

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

3 and 5 September 2013

(Extract from book 11)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

The ministry (from 22 April 2013)

Premier, Minister for Regional Cities and Minister for Racing	The Hon. D. V. Napthine, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, and Minister for Regional and Rural Development	The Hon. P. J. Ryan, MP
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Minister for Housing, and Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development	The Hon. W. A. Lovell, MLC
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Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.	The Hon. E. J. Powell, MP
Assistant Treasurer, Minister for Technology and Minister responsible for the Aviation Industry	The Hon. G. K. Rich-Phillips, MLC
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Minister for the Arts, Minister for Women's Affairs and Minister for Consumer Affairs	The Hon. H. Victoria, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, and Minister for Water.	The Hon. P. L. Walsh, MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and Minister for Bushfire Response	The Hon. K. A. Wells, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Community Services, and Minister for Disability Services and Reform	The Hon. M. L. N. Wooldridge, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Mr N. Wakeling, 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, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

Economy and Infrastructure References Committee — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Drum, Mr Finn, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

Environment and Planning Legislation Committee — Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Peulich, Mr Scheffer, #Mr Tarlamis, Mr Tee and Ms Tierney.

Environment and Planning References Committee — Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Elsbury, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #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, #Mr Leane, Ms Mikakos, Mrs Millar, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

Legal and Social Issues References Committee — Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmr, #Mr Elsbury, Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Ms Mikakos, Mrs Millar, Mr O'Brien, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

Participating member

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr P. Davis, Mr O'Brien. (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Mr McIntosh and Ms Neville.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Hall, Mr Lenders, Ms Lovell and Ms Pennicuik. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Clark, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Mr O'Brien and Mr Walsh.

Economic Development, Infrastructure and Outer Suburban/Interface Services Committee — (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess, Mrs Fyffe, Mr McGuire and Mr Shaw.

Education and Training Committee — (*Council*): Mr Elasmr, Mrs Kronberg and Mrs Millar. (*Assembly*): Mr Brooks and Mr Crisp.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Mr Finn, Mrs Peulich, Mr Somyurek and Mr Tarlamis. (*Assembly*): Mr Northe.

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 Thomson, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Viney. (*Assembly*): Ms Hennessy, Mr McIntosh, Mr Newton-Brown and Mr Weller.

Law Reform, Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Scheffer. (*Assembly*): Mr Carroll, Mr McCurdy and Mr Southwick.

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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 Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Barker, 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

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

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Mr M. VINEY

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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

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Hon. Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Lenders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Lovell, Hon. Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP
Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Melhem, Mr Cesar ²	Western Metropolitan	LP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise ⁴	Northern Victoria	LP
Dalla-Riva, Hon. Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr David Roland Joseph	Western Victoria	Nats
Darveniza, Ms Kaye Mary	Northern Victoria	ALP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Davis, Hon. David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Davis, Mr Philip Rivers	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip ¹	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Petrovich, Mrs Donna-Lee ³	Northern Victoria	LP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Elsbury, Mr Andrew Warren	Western Metropolitan	LP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Guy, Hon. Matthew Jason	Northern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Hon. Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Hall, Hon. Peter Ronald	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Scheffer, Mr Johan Emiel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tarlamis, Mr Lee Reginald	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Koch, Mr David Frank	Western Victoria	LP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP

¹ Resigned 26 March 2013

² Appointed 8 May 2013

³ Resigned 1 July 2013

⁴ Appointed 21 August 2013

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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Tuesday, 3 September 2013

Victorian Music Library: relocation

Raised with: Minister for the Arts

Raised by: Ms Pennicuik

Raised on: 28 August 2012

REPLY:

Victoria is fortunate in the number and quality of its community cultural collections.

The Victorian Music Library (VML) is an important lending source of printed music for individuals and community groups.

Although the VML's accommodation circumstances appear to have been temporarily addressed, I am aware that a longer term solution for VLM is required.

In relation to this, I am pleased to be able to advise that the State Library of Victoria is currently in discussion with the VML regarding the future accommodation of their library.

Local government: federal referendum

Raised with: Premier

Raised by: Ms Broad

Raised on: 26 June 2013

REPLY:

I thank the member for Northern Victoria, Ms Broad, for raising the adjournment debate matter in relation to the recognition of local government in the Australian constitution.

As is now known, the proposed referendum will not proceed in conjunction with the forthcoming federal election on 7 September 2013. Nonetheless, the Victorian coalition government's stance in relation to this matter has not changed.

While the Victorian government greatly values the important contribution that local government continues to make to Victorian communities, families and businesses, it will not support an amendment of the Australian constitution which has the potential to impact negatively on Victoria and Victoria's local government sector.

The proposed amendment would not guarantee that any additional funding would flow to Victorian local government sector, and further, Victorian councils could even be financially disadvantaged as a consequence of constitutional recognition, if the commonwealth government decided to reallocate funding to interstate councils it considered more disadvantaged.

Lastly, in direct response to the member's concerns, to the extent that any existing commonwealth payments to local governments may face constitutional uncertainty, there already exist appropriate channels for the commonwealth to negotiate funding agreements with Victoria.

In this light, our government stands ready to negotiate any new intergovernmental agreement to ensure that Victorian local governments are able to receive commonwealth funding as appropriate.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Responses have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Thursday, 5 September 2013

Hospitals: funding

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Jennings

Raised on: 7 February 2013

REPLY:

- The 2012–13 Statements of Priorities (SoPs) have been finalised following the commonwealth government's recent reversal of their decision to cut \$107 million from Victorian health services for the remainder of the 2012–13 financial year.
- SoPs are available online once they are finalised.
- If commonwealth cuts are not reinstated on 1 July 2013 there will be \$368 million outstanding over three years from Victorian hospitals. It is disappointing that you voted on 11 December 2012 to in effect support the vicious commonwealth cuts.

Latrobe Regional Hospital: federal funding

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr P. Davis

Raised on: 21 March 2013

REPLY:

I am advised that Latrobe Regional Hospital has received \$2.2 million from the commonwealth government as reimbursement of the cuts announced in October 2012.

Commonwealth plans to cut an estimated \$368 million of promised funding from Victorian health services over the next three financial years from 1 July 2013 remain in place.

The Victorian government is committed to seeking to restore full and promised funding by the commonwealth government to Victorian health services and patients.

The commonwealth government will cut \$2.015 million from promised funding to Latrobe Regional Hospital in 2013–14 unless it moves to restore this funding before 1 July 2013.

Hospitals: waiting lists

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Tee

Raised on: 13 June 2013

REPLY:

The 2013–14 Victorian state budget allocated \$420.7 million to drive elective surgery activity over the next four years. This funding follows on from the 2012–13 \$44 million pilot of the Competitive Elective Surgery Funding initiative.

The initiative maximises the value of government funding for elective surgery public patients over the longer term; drives efficiencies and innovation to improve access and maximise the number of patients treated; and encourages partnerships between the public and private sector to develop new market approaches to the delivery of public elective surgery services.

On 23 April 2013, the Department of Health released an amendment to the Elective Surgery Access Policy to provide health services with simplified classifications of clinical urgency and guidance on the assignment of clinical urgency categories for particular surgeries.

All Victorian elective surgery patients are categorised based on clinical urgency and according to the following new classifications:

– Category 1

Admission within 30 days is desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it might become an emergency.

– Category 2

Admission within 90 days is desirable due to the clinical condition of the patient.

– Category 3

Admission within 365 days is desirable due to the clinical condition of the patient.

The amendment seeks to strengthen the ESAP by promoting consistent categorisation practices to assist patients to gain equitable access to elective surgery in Victoria.

The commonwealth has cut promised funding by \$368 million over three years.

Stawell Gold Mines: future

Raised with: Minister for Energy and Resources

Raised by: Mr O'Brien

Raised on: 27 June 2013

REPLY:

I refer to the matter you raised during the adjournment debate in the Legislative Council on 27 June 2013 regarding an invitation to visit Stawell Gold Mines in Stawell. I intend to visit Stawell in the near future and look forward to a site visit of Stawell Gold Mines, including an inspection of the proposed Big Hill Enhanced Development project. Minerals Development Victoria, within the Department of State Development, Business and Innovation, is

facilitating the Big Hill proposal and keeping me informed of current issues and activities as Stawell Gold Mines prepares the environment effects statement.

The Victorian government is committed to the appropriate development of Victoria's earth resources in accordance with Victoria's rigorous laws and regulations and will ensure that consideration of the Big Hill proposal demonstrates this.

Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Palliative care: Eastern Victoria Region constituent

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Scheffer

Raised on: 27 June 2013

REPLY:

Palliative care is a major issue for the Victorian community and in August 2011 the Victorian government announced it had committed an additional \$34.4 million over four years to strengthen palliative care services for people with a life-threatening illness. This included growth funding of \$4.2 million per annum to palliative care services.

Eastern Health has not experienced any reduction in Victorian government funding to provide palliative care service delivery across the eastern region.

On 22 October 2012, through the Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the commonwealth government announced that it would cut \$107 million from Victorian health services over the remainder of the 2012–13 financial year, including a cut of \$8.4 million to Eastern Health, and an estimated \$475 million over the next four years.

Eastern Health implemented a number of strategies to address the funding shortfall including the closure or consolidation of hospital beds, reductions in elective surgery, suspension of some services and the closure of the Yarra Ranges palliative care outpatients clinic in Lilydale.

While the commonwealth government reversed their decision for the remainder of the 2012–13 financial year, Eastern Health faced ongoing commonwealth cuts of over \$28 million over the next three years and as a result decided the Yarra Ranges palliative care outpatients clinic would remain closed as patients were now being cared for by their general practitioners and Eastern Palliative Care.

My department is working closely with Eastern Health to ensure that people living in the eastern region continue to have access to high quality palliative care services.