

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

17 and 18 March 2015

(Extract from book 4)

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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, QC

The ministry

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. L. D’Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. A. Somyurek, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

Legislative Council committees

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Joint committees

Environment and Natural Resources Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Battin, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kealy, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmar, Mr Finn, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:
The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:
The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:
The Hon. D. K. DRUM

Leader of the Greens:
Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFP — Shooters and Fishers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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

Tuesday, 17 March 2015

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 26 February 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government believes all Victorians are entitled to quality end-of-life care which relieves pain and suffering and provides empowering support to clinicians, families and carers involved in an individual's care.

Primarily due to the ageing population, there is increasing demand for hospital and community based palliative care across the state and the government is currently considering a number of options to better service this demand.

Considerations include how to better target current investment and where increased capacity needs to be situated across the state to ensure palliative care options are available to all Victorians.

This will ensure more people receive timely and appropriate relief from pain and experience a better end of life.

Greater capacity within community palliative care providers will enable more people to achieve their wish to die at home, and also reduce emergency department presentations and acute hospital admissions.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing Victoria end-of-life choices, particularly favouring or strengthening the application of Advance Care Directives, and other measures to improve the end-of-life experience.

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

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

Wednesday, 18 March 2015

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Symes
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 25 February 2015

ANSWER:

The \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund will provide support for major projects, employment and communities across regional and rural Victoria.

This includes the \$20 million Food Source Victoria initiative, which will support regional alliances of producers to focus on high quality goods and collectively market their produce for export.

Regional businesses and communities including those in the Strathbogie region will be able to apply for support through the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund. Applications and proposals will be considered on their merits in accordance with public guidelines to be established for the fund.

We intend to have the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund operational by 1 July 2015.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 26 February 2015

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is implementing the \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) as the centrepiece of its commitment to regional Victoria.

The former Baillieu/Napthine Coalition Government abandoned our regions.

Under the Liberal-Nationals Coalition, regional Victoria only got four per cent of the funds for major projects, despite being home to 25 per cent of our population.

Under Labor, the RJIF will fund programs and projects under three broad funding streams:

- the \$250 million Regional Infrastructure Development Fund;
- the \$200 million Regional Jobs Fund; and
- the \$50 million Stronger Regional Communities Plan.

The Labor Government will also support regional Victoria through

- the \$200 million Future Industries Fund – awarding \$1 million grants to businesses specialising in the food and fibre sector and in five other high growth industries; and
- the \$20 million Food Source Victoria program to build alliances of producers from the same region and with the same specialty.

As well as our existing initiatives for regional Victoria, the Andrews Government will welcome applications and proposals to RJIF and other funds which will be considered on their merits.

We intend to have the RJIF operational by 1 July 2015.