creek Early Learning Centre	\$300 000
South Castlemaine Kindergarten	\$300 000
Evesham Road Kindergarten	\$300 000
Anne Sgro Children's Centre	\$300 000
Barry Beckett Children's Centre	\$300 000
Coburg Children's Centre Incorporated	\$300 000
Heritage Preschool	\$300 000
Sunnyside Kindergarten	\$300 000
Epping Preschool	\$300 000
Fawkner Kindergarten Inc.	\$300 000
Hopetoun Children's Centre	\$300 000
Geelong West Kindergarten	\$300 000
Bestchance Child Family Care	\$300 000
Glenroy North Kindergarten Inc.	\$300 000
Tender Loving Care Early Learning Centre	\$300 000
Livingston Kindergarten	\$230 600
Parkwood Green Children's and Community Centre	\$300 000
Horsham North Kindergarten	\$276 298
Gannawarra Shire Children's Centre	\$205 775
J. J. McMahon Memorial Kindergarten	\$300 000
Keysborough Kindergarten	\$210 540
Lady Brooks Kindergarten	\$300 000
Macedon Kindergarten	\$100 000
Glassford Kindergarten	\$299 700
McKinnon Kindergarten	\$300 000
Mernda Villages Kindergarten	\$300 000
Pasadena Preschool Centre	\$300 000
Blossom Park Kindergarten	\$300 000
The Heights Kindergarten	\$300 000
Kids Time Early Learning Centre (Moorabbin)	\$300 000

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Centre Name	Grant Amount Received
St Augustine's Anglican Kindergarten	\$300 000
Balcombe Preschool	\$75 500
Mt Clear Community Kindergarten	\$300 000
Natimuk Kindergarten	\$195 478
Heatherhill Kindergarten	\$300 000
Hotham Hub Children's Centre	\$300 000
Lady Huntingfield Children's Centre	\$276 000
Westgarth Kindergarten	\$300 000
Mt Pleasant Road Kindergarten	\$300 000
Little Saints Early Learning Centre	\$300 000
Jamieson Way Kindergarten	\$38 404
Nara Community Early Learning Centre	\$300 000
Darebin Childcare and Kindergarten Inc. — Reservoir	\$300 000
Richmond Crèche and Kindergarten Inc.	\$300 000
Ringwood Uniting Church Preschool	\$300 000
Pinemont Pre-School	\$196 685
Taralla Kindergarten	\$300 000
Murrindal Children and Family Centre	\$300 000
Rutherglen Kindergarten	\$293 602
Somerville Preschool	\$300 000
Dot 2 Dot Early Learning Centre	\$300 000
South Morang Preschool-Mill Park Lakes	\$300 000
Darren Reserve Kindergarten	\$300 000
Springvale South Kindergarten	\$300 000
St Arnaud Children' Precinct	\$300 000
Sunningdale Avenue Children's Centre	\$300 000
Jigsaw Childcare	\$300 000
Surrey Hills Baptist Children's Centre	\$300 000
Swifts Creek Kindergarten	\$83 071
Tarneit Kindergarten	\$34 022
Torquay Kindergarten	\$500 000
Oak Street Kindergarten	\$300 000
Warragul Community Kindergarten	\$300 000
King's College Early Years Centre	\$300 000
Wendouree Children's Services	\$300 000
Yuille Park Children's Centre	\$300 000
Quantin Binnah Community Centre Inc.	\$300 000
Stanley Street Preschool	\$300 000
Kids On Campus	\$299 397
White Road Kindergarten	\$300 000
Woodend Kindergarten	\$300 000

Children and Early Childhood Development: TAFE courses — federal funding

8597. MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: In relation to the federal government’s allocation of \$126.6 million nationally over four years to support the training and retention of more, better qualified early childhood professionals:

- (1) How much was allocated to Victoria in the 2010–11 financial year.
- (2) How much was allocated to Victoria in the 2011–12 financial year.
- (3) How much will be allocated to Victoria in the 2012–13 financial year.
- (4) Was any of this funding to Victoria in respect of anything other than TAFE fee waivers for child care qualifications and if so, what was it for.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Victoria’s share of the funding under the TAFE fee waiver initiative was \$5 586 946.39 in the 2010–11 financial year.
- (2) In the 2011–12 financial year Victoria’s share of the funding under the TAFE fee waiver initiative was \$5 371 109.72.
- (3) In the 2012–13 financial year Victoria’s share of the funding under the TAFE fee waiver initiative was \$9 068 825.08.
- (4) In addition to TAFE fee waivers for child care qualifications, funding went to university places and targeted HECS-HELP supports. Data is not available on funding received by each jurisdiction for these initiatives.

Agriculture and Food Security: big cats — livestock attacks

8599. MR LENDERS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): What was the number of ‘big cat’ attacks on livestock reported to the Department of Primary Industries in:

- (a) 2010;
- (b) 2011; and
- (c) 2012, to the date of this question.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) does not invite landholders to report ‘big cat’ or for that matter fox attacks on livestock in the way DPI support or encourage landowners to report wild dog attacks.

Property owners are encouraged to make their own arrangements for the control of foxes, including through integrated community campaign, and as a result DPI is not advised of many instances of fox predation on livestock. Similarly, landowners may not report suspected livestock kills by ‘big cats’ as there is no specific program or service offer for post-attack investigation, tracking or trapping of suspect ‘big cat’ incidents.

The government does offer a specific post-attack service to support farmers affected by wild dogs in East Gippsland and North East Victoria. This service is resourced by a network of skilled wild dog controllers who will respond to requests for assistance with reactive tracking, trapping and hunting of wild dogs.

In the context that DPI does not invite reports of suspected ‘big cat’ attacks on livestock, there were the following reports:

- (a) 2010 — 0
- (b) 2011 — 0
- (c) 2012 to the date of this question — 0

Agriculture and Food Security: big cats — sightings

8601. MR LENDERS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): What was the number of ‘big cat’ sightings or complaints made to the Department of Primary Industries in:

- (a) 2010;
- (b) 2011; and
- (c) 2012, to the date of this question.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (a) 2010 — 0
- (b) 2011 — 3
- (c) 2012 to the date of this question — 9.

Agriculture and Food Security: big cats — investigation

8683. MS TIERNEY — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the Baillieu government’s funding to investigate the existence of ‘big cats’ in Victoria:

- (1) How many departmental staff will be involved in the Baillieu government’s investigation.
- (2) What will be the total cost of this investigation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The desktop study was undertaken by the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research.
- (2) The cost of the study was \$15 000.

Agriculture and Food Security: National Centre for Farmer Health — funding

8692. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the funding of the National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH):

- (1) What initiatives is the government funding to support preventative health for farmers.
- (2) What cost to the government would a replacement program or initiative be.
- (3) Despite the potential to deliver workshops, information and research findings to farmers in every state of Australia, has the NCFH delivered a financial return to the Victorian government; if so, is the government concerned that the other states of Australia benefit from the ground-breaking research in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities. It falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for Health.

Agriculture and Food Security: National Centre for Farmer Health — funding

8696. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the funding of the National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH):

- (1) How many farming families outside of Victoria benefit from the NCFH.
- (2) How many farming families and/or communities in Victoria benefit from the NCFH.
- (3) How many health assessments have been conducted in Victoria through the Sustainable Farm Families (SFF) program.
- (4) How many health assessments have been conducted outside of Victoria through the SFF program.
- (5) What percentage of the NCFH's overall budget is spent outside of Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were:

Questions 1, 2, and 5 does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities. It falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for Health.

- (3) 2254 health assessments conducted in Victoria through the SFF program.
- (4) 330 health assessments conducted outside of Victoria through the SFF program.

Higher Education and Skills: National Centre for Farmer Health — Deakin University course

8697. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills: In relation to the partnership involving the National Centre for Farmer Health and Deakin University Agricultural Health and Medicine course:

- (1) How many students from outside of Victoria were/are enrolled in the course.
- (2) How many students from Victoria were/are enrolled in the course.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Graduate Certificate Course of Agricultural Health and Medicine (Course Code H5221) commenced in 2012 (academic year).

- (1) There are 2 students from outside Victoria enrolled in this course 2012.
- (2) There are also 2 students from within Victoria enrolled in this course in 2012.

Regional and Rural Development: National Centre for Farmer Health — Deakin University course

8698. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the partnership involving the National Centre for Farmer Health and Deakin University Agricultural Health and Medicine course:

- (1) How many students from outside of Victoria were/are enrolled in the course.
- (2) How many students from Victoria were/are enrolled in the course.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) As of September 2012, 31 students from outside Victoria have been enrolled in the course; and
- (2) 52 students from Victoria have been enrolled in the course.

Regional and Rural Development: National Centre for Farmer Health — diabetes prevention program

8700. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Regional and Rural Development): In relation to the Rural and Regional Committee’s recommendation, made in its report on the Extent and Nature of Disadvantage and Inequity in Rural and Regional Victoria, that the government fast-track a public health campaign on diabetes among farming communities:

- (1) Has this occurred.
- (2) Who is delivering this campaign.
- (3) What are the features of this campaign.
- (4) Will the National Centre for Farmer Health continue to play a role in the Life! program.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The government’s response to recommendation 38 was tabled in Parliament on 8 December 2011 and stated: ‘The 2011 budget provided funding of \$22.2 million over four years to continue the Life! program, which provides a statewide diabetes prevention program in partnership with the National Centre for Farmer Health/Sustainable Farm Families. The program will be further developed and promoted to include a focus on preventing cardiovascular disease’.
- (2) The Life! program operates statewide and is delivered by Diabetes Australia — Victoria.
- (3) The Life! program features targeted lifestyle behaviour change courses for Victorian adults at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease (CVD) to help reduce their risk and to raise community awareness of diabetes and CVD, including its prevention.
- (4) I am advised that the Life! program has established links with the National Centre for Farmer Health to improve the reach of the program into Victorian farming communities. Activities include promoting the Life! telephone health coaching service as an accessible alternative to the group-based course and promoting diabetes awareness at the community level at annual rural health exhibitions and conferences.

Agriculture and Food Security: National Centre for Farmer Health — diabetes prevention program

8701. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the Rural and Regional Committee’s recommendation,

made in its report on the Extent and Nature of Disadvantage and Inequity in Rural and Regional Victoria, that the government fast-track a public health campaign on diabetes among farming communities:

- (1) Has this occurred.
- (2) Who is delivering this campaign.
- (3) What are the features of this campaign.
- (4) Will the National Centre for Farmer Health continue to play a role in the Life! program.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities. It falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for Health.

