

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 12 December 2012

(Extract from book 20)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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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
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Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.	The Hon. E. J. Powell, MP
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Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water.	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Community Services.	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Mr D. J. Hodgett, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. 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

Legislative Council standing committees

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.

Participating member

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, Mr Ramsay, Mr Tarlamis

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Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. W. A. LOVELL

Leader of the Opposition:

Mr J. LENDERS

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

Mr G. JENNINGS

Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. R. HALL

Deputy Leader of The Nationals:

Mr D. DRUM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
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Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Lovell, Hon. Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
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.*

Wednesday, 12 December 2012

Ageing: minister's office — staff

435. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Ageing: 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:

0 departmental staff were seconded to the Ministers private office as at 5 April 2011.

Ageing: minister's office — car parking spaces

468. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Ageing:

- (1) What was the number of car parking spaces allocated to the Minister's office as at 5 April 2011.
- (2) What was the cost of car parking spaces allocated to the Minister's office as at 5 April 2011.
- (3) What was the market value of car parking spaces allocated to the Minister's office as at 5 April 2011.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Further to the answer to question on notice no. 674, tabled on 28 February 2012, the following information is provided on the costs of car parking spaces allocated to ministerial offices from 2005–06.

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	14	\$84 963
2006–07	14	\$88 502
2007–08	14	\$92 190
2008–09	14	\$96 030
2009–10	14	\$100 032

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	8	\$10 311
2006–07	7	\$35 568
2007–08	8	\$43 498
2008–09	7	\$39 997

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<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2009–10	12	\$70 180

COMMUNITY SERVICES

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	6	\$7733
2006–07	5	\$25 405
2007–08	0	\$0
2008–09	0	\$0
2009–10	0	\$0

HOUSING

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	6	\$7733
2006–07	4	\$20 324
2007–08	5	\$27 186
2008–09	5	\$28 569
2009–10	6	\$35 090

AGED CARE

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	6	\$7733
2006–07	6	\$30 487
2007–08	6	\$32 624
2008–09	6	\$34 284
2009–10	5	\$29 242

MENTAL HEALTH, Children

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	0	\$0
2006–07	3	\$15 244
2007–08	0	\$0
2008–09	0	\$0
2009–10	0	\$0

MENTAL HEALTH, Senior Victorians, Community Services

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	0	\$0
2006–07	0	\$0
2007–08	7	\$38 061
2008–09	9	\$51 426
2009–10	8	\$46 787

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005-06	5	\$23 100
2006-07	14	\$64 680
2007-08	14	\$70 027
2008-09	14	\$69 720
2009-10	14	\$69 720

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005-06	15	\$68 400
2006-07	12	\$61 517
2007-08	28	\$149 530
2008-09	29	\$166 304
2009-10	25	\$119 109

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PLANNING

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005-06	10	\$45 600
2006-07	10	\$51 264
2007-08	10	\$51 264
2008-09	10	\$54 813
2009-10	10	\$57 266

SPORT AND RECREATION

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005-06	7	\$33 574
2006-07	7	\$34 792
2007-08	7	\$36 054
2008-09	7	\$37 361
2009-10	7	\$38 716

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005-06	0	\$0
2006-07	0	\$0
2007-08	0	\$0
2008-09	0	\$0
2009-10	5	\$15 056

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

ROADS AND PORTS

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	4	\$25 668
2006–07	2	\$13 720
2007–08	8	\$41 148
2008–09	7	\$41 472
2009–10	7	\$41 507

TRANSPORT

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	3	\$19 248
2006–07	1	\$2947
2007–08	10	\$51 430
2008–09	5	\$29 616
2009–10	6	\$35 577

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	13	\$52 767
2006–07	23	\$99 360
2007–08	21	*
2008–09	21	\$106 588
2009–10	18	\$89 251

*No cost available

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	5	*
2006–07	6	\$32 832
2007–08	7	\$38 304
2008–09	2	\$11 352
2009–10	2	\$12 144

*Parking managed as part of rental — no cost recorded

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	2	*
2006–07	6	\$32 832
2007–08	6	\$32 832
2008–09	6	\$28 143
2009–10	7	\$32 834

*Parking managed as part of rental — no cost recorded

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 12 December 2012

COUNCIL

5679

POLICE, CORRECTIONS AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	3	*
2006–07	3	\$11 160
2007–08	6	\$31 080
2008–09	6	\$32 100
2009–10	8	\$48 576

*Parking managed as part of rental — no cost recorded

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PREMIER

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	3	\$2836
2006–07	6	\$7486
2007–08	7	\$23 090
2008–09	6	\$20 922
2009–10	6	\$19 494

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	67	\$241 082
2006–07	70	\$240 516
2007–08	54	\$259 491
2008–09	51	\$243 929
2009–10	53	\$199 757

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	7	\$34 354
2006–07	6	\$33 017
2007–08	6	\$5453*
2008–09	0	\$0
2009–10	0	\$0

*Until September 2007

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2005–06	6	\$20 568
2006–07	6	\$20 364
2007–08	11	\$47 108
2008–09	8	\$26 826

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COUNCIL

Wednesday, 12 December 2012

<i>Financial Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2009–10	7	\$24 346

PERIOD FROM 2 DEC 2010 TO 5 APRIL 2011

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	14	\$34 257.00

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MENTAL HEALTH, WOMEN’S AFFAIRS and COMMUNITY SERVICES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	7	\$16 100.00

HOUSING and CHILDREN AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	3	\$6900.00

HEALTH and AGEING

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	8	\$18 400.00

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	5	\$8300.00

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	7	\$13 589.24

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

SPORT, RECREATION, VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	3	\$6900.00

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	6	\$14 179.80

PLANNING

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	7	\$16 131.85

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

PORTS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	3	\$5633.54

ROADS and TRANSPORT

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	4	\$7682.10

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	8	\$24 578.40

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	5	\$11 507.55

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PREMIER

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	5	\$7839.00

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	20	\$24 567.00

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR FINANCE

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	0	\$0

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER

<i>Year</i>	<i>Car Spaces</i>	<i>Total Cost</i>
2 Dec 2010–5 April 2011	2	\$3301.00

Health: National Centre for Farmer Health — diabetes prevention program

8699. **MS PULFORD** — To ask the Minister for Health: 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 also raises community awareness of diabetes and CVD 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: MyEnvironment Inc. — payment

8705. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the retraction and apology to MyEnvironment Inc. in relation to the Minister's media release of 14 March 2012, was there any financial settlement paid to MyEnvironment Inc., and if so, what was the quantum of the settlement.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Under the terms of the settlement, I am not permitted to address the matters raised by Mr Pakula's question due to my obligations of confidentiality.

Agriculture and food security: MyEnvironment Inc. — payment

8706. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to the retraction and apology to MyEnvironment Inc. in relation to the Minister's media release of 14 March 2012, was there any payment made to MyEnvironment Inc. for legal costs, and if so, what was the quantum of the payment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Under the terms of the settlement, I am not permitted to address the matters raised by Mr Pakula's question due to my obligations of confidentiality.

Agriculture and food security: MyEnvironment Inc. — payment

8707. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security): In relation to any payments made to MyEnvironment Inc. as financial settlements or for legal costs, were any contributions made by the Victorian Managed Insurance Agency.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Under the terms of the settlement, I am not permitted to address the matters raised by Mr Pakula's question due to my obligations of confidentiality.

Health: social workers — registration

8722. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to qualified social workers providing professional health services, but currently not being able to register under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, which is resulting in workforce shortages due to their ineligibility to apply for jobs advertised for 'registered health professionals only' and unregulated professional standards and quality safeguards for consumers in the burgeoning number of social work private practices, will the Minister support the registration of social work in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme at the November Standing Council on Health Meeting of Ministers.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme and Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) are subject to review by Health Ministers, including examination of the performance of the registration boards and AHPRA in relation to the 14 registered professions.

It is not the government's position to extend the National Scheme until this review is completed.

Health: Monash Children's — funding

8737. MR TARLAMIS — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the new Monash Children's Hospital:

- (1) What progress has been made on the building of the new hospital.
- (2) How much of the \$15.8 million that has been committed to the project has been spent so far.
- (3) Of this expenditure that has occurred, what parts of the project have been completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) Planning of the new hospital continues to progress.
- (2) To date, \$6.5 million has been expended.
- (3) Acquisition of land adjoining the existing hospital has been completed.

Water: industry regulatory order — cost recovery

8744. MR LENDERS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water): In relation to Clause 14(1)(a)(iv)(c) of the Water Industry Regulation Order 2012, what is the reason for the distinct and specific provision in the Order for Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Corporation to recover costs associated with existing debt incurred through financial expenditure prior to 1 July 2006.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Water Industry Regulatory Order 2012 (WIRO 2012), which came into effect on 18 October 2012, replaces the Water Industry Regulatory Order 2003 (WIRO 2003) (as amended in 2005 and 2008).

Prior to the first price determination for rural water authorities, on 1 July 2006, some of these authorities had their assets valued at zero for regulatory purposes although they also had existing debt that had been incurred to fund asset maintenance. It was therefore necessary to make special provision, in the WIRO 2003, for the recovery of this debt through prices.

Affected businesses included Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW), Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GWMW), Lower Murray Water (LMW) (rural) and Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Corporation (SRW).

In the intervening period, this clause has become irrelevant for G-MW and LMW (rural) as these authorities are no longer regulated under the WIRO but are instead regulated under the Commonwealth's Water Charge (Infrastructure) Rules 2010.

Correspondence with GWMW over the course of developing the WIRO 2012 indicated that the clause was also irrelevant for them as there is now no outstanding debt to be recovered.

SRW, however, has yet to recover all the outstanding debt from that period and so there is a need to maintain this clause in the WIRO 2012 to ensure that SRW is able to recover the outstanding debt.

Water: Melbourne Water — grievance

8745. MR LENDERS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water): In relation to correspondence sent to the Minister from Mr Joseph Schembri of Derrimut, Victoria, will the Minister meet with Mr Schembri to discuss his grievances with Melbourne Water.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The issues which Mr Schembri has previously raised are ongoing legal matters. Therefore, it is inappropriate to comment any further on this. Mr Schembri should continue to work with Melbourne Water, to reach a resolution to this issue.

Education: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development — ex gratia payments

8746. MR LENDERS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development's Report 2011–12, what are the details of the costs that equate to the \$78.3 million, in line item 'Other expenses' under the heading 'Ex-gratia payments' (page 78), as part of 'Note 4 Net result from transactions (net operating balance)'.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The details of the costs for 'Other expenses' as part of 'Note 4 Net result from transactions (net operating balance)' are as follows:

Computer equipment purchases <\$5000K	\$27 million
Computer software purchases <\$5000K	\$6.5 million
Annual Support and Maintenance	\$17.2 million
Outside and Managed IT services	\$27.6 million
Total	\$78.3 million

Education: external organisations — grants

8747. **MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What are the names of the ‘external organisations’ that received grants in —

- (a) 2009–10;
- (b) 2010–11; and
- (c) 2011–12.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Providing the individual names of the ‘external organisations’ that received grants, transfers and other sundry payments requires a significant amount of resources which cannot be justified at this time.

Education: external organisations — grants

8748. **MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What was the dollar value of the grant provided to each ‘external organisation’ that received a grant in —

- (a) 2009–10;
- (b) 2010–11; and
- (c) 2011–12.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The total dollar value of the grants provided to external organisations was:

- (a) 2009–10 \$175.6 million;
- (b) 2010–11 \$122.5 million; and
- (c) 2011–12 \$83.3 million.

Providing the dollar values of individual grants provided to each ‘external organisation’ that received grants, transfers and other sundry payments requires a significant amount of resources which cannot be justified at this time.

Education: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development — service agreements

8749. **MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What are the names of the organisations or individuals that received payments as part of service agreements with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in —

- (a) 2009–10;
- (b) 2010–11; and
- (c) 2011–12.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Providing the names of the organisations or individuals that received payments as part of service agreements with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development requires a significant amount of resources which cannot be justified at this time.

Education: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development — service agreements

8750. MR LENDERS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What was the dollar value of the payments made to organisations or individuals that received payments as part of service agreements with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in —

- (a) 2009–10;
- (b) 2010–11; and
- (c) 2011–12.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The total dollar value of the payments made to organisations or individuals that received payments as part of service agreements are as follows:

- (a) 2009–10 \$299.3 million;
- (b) 2010–11 \$333.3 million; and
- (c) 2011–12 \$317.8 million.

Providing the dollar value of individual payments made to organisations or individuals that received payments as part of service agreements with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development requires the use of a significant amount of resources which cannot be justified at this time.

Children and early childhood development: program funding

8767. MS MIKAKOS — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: In relation to early childhood programs in your portfolio, what are the programs in your portfolio and how much funding did they receive in the —

- (a) 2011–12 Budget; and
- (b) 2012–13 Budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Output: Early Childhood Development	<i>2010–11 actual (\$M)</i>	<i>2011–12 Target (\$M)</i>	<i>2011–12 Expected Outcome (\$M)</i>	<i>2012–13 Target (\$M)</i>
<i>Includes the following services and programs</i>	389.8	431.2	442.9	507.0
Aboriginal Early Years Services				
Early Childhood Capital Grants				
Early Childhood Intervention Services				
Kindergarten Programs and Services				
Maternal and Child Health Services				
Parenting Services				
Partnerships (e.g. Best Start, Supported Playgroups)				
Sector Support (e.g. Workforce Support, Regulation)				

Children and early childhood development: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development — efficiency measures

8771. **MS MIKAKOS** — To ask the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development: With regard to the Minister's answer to Question on Notice 8592 on 12 September 2012, which peak bodies and organisations are to receive reduced grants payments under the efficiency measures and savings and by how much.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

There is no proposal to reduce grant payments to peak bodies and organisations under the efficiency measures and savings.