

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

26, 27 and 28 May 2015

(Extract from book 7)

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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
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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

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Dalidakis, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

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

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — 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 Elasmarr, 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*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley and Ms Ward.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr Finn. (*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*): 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 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 Elasmr, 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
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	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
Elasmr, 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, 26 May 2015

Planning

471. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (representing the Minister for Planning): 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.

Small business, innovation and trade

494. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government’s Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium sized enterprises:

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher awarded to Machine Knives Pty Ltd to work with RMIT University to automate the resharpening of industrial serrated blades used in the food packaging industry been paid in full to the company by the Government.
- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to Machine Knives Pty Ltd will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The voucher has been redeemed by Machine Knives and full payment made to RMIT University in February.

Small business, innovation and trade

495. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government’s Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises:

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher, awarded to 2XU Pty Ltd to develop a 3D measuring and scanning device prototype for retail stores, using digital camera and image analysis technologies to determine customers ideal size and pressure ratings for 2XU compression garments, been paid in full to the company by the Government.
- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to 2XU Pty Ltd will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Payment has not been made because the project has not been completed.
- (2) Payment will be made subject to the project being completed and appropriate documentation being provided.

Small business, innovation and trade

496. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government's Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises —

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher, awarded to Care Essentials to work with RMIT University to miniaturise their technology used to predict lower back ailments from recording muscle activity, been paid in full to the company by the Government.
- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to Care Essentials will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Payment has not been made because the project has not yet been completed.
- (2) Payment will be made subject to the project being completed and appropriate documentation being provided.

Small business, innovation and trade

497. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government's Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises:

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher, awarded to Simplex Factory Automation Pty Ltd to build a prototype machine that integrates video technology for specialised bench-top cutting and edge polishing for the glass and stone industries, been paid in full to the company by the Government.
- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to Simplex Factory Automation Pty Ltd will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The project has been completed, and the payment is being processed.

Small business, innovation and trade

498. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government's Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises:

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher, awarded to Arrayware Pty Ltd to build a prototype device that enables 2D confocal microscopes to analyse 3D data, reducing equipment

costs in healthcare and biotechnology in collaboration with the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and MiniFAB, been paid in full to the company by the Government.

- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to Arrayware Pty Ltd will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

- (1) Payment has not been made because the project has not yet been completed.
- (2) Payment will be made subject to the project being completed and appropriate documentation being provided.

Small business, innovation and trade

499. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government’s Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises:

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher, awarded to Future Fibre Technologies Pty Ltd to apply computer modelling techniques to enhance its sensing system technology for security application in collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology, been paid in full to the company by the Government.
- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to Future Fibre Technologies Pty Ltd will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Payment has not been made because the project has not yet been completed.
- (2) Payment will be made subject to the project being completed and appropriate documentation being provided.

Small business, innovation and trade

500. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government’s Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises:

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher, awarded to MacLab to produce sufficient low cost scymnol to meet future market supply needs through a cost-effective scale-up production method employing Small, been paid in full to the company by the Government.
- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to MacLab will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) Payment has not been made because the project has not yet been completed.
- (2) Payment will be made subject to the project being completed and appropriate documentation being provided.

Small business, innovation and trade

501. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: In relation to the previous Coalition Government’s Technology Voucher Program which has successfully encouraged innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises:

- (1) Has the \$50 000 Technology Development Voucher awarded to Sutton Grange Organic Farm to develop novel fermentation cultures suitable for regional and specialist cheese making in collaboration with Dairy Innovation Australia been paid in full to the company by the Government.
- (2) If payment has not been completed, can the Minister guarantee that full payment of the Technology Development Voucher to Sutton Grange Organic Farm will be completed in accordance with the grant agreement.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (1) The first stage of the project has been completed and an initial payment of \$15 000 (excluding GST) has been made to Dairy Innovation Australia.
- (2) Payment of the remaining funds will be made subject to the project stages being completed and appropriate documentation being provided.

Corrections

511. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many male prisoners were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in —

- (a) 2013;
- (b) 2014; and
- (c) 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

At present, diagnostic data for HIV is held on individual prisoner health files, rather than being centrally collected in the prison system.

The Kirby Institute’s National Prisoner Entrants’ Blood Borne Virus Survey collected data in late 2013 in Victoria and did not identify any cases of HIV among prison entrants in any state or territory of Australia, including Victoria.

Corrections

512. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many female prisoners were diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in —

- (a) 2013;
- (b) 2014; and
- (c) 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

At present, diagnostic data for HIV is held on individual prisoner health files, rather than being centrally collected in the prison system.

The Kirby Institute's National Prisoner Entrants' Blood Borne Virus Survey collected data in late 2013 in Victoria and did not identify any cases of HIV among prison entrants in any state or territory of Australia, including Victoria.

Corrections

513. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many male prisoners were diagnosed with a strain of Hepatitis C in —

- (a) 2013;
- (b) 2014; and
- (c) 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

At present, diagnosis data for hepatitis C is held on individual prisoner health files, rather than being centrally collected in the prison system.

The Kirby Institute's National Prisoner Entrants' Bloodborne Virus Survey provides an estimate of hepatitis C prevalence in prison entrants. The most recent results collected in late 2013 in Victoria indicate 23 per cent of male prison entrants have hepatitis C.

Corrections

514. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many female prisoners were diagnosed with a strain of Hepatitis C in —

- (a) 2013;
- (b) 2014; and
- (c) 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

At present, diagnostic data for hepatitis C is held on individual prisoner health files, not centrally collected.

The Kirby Institute's National Prisoner Entrants' Bloodborne Virus Survey provides an estimate of hepatitis C prevalence in prison entrants. The most recent results collected in late 2013 in Victoria indicate 38 per cent of female prison entrants have hepatitis C.

Corrections

515. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): How many male prisoners with a sentence of 12 months or more, identify as a transgendered person.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Corrections Victoria does not collect data on transgender status. This information may be held on an individual prisoner file and as such is not readily accessible.

Police

519. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to Victorian Policing’s sniffer dog program:

- (1) How many officers are currently employed in the program.
- (2) How many dogs are currently in the program.
- (3) What is the 2015 and 2016 funding for the sniffer dog program.
- (4) Does the Government intend to increase the frequency of use of this program.
- (5) How many arrests have been made under the program in 2013, 2014 and in the first three months of 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Victoria Police Dog Squad is an important operational unit deployed to track offenders, detect explosives, firearms and narcotics. The Dog Squad is made up of General Purpose, Operational Support and Incident Response Dogs, Narcotics Detection Dogs, Firearm and Explosives’ Detection Dogs assigned to a police officer (handler). All dogs are required to have an acute sense of smell.

- (1) The Dog Squad currently has a strength of 47 police officers.
- (2) Victoria Police currently has 36 operational dogs in the Dog Squad.
- (3) The Dog Squad estimated budget for 2014-15 is \$5 million and the estimated budget for 2015-2016 is \$6 million.
- (4) Victoria Police is currently undertaking a service delivery review of the Dog Squad and work is already underway to increase the size of the Dog Squad by 11 officers and nine dogs.
- (5) **2013:** Total-1942
2014: Total-1847
January-March 2015: Total-762

Planning

521. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to the State Environment Protection Policy N-2, will the Government move to reform these policies so as to better protect venue and resident rights.

ANSWER:

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

The responsible Minister for this issue is the Hon Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water, in her capacity as Minister for the Environment Protection Authority. Please refer the matter to Minister Neville.

Public transport

527. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): When is the High Street, Reservoir, level crossing due to be removed.

ANSWER:

Over the next eight years, the Andrews Government will remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings in Melbourne. This significant program is a key step to transforming our public transport system into an international-style metro, while removing congestion on our road network.

The level crossing at High Street Reservoir will be removed by 2022 as part of this program, in addition to the level crossing at Bell Street Preston also on the South Morang line and level crossings at Grange Road Alphington and Lower Plenty Road Rosanna on the Hurstbridge line.

To facilitate the level crossing removals, the Government has brought forward funding of \$100 million to establish the Level Crossing Removal Authority. The Authority is developing a strategic plan for the efficient removal of the 50 level crossings, including optimal planning, procurement and construction methods and best practice community and stakeholder engagement.

Public transport

528. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): When is the Bell Street, Preston, level crossing due to be removed.

ANSWER:

Over the next eight years, the Andrews Government will remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings in Melbourne. This significant program is a key step to transforming our public transport system into an international-style metro, while removing congestion on our road network.

The level crossing at Bell Street Preston will be removed by 2022 as part of this program, in addition to the level crossing at High Street Reservoir also on the South Morang line and level crossings at Grange Road Alphington and Lower Plenty Road Rosanna on the Hurstbridge line.

To facilitate the level crossing removals, the Government has brought forward funding of \$100 million to establish the Level Crossing Removal Authority. The Authority is developing a strategic plan for the efficient removal of the 50 level crossings, including optimal planning, procurement and construction methods and best practice community and stakeholder engagement.

Public transport

529. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): When is the Grange Road, Alphington, level crossing due to be removed.

ANSWER:

Over the next eight years, the Andrews Government will remove 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings in Melbourne. This significant program is a key step to transforming our public transport system into an international-style metro, while removing congestion on our road network.

The level crossing at Grange Road Alphington will be removed by 2022 as part of this program, in addition to the level crossing at Lower Plenty Road Rosanna also on the Hurstbridge line and level crossings at High Street Reservoir and Bell Street Preston on the South Morang line.

To facilitate the level crossing removals, the Government has brought forward funding of \$100 million to establish the Level Crossing Removal Authority. The Authority is developing a strategic plan for the efficient removal of the

50 level crossings, including optimal planning, procurement and construction methods and best practice community and stakeholder engagement.

Planning

531. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): Will any State Government money be allocated to the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre upgrade.

ANSWER:

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

The matter is not part of my portfolio.

Providing high quality sports and recreation facilities is a key aim of the Victorian Government.

I direct any further enquiries about this matter to Hon John Eren, Minister for Sport.

Planning

532. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to the Preston Civic Precinct Project:

- (1) Will the Government commit to funding and supporting planning and development of the Preston Civic Precinct Project.
- (2) Will the Government support the Darebin council in conducting social, market and economic assessments, feasibility studies, concept, design, consultation and land transactions for the Preston Civic Precinct.

ANSWER:

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

The Preston Civic Centre is a key civic and commercial precinct in the City of Darebin containing council facilities, open space, the Preston Market, public transport options including Preston Railway Station, and a diverse retail sector.

While Darebin City Council has not directly requested funding from my department to support redevelopment of the Preston Civic Precinct Project, I will consider any such requests made to me.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will continue to provide support to Council where it can to assist with the planning and development of the Precinct.

Planning

533. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): Will the Government commit to eight million dollars in capital investment for the Fairfield and West Northcote/Thornbury Children’s hub.

ANSWER:

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

The matter raised does not fall within the portfolio of the Minister for Planning.

The Hon Jenny Mikakos, Minister for Families and Children is the Minister responsible for this matter.

The Department of Education and Training's Children's Facilities Capital Program provides funding support for the delivery of high-quality early years programs for children and their families.

Planning

534. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): Will the Government commit \$12.6 million to a regional netball centre in Darebin.

ANSWER:

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

The matter is not part of my portfolio.

Providing high quality sports and recreation facilities is a key aim of the Victorian Government.

I direct any further enquiries about this matter to Hon John Eren, Minister for Sport.

Planning

535. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): Will the Government commit \$5 million of capital investment funding to redevelop the Darebin Intercultural centre that has assisted more than 95 000 visitors since opening in 2011.

ANSWER:

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

The matter is not part of my portfolio.

I direct any further enquiries about this matter to Hon. Robin Scott, Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

Planning

536. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): Will the Government invest \$1 million in a youth business incubator in Darebin.

ANSWER:

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

The matter is not part of my portfolio.

The Victorian Government provides a range of grants, vouchers and assistance programs to support small business.

I direct any further enquiries about this matter to Hon Jacinta Allan, Minister for Employment.

Health

540. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Healthy Ageing and Wellbeing Centre in Geelong, currently operated by St Laurence Community Services Inc., which is due to be closed in June 2015 due to insufficient funding, will the Government provide approximately \$125 000 per year to keep this important community program running and, if not, what affordable alternative is available to help people who are frail, or who have serious health conditions, to maintain their physical abilities.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The St Laurence Community Services' Health Ageing and Wellbeing Centre is a gymnasium (gym) which provides supported exercise programs in an aged and disability friendly environment. The Department of Health and Human Services' Ageing and Aged Care programs do not fund the operational costs of gyms and therefore St Laurence Community Services has not ever received program funding for the Centre.

Business ventures such as gyms need to generate enough revenue to cover their ongoing operational costs to be sustainable. St Laurence Community Services has determined that the Centre's gym is not financially viable and made a business decision to close it on 5 June 2015.

I am advised that Eastbrooke Medical Centre in Belmont has been working with St Laurence Community Services and will be in a position to offer a similar gym program provided by a Centre staff member from 9 June 2015. I understand that St Laurence Community Services has advised all Centre members in writing about the Eastbrooke gym program.

The City of Greater Geelong's LiveWell Health and Fitness Program offers a personalized gym program for people aged over 55 years and for younger people with a pre-existing medical condition. Leisure Networks provides an Outdoors Adults program for older adults, which involves an hour of active group activity outdoors. A range of activities are offered such as walking, yoga, lawn bowls, swimming and golf.

Police

553. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many individuals were arrested in 2014 and in the first three months of 2015 in Victoria for possession of marijuana.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

2901 offenders were arrested for the possession of cannabis in 2014 (Offence Codes 617A and 617Y).

The information was provided by the Crime Statistics Agency. The information was extracted from Victoria Police LEAP data on 18 January 2015 and is subject to variation.

The Crime Statistics Agency advises that data for 2015 is not yet available.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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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, 27 May 2015

Mental health

- 493. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): When the Victorian Eating Disorder Strategy was released on 9 October 2014, the previous Government announced \$2.14 million in immediate funding to implement recommendations of the strategy, however, that funding was not allocated before the caretaker period commenced —
- (1) Is the Andrews Government committed to implementing the Victorian Eating Disorder Strategy.
 - (2) Does the Andrews Government intend on delivering the \$2.14 million in immediate funding to relevant agencies for measures outlined, including education, awareness and early intervention programs and capital improvements to the Austin Hospital Emergency Department Unit:
 - (a) if so, when will this \$2.14 million in funding be provided to relevant agencies to implement these initiatives; and
 - (b) if not, what will the Andrews Government do to reduce the impact of eating disorders on Victorians.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government recognises the need for improved responses to people experiencing eating disorders across the spectrum of health care and support services.

I have approved \$2.14 million for targeted projects aimed at strengthening early intervention for eating disorders and improving support for individuals, their carers and the mental health workforce.

In addition, the 2015-16 State Budget allocated funds to the Royal Children’s Hospital for the provision of strengthened responses to young people with eating disorders.

Creative industries

- 508. MS PATTEN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Creative Industries): In relation to the Melbourne International Jazz Festival:
- (1) What funding has been allocated to the festival for its 2015 event.
 - (2) What funding commitments have been made for the 2016 and 2017 events.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Melbourne International Jazz Festival is in receipt of \$400 000 per annum as part of a Multiyear Funding Agreement (2014-16) with Creative Victoria. Funding for the next cycle (2017-19) will be subject to a review in 2016 that is part of a regular cyclical review of funding for non-government organisations.

Creative industries

- 509. MS PATTEN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Creative Industries): In relation to Circus Oz and the continued development of their headquarters in Collingwood:

- (1) What funding has been allocated to the future development of the site.
- (2) Will the “Tower” section of the land be developed for the Company and if so when and what funding has been set aside for this purpose.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

\$4 million has been allocated towards the future development of the remaining unoccupied buildings at the site of the former Collingwood Technical College, including the “Tower” building, into a multi organisation arts precinct.

This exciting development will be led by Contemporary Arts Precincts Ltd, a charitable entity, which has been facilitated by government to lead this project in conjunction with key philanthropic supporters.

Creative industries

510. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Creative Industries): In relation to La Mama Theatre in Carlton:

- (1) What funding has been allocated to La Mama over the 2015-17 period.
- (2) Will the Government consider increasing its level of funding to this culturally important small company to ensure its ongoing success.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

La Mama is in receipt of \$214 200 per annum as part of a Multiyear Funding Agreement (2014-16) with Creative Victoria. Funding for the next cycle (2017-19) will be subject to a review in 2016 that is part of a regular cyclical review of funding for non-government organisations.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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Thursday, 28 May 2015

Attorney-General

554. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to Office of the Public Advocate statutory guardians:

- (1) How many people are currently waiting for an Office of the Public Advocate statutory guardian.
- (2) How many of those waiting for a statutory guardian are currently patients in public hospitals.
- (3) How much money was allocated to fund provision of statutory guardians through the Office of the Public Advocate in 2014-15.
- (4) How many equivalent full-time staff are employed by the Office of the Public Advocate to provide statutory guardianship services.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Under the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) can appoint a guardian for a person with a disability who is unable, by reason of the disability, to make reasonable judgments in respect of matters relating to their person or circumstances, and is in need of a guardian.

VCAT may appoint the Public Advocate where no other person fulfils the statutory requirements for appointment as a guardian. When the Public Advocate is appointed, the Public Advocate delegates these powers either to a member of staff at the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) or to a volunteer guardian from OPA's Community Guardianship Program.

VCAT may also refer a matter relating to a proceeding under the Guardianship and Administration Act to the Public Advocate for investigation and report. For example, a matter may be referred to the Public Advocate to investigate the need for guardianship and administration, or allegations of abuse. Such referrals are also delegated to an OPA guardian for investigation.

OPA does not differentiate in its data collection processes between VCAT guardianship orders and VCAT-ordered investigations, both of which are carried out by OPA guardians. Investigations may often require more urgent attention than a guardianship order.

As at 4 May 2015, 83 matters were waiting for the appointment of an OPA or community guardian for guardianship or investigation.

As at 4 May 2015, 24 of these 83 matters related to people who were in hospital. This includes people in both public and private hospitals but predominantly public hospitals.

The budget allocated for OPA's guardianship program in 2014-15 is \$4 166 700. This amount includes support for the community guardianship program but excludes overheads relating to building and support, legal advice and support, corporate support and support by the Public Advocate

As at 4 May 2015, there are 28.4 EFT staff employed at OPA to deliver the guardianship program. There are 53 volunteer community guardians available to accept delegation of appropriate matters.

Attorney-General

555. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): What was the average wait time for an Office of the Public Advocate independent statutory guardian in —

- (a) 2014-15, to the present date;
- (b) 2013-14;
- (c) 2012-13;
- (d) 2011-12;
- (e) 2010-11;
- (f) 2009-10;
- (g) 2008-09;
- (h) 2007-08; and
- (i) 2006-07.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Under the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) can appoint a guardian for a person with a disability who is unable, by reason of the disability, to make reasonable judgments in respect of matters relating to their person or circumstances, and is in need of a guardian.

VCAT may appoint the Public Advocate where no other person fulfils the statutory requirements for appointment as a guardian. When the Public Advocate is appointed, the Public Advocate delegates these powers either to a member of staff at the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) or to a volunteer guardian from OPA’s Community Guardianship Program.

VCAT may also refer a matter relating to a proceeding under the Guardianship and Administration Act to the Public Advocate for investigation and report. For example, a matter may be referred to the Public Advocate to investigate the need for guardianship and administration, or allegations of abuse. Such referrals are also delegated to an OPA guardian for investigation.

OPA does not differentiate in its data collection processes between VCAT guardianship orders and VCAT-ordered investigations, both of which are carried out by OPA guardians.

Following VCAT’s appointment of the Public Advocate as guardian or its referral of a matter for investigation, the average wait time for the delegation of an OPA or community guardian has been:

- (a) 2014-4 May 2015 = 19.7 working days
- (b) 2013-14 (full year average) = 22.6 working days
- (c) 2012-13 (full year average) = 16.4 working days
- (d) 2011-12 (part year average) = 16.8 working days

There was no centralised data recording of wait list figures prior to January 2012.

Matters on the waiting list are triaged around risk and need, with matters given priority on this basis.

Matters are also actively monitored while on the waiting list and assigned a higher priority if risk or need escalates.

A matter referred for investigation may be given a higher priority because the particular VCAT proceeding will not be heard until VCAT receives the investigation report.

Attorney-General

556. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): What was the longest wait time for an Office of the Public Advocate independent statutory guardian in —

- (a) 2014-15, to the present date;
- (b) 2013-14;
- (c) 2012-13;
- (d) 2011-12;
- (e) 2010-11;
- (f) 2009-10;
- (g) 2008-09;
- (h) 2007-08; and
- (i) 2006-07.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Under the Guardianship and Administration Act 1986, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) can appoint a guardian for a person with a disability who is unable, by reason of the disability, to make reasonable judgments in respect of matters relating to their person or circumstances, and is in need of a guardian.

VCAT may appoint the Public Advocate where no other person fulfils the statutory requirements for appointment as a guardian. When the Public Advocate is appointed, the Public Advocate delegates these powers either to a member of staff at the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) or to a volunteer guardian from OPA’s Community Guardianship Program.

VCAT may also refer a matter relating to a proceeding under the Guardianship and Administration Act to the Public Advocate for investigation and report. For example, a matter may be referred to the Public Advocate to investigate the need for guardianship and administration, or allegations of abuse. Such referrals are also delegated to an OPA guardian for investigation.

OPA does not differentiate in its data collection processes between VCAT guardianship orders and VCAT-ordered investigations, both of which are carried out by OPA guardians.

Following VCAT’s appointment of the Public Advocate as guardian or its referral of a matter for investigation, the longest wait time for the delegation of an OPA or community guardian has been:

- (a) 2014-4 May 2015 = 118 working days
- (b) 2013-14 (full year) = 170 working days
- (c) 2012-13 (full year) = 88 working days
- (d) 2011-12 (part year) = 70 working days

There was no centralised data recording of wait list figures prior to January 2012.

Matters on the waiting list are triaged around risk and need, with matters given priority on this basis.

Matters are also actively monitored while on the waiting list and assigned a higher priority if risk or need escalates.

A matter referred for investigation may be given a higher priority because the particular VCAT proceeding will not be heard until VCAT receives the investigation report.