

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Wednesday, 29 August 2012

(Extract from book 13)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

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The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

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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 Foley, Mr Noonan and Mr Shaw.

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

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

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

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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

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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, 29 August 2012

Aviation industry: minister's office — staff

439. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry: 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 as follows:

There are no Department of Business and Innovation staff seconded to my private office.

Technology: minister's office — staff

457. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Technology: 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 as follows:

There are no Department of Business and Innovation staff seconded to my private office.

Public transport: minister's office — car parking spaces

483. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Public Transport):

- (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:

- (1) The number of car parking spaces allocated to the minister's office as at 5 April 2011 was three.
- (2) The cost of car parking spaces allocated to the minister's office as at 5 April 2011 was \$465.58 per parking space, per month (excluding GST).
- (3) The contract for the parking spaces is managed by Department of Treasury and Finance therefore the market value of car parking spaces cannot be determined by the Department of Transport.

Roads: minister's office — car parking spaces

487. HON. M. P. PAKULA — To ask the Minister for Planning (for the Minister for Roads):

- (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:

This has been responded to by question no. 483.

Premier: opposition parties — funding

718. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Health (for the Premier):

- (1) How much money is provided to fund the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the 2011–12 financial year.
- (2) How many full-time equivalent positions does this money provide for.
- (3) How much money is provided to fund the office of the Leader of the Greens in the 2011–12 financial year.
- (4) How many full-time equivalent positions does this money provide for.
- (5) How much money was provided to fund the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the previous 2010–11 financial year up until 26 November 2010.
- (6) How many full-time equivalent positions did this money provide for.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The approved budget for the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the 2011–12 financial year is \$1.501 million. The global budget covers both salary and operating costs for the office.

Section 3 of the Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968 defines a 'third party' as a recognised party which consists of at least 11 members of the Parliament. Accordingly, the Greens are not considered a 'third party' and consequently receive no additional funding from government through the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The approved budget for the office of the Leader of the Opposition in the 2010–11 financial year was \$1.464 million.

Water: Snowy River — scientific committee and water licence

853. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water): Given the short timeframe for public submissions for the proposed amendments to Snowy water licence that defines Snowy Hydro Limited's water rights and obligations, which will close on 15 July 2011:

- (1) Has the minister put forward nominees to fill the two designated positions on the Snowy Scientific Committee; if not, what are the reasons behind not yet putting forward nominees.
- (2) What are the Victorian government's priority objectives in amending the Snowy water licence.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. Victoria will shortly nominate two representatives to the Snowy Scientific Committee, with the three-year term of the previous members having come to an end. The selection process is nearing completion and two suitable candidates are being finalised.
2. The NSW Office of Water worked with the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority on the development of the variations to the Snowy water licence currently being proposed by the NSW government.

The objectives of the proposed changes are to increase the flexibility and effectiveness of water releases from the Snowy scheme for power generation, consumptive uses and environmental benefits, particularly in times of drought. The priority objectives for Victoria are the proposed changes to the licence that will:

- establish drought reserve accounts in the Snowy scheme that can be accessed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to support the delivery of critical human water needs in the Murray system under severe drought conditions;
- remove the requirement for Snowy Hydro to release additional volumes (i.e. the shortfalls to the required release commitments accumulated in previous extreme drought years) in the year when inflows to the Snowy scheme recover. This will enable the states to assign part of these commitments to the drought reserve accounts thereby making more effective use of the water; and
- provide the ability for environmental water savings kept within the Snowy scheme for the Murray River to be called out each year. Under current arrangements very little of this water has been released because this decision is now made by Snowy Hydro which has no incentive to release the environmental water on an annual basis to meet environmental requirements.

These changes are consistent Victorian government objectives and will improve water release arrangements from the Snowy scheme for all parties.

Racing: jumps racing grounds — funding

8147. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Assistant Treasurer (for the Minister for Racing):

- (1) Why was the decision made to allocate \$90 319 in funding to upgrade hurdles at Cranbourne Training Centre in 2008–09.
- (2) What amount of funding is allocated for future works on jumps racing grounds.
- (3) What are the eligibility criteria for funding of works on grounds used for jumps racing.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) As with any piece of sporting equipment, hurdles need to be replaced over time. The allocation of \$90 319 by the previous government provided safer hurdles for horses and riders.
- (2) There is no funding specifically allocated for future works on jumps racing infrastructure at racecourses.
- (3) Racing Victoria Limited, Country Racing Victoria and all racing clubs are eligible for infrastructure funding from the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF). Funding is available through the VRIF to improve racing and training infrastructure at racetracks and training venues (across all three racing codes).

Water: desalination plant — completion delay compensation

8202. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Water): In relation to the contract for the construction of the desalination plant, will the government exercise its rights under the terms of the agreement to obtain compensation from the consortium for project completion delays; if so, what amount will be claimed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As a public-private partnership contract, the consortium is funding the project's design and construction and the payments from the state do not begin until completion of the project and the production of water. As the project

term is not extended automatically because the completion is delayed, this lack of revenue for the consortium is a permanent saving for water users. In the meantime, the consortium must finalise the design and construction.

Health: Bendigo Health — privatisation

8267. MS BROAD — To ask the Minister for Health: Does the government have any future plans to privatise health services at Bendigo Health, apart from pathology services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Bendigo Health does not have any future plans to privatise health clinical services.

Health: Bendigo Health — pathology services

8270. MS BROAD — To ask the Minister for Health: When was the minister advised that the pathology service at Bendigo Health would be privatised.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Bendigo Health has not privatised its pathology services. The Bendigo Health board endorsed contracting with Healthscope for the delivery of pathology services in March 2012, following a tender process. I was informed following the board's decision.

Health: Bendigo Health — pathology services

8271. MS BROAD — To ask the Minister for Health: Did Bendigo Health prepare a communications plan around the decision to privatise its pathology service in the weeks before the announcement was made.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Bendigo Health has not privatised its pathology services. The Bendigo Health Board endorsed contracting with Healthscope for the delivery of pathology services following a tender process. Bendigo Health advises a communication plan was prepared as part of the due diligence report.

Health: Bendigo Health board — chair's comments

8273. MS BROAD — To ask the Minister for Health: Does the Minister condone the outspoken public views of the chair of the Bendigo Health board.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I support the right of the chair of health services to advocate decisions of the board of management in our locally governed health services.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8341. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in March 2012 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.

- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

March	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2012	1	1	
2011	4	3	1
2010	2	1	1

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of the paramedic for the shift which was unable to be filled at short notice.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8342. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in February 2012 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.
- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

February	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2012	0		
2011	0		
2010	2	2	

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of the paramedic for the shift which was unable to be filled at short notice.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8345. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in November 2011 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.
- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

November	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2011	5	2	3
2010	6	3	3

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of paramedics for shifts which were unable to be filled at short notice.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8346. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in October 2011 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.
- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

October	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2011	3	1	2
2010	4	2	2

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of paramedics for shifts which were unable to be filled at short notice.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8350. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in June 2011 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.
- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

June	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2011	0		
2010	5	3	2

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of paramedics for shifts which were unable to be filled at short notice.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8351. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in May 2011 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.
- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

May	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2011	0		
2010	2	1	1

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of paramedics for shifts which were unable to be filled at short notice.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8352. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in April 2011 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.
- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

April	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2011	2		2
2010	1	1	

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of paramedics for shifts which were unable to be filled at short notice.

Health: Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance unit — availability

8353. MS PULFORD — To ask the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many times in March 2011 was the Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance single response unit unavailable.
- (2) For each instance of unavailability, what was the length of time the unit was unavailable.
- (3) What was the cause of each instance of unavailability.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Ballarat mobile intensive care ambulance (MICA) single response unit (SRU) had the following periods of unavailability:

March	(1) No. of shifts unavailable	(2) Length of shift unavailable	
		10 hours	14 hours
2012	1	1	
2011	4	3	1
2010	2	1	1

- (3) The cause of the unavailability of the MICA SRU was unplanned leave of paramedics for shifts which were unable to be filled at short notice.

Attorney-General: Coroners Court — Victorian Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths

- 8391. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the Coroners Court’s systemic review into deaths relating to family violence, will \$250 000 in additional annual funding be provided to the Coroners Court in order for the Victorian Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths to continue its work; if so, when will this funding recommence.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths was established as a review to be undertaken in the coroners prevention unit, in order to examine the systemic causes of family violence deaths in Victoria.

The government supports this work of the Coroners Court and is continuing to work with the court on arrangements to ensure this review continues.

Energy and resources: Unity Mining — Kangaroo Flat sites

- 8399. MR LENDERS** — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to Unity Mining at Kangaroo Flat:
- (1) Why has rehabilitation not commenced on sites and for facilities that are no longer required.
 - (2) Is the minister aware of changes in staffing levels that would impact on the capability of Unity Mining to fulfil its obligations to monitor all sites and promptly respond to community concerns.
 - (3) If the minister is aware of changes in staffing levels, can he outline the reasoning behind the changes and his assessment of the impact of those changes on Unity Mining’s obligations to monitor sites and promptly respond to community concerns.
 - (4) At what point will the minister intervene to cancel the mining licence for Unity Mining on the grounds that no further mining will occur.
 - (5) Acknowledging future employment levels, will the minister outline the justification for mining, particularly in urban areas, and in doing so; outline the comparative advantages of alternative uses for the land.

ANSWER:

Mining and resources industries are an important part of Victoria's economy, and such developments are often a critical part of regional Victoria providing jobs and bringing welcome investment. In addition to approvals under the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 (MRSDA), all earth resources projects are subject to specific approvals under either the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or the Environment Effects Act 1978 at which time the merits of competing land uses can be assessed.

Rehabilitation has commenced on Unity sites that have been identified as having no further operational use, while discussions are on-going between the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Unity and other stakeholders regarding the rehabilitation and closure of other Unity sites.

Unity is still required to meet all its regulatory obligations. The current staffing levels are adequate for the current level of activity. The Environmental Review Committee (which includes DPI and other regulators as well as community representatives) continues to meet.

Unity's mining licences at Bendigo are due to expire in August 2017, and any application for renewal will be considered in accordance with the requirements of the MRSDA. Unity has entered into an option agreement that, if exercised, would see their Bendigo tenements transferred to another mining company, and as such, further mining may occur.

Health: VicHealth — tobacco control advice

8454. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the possible provision of smoke-free outdoor dining and drinking and other public outdoor areas in Victoria:

- (1) Has the government requested advice from VicHealth; if so, when was that advice first requested.
- (2) Has the government received advice from VicHealth —
 - (a) if so, when was that advice received; and
 - (b) if not, has VicHealth indicated when they will be able to provide that advice and what is that indicated timeframe.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- a) VicHealth in its role to promote good health and prevent ill health undertakes a range of functions including developing evidence based advice on population health. I have met with VicHealth to discuss a range of issues relating to improving the health of all Victorians including tobacco control.
- b) In that role VicHealth is developing advice for government with respect to further steps in tobacco control including exposure to smoking in outdoor spaces.
- c) I am advised that VicHealth is finalising that advice.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8455. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to future government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries, what is the total funding the government has allocated in each of the next four financial years to support Victoria’s manufacturing industry, including a projected annual breakdown of the funding that will be used for manufacturing support, by program, with details of each relevant program’s objectives.

ANSWER:

The 2012–13 budget provides \$58 million over four years to support the Victorian manufacturing sector. Funding has been provided to deliver the priority initiatives outlined under the government’s manufacturing strategy *A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry*. Objectives of each of these initiatives are as follows:

1. **Specialist manufacturing service** — helping manufacturers overcome market failures and barriers and raising productivity and competitiveness;
2. **Manufacturing productivity networks** — providing flexible support to networks seeking to expand their activities;
3. **Investing in manufacturing technology** — supporting businesses to invest in new and transformative technologies that will improve business performance;
4. **Building innovative small manufacturers** — providing more targeted assistance to small manufacturers through specialist workshops, improved access to information and encouraging innovation; and
5. **Managing transition for retrenched workers** — reducing the adverse impacts of retrenchments.

Please refer to the 2012–13 budget papers for further details of funding breakdown.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8456. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What current programs to support Victoria’s manufacturing industries will continue into future financial years.
- (2) What is the total and annual funding allocation for each of these programs over their lifetime.
- (3) What is the total and annual allocation of each of these programs on manufacturing support.
- (4) What is the total and annual expenditure and committed expenditure on manufacturing support from these programs to the end of 2011–12.
- (5) What is the projected annual expenditure from these programs on manufacturing for each financial year from 2012–13.

ANSWER:

The 2012–13 budget provides \$58 million over four years to support the Victorian manufacturing sector. Funding has been provided to deliver the priority initiatives outlined under the government’s manufacturing strategy *A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry*. Objectives of each of these initiatives are as follows:

1. **Specialist manufacturing service** — helping manufacturers overcome market failures and barriers and raising productivity and competitiveness;
2. **Manufacturing productivity networks** — providing flexible support to networks seeking to expand their activities;
3. **Investing in manufacturing technology** — supporting businesses to invest in new and transformative technologies that will improve business performance;
4. **Building innovative small manufacturers** — providing more targeted assistance to small manufacturers through specialist workshops, improved access to information and encouraging innovation; and
5. **Managing transition for retrenched workers** — reducing the adverse impacts of retrenchments.

Please refer to the 2012–13 budget papers for further details of funding breakdown.

Details of assistance provided to companies and organisations over the years are available under ‘Appendix 13 – Grants and Related Assistance’ of respective annual reports of the Department of Business and Innovation (DBI) and its predecessors.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8457. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What was the total funding allocated by the Victorian government in 2008–09, 2009–10, 2010–11 and 2011–12 to support Victoria’s manufacturing industries, including an annual breakdown of this funding and expenditure thereof as used for manufacturing support, by program, with details of each relevant program’s objectives.
- (2) What programs which provide support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries will cease at the conclusion of 2011–12 and what is the reason for their cessation.
- (3) What was the total funding allocation for each of these programs, over what period were they in operation, and what was the annual expenditure of each program on supporting and assisting Victoria’s manufacturing industries.

- (4) In respect to each program terminated prior to its appropriated life span, was there any evaluation made of the program prior to the decision to terminate; if so, which programs were so terminated and what are the details of the departmental unit or consultant/contractor which conducted the evaluation, the methodology used and details of the evaluation including any benchmarks utilised.

ANSWER:

Over the years, manufacturers have had available a range of assistance programs. Details of funding for different programs are available in previous budget papers.

Details of assistance provided to companies and organisations over the years are available under ‘Appendix 13 – Grants and Related Assistance’ of respective annual reports of the Department of Business and Innovation (DBI) and its predecessors.

After wide industry consultation and in response to the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission’s (VCEC) Inquiry, the Victorian government developed *A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry*, a \$58 million strategy over four years commencing 2012–13.

The Victorian government is committed to ensuring that programs deliver value for money and benefits to the community. DBI has in place an evaluation policy which embeds high-quality evaluation and appropriate use of its outputs as standard practice within DBI.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8458. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What is the total number of EFT positions by classification, role and departmental unit within the minister’s department allocated to managing, administering programs, policy, research, external liaison, administration or providing promotion and communication services which support Victoria’s manufacturing industry as at 30 May and 30 November for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- (2) What is the total number of EFT staff by classification, role and departmental unit within the minister’s department allocated to managing, administering programs, policy, research, external liaison, administration or providing promotion and communication services which support Victoria’s manufacturing industry as at 30 May and 30 November for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- (3) How many and which of the total number of EFT positions by classification, role and departmental unit within the minister’s department allocated to managing, administering programs, policy, research, external liaison, administration or providing promotion and communication services which support Victoria’s manufacturing industry are vacant as at 30 May 2012.
- (4) How many and which of these positions have an acting staff member in the position to the exclusion of such staff member also working in another role or position.

ANSWER:

As the Victorian government’s lead agency for economic development, the Department of Business and Innovation develops and delivers a range of programs, initiatives and projects designed to attract and facilitate investment, encourage exports, generate job opportunities, stimulate innovation, and promote Victoria nationally and abroad. The department engages with Victorian businesses to promote the development of sustainable industries that are growth orientated and export focused.

Support for the manufacturing sector is met by staff across the department, including international, metropolitan and regional Victorian government business offices.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8459. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What is the total number of consultants or contractors retained by the minister’s department for managing, administering programs, policy, research, external liaison, administration or providing promotion and communication services which support Victoria’s manufacturing industry for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- (2) At what annual cost were these consultants and contractors retained, and what are the details of their role, duties, departmental unit with which they work/worked, contract duration and cost of each consultant or contractor for 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

ANSWER:

As the Victorian government’s lead agency for economic development, the Department of Business and Innovation develops and delivers a range of programs, initiatives and projects designed to attract and facilitate investment, encourage exports, generate job opportunities, stimulate innovation and promote Victoria nationally and abroad. The department engages with Victorian businesses to promote the development of sustainable industries that are growth orientated and export focused.

Support for the manufacturing sector is met across the department by VPS staff, contractors and consultants as required. Details of consultancies are provided in the department’s annual report.

Contributions are made across the department, including international, metropolitan and regional Victorian government business offices.

Energy and resources: prospecting review

8469. MR LENDERS — To ask the Minister for Higher Education and Skills (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to a commitment, made by the coalition prior to the 2010 state election, to the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria (PMAV) to undertake a review of areas where prospecting is currently prohibited:

- (1) Has this review commenced and what are the expected reporting and public release dates.
- (2) If the review has not commenced, when will this review process start and when it is likely to be finalised.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian coalition government has announced it will ask the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to investigate under what circumstances it is appropriate that greater access be provided for low-impact prospecting, while still protecting the heritage and environmental values of our national parks.

The government will seek public comment as part of the VEAC investigation.

VEAC is due to report on the completed investigation by 30 April 2013.

Terms of reference are available from the DSE website: www.dse.vic.gov.au.

I note that prospectors, and the regional tourism businesses which rely on prospecting and fossicking, will be disappointed with the Labor Opposition’s media statement on 8 August 2012 calling on the government to now ‘rule out’ prospecting in all parks, despite having allowed prospecting in many of Victoria’s parks for 11 years under the Bracks and Brumby governments, as well as 10 years of the Cain and Kirner governments.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — scope and role of government

8497. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to the government and minister’s portfolio role in regard to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What does the minister define as the scope and role of the government in regard to Victoria’s manufacturing industry.
- (2) What does the minister define as the scope and role of his portfolio in regard to Victoria’s manufacturing industry.
- (3) Does the minister concur that its primary role is to assist and support Victoria’s manufacturing industries; if so, how does the minister define the practical meaning of ‘assist and support Victoria’s manufacturing industries’.
- (4) What additional roles does the minister ascribe to his portfolio as regards Victoria’s manufacturing industry.
- (5) What does the minister consider to be his, and the government’s, key performance indicators in regard to Victoria’s manufacturing industry.
- (6) Do these key performance indicators include —
 - (a) ensuring that a specified minimum proportion of government acquisitions are sourced from Victoria or Australasia’s manufacturing industries;
 - (b) the maintenance and growth in manufacturing industry employment levels;
 - (c) the maintenance and growth of skill levels in Victoria’s manufacturing workforce; and
 - (d) the provision of world-class infrastructure to meet the needs of Victoria’s existing and potential manufacturers.

ANSWER:

The Victorian government has committed to revitalising Victorian manufacturing and supporting our manufacturers to succeed in an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing environment. The government also committed to overhauling Victoria’s many unrelated industry-specific strategies as well as numerous loosely related programs and policies and to ensure that assistance is directed to where it will maximise business and jobs growth.

As part of the government’s commitment to revitalising manufacturing, it asked the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC) to conduct an inquiry into a more competitive Victorian manufacturing industry. In response to VCEC’s recommendations and input from industry, the government has developed a strategy to boost the productivity and competitiveness of the Victorian manufacturing sector.

A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry sets a new direction for industry policy in this state — a flexible approach focused on addressing business needs under five initiatives:

1. **Specialist manufacturing service** — helping manufacturers overcome market failures and barriers and raising productivity and competitiveness;
2. **Manufacturing productivity networks** — providing flexible support to networks seeking to expand their activities;
3. **Investing in manufacturing technology** — supporting businesses to invest in new and transformative technologies that will improve business performance;
4. **Building innovative small manufacturers** — providing more targeted assistance to small manufacturers through specialist workshops, improved access to information and encouraging innovation; and
5. **Managing transition for retrenched workers** — reducing the adverse impacts of retrenchments.

The 2012–13 state budget has provided \$58 million to deliver the strategy’s key programs over the next four years. Performance indicators are included in budget paper no. 3.

As a major contributor to the Victorian economy, the government is committed to ensuring Victoria’s manufacturing prosperity well into the future.

As Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade, through the new manufacturing strategy, it is my role to support the development of more high performance enterprises that drive a strong, vibrant and agile manufacturing sector to deliver a productive and competitive future for Victoria.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8498. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What was the range of assistance provided by the manufacturing portfolio to assist and support Victoria’s manufacturing industry in —
 - (a) 2006–07
 - (b) 2007–08;
 - (c) 2008–09;
 - (d) 2009–10;
 - (e) 2010–11; and
 - (f) 2011–12.

- (2) What projects and services were undertaken by the manufacturing portfolio and what were the objectives of each of those projects and services in —
 - (a) 2006–07
 - (b) 2007–08;
 - (c) 2008–09;
 - (d) 2009–10;
 - (e) 2010–11; and
 - (f) 2011–12.

- (3) Were those projects and services subject to an evaluation; if so, what were the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation and who carried out the evaluation.

ANSWER:

Over the years, manufacturers have had available a range of assistance programs. Details of funding for different programs are available in previous budget papers.

Disaggregation of grants awarded specifically to manufacturing businesses is not available as grants are segmented by program. Details of assistance provided to companies and organisations over the years are available under ‘Appendix 13 – Grants and Related Assistance’ of respective annual reports of the Department of Business and Innovation (DBI) and its predecessors.

The Victorian government is committed to ensuring that programs deliver value for money and benefits to the community. DBI has in place an evaluation policy which embeds high-quality evaluation and appropriate use of its outputs as standard practice within the department.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8499. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What is the government's approved total annual budget expenditure for assisting and supporting Victoria's manufacturing industries for —
 - (a) 2006–07
 - (b) 2007–08;
 - (c) 2008–09;
 - (d) 2009–10;
 - (e) 2010–11; and
 - (f) 2011–12.
- (2) What is the methodology used for calculating these figures (how are they comprised) and what are the major annual components (in dollar terms) of these figures.
- (3) What effect will any variation in annual budget expenditure or how it is allocated have on —
 - (a) Victoria's manufacturing industries; and
 - (b) the government's capacity to assist and support Victoria's manufacturing industries.
- (4) How were these effects calculated (what methodologies used) and who carried out such analysis.

ANSWER:

Over the years, manufacturers have had available a range of assistance programs. Details of funding for different programs are available in previous budget papers and the annual reports of the Department of Business and Innovation and its predecessors.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8500. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria's manufacturing industries:

- (1) What is the government's approved total annual budget expenditure for assisting and supporting Victoria's manufacturing industries for the next four financial years from 2012–13.
- (2) What is the methodology used for calculating these figures (how are they comprised) and what are the major annual components (in dollar terms) of these figures.
- (3) What effect will any variation in annual budget expenditure or how it is allocated have on —
 - (a) Victoria's manufacturing industries; and
 - (b) the government's capacity to assist and support Victoria's manufacturing industries.
- (4) How were these effects calculated (what methodologies used) and who carried out such analysis.

ANSWER:

The Victorian government committed to revitalising Victorian manufacturing and supporting our manufacturers to succeed in an increasingly competitive and rapidly changing environment. The government also committed to overhauling Victoria's many unrelated industry-specific strategies as well as numerous loosely related programs and policies and to ensure that assistance is directed to where it will maximise business and jobs growth.

As part of the government's commitment to revitalising manufacturing, it asked the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC) to conduct an inquiry into a more competitive Victorian manufacturing industry. In response to VCEC's recommendations and input from industry, the government has developed a strategy to boost the productivity and competitiveness of the Victorian manufacturing sector.

A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry sets a new direction for industry policy in this state — a flexible approach focused on addressing business needs under five initiatives:

1. **Specialist manufacturing service** — helping manufacturers overcome market failures and barriers and raising productivity and competitiveness;
2. **Manufacturing productivity networks** — providing flexible support to networks seeking to expand their activities;
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4. **Building innovative small manufacturers** — providing more targeted assistance to small manufacturers through specialist workshops, improved access to information and encouraging innovation; and
5. **Managing transition for retrenched workers** — reducing the adverse impacts of retrenchments.

The 2012–13 state budget has provided \$58 million to deliver the strategy’s key programs over the next four years.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8501. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) In EFT terms and by Victorian public service classification or equivalent, how many hours were spent providing support and assistance to Victoria’s manufacturing industries for—
 - (a) 2007–08 by government —
 - (i) employees; and
 - (ii) consultants/contractors.
 - (b) 2008–09 by government —
 - (i) employees; and
 - (ii) consultants/contractors.
 - (c) 2009–10 by government —
 - (i) employees; and
 - (ii) consultants/contractors.
 - (d) 2010–11 by government —
 - (i) employees; and
 - (ii) consultants/contractors.
 - (e) 2011–12 by government —
 - (i) employees; and
 - (ii) consultants/contractors.
- (2) For each of the financial years listed above, what was the annual cost of the hours spent providing support and assistance to Victoria’s manufacturing industries, by government —
 - (a) employees; and
 - (b) consultants/contractors.

ANSWER:

As the Victorian government’s lead agency for economic development, the Department of Business and Innovation develops and delivers a range of programs, initiatives and projects designed to attract and facilitate investment, encourage exports, generate job opportunities, stimulate innovation and promote Victoria nationally and

internationally. The Department engages with Victorian businesses to promote the development of sustainable industries that are growth orientated and export focused.

Support for the manufacturing sector is met across the department by VPS staff, contractors and consultants as required. Details of consultancies are provided in the department's annual report.

Disaggregation of time spent specifically on support to the manufacturing sector is not available as the activities that support individual sectors are not contained within single specialised units. Contributions are made across the department, including international, metropolitan and regional Victorian government business offices.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8502. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria's manufacturing industries:

- (1) In EFT terms and by Victorian public service classification or equivalent, how many hours are planned to be spent providing support and assistance to Victoria's manufacturing industries for each of the next four financial years beginning in 2012–13, by government —
 - (a) employees; and
 - (b) consultants/contractors.
- (2) For each of the next four financial years beginning in 2012–13, what is the projected cost of the hours planned to be spent providing support and assistance to Victoria's manufacturing industries, by government —
 - (a) employees; and
 - (b) consultants/contractors.
- (3) What effect will any variation in annual budget expenditure or how it is allocated have on —
 - (a) Victoria's manufacturing industries; and
 - (b) the government's capacity to assist and support Victoria's manufacturing industries.
- (5) How were these effects calculated (what methodologies used) and who carried out such analysis.

ANSWER:

As the Victorian government's lead agency for economic development, the Department of Business and Innovation develops and delivers a range of programs, initiatives and projects designed to attract and facilitate investment, encourage exports, generate job opportunities, stimulate innovation and promote Victoria nationally and internationally. The department engages with Victorian businesses to promote the development of sustainable industries that are growth orientated and export focused.

Support for the manufacturing sector is met across the department by VPS staff, contractors and consultants as required. Details of consultancies are provided in the department's annual report.

Disaggregation of time spent specifically on support to the manufacturing sector is not available as the activities that support individual sectors are not contained within single specialised units. Contributions are made across the department, including international, metropolitan and regional Victorian government business offices.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8503. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria's manufacturing industries:

- (1) What was the total number of grants made by the government to manufacturers operating in Victoria for —

- (a) 2006–07
 - (b) 2007–08;
 - (c) 2008–09;
 - (d) 2009–10;
 - (e) 2010–11; and
 - (f) 2011–12.
- (2) For each of the financial years listed above, what was the total dollar grant expenditure made by the Victorian government to manufacturers operating in Victoria.
 - (3) For each of the financial years listed above, under what programs were these grants made and what was the total expenditure under each of these programs for these grants.
 - (4) What was the purpose, aim and objective for each of these programs.
 - (5) What were the selection criteria for grants under each of these programs.
 - (6) In accounting for the use of the grants, what were the key performance indicators that were expected to be met by grantees under each of these programs.
 - (7) For each of the financial years listed above, what was the budget for each of these programs including the amount budgeted for actual grants to manufacturers operating in Victoria, other grants to assist and support Victoria’s manufacturing industries, grants other than for assisting and supporting Victoria’s manufacturing industries and the amount budgeted for non-grant expenditure such as program administration and any contribution to departmental operations.
 - (8) For each of the financial years listed above, what was the total expenditure for each of these programs including administration, consultants, supervision, auditing and the like.
 - (9) For each of these financial years, what was the expenditure breakdown under each program for grants to other than manufacturers operating in Victoria including other grants to assist and support Victoria’s manufacturing industries, grants other than for assisting and supporting Victoria’s manufacturing industries and the amount for non-grant expenditure such as program administration and any contribution to departmental operations.
 - (10) Which of these programs ended during this period and at the end of what year did they end.
 - (11) Why did such programs end and were they replaced by a new program that incorporated their purpose, aims and objectives.
 - (12) What evaluation was made of each program and who carried out the evaluation.
 - (13) What was the methodology used in the evaluation.
 - (14) What were the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations on each of these programs.
 - (15) Under which new program, if any, is the purpose, aim and objective of the ending program incorporated.

ANSWER:

Over the years, manufacturers have had available a range of assistance in the areas of innovation, technology, skills and export. Details of funding for different programs are available in previous budget papers.

Disaggregation of grants awarded specifically to manufacturing businesses is not available as grants are segmented by program. Details of assistance provided to companies and organisations over the years are available under ‘Appendix 13 – Grants and Related Assistance’ of respective annual reports of the Department of Business and Innovation (DBI) and its predecessors.

After wide industry consultation and in response to the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission’s (VCEC) Inquiry, the Victorian government developed *A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry*, a \$58 million strategy over four years commencing 2012–13.

The Victorian government is committed to ensuring that programs deliver value for money and benefits to the community. DBI has in place an evaluation policy which embeds high-quality evaluation and appropriate use of its outputs as standard practice within the Department. As outlined in *A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry*, the government is committed to strengthening monitoring and evaluation processes for manufacturing programs.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8504. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government programs to assist and support Victoria's manufacturing industries:

- (1) What is the total number of grants planned to be made by the government to manufacturers operating in Victoria for the 2012–13 financial year and each of the subsequent three financial years.
- (2) Is it estimated that there will be more, about the same or less manufacturing businesses being awarded grants in each of the four financial years from 2012–13 than 2009–10 and 2010–11.
- (3) What is the estimated total dollar grant expenditure to be made by the government to manufacturers operating in Victoria for the 2012–13 financial year and each of the subsequent three financial years.
- (4) Under what programs are these grants to be made and what is the total expenditure anticipated or planned for under each of these programs for these grants.
- (5) What is the purpose, aim and objective for each of these programs.
- (6) What are the selection criteria for grants under each of these programs.
- (7) In accounting for the use of the grants what are the key performance indicators that are expected to be met by grantees under each of these programs.
- (8) What is the planned budget for each of these programs including the amount anticipated for actual grants to manufacturers operating in Victoria, other grants to assist and support Victoria's manufacturing industries, grants other than for assisting and supporting Victoria's manufacturing industries and the estimated amount for non-grant expenditure such as program administration and any contribution to departmental operations.
- (9) Which of these programs will cease during the period and in which year.
- (10) What is the reason for this cessation.
- (11) What evaluation will be made of these programs and how will such an evaluation be carried out.

ANSWER:

The 2012–13 budget provides \$58 million over four years to support the Victorian manufacturing sector. Funding has been provided to deliver the priority initiatives outlined under the government's manufacturing strategy *A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry*. Objectives of each of these initiatives are as follows:

1. **Specialist manufacturing service** — helping manufacturers overcome market failures and barriers and raising productivity and competitiveness;
2. **Manufacturing productivity networks** — providing flexible support to networks seeking to expand their activities;
3. **Investing in manufacturing technology** — supporting businesses to invest in new and transformative technologies that will improve business performance;
4. **Building innovative small manufacturers** — providing more targeted assistance to small manufacturers through specialist workshops, improved access to information and encouraging innovation; and
5. **Managing transition for retrenched workers** — reducing the adverse impacts of retrenchments.

Please refer to the 2012–13 budget papers for further details of funding breakdown.

While it is anticipated that all monies will be expended, the number of grants awarded to businesses is dependent on the quality and quantity of applications and their eligibility.

These programs will continue during the four years of funding provided.

The Victorian government is committed to ensuring that programs deliver value for money and benefits to the community. The Department of Business and Innovation (DBI) has in place an evaluation policy which embeds high-quality evaluation and appropriate use of its outputs as standard practice within DBI.

Manufacturing, exports and trade: manufacturing — government assistance and support

8505. MR SOMYUREK — To ask the Minister for Manufacturing, Exports and Trade: In relation to government assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries:

- (1) What is the total number of grants planned to be made by the government other than to manufacturers operating in Victoria for assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries for the 2012–13 financial year and each of the subsequent three financial years (please exemplify the range of organisations to which such grants could be made).
- (2) What is the estimated total dollar grant expenditure to be made by the government other than to manufacturers operating in Victoria for assistance and support to Victoria’s manufacturing industries for the 2012–13 financial year and each of the subsequent three financial years?
- (3) Under what programs are these grants to be made and what is the total expenditure anticipated or planned for under each of these programs for these grants.
- (4) What is the purpose, aim and objective for each of these programs.
- (5) What is the planned budget for each of these programs including the amount anticipated of expenditure for grants to manufacturers operating in Victoria, other grants to assist and support Victoria’s manufacturing industries, grants other than for assisting and supporting Victoria’s manufacturing industries and the estimated amount for non-grant expenditure such as program administration and any contribution to departmental operations.
- (6) Which of these programs will cease during the period and in which year.
- (7) What is the reason for this cessation.
- (8) What evaluation will be made of these programs and how will such an evaluation be carried out.

ANSWER:

The 2012–13 budget provides \$58 million over four years to support the Victorian manufacturing sector. Funding has been provided to deliver the priority initiatives outlined under the government’s manufacturing strategy *A More Competitive Manufacturing Industry*. Objectives of each of these initiatives are as follows:

1. **Specialist manufacturing service** — helping manufacturers overcome market failures and barriers and raising productivity and competitiveness;
2. **Manufacturing productivity networks** — providing flexible support to networks seeking to expand their activities;
3. **Investing in manufacturing technology** — supporting businesses to invest in new and transformative technologies that will improve business performance;
4. **Building innovative small manufacturers** — providing more targeted assistance to small manufacturers through specialist workshops, improved access to information and encouraging innovation; and
5. **Managing transition for retrenched workers** — reducing the adverse impacts of retrenchments.

Please refer to the 2012–13 budget papers for further details of funding breakdown.

While it is anticipated that all monies will be expended, actual expenditure is dependent on the quality and quantity of applications and their eligibility.

These programs will continue during the four years of funding provided.

Organisations including the Industry Capability Network, the Victorian Centre for Advanced Materials Manufacturing and Geelong Manufacturing Council receive funding from the Victorian government to assist manufacturers with a range of activities limited to the department's objectives. Details of funding provided to these organisations will be published in the 2012–13 Department of Business and Innovation's (DBI) annual report.

The Victorian government is committed to ensuring that programs deliver value for money and benefits to the community. DBI has in place an evaluation policy which embeds high-quality evaluation and appropriate use of its outputs as standard practice within the department.