

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**6 and 8 May 2014**

**(Extract from book 6)**

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The Honourable ALEX CHERNOV, AC, QC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC

## **The ministry**

(from 17 March 2014)

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Minister for Higher Education and Skills . . . . .	The Hon. N. Wakeling, 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 . . . . .	Mrs I. Peulich, MLC

## Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Darveniza, Mr D. Davis, Mr Drum, Ms Lovell, Ms Pennicuik, Mrs Peulich and Mr Scheffer.

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

## Legislative Council standing committees

**Economy and Infrastructure Legislation Committee** — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, Mr D. D O'Brien, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford, Mr Ramsay and #Mr Scheffer.

**Economy and Infrastructure References Committee** — Mr Barber, Mrs Coote, #Ms Crozier, Mr Finn, #Mr Leane, Mr Lenders, Mr Melhem, Mr D. D O'Brien, #Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pulford and Mr Ramsay.

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

**Environment and Planning References Committee** — Mr Dalla-Riva, #Mr Finn, #Ms Hartland, Mrs Kronberg, #Mr Leane, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Pennicuik, #Mrs Peulich, Mr Ronalds, 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 D. R. J. 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 D. R. J. O'Brien, #Mrs Peulich, #Mr Ramsay and Mr Viney.

*# Participating member*

## Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. R. J. O'Brien and Mr Ronalds. (*Assembly*): Ms Kanis, Mr McIntosh and Ms Neville.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. Davis, Mr Drum, 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, Mrs Millar and Mr Ronalds. (*Assembly*): Mr Burgess and Mr McGuire.

**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 Delahunty.

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

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mrs Coote. (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr Madden, Mrs Powell and Ms Ryall.

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*) Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr D. R. J. O'Brien and Mrs Peulich. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Mr Blackwood, Ms Campbell, Ms Thomson, Mr Wakeling and Mr Weller.

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

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

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. R. J. O'Brien and Mr Ondarchie. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Ms Garrett, Mr Morris, Mr Pakula and Mr Scott.

**Road Safety Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Elsbury. (*Assembly*): Mr Languiller, Mr Perera, Mr Tilley and Mr Thompson.

**Rural and Regional Committee** — (*Council*): Mr D. R. J. O'Brien. (*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

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**FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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**Deputy President:** Mr M. VINEY

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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. D. K. DRUM (from 17 March 2013)

The Hon. P. R. HALL (to 17 March 2013)

**Deputy Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr D. R. J. O'BRIEN (from 17 March 2013)

Mr D. K. DRUM (to 17 March 2013)

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Broad, Ms Candy Celeste	Northern Victoria	ALP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Coote, Mrs Andrea	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Millar, Mrs Amanda Louise <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>8</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
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 <sup>5</sup>	Eastern Victoria	LP	Pakula, Hon. Martin Philip <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>7</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Ronalds, Mr Andrew Mark <sup>6</sup>	Eastern Victoria	LP
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Kronberg, Mrs Janice Susan	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tee, Mr Brian Lennox	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leanders, Mr John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Eastern Victoria	ALP

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 26 March 2013

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 8 May 2013

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 1 July 2013

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 21 August 2013

<sup>5</sup> Resigned 3 February 2014

<sup>6</sup> Appointed 5 February 2014

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 17 March 2014

<sup>8</sup> Appointed 26 March 2014



# CONTENTS

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## WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

### TUESDAY, 6 MAY 2014

<i>The Geelong Project</i> .....	1535
<i>Crime rates</i> .....	1535
<i>East–west link</i> .....	1536
<i>Black cab trial</i> .....	1537
<i>Western Victoria Region family violence</i> .....	1538
<i>Melton community health centre</i> .....	1539
<i>Palace Theatre development</i> .....	1540
<i>Reg Geary House</i> .....	1540
<i>Foodbank Victoria</i> .....	1540
<i>W. L. J. Crofts Reserve</i> .....	1541
<i>Tomcar Australia</i> .....	1541
<i>Public housing tenant</i> .....	1541
<i>No to Violence</i> .....	1542
<i>Country Fire Authority</i> .....	1543
<i>Homelessness national partnership</i> .....	1543
<i>Elsternwick Park golf project</i> .....	1544
<i>Cyclist safety</i> .....	1544
<i>Public transport fares</i> .....	1545
<i>Supported residential services</i> .....	1546
<i>Tarneit library</i> .....	1546

### THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2014

<i>Albert Park development</i> .....	1547, 1548
<i>Boral Western Landfill</i> .....	1547
<i>Television and film industry</i> .....	1548





**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 6 May 2014**

**The Geelong Project**

**Raised with: Minister for Housing**

**Raised by: Ms Tierney**

**Raised on: 3 September 2013**

**REPLY:**

Since April 2012, the Innovation Action Projects, part of the *Victorian Homelessness Action Plan 2011–15*, have trialled new ways of delivering homelessness services in Victoria. The purpose is to look at ways to address homelessness and the government is investing over \$30.9 million over a three year period in this initiative.

The Innovation Action Projects were always intended to be time-limited projects that would be delivered in two stages. The two-stage approach has allowed for the trial and evaluation of a broader range of approaches as part of stage one, and provides an opportunity in stage two to continue those projects that demonstrated the most successful outcomes for clients.

An independent evaluation shows some projects have been more successful than others. Based on the outcome of the evaluation, four projects, including The Geelong Project, ceased at the end of September 2013, while seven projects, including a youth specific project, will continue to trial new service models during stage two. In addition, two Innovation Action Projects will continue to service the Geelong area in stage two. These projects will inform decisions on future reform of the homelessness service system.

Given the time-limited nature of the Innovation Action Projects, all projects funded in stage one were required to develop a closure plan, including transition planning for clients in the event that their projects were not selected for stage two. My department has worked with The Geelong Project to ensure that clients can transition to other supports where required.

I would also like to pass on my thanks to those services that were not prioritised for continuation or expansion. While unsuccessful in this particular process, I am sure that lessons have been learnt that will be of value. I look forward to ongoing relationships with all of the organisations involved.

**Crime rates**

**Raised with: Minister for Police and Emergency Services**

**Raised by: Ms Mikakos**

**Raised on: 5 September 2013**

**REPLY:**

The government is committed to making our communities safer so families can feel safe on our streets, on public transport and in their homes. The government is providing \$602 million to deliver 1700 extra frontline police members by November 2014. The government has also committed \$212 million to recruit the 940 Protective Services Officers (PSOs) to improve safety for commuters across Victoria's public transport system.

The improvements to community safety that have been introduced by this government are benefitting all Victorians, including seniors. PSOs are now at 98 railway stations, improving safety for public transport users after 6pm. By November this year, all metropolitan stations, and four major regional stations, will be served by PSOs.

The number of offences committed against seniors has remained relatively stable in Victoria over the past year. The Victoria Police crime statistics that you refer to show that in 2012–13, victims aged 60 and over recorded a marginal increase of 1.2 per cent in the number of offences committed against them, compared to the previous year. When both the increase in population and the comparative ageing of the population over this period are taken into account, seniors will have actually experienced a small reduction in the rate of offences committed against them over the past year.

While you refer to large increases in the number of offences committed against seniors for specific categories, such as homicide, the total number of offences in these categories is relatively small, making it difficult to determine a statistically significant trend. For example, between 2010–11 and 2011–12, the number of homicides committed against seniors decreased from 27 to 20 offences, a reduction of 26 per cent. Although the following year these offences increased to a total of 34, it is difficult to conclude that seniors are becoming increasingly the target of such crimes.

Similarly, while the number of sex offences against seniors fell by 21.5 per cent in 2012–13 compared to the previous year, during the 2011–12 year they increased by 3.2 per cent. These figures illustrate the difficulty of establishing a meaningful trend in the short term.

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify this matter.

### **East–west link**

**Raised with: Minister for Roads**

**Raised by: Ms Hartland**

**Raised on: 18 September 2013**

#### **REPLY:**

I am advised by Linking Melbourne Authority (LMA) that there have been a number of meetings between LMA and Moonee Valley council officers to discuss the East West Link. I am also advised that LMA has worked with council to help run public information display sessions for the local community in September 2013.

The project will be designed to minimise impacts on parkland and opportunities to restore and enhance these areas will be created in the future. LMA is also working with local councils, park users and sporting clubs through the planning process to understand their needs and consider options for relocation of sporting activities.

The route identified in the reference design for the East West Link is close to the Flemington Community Centre, as well as some community high rise housing flats. However, based on this concept design, these would not be acquired.

LMA is working closely with council, the Flemington Community Centre and the Department of Human Services throughout the planning process to reach the best possible outcomes in respect of relocating and enhancing impacted community facilities at Debneys Park and Ormond Park. As council is the owner of the land, it will also be compensated for its loss in accordance with the Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986.

LMA will ensure every effort will be made to minimise impacts on land within the city of Moonee Valley and ensuring urban design is to a high standard. This includes minimising impacts to the Moonee Ponds Creek and identifying opportunities to enhance it for the future. Further details will be available once the project's construction contractors are on board and detailed design is completed, expected to be around late 2014.

After carrying out traffic micro-simulation, Linking Melbourne Authority made further improvements to the East West Link reference design to address chronic congestion around Flemington Road, the CityLink off ramp, Mt Alexander Road, Racecourse Road and Elliott Avenue.

These improvements include an Ormond Road exit ramp, which would see a reduction in north-bound traffic through the north western suburbs. With the inclusion of the ramp, traffic modelling shows a reduction in traffic on Mt Alexander Rd of up to 13 per cent across the day. This ramp also reduces the impacts of the project on Epsom Road by up to 10 per cent.

Linking Melbourne Authority has prepared a Comprehensive Impact Statement (CIS) for East West Link. The CIS aims to provide the Minister for Planning with the necessary information to determine whether the project should be approved under the Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009.

The CIS is based on detailed studies and analysis regarding the project, including a traffic impact assessment, tunnelling vibration and noise, cultural heritage, social business impact assessments and land use planning. The CIS traffic studies highlight the need for the East West Link.

The CIS was on display for public comment from 31 October to 12 December 2013. Submissions are now closed and are being considered by an independent Assessment Committee, which was appointed by the Minister for Planning to assess the CIS. Submissions processed to date are available on the Planning Panels Victoria website.

The Assessment Committee will conduct a Public Hearing from 3 March and provide recommendations to the Minister for Planning in the first half of 2014. In the meantime, Linking Melbourne Authority will continue to talk to the community regarding East West Link reference designs, potential project impacts and construction timeframes.

### **Black cab trial**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Mr Somyurek**

**Raised on: 16 October 2013**

#### **REPLY:**

The Taxi Services Commission (TSC) is closely monitoring the trial of London cabs (TX4) in Perth, Western Australia and is in regular contact with the Department of Transport's trial project manager.

All London cabs participating in the Perth trial are painted in a white livery, to provide a uniform colour different from the traditional black London cabs.

The TSC has met with Mr Evan Simeon, Chief Executive Officer of the London Taxi Company on two occasions, the most recent being Thursday 13 February 2014.

Mr Simeon provided TSC officers with a comprehensive update on the trial from his perspective, and updated officers on planned modifications to the vehicle to achieve full import compliance.

While Mr Simeon is interested in other taxi markets across Australia, including Victoria, he remains focused on the trial in Perth. Mr Simeon advised that he is committed to achieving industry and community acceptance for the vehicles in Perth before considering other market options.

In late 2013, the TSC approved the London cab to operate as a conventional taxi in Victoria. This means a Victorian taxi operator could purchase, licence and operate one of these vehicles today, for conventional taxi work.

Currently, the London cabs do not meet the wheelchair access requirements that apply to taxis across Australia. However, the TSC notes that the Department of Transport Western Australia is considering options in consultation

with disability organisations and other stakeholders to permit the vehicles to carry people in wheelchairs on a conditional basis.

The TSC is monitoring this development closely and is expecting a further update in mid-March 2014.

### **Western Victoria Region family violence**

**Raised with: Minister for Community Services**

**Raised by: Mr Ramsay**

**Raised on: 28 November 2013**

#### **REPLY:**

Addressing family violence is a key priority for the coalition government. Family violence cuts across all demographics, socio-economic groups and geographical areas. Family violence has devastating consequences for women and their families and in addition, costs the community more than \$13 billion a year.

I share your concern in relation to the upward trend in family violence incidents in the Central Highlands area. It is important to note however, that an increased confidence in local systems due to a strong, integrated family violence sector is likely to have contributed to this increase. Relevant services in the Central Highlands area include:

- a responsive police force with deep knowledge of the family violence system and a fax-back referral program to local family violence agencies;
- a 24 hour/7 day a week crisis response;
- outreach support provided by the Women's Resource Information and Support Centre;
- a children's therapeutic program;
- court support including indigenous specific programs;
- Men's Behaviour Change Programs and Men's Support Programs; and
- a specialised family violence court in Ballarat.

Additionally, I understand the Ballarat *Courier* has supported a year long family violence awareness raising campaign and consistently reports on local support services. I commend the Central Highlands area for their hard work in establishing such a strong service system.

This coalition government understands that family violence is a critical problem and the only way to stop this disturbing trend is to address the underlying causes of violence against women and children. In 2012–13 and 2013–14, the government has funded a range of prevention initiatives including:

- foundation to prevent violence against women and their children;
- three community pilot sites to prevent violence against women;
- media awards, a media advocacy program and resources and information sessions in recognition of the vital role of the media in changing community attitudes to family violence;
- tools and resources to prevent violence against women for local government in partnership with the Municipal Association of Victoria;
- White Ribbon activities, including funding for White Ribbon day events, information kits and website enhancements; and

You have also raised the issue of recidivism amongst perpetrators of violence against women. In 2013, legislation was enacted to create new indictable offences for serious or persistent contraventions of Family Violence Safety Notices and family violence intervention orders. These offences carry a maximum jail term of five years.

In order to break the cycle of violence and reduce recidivism, tougher sentencing has been accompanied by \$2.1 million in new investment in Men's Behaviour Change Programs to change the attitudes and behavior of men who use violence.

This funding will provide more than 1000 additional places over four years in the program for men who use violence, with the aim of breaking the cycle of violence and reducing recidivism. Services are being expanded where there is a high incidence of family violence, where the incidence is increasing, or where there are high rates of substantiated child neglect and abuse.

The Central Highlands area will receive \$315 000 as part of this investment.

### **Melton community health centre**

**Raised with: Minister for Health**

**Raised by: Mr Melhem**

**Raised on: 12 December 2013**

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the honourable member for Western Metropolitan Region for his question regarding Melton Community Health Centre.

I am pleased to assure the honourable member that the residents of the city of Melton are well served by the Victorian health care system and have access to health care services through a number of providers including Melton Community Health Centre, Djerriwarrh Health Service, North West Mental Health Services, Western Health Sunshine, Sunbury Day Hospital and Ambulance Victoria.

There have been a number of recent capital development initiatives in the western growth area which are relevant to residents of the city of Melton. A new 12 chair dental service was established and commenced operations at Melton Health in 2010. Sunshine Hospital, which provides most of the public hospital services to the residents of Melton, is also currently undergoing significant expansion and redevelopment to meet the growing population of the western region.

Additionally, Melton ambulance branch is now operational and will cater for the growing number of paramedics working in Melton 24 hours a day. The modern, new \$1.5 million ambulance station is a state-of-the-art ambulance branch with rest rooms, offices, training room, lounge, kitchen and a three-bay ambulance garage. This is a significant boost for paramedics who will be better equipped to respond to medical emergencies in and around Melton.

Significant planning has already been undertaken for the relocation of the Melton Community Health. Planning is being progressed to consider further the broader health needs of the community, in particular, services which respond to growing prevalence of chronic disease and mental health.

**Palace Theatre development**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning

**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik

**Raised on:** 12 December 2013

**REPLY:**

The Victorian state government is committed to protecting unique city precincts from inappropriate development. Our vision for development and growth, Plan Melbourne, specifically identifies the implementation of planning provisions for mandatory height controls in the Bourke Hill precinct. I am currently considering options on how best to implement these controls.

Plan Melbourne stipulates that the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure will work with local government to enhance and improve heritage planning and assessment.

**Reg Geary House**

**Raised with:** Minister for Ageing

**Raised by:** Ms Mikakos

**Raised on:** 4 February 2014

**REPLY:**

The closure of Reg Geary House in Melton South was a decision of the Western Health board.

Western Health has advised me that the decision took into account recent demand trends, the impact of national aged care reforms on the business and operating model of the service, and the suitability of the existing facility in relation to the expectations and increasingly complex needs of older people requiring residential aged care.

Western Health has further advised me that the service has been working with residents and their families to assist in finding suitable alternative places, and I understand that at this time all residents are expected to have moved well in advance of the planned closure date of June 2014.

Under Victoria's devolved governance model, individual health services make their own decisions regarding public health and aged care service delivery.

**Foodbank Victoria**

**Raised with:** Minister for Community Services

**Raised by:** Mr Melhem

**Raised on:** 5 February 2014

**REPLY:**

I would like to thank Mr Melhem for raising this matter.

Foodbank Victoria is the state's oldest and largest food relief organisation. For more than 80 years it has been delivering nutritious, healthy food to those experiencing hardship—including elderly pensioners, people with a disability and budget stretched individuals and families.

The important task of assisting people who are food insecure is one that is shared by the government, community organisations, volunteers and businesses.

The Victorian government contributes to this work through its recurrent funding to Foodbank Victoria of \$2.6 million in 2013–14.

This funding covers salaries, administration, operating, transport and accommodation costs. The funding enables Foodbank Victoria to collect donations of food and material aid to be distributed through more than 500 community organisations across the state.

I have met with the CEO of Foodbank Victoria to discuss its current and future needs, and there have been a number of follow-up meetings with my office and my department as a result.

### **W. L. J. Crofts Reserve**

**Raised with: Minister for Sport and Recreation**

**Raised by: Mr Finn**

**Raised on: 6 February 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I note your request for a visit and I have asked my office to contact Mr Finn's office to discuss the possibility of a visit to W.L.J Crofts Reserve.

I can confirm that the 2015–2016 Community Facility Funding Program is now open for Project Proposals and the Western Jets Football Club and Altona North Cricket Club can work in partnership with Hobsons Bay City Council to submit a funding application for their proposal to construct new unisex umpires change rooms, a gymnasium and public toilets at the ground as well as redeveloping existing unisex change rooms.

### **Tomcar Australia**

**Raised with: Minister for Manufacturing**

**Raised by: Ms Crozier**

**Raised on: 18 February 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

I thank Ms Crozier MP for her invitation to visit Tomcar Australia in Oakleigh to see the company in operation and discuss business opportunities for local and international markets.

I am advised that a number of staff from my department have been to the facility where the vehicles are assembled and had discussions with Tomcar and I would be happy to have my office make arrangements for me to visit at a mutually convenient time.

### **Public housing tenant**

**Raised with: Minister for Housing**

**Raised by: Ms Pulford**

**Raised on: 18 February 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

I am aware of the circumstances of this family, however I am unable to comment on the specifics of this matter without compromising the privacy of the tenants involved.

My department is committed to doing all it can to enforce the conditions of tenancy agreements with public housing tenants. Tenants have an obligation not to use their property in a way that causes nuisance or interference with the peace, comfort or privacy of a neighbour.

As the landlord, the department can take action through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) to enforce the provisions of the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (RTA) when breaches of a tenancy agreement are able to be substantiated.

The department has explored other forms of housing assistance with the family including the options of housing through Housing Associations, use of the department's bond loan scheme and suitable mutual swap opportunities.

The department has also attempted to review with the family its specific accommodation requirements for the Supported Housing waiting list. This list is for applicants who need very specific types of housing due to a disability, or because they need a range of services in the home and require urgent housing assistance.

The family's priority transfer application is approved under the department's Supported Housing waiting list criteria. This criterion is for applicants who require housing with major disability modifications or are receiving significant personal support through a nominated DHS funded program. The applicants on the waiting list ahead of this family have also demonstrated urgent requirements for public housing and are approved for Supported Housing or Homeless with Support criteria.

### **No to Violence**

**Raised with:** Minister for Community Services

**Raised by:** Ms Tierney

**Raised on:** 18 February 2014

#### **REPLY:**

Brophy Family and Youth Services Inc. is a valued provider in the Western District area. Programs which support men to change attitudes and behaviours, and which hold men to account for their use of violence, are critical to improve the safety of women and children.

The Victorian government has a strong commitment to addressing family violence and sexual assault. Our strategic framework, the *Action Plan to Address Violence against Women and Children: 2012–2015*, is a whole-of-government plan incorporating long-term preventive activity, initiatives to identify and respond to violence early, and programs and initiatives to support women and children experiencing violence. The Action Plan is underpinned by an investment of more than \$90 million per year.

Men's Behaviour Change Programs (MBCPs) are an important component of our whole-of-government plan to address family violence. For this reason, we committed additional funding of \$2.1 million over four years to these programs through the 2013–14 state budget. Services are being expanded where there is a high incidence of family violence, where the incidence is increasing, or where there are high rates of substantial child neglect and abuse. New funding will build the capacity of agencies working with men and deliver more than 1000 additional program places over four years.



### Country Fire Authority

**Raised with:** Minister for Police and Emergency Services

**Raised by:** Ms Hartland

**Raised on:** 12 March 2014

**REPLY:**

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) recently commenced a campaign seeking additional funding for the Country Fire Authority (CFA) fleet. The Victorian government greatly appreciates the significant contribution volunteers make to the wellbeing and safety of the people of Victoria. In particular, the government recognises the dedication and contribution of over 55 000 operational and non-operational CFA volunteers.

The VFBV's claim that volunteer fire fighters are using frontline operational fire fighting trucks that would be considered unsafe or inadequate for career firefighters doing the same work in the same communities is incorrect.

CFA has a fit for purpose fleet management strategy. Under this strategy, fire appliance replacement programs are based on key vehicle replacement indicators including operational requirements, legislative compliance, health and safety and maintainability/serviceability of vehicles.

The age of an appliance is a contributing factor in each of those replacement indicators, but must not be considered in isolation and is not the sole driver for replacement.

The VFBV further claims that this year 24 per cent of CFA's operational fleet of fire trucks will exceed optimal maximum age limits, that 520 fire trucks will be over 20 years old. This statement is not correct. The CFA has advised that this figure is not accurate and that it overstates by at least 100 the number of vehicles aged 20 years and over.

The government's 2013–14 contribution to the CFA budget is the second largest in the organisation's history and includes \$61 million for the replacement and upgrade of 142 rural stations, enabling the CFA to complete the government's election commitment to build or upgrade 250 stations in its first term. The Victorian coalition government has provided more than \$125 million over three years to build 250 new or upgraded CFA stations.

### Homelessness national partnership

**Raised with:** Minister for Housing

**Raised by:** Mr Melhem

**Raised on:** 12 March 2014

**REPLY:**

The Victorian government is committed to addressing and preventing homelessness.

The Victorian government invested over \$220 million to community organisations to help people who are homeless in the last year alone. This funding provides services to some of Victoria's most vulnerable, including people sleeping rough and women and children experiencing family violence.

The National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness (NPAH) has funded much needed services to vulnerable Victorians across the state. The Victorian and commonwealth governments committed \$49.4 million in joint funds to maintain services funded under the NPAH in 2013–14.

On 30 March 2014, the commonwealth government announced up to \$115 million across Australia to maintain services under the NPAH in 2014–15.

My department is working in collaboration with the commonwealth and other jurisdictions towards a new agreement for 2014–15 to ensure that we can continue to support vulnerable Victorians who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness.

The Victorian government is committed to supporting vulnerable people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and we will continue, with our partners in the sector, to work hard to improve the way homelessness services are delivered.

### **Elsternwick Park golf project**

**Raised with:** Minister for Sport and Recreation

**Raised by:** Ms Crozier

**Raised on:** 13 March 2014

**REPLY:**

I am aware that Golf Australia, the PGA of Australia and Golf Victoria have partnered as the National Golf Project Consortium and proposed a world first development to unite Australian Golf in the form of a National Home of Golf and Centre of Excellence.

I understand that the consortium's project proposal for the development of a National Home of Golf and Centre of Excellence proposes a location in Bayside City Council based around the existing Elsternwick Golf Course.

I am advised that this consortium believes the facility will unite the industry and provide world class education, training and administration all at the one site.

I am aware that my department has received initial advice of the Consortium's proposal and I look forward to receiving a full briefing on the project.

### **Cyclist safety**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads

**Raised by:** Ms Pulford

**Raised on:** 13 March 2014

**REPLY:**

I thank Ms Pulford for raising this important issue. The Victorian government is committed to protecting cyclists' safety and supporting the uptake of cycling and other sustainable travel modes.

In August 2012, The Victorian government increased the penalties for opening a car door into the path of a road user or vehicle.

The on-the-spot infringement penalty increased from 1 to 2.5 penalty units (\$141 to \$352) and the maximum cost penalty increased from 3 to 10 penalty units (\$423 to \$1408). The increase in penalties reflects the significance of crashes between car doors and bicycles.

Advertisements to promote the increase in penalties were published in the *Age* and the *Herald Sun* on 1 August 2012. The VicRoads website was updated to reflect the changes. A gazette notice was also published on 1 August 2012.

Ms Pulford is seeking further information in relation to Recommendation 2 of the Standing Committee on Economy and Infrastructure-Legislation Committee's report on the Road Safety Amendment (Car Doors) Bill 2012. This Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council in early February 2012 and referred to the Standing Committee on Economy and Infrastructure-Legislative Committee for inquiry, consideration and report.

Recommendation 2 of the report states that:

The Committee recommends that VicRoads undertake a review of 'car dooring' incidents before the end of 2014, to determine whether the higher monetary penalties and further police training have achieved a decrease in the number of 'car dooring' incidents. If the number of incidents has not decreased, the Committee recommends VicRoads then reconsider attaching demerit points to the offence.

Given that the increased penalty for road rule 269 (3) did not come into force until August 2012, it is too early for VicRoads to evaluate the effectiveness of the increase in penalty in terms of decreasing the number of 'car dooring' incidents.

VicRoads intends to complete a review of car 'dooring' incidents before the end of 2014.

### **Public transport fares**

**Raised with: Minister for Innovation**

**Raised by: Mrs Coote**

**Raised on: 26 March 2014**

#### **REPLY:**

I am pleased to note the Victorian government's announcement that it will make tram travel in the CBD and Docklands free from next year.

This is a significant initiative that builds on Melbourne's credentials as a welcoming city for visitors.

It will be easier and more convenient for tourists to travel across the CBD and visit our extensive network of attractions, cafes and restaurants, laneways and retail precincts.

Business travellers and visitors to our major events will also benefit from ease of travel across the CBD and Docklands.

Visitors will be encouraged to explore broader Melbourne experiences with the announcement of maximum daily fares at the Zone 1 rate across Melbourne's entire tram, rail and bus network.

This initiative also complements the Victorian government's previous announcement that international students will be able to access a 50 per cent discount on annual public transport tickets.

The visitor experience is crucial in delivering positive word-of-mouth about Melbourne, and the ease and cost of getting around the city is part of this.

The Victorian government believes these initiatives will encourage tourists to visit more of our attractions, make Melbourne more attractive for the important international student market, and further cement our reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities.

Tourism and international education are significant drivers for Victoria. For the year ending September 2013, international overnight visitor spend in Victoria increased by 7.7 per cent to \$4.7 billion. Of this, visitors whose main purpose of travel was for education spent \$1.8 billion, a year-on-year increase of 9.4 per cent<sup>i</sup>.

Since December 2010, the Victorian government has delivered nine Super Trade Missions to China, the Middle East and Turkey, India and South East Asia. These trade missions have been important in delivering improved business and government relationships across a range of sectors, including tourism and education.

Ministers and officials will be certain to promote these initiatives as part of upcoming trade missions.

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<sup>i</sup> Source: International Visitor Survey, Tourism Research Australia, year ending September 2013.

The government will also be widely promoting these initiatives through its network of Victorian government business offices and other communications channels such as [visitvictoria.com](http://visitvictoria.com) and [studymelbourne.vic.gov.au](http://studymelbourne.vic.gov.au).

### **Supported residential services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Disability Services and Reform

**Raised by:** Ms Mikakos

**Raised on:** 26 March 2014

**REPLY:**

I am informed the gentleman whose situation was raised on 26 March 2014 is being well supported at a supported residential service in Hampton.

A case manager from the Department of Human Services assisted the gentleman to move to his new accommodation and has been visiting him regularly. The case manager is also assisting with access to appropriate community services and recreation activities.

I am informed the gentleman is happy with his new accommodation and will continue to be monitored by my department.

### **Tarneit library**

**Raised with:** Minister for Local Government

**Raised by:** Mr Melhem

**Raised on:** 27 March 2014

**REPLY:**

I thank the member for Western Metropolitan Region for raising the matter. I am pleased that the Victorian government awarded Wyndham City Council \$750 000 toward the new Tarneit Library in the 2013 funding round of the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program. This is the maximum grant available under the program. My department has been in contact with Wyndham City Council and I am delighted to hear that the project will proceed as planned, and will deliver a much needed facility to the Tarneit community.

The Victorian government has committed \$17.2 million over four years to the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program to enhance existing public library facilities and build new libraries across the state. Expressions of Interest for the fourth funding round closed on Friday 28 March 2014. I look forward to shortly receiving recommendations for funding from the independent panel following their assessment.

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Thursday, 8 May 2014**

**Albert Park development**

**Raised with: Minister for Environment and Climate Change**

**Raised by: Mrs Coote**

**Raised on: 4 February 2014**

**REPLY:**

The Albert Park Golf Course is currently managed under a Crown land lease that has strict conditions on its use and development. The lease does not expire until June 2028 and does not allow for any kind of hotel-style development.

As the member is aware the Victorian coalition government has no plans for hotel-style development at Albert Park Reserve. Only the member for Albert Park, Mr Martin Foley, has made the suggestion of plans for inappropriate development within the park.

Any proposal that involves a change from the current lease conditions would require a new lease. This would require my agreement as minister, the approval of Parks Victoria's Board, and be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

A project to develop a master plan for Albert Park has recently begun. The master plan will provide overall vision for the park including appropriate uses, and is developed in close consultation with park users and the local community. The plan will also consider commercial operations, recognising the value that appropriate commercial operations can bring to public spaces.

Any major changes to leasing arrangements at Albert Park would be subject to the most stringent and transparent approval process.

I therefore assure the member from Southern Metropolitan Region that under a Victorian coalition government, maintaining the character of the park as a green space in the heart of Melbourne and the community's access to it are considered to be of the utmost importance.

**Boral Western Landfill**

**Raised with: Minister for Environment and Climate Change**

**Raised by: Mr Melhem**

**Raised on: 11 March 2014**

**REPLY:**

As part of ongoing investigations into the odour issues being experienced by residents of Deer Park, Caroline Springs, Derrimut and surrounding areas, EPA officers have conducted multiple inspections on two businesses in the area, the Boral landfill, and Pinegro, a composter co-located on the landfill site.

A number of potential odour sources were identified at the sites. EPA is working with the businesses to find solutions to these potential issues and has issued statutory notices reflecting the agreed actions.

While these sites may be contributing to the odour experienced by residents, EPA continues to monitor the situation to identify other possible sources. EPA commenced a structured odour monitoring campaign on 11 March 2014.

Based on EPA's experience with complex odour issues, they expect that there will be a combination of short term and longer term work needed to resolve these issues.

EPA is continuing to investigate these odours, and I would encourage your constituents to continue to report strong, persistent odours when they are happening to 1300 EPA VIC. They may also wish to make their own notes as they may be required to swear an affidavit and may also need to appear in person to provide evidence if the matter proceeds to court.

### **Albert Park development**

**Raised with:** Minister for Environment and Climate Change

**Raised by:** Mrs Coote

**Raised on:** 12 March 2014

**REPLY:**

As the member will be aware, the Albert Park Golf Course is currently managed under a Crown land lease that has strict conditions on its use and development. The lease does not expire until June 2028 and does not allow for any kind of hotel-style development.

Any proposal that involves a major change from the current lease conditions would require a new lease. This would require my agreement as minister, the approval of Parks Victoria's Board, and be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

There would be a public notification process and the provisions of Leasing Policy for Crown Land in Victoria 2010 would apply. Any major changes to leasing arrangements at Albert Park would be subject to the most stringent and open approval process.

As such the shameful scare campaign conducted by the Labor Party to which the good people of Albert Park have been subject is done in the full knowledge that it is complete misinformation.

The development of a new master plan for Albert Park has recently begun. The master plan will provide a long-term vision for the park including appropriate uses. The plan will also consider commercial operations, recognising that these have been a vital part of the park for a long time.

For the Victorian coalition government, maintaining the character of the park and the community's access to it are important issues. As such, community input is considered crucial to the success of this master plan and has been encouraged throughout the process.

Under a Victorian coalition government Albert Park will remain a green space in the heart of Melbourne for all to enjoy. The Napthine government has a long-term planning strategy that will keep Melbourne at the forefront of the world's most liveable cities for decades to come.

### **Television and film industry**

**Raised with:** Minister for Innovation

**Raised by:** Mrs Coote

**Raised on:** 1 April 2014

**REPLY:**

Victorian government funding decisions for film and television projects are publicised by the Minister for Innovation and Film Victoria, the state agency responsible for providing strategic leadership and assistance to the film, television and digital media sectors of Victoria.

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Information regarding funding decisions, such as project titles and investment amounts, is publicised via:

- ministerial media releases, which are also published on Film Victoria’s website;
- Film Victoria’s website as industry news items and on its Funding Decisions page;
- Film Victoria’s Twitter account, which links funding decisions to more than 16 000 followers; and
- Film Victoria’s fortnightly eNews bulletin, which reaches approximately 4500 subscribers.

Media releases are also provided to trade information journals such as *Inside Film* magazine and Screen Hub.

Once production schedules are confirmed, projects are highlighted on Film Victoria’s website on its In Production page.

These resources are used by the general public, guilds and associations, industry practitioners, screen businesses, students and trade media to remain informed of the progress of film and television projects active in Victoria.

All funding payments are also detailed in Film Victoria’s annual report and yearbook.

The South Melbourne area has a hub of Victorian screen businesses, including post production houses and visual effects studios which benefit directly and indirectly from funding delivered through Film Victoria.

Ms Coote may like to advise organisations in her electorate of these sources of information.