

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

14 and 15 April 2015

(Extract from book 5)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

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

Privileges Committee — Mr Drum, Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, and Ms Wooldridge.

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

Legislative Council standing committees

Economy Infrastructure Legislation Committee — Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Dalidakis, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

Economy Infrastructure References Committee — Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Dalidakis, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

Environment and Planning Legislation Committee — Ms Bath, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Leane, Ms Shing, Ms Tierney and Mr Young.

Environment and Planning References Committee — Ms Bath, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Leane, Ms Shing, Ms Tierney and Mr Young.

Legal and Social Issues Legislation Committee — Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

Legal and Social Issues References Committee — Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O'Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Elasmr, Mr Melhem and Mr Purcell. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mr Perera and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Mr Dalidakis and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.

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

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Ms Lovell. (*Assembly*): Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards, Ms Kealy, Ms McLeish, and Ms Sheed.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mrs Fyffe, Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O'Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kealy, Ms Kilkeny 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
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 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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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 Assembly.
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.*

Tuesday, 14 April 2015

Racing

416. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Racing): What project based funding has Greyhound Racing Victoria and any registered greyhound racing clubs received from the Victorian Racing Industry Fund in the years 2004 to 2014, inclusive, and what were the projects.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Details regarding racing grants, including those provided to Greyhound Racing Victoria and registered greyhound racing clubs, are available on the Department of Justice & Regulation website, <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/utility/grants>.

Corrections

421. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many current parole orders were there on —

- (a) 12 February 2015; and
- (b) 19 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 1073 current parole orders on 31 January 2015.

In response to future similar questions the end of month number will be provided, rather than a compilation of a more frequent series.

I am pleased that the number of prisoners has the attention of the Opposition. It makes it even more remarkable that while unprecedented growth in prisoner numbers occurred, the previous Minister for Corrections in the Coalition Government ceased releasing statistics that had been routinely provided to the community under Labor since 2004.

[Question 421 previously answered on 18 March 2015. Hansard reference to original answer: page 867.]

Employment

429. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the loss of 205 jobs at Coles head office in Melbourne in February 2015:

- (1) On what date was the Minister's office first advised or made aware of Coles' decision.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of this decision.

- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Coles, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Coles and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, did the Minister instruct the Department to make contact with Coles and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Coles and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Any job lost in our state is one too many. This Government never wants to see jobs lost.

When Labor was last in office the unemployment rate was 4.9%. We created over 252 600 jobs between 2006 and 2010.

We inherited an unemployment rate at 6.8% — the worst unemployment rate on the mainland — and the Coalition created half the jobs that Labor did.

That's why our Back to Work Plan is so important:

- \$100 million to provide payroll tax relief to companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers; \$500 million for the Premiers Jobs and Investment Panel; and
- \$200 million for our Future Industries Fund.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with businesses across Victoria to ensure that all employees or employers who face redundancy or retrenchment are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support program.

I am regularly briefed on these interactions between the Department and affected businesses.

Employment

430. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the announcement in January 2015 of a loss of 80 jobs at Ernest Hillier:

- (1) On what date was the Minister's office first advised or made aware of Ernest Hillier's decision.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of this decision.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Ernest Hillier, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Ernest Hillier and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, did the Minister instruct the Department to make contact with Ernest Hillier and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Ernest Hillier and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Any job lost in our state is one too many. This Government never wants to see jobs lost.

When Labor was last in office the unemployment rate was 4.9%. We created over 252 600 jobs between 2006 and 2010.

We inherited an unemployment rate at 6.8% — the worst unemployment rate on the mainland — and the Coalition created half the jobs that Labor did.

That's why our Back to Work Plan is so important:

- \$100 million to provide payroll tax relief to companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers;
- \$500 million for the Premiers Jobs and Investment Panel; and
- \$200 million for our Future Industries Fund.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with businesses across Victoria to ensure that all employees or employers who face redundancy or retrenchment are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support program.

I am regularly briefed on these interactions between the Department and affected businesses.

Employment

431. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the announcement in February 2015 of a loss of at least 130 jobs at ANZ in Melbourne:

- (1) On what date was the Minister's office first advised or made aware of ANZ's decision.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of this decision.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of ANZ, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with the ANZ and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses did the Minister instruct the department to make contact with ANZ and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about job losses at ANZ and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Any job lost in our state is one too many. This Government never wants to see jobs lost.

When Labor was last in office the unemployment rate was 4.9%. We created over 252 600 jobs between 2006 and 2010.

We inherited an unemployment rate at 6.8% — the worst unemployment rate on the mainland — and the Coalition created half the jobs that Labor did.

That's why our Back to Work Plan is so important:

- \$100 million to provide payroll tax relief to companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers;
- \$500 million for the Premiers Jobs and Investment Panel; and
- \$200 million for our Future Industries Fund.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with businesses across Victoria to ensure that all employees or employers who face redundancy or retrenchment are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support program.

I am regularly briefed on these interactions between the Department and affected businesses.

Premier

432. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister's private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Education

433. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister's private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Public transport

434. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister's private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

As the Member would be aware, Department Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with department liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Department Liaison Officer.

Employment

435. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Energy and resources

436. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the member will be aware, Departmental staff (typically known as Departmental Liaison Officers) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices.

Industry

437. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the member will be aware, Departmental staff (typically known as Departmental Liaison Officers) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices.

Sport

441. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Sport): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

447. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title can include Departmental Liaison Officer or Administrative Assistant.

Emergency services

448. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Emergency Services): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title can include Departmental Liaison Officer or Administrative Assistant.

Health

449. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Ambulance services

450. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Training and skills

451. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by the Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is the Departmental Liaison Officer.

Local government

452. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Local Government): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Department Liaison Officer (DLO) are employed by Departments to Assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Aboriginal affairs

453. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Industrial relations

454. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Environment, climate change and water

458. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Police

459. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title can include Departmental Liaison Officer or Administrative Assistant.

Corrections

460. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title can include Departmental Liaison Officer or Administrative Assistant.

Attorney-General

461. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

As the Member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Racing

462. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Racing): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLOs) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Treasurer

463. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Finance

468. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Multicultural affairs

469. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Multicultural Affairs): What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister’s private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

As the member would be aware, Departmental Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their offices with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Employment

474. MR MORRIS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the loss of 60 jobs at Telstra in Ballarat in February 2015:

- (1) On what date was the Minister’s office first advised or made aware of Telstra’s decision.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister’s office aware of this decision.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Telstra, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Telstra and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, did the Minister instruct the department to make contact with Telstra and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Telstra and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister’s latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Any job lost in our state is one too many. This Government never wants to see jobs lost.

When Labor was last in office the unemployment rate was 4.9%. We created over 252 600 jobs between 2006 and 2010.

We inherited an unemployment rate at 6.8% — the worst unemployment rate on the mainland — and the Coalition created half the jobs that Labor did.

That’s why our Back to Work Plan is so important:

- \$100 million to provide payroll tax relief to companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers;
- \$500 million for the Premiers Jobs and Investment Panel; and
- \$200 million for our Future Industries Fund.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with businesses across Victoria to ensure that all employees or employers who face redundancy or retrenchment are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government’s Business in Transition Support program.

I am regularly briefed on these interactions between the Department and affected businesses.

Employment

475. MR MORRIS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the announcement in February 2015 of a loss of 45 jobs at Allied Mills in Ballarat:

- (1) On what date was the Minister’s office first advised or made aware of Allied Mills’ decision.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister’s office aware of this decision.

- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Allied Mills, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Allied Mills and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, did the Minister instruct the department to make contact with Allied Mills and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Allied Mills and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Any job lost in our state is one too many. This Government never wants to see jobs lost.

When Labor was last in office the unemployment rate was 4.9%. We created over 252 600 jobs between 2006 and 2010.

We inherited an unemployment rate at 6.8% — the worst unemployment rate on the mainland — and the Coalition created half the jobs that Labor did.

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- \$500 million for the Premiers Jobs and Investment Panel; and
- \$200 million for our Future Industries Fund.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with businesses across Victoria to ensure that all employees or employers who face redundancy or retrenchment are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support program.

I am regularly briefed on these interactions between the Department and affected businesses.

Employment

476. MR MORRIS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the announcement in February 2015 of a loss of 100 jobs at IBM in Ballarat:

- (1) On what date was the Minister's office first advised or made aware of IBM's decision.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of this decision.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of IBM, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with IBM and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, did the Minister instruct the department to make contact with IBM and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.

- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about IBM and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Any job lost in our state is one too many. This Government never wants to see jobs lost.

When Labor was last in office the unemployment rate was 4.9%. We created over 252 600 jobs between 2006 and 2010.

We inherited an unemployment rate at 6.8% — the worst unemployment rate on the mainland — and the Coalition created half the jobs that Labor did.

That's why our Back to Work Plan is so important:

- \$100 million to provide payroll tax relief to companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers;
- \$500 million for the Premiers Jobs and Investment Panel; and
- \$200 million for our Future Industries Fund.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with businesses across Victoria to ensure that all employees or employers who face redundancy or retrenchment are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support program.

I am regularly briefed on these interactions between the Department and affected businesses.

Treasurer

477. MR DAVIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure asset initiatives outlined in the 2014-15 Victorian Budget Update (page 124, table A5, including note (a)), please specify the quantum of existing resources that have been redeployed from each specific affected program or initiative to fund the \$166.4 million allocation for the commencement of transport infrastructure priorities, including the names and details of each existing resource, asset or program that has been wholly or partly redeployed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that in relation to Mr Davis' question, the relevant information can be found in the 2014-15 Budget, Budget Paper 3, page 64 and 2014-15 Budget Update, page 68.

Environment, climate change and water

478. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): As of 23 February 2015, what has been the total value of 'holding fee' payments to the operators of the Victorian Desalination Plant since payments began.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Details of the forecasted annual payments (and actual payments for 2012–13 and 2013–14) to AquaSure for the Victorian Desalination Project are available at:

<http://archive.premier.vic.gov.au/2014/media-centre/media-releases/9485-1-2-billion-desal-savings-and-0gl-order-f-or-2014-15.html>

Employment

- 479. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the loss of 205 jobs at the Royal District Nursing Service in January 2015:
- (1) On what date was the Minister’s office first advised or made aware of Royal District Nursing Service decision.
 - (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
 - (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
 - (4) Who advised or made the Minister’s office aware of this decision.
 - (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Royal District Nursing Service, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Royal District Nursing Service and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
 - (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, did the Minister instruct the Department to make contact with Royal District Nursing Service and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
 - (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Royal District Nursing Service and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
 - (8) According to the Minister’s latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Any job lost in our state is one too many. This Government never wants to see jobs lost.

When Labor was last in office the unemployment rate was 4.9%. We created over 252 600 jobs between 2006 and 2010.

We inherited an unemployment rate at 6.8% — the worst unemployment rate on the mainland — and the Coalition created half the jobs that Labor did.

That’s why our Back to Work Plan is so important:

- \$100 million to provide payroll tax relief to companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers;
- \$500 million for the Premiers Jobs and Investment Panel; and
- \$200 million for our Future Industries Fund.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with businesses across Victoria to ensure that all employees or employers who face redundancy or retrenchment are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government’s Business in Transition Support program.

I am regularly briefed on these interactions between the Department and affected businesses.

Training and skills

- 480. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the decision of Federation University to cut its nursing program in Horsham from 2016:
- (1) On what date was the Minister’s office first advised or made aware of Federation University decision.
 - (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.

- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of this decision.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Federation University, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the decision, make personal contact with Federation University and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the decision, did the Minister instruct the Department to make contact with Federation University and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Federation University and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I was first notified when my office was approached for comment on the matter.

On 11 January 2015, I was quoted in the Wimmera Mail-Times saying 'Fed Uni owes an explanation to the local community about why it is making changes to its nursing programs at Horsham and if there is a local need, what efforts are being made to retain them'.

The legacy left by the former Liberal government has left our education system in turmoil.

The Victorian Government is committed to rebuilding and growing the TAFE sector in Victoria and has established a \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund.

Federation University will receive \$5 million for an industry hub at Federation University's Ballarat campus.

Employment

481. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the announcement in January 2015 of a loss of at least 60 jobs at Linking Melbourne Authority:

- (1) On what date was the Minister's office first advised or made aware of Linking Melbourne Authority decision.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this decision.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this decision.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of this decision.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Linking Melbourne Authority, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Linking Melbourne Authority and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, did the Minister instruct the Department to make contact with Linking Melbourne Authority and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Linking Melbourne Authority and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

On 7 January 2015, the Acting Minister for Roads announced that the board, staff and management of the Linking Melbourne Authority had been advised that the Authority was to be disbanded.

The Acting Minister also stated that staff members from the Authority would be offered redeployment within the Victorian Government where possible and that the Government had directed the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources to work with the Authority to ensure that as much of the experience and expertise of the Authority's staff as possible is retained and put to good use.

Corrections

482. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many prisoners were in the Victorian male prison system on —

- (a) 20 February 2015;
- (b) 23 February 2015;
- (c) 24 February 2015;
- (d) 25 February 2015;
- (e) 26 February 2015;
- (f) 27 February 2015;
- (g) 2 March 2015;
- (h) 3 March 2015;
- (i) 4 March 2015;
- (j) 5 March 2015;
- (k) 6 March 2015;
- (l) 9 March 2015;
- (m) 10 March 2015; and
- (n) 11 March 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 6004 male prisoners on 28 February 2015.

Corrections

483. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many prisoners were in the Victorian female prison system on —

- (a) 20 February 2015;
- (b) 23 February 2015;
- (c) 24 February 2015;
- (d) 25 February 2015;
- (e) 26 February 2015;
- (f) 27 February 2015;
- (g) 2 March 2015;
- (h) 3 March 2015;
- (i) 4 March 2015;
- (j) 5 March 2015;

- (k) 6 March 2015;
- (l) 9 March 2015;
- (m) 10 March 2015; and
- (n) 11 March 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 451 female prisoners on 28 February 2015.

Corrections

484. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many male prisoners were held in police cells in Victoria at 7.00 a.m. on —

- (a) 20 February 2015;
- (b) 23 February 2015;
- (c) 24 February 2015;
- (d) 25 February 2015;
- (e) 26 February 2015;
- (f) 27 February 2015;
- (g) 2 March 2015;
- (h) 3 March 2015;
- (i) 4 March 2015;
- (j) 5 March 2015;
- (k) 6 March 2015;
- (l) 9 March 2015;
- (m) 10 March 2015; and
- (n) 11 March 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 77 male prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 28 February 2015.

Corrections

485. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many female prisoners were held in police cells in Victoria at 7.00 a.m. on —

- (a) 20 February 2015;
- (b) 23 February 2015;
- (c) 24 February 2015;
- (d) 25 February 2015;
- (e) 26 February 2015;
- (f) 27 February 2015;
- (g) 2 March 2015;
- (h) 3 March 2015;
- (i) 4 March 2015;

- (j) 5 March 2015;
- (k) 6 March 2015;
- (l) 9 March 2015;
- (m) 10 March 2015; and
- (n) 11 March 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were three female prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 28 February 2015.

Corrections

486. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many current parole orders were there on —

- (a) 26 February 2015; and
- (b) 5 March 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 1107 current parole orders on 28 February 2015.

Attorney-General

487. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the Australian Law Reform Commission's 2012 Review of Australia's classification system, will the Government legalise X18+ classified films in line with public opinion and, if so, when.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Under the Victorian Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games (Enforcement) Act 1995, it is an offence for a person to exhibit or sell X18+ classified films. X18+ films are restricted to adults as they contain sexually explicit content. X18+ films are only legally available for sale or hire in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory.

The Government has no current plans to change the law that prohibits the sale or exhibition of X18+ classified films in Victoria.

Prevention of family violence

491. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence): In relation to the \$4 million of funding announced by the Government on the 23 February 2015, to be provided to family violence support services that experience increased demand during the Royal Commission into Family Violence —

- (1) Will organisations need to apply for this funding as a grant or will it be allocated by the Government.
- (2) What will be the decision making process for allocation of this funding.
- (3) Will there be any conditions on or criteria for accessing this funding.

- (4) Will it be made available exclusively for services that support people who are directly participating in the Royal Commission, or will it be available to meet general increases in demand for all services.
- (5) Will the Government take into account unmet growth in demand in recent years, when considering the need for funds.
- (6) When will this funding be made available to the services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Royal Commission into Family Violence is an opportunity that will change lives and attitudes. The Andrews Labor Government is proud that its principal election commitment has now been implemented. The findings of the Royal Commission will strengthen how we as a community protect the vulnerable, punish the guilty and save lives.

The Andrews Labor Government has provided \$36 million for the Royal Commission. Royal Commissions shine light on an issue like no other and will influence many women in making the decision to change their lives forever.

In relation to the \$4 million of funding for family violence support services, the allocation of this funding will be determined in the budget process.

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 Assembly.
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, 15 April 2015

Small business, innovation and trade

422. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the Regulatory Impact Statement into the Grand Final Eve Public Holiday:

- (1) What date did the Regulatory Impact Statement open.
- (2) What consultation will be undertaken by the Department.
- (3) What date will the consultation on the Regulatory Impact Statement conclude.
- (4) What date will the Regulatory Impact Statement analysis be released.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The consultant contracted by my Department to undertake Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) commenced work on the RIS on 4 February 2015.
- (2) The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is undertaking broad ranging consultation that will include businesses, employer groups, unions, community groups, and Ministers whose portfolio areas may be affected by the notice. The RIS process includes a period of public comment so that the analysis and assessments contained in the RIS can be examined.
- (3) Public comment on the RIS will conclude after it has been published for a period of 28 days.
- (4) The RIS analysis will be released after it has been approved by VCEC for release for public comment.

Small business, innovation and trade

423. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: What are the titles of the programs, grants and initiatives currently under review by the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

All programs are currently being reviewed to ascertain how they fit within the Andrews Government's Back to Work plan. The Andrews Government's number one priority is to ensure that all programs create jobs after the four years of neglect at the hands of the previous Coalition Government.

Small business, innovation and trade

424. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: What are the dates and names of the organisations that you have met with since becoming Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade.

ANSWER:

I have met with a number of organisations since becoming the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade to gain their views on the key priorities for small business, and how the Government can work with them to build innovation and open up new trade opportunities for Victoria.

At these meetings, I discussed the Andrews Government's plans for creating new jobs and stimulating growth of our economy. Through key measures such as payroll tax rebates and an emphasis on skills and training, we are ensuring that Victorian businesses have the support structures in place for hiring new workers with the right qualifications.

In particular, this Government is deeply committed to the needs of small businesses, which contribute around a third of the State's economic output and are often at the centre of innovation and new product development.

Out of respect for all of my stakeholders, I do not feel it is appropriate to disclose details concerning the names of the organisations I have met with. However, I can confirm that I have met with a range of stakeholder groups over recent months in key industry sectors and representing the interests of small to medium sized businesses in the State.

Small business, innovation and trade

425. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: What organisations and local government councils have contacted you in relation to the Grand Final Eve public holiday.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have received correspondence from a range of organisations regarding the Grand Final Friday public holiday. I have no received any correspondence from local government councils on this matter.

Small business, innovation and trade

426. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: What were the names of delegates and organisations that participated in the recent trade mission to the Middle East and Turkey.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- Over seventy organisations participated in the recent trade mission to the Middle East and Turkey.
- Individuals must be given an opportunity to conduct commercial arrangements in confidence.
- When participating in trade missions, applicants are informed that their personal information would be treated in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2000, which has now been replaced with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014.
- It was also implied that information provided (including their participation) would remain confidential and only be used for the trade mission purposes.
- It would therefore not be appropriate, nor would individual participants reasonably expect their personal details to be disclosed in Parliament without their consent.

Small business, innovation and trade

427. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the loss of jobs at Betta Foods in Broadmeadows in January and February 2015:

- (1) On what date was the Minister's office advised or made aware of these job losses.
- (2) On what date was the Minister advised or made aware of these job losses.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of these job losses.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of these job losses.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of these job losses other than personally by a representative of Betta Foods, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the losses, make personal contact with Betta Foods and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the job losses, did the Minister instruct the Department to make contact with Betta Foods and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about these job losses and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.
- (9) What action did the Minister take to try and maintain these jobs at Betta Foods.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Government's priority is to get Victorians back to work. Between December 2010 to November 2014, unemployment rose from 4.9% to 6.8%. Victoria is unfortunately experiencing the lingering effects of the four years of inaction by the previous Coalition Government.

That's why the first piece of legislation introduced into Parliament was the Back To Work Act. The Back to Work Act will establish a \$100 million fund for payroll tax relief for companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers.

On 11 February 2015, the administrators of Betta Foods, Cor Cordis, informed the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources that 39 Betta Foods employees had been retrenched that day.

The Department was advised by the administrator on 17 February that the future of the remaining jobs at Betta Foods depended on the terms of any sale negotiated by the administrator and the intentions of any future buyer.

The Department provided advice regarding the matter to my office, along with all other Ministers, on 18 February 2015.

I have since been advised that on 11 March 2015 it was announced that the assets of the Betta Foods business are being acquired by Prydes Confectionery Holdings Pty Ltd based out of Sydney. Prydes intends to continue producing Betta Foods confectionery.

The Betta Foods legal entity is being liquidated and all 95 employees were made redundant on Friday 13 March (57 full time and 25 casual workers). Prydes has interviewed the ex-Betta Foods employees and has begun employing them to resume production at Broadmeadows under a new structure.

The administrator has advised my Department that it will make a claim to the Commonwealth under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee (FEG) for the entitlements of retrenched employees. Support has also been offered through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support Program.

My office is concerned about all workers in Victoria and will work with all businesses to ensure we don't make the same mistakes of the former government by neglecting workers.

Small business, innovation and trade

428. MR ONDARCHIE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to Dairy Bell recently going into administration:

- (1) On what date was the Minister's office first advised or made aware of Dairy Bell's situation.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this situation.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this situation.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister's office aware of this situation.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this situation other than personally by a representative of Dairy Bell, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the situation, make personal contact with Dairy Bell and, if so, on what date did the Minister make that contact.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the situation, did the Minister instruct the Department to make contact with Dairy Bell and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Dairy Bell and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many further jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

Suggested answer:

I am informed that:

Dairy Bell did not go into administration. The decision to close the business was made by the owner of the company. The Department provided advice to my office regarding the matter on 5 February 2015.

On 26 February 2015, Dairy Bell was purchased by Bon Appetit, a food manufacturing business in Reservoir that will manufacture Dairy Bell products and operate its retail outlets. The Department has been advised that a minimum of 20 Dairy Bell retail jobs will remain and some manufacturing jobs will be retained. The Department will remain in contact with Bon Appetit and Dairy Bell.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources contacted Dairy Bell on Monday 12 January 2015 to offer support for impacted workers through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support program.

Small business, innovation and trade

470. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: What is the total number of department staff seconded to the Minister's private office and what are their position titles as at 23 February 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Department Liaison Officers (DLO) are employed by Departments to assist Ministers and their officers with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their title is Department Liaison Officer.

Small business, innovation and trade

472. MR MORRIS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to Wood ‘N’ Energy in Ballarat recently going into administration:

- (1) On what date was the Minister’s office first advised or made aware of Wood ‘N’ Energy’s situation.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this situation.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this situation.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister’s office aware of this situation.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of Wood ‘N’ Energy, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information of the situation, make personal contact with Wood ‘N’ Energy and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the situation, did the Minister instruct the department to make contact with Wood ‘N’ Energy and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about Wood ‘N’ Energy and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister’s latest advice, how many jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Government’s priority is to get Victorians back to work. Between December 2010 to November 2014, unemployment rose from 4.9% to 6.8%. Victoria is unfortunately experiencing the lingering effects of the four years of inaction by the previous Coalition Government.

That’s why the first piece of legislation introduced into Parliament was the Back To Work Act. The Back to Work Act will establish a \$100 million fund for payroll tax relief for companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers.

I have been advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) contacted the administrator on 9 February 2015 regarding the announcement that Wood ‘N’ Energy had been placed into voluntary administration.

There is an indication that there may be some interest from potential buyers to purchase the business. The Department have been advised by the administrators that the business was comprised of two directors and one employee. The affected employee has been offered assistance through the Victorian Government’s Business in Transition Support Program.

Small business, innovation and trade

473. MR MORRIS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to ABN Electrical in Ballarat recently going into administration:

- (1) On what date was the Minister’s office first advised or made aware of ABN Electrical’s situation.
- (2) On what date was the Minister first advised or made aware of this situation.
- (3) Who advised or made the Minister aware of this situation.
- (4) Who advised or made the Minister’s office aware of this situation.
- (5) If the Minister was advised or made aware of this decision other than personally by a representative of ABN Electrical, did the Minister, subsequent to receiving advice or information

of the situation, make personal contact with ABN Electrical and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.

- (6) Subsequent to receiving advice or information of the situation, did the Minister instruct the department to make contact with ABN Electrical and, if so, on what date did the Minister give that instruction.
- (7) Did the Minister make any public comments or statements about ABN Electrical and, if so, on what date or dates were those statements made.
- (8) According to the Minister's latest advice, how many jobs are at risk, and what date was that advice received.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Government's priority is to get Victorians back to work. Between December 2010 to November 2014, unemployment rose from 4.9% to 6.8%. Victoria is unfortunately experiencing the lingering effects of the four years of inaction by the previous Coalition Government.

That's why the first piece of legislation introduced into Parliament was the Back To Work Act. The Back to Work Act will establish a \$100 million fund for payroll tax relief for companies who hire unemployed young people, the long-term unemployed and retrenched workers.

I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) contacted the administrator on 9 February 2015 regarding the announcement that ABN Electrical had been placed into administration. The Department notified my office on the same day.

The exact number of job losses is yet to be confirmed, however, indications are that there could be up to 10 people directly affected.

Regional Development Victoria has engaged with the administrators to offer to assist affected employees through the Business in Transition Support program. The offer has not been taken up at this stage.

My office is concerned about all workers in Victoria and will work with all businesses to ensure we don't make the same mistakes of the former government by neglecting workers.

Health

488. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Western Health's Footscray Hospital —

- (1) How many hospital beds have been decommissioned due to facilities no longer being fit for purpose due to the aging and outdated infrastructure.
- (2) What type of patients were these decommissioned hospital beds previously used by.
- (3) In which wards are these beds being decommissioned.
- (4) When did Western Health commence decommissioning hospital beds due to facilities no longer being fit for purpose due to the aging and outdated infrastructure.
- (5) How many more beds are identified by Western Health as needing decommissioning in the next six years.
- (6) In which wards have beds been identified for decommissioning.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Western Health is in the process of reconfiguring its services following the opening of a new critical care unit and support services at Sunshine Hospital. These changes have been made in order to respond to the increasing demands placed on Sunshine Hospital due to the rapidly growing population in the other western suburbs.

The expansion of services at Sunshine Hospital has resulted in some services and beds moving from Footscray Hospital, including cancer, cardiology, and other medical specialties.

Overall, Western Health has increased the number of available beds through this process.

This allows residents of Melbourne's west to access care closer to home.

Health

- 490. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Western Health's Footscray Hospital —
- (1) In the Emergency Department ward —
 - (a) how many cubicles with beds are there; and
 - (b) how many cubicles with beds are too small to properly perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) inside them.
 - (2) Are there any isolation rooms, if so —
 - (a) how many;
 - (b) how many are —
 - (i) standard pressure rooms;
 - (ii) negative pressure rooms;
 - (iii) positive pressure rooms; and
 - (iv) located in the Emergency Department ward, and what type; and
 - (3) If there are no negative pressure isolation rooms, how are potentially infectious patients managed and what are the isolation procedures.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Western Health's Footscray Hospital emergency department contains 24 cubicles with trolleys. This includes 3 resuscitation cubicles which are able to have CPR preformed inside them.

There is a negative pressure isolation room for the management of potentially infectious patients.