

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

5 and 6 May 2015

(Extract from book 6)

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

Economy and Infrastructure References Committee — Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Dalidakis, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, 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 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*): Mr Battin, Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson 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 Elasmar, Mr Finn, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:
The Hon. G. JENNINGS

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

Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

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

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

Leader of the Greens:
Mr G. BARBER

| Member | Region | Party | Member | Region | Party |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman | Eastern Metropolitan | LP | Mikakos, Ms Jenny | Northern Metropolitan | ALP |
| Barber, Mr Gregory John | Northern Metropolitan | Greens | Morris, Mr Joshua | Western Victoria | LP |
| 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 |
| 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

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TUESDAY, 5 MAY 2015

| | | |
|------|------------------------------------|------|
| 415. | <i>Public transport</i> | 1375 |
| 429. | <i>Employment</i> | 1375 |
| 430. | <i>Employment</i> | 1376 |
| 431. | <i>Employment</i> | 1377 |
| 438. | <i>Roads and road safety</i> | 1377 |
| 439. | <i>Ports</i> | 1378 |
| 474. | <i>Employment</i> | 1378 |
| 475. | <i>Employment</i> | 1379 |
| 476. | <i>Employment</i> | 1379 |
| 479. | <i>Employment</i> | 1380 |
| 492. | <i>Public transport</i> | 1381 |
| 502. | <i>Corrections</i> | 1381 |
| 503. | <i>Corrections</i> | 1382 |
| 504. | <i>Corrections</i> | 1382 |
| 505. | <i>Corrections</i> | 1382 |
| 506. | <i>Corrections</i> | 1383 |
| 507. | <i>Premier</i> | 1383 |
| 516. | <i>Treasurer</i> | 1383 |
| 517. | <i>Health</i> | 1383 |
| 518. | <i>Health</i> | 1384 |
| 520. | <i>Police</i> | 1384 |
| 522. | <i>Attorney-General</i> | 1385 |
| 523. | <i>Health</i> | 1385 |
| 524. | <i>Health</i> | 1386 |
| 526. | <i>Premier</i> | 1386 |
| 538. | <i>Attorney-General</i> | 1386 |
| 539. | <i>Attorney-General</i> | 1387 |

WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2015

| | | |
|------|---------------------|------|
| 489. | <i>Health</i> | 1389 |
|------|---------------------|------|

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, 5 May 2015

Public transport

- 415. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Following the completion and commencement of full operations of the Regional Rail Link in April 2015, in relation to the Altona train loop:
- (1) When will the direct off-peak train service to and from the city recommence.
 - (2) When it recommences, will it be part of the Laverton or Werribee services, or both.
 - (3) What will be the frequency of services through the Altona loop at different times of the day including details of the full timetable.
 - (4) Will the Government continue to permit Public Transport Victoria to bypass and skip stations if there is a late train service on the Werribee Line.
 - (5) What will the Government do about the station skipping problem which can delay service users up to 44 minutes.
 - (6) Will loopholes in the Metro contract be amended so that the operator faces more significant penalties for unreliable service.
 - (7) When will the Government duplicate the rail line from Altona Junction to Seaholme and provide grade separation of Altona Junction.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised The Andrews Labor Government is still in discussions with Public Transport Victoria (PTV) in regards to options and timing for implementation of a new Metro timetable. It is important that we evaluate all options to get the best outcome for the public transport network.

Just last month I spoke with representatives of the Altona Loop group and Hobson's Bay city council about this important matter and the real impact that it has on their day to day lives.

The previous government inflicted these changes on the people with no consultation and no care for how they would impact on families trying to make the run home from work to pick up the kids from childcare.

Altona residents have spoken to me about the impact of station skipping on their trips home - of being dumped or kidnapped on trains with no notice - I have taken a strong stand against station skipping and will continue to speak out against it. The Andrews Labor Government shares the concerns of passengers who are inconvenienced when trains skip stations and has a clear policy position of stamping out the practice of trains skipping stations.

We remain committed to improving the services on the Altona Loop and I will continue speaking to the community as we work through these changes and return direct services.

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:

I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) contact Coles on 18 February 2015 regarding the announcement on 17 February that 205 jobs would be lost from the company's head office in East Hawthorn.

The Department continue to be in regular contact with Coles to ensure that employees 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 informed of development in relation to these matters.

I have not made any public comments on this matter.

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:

Ernest Hillier (Operations) Pty Ltd was placed into voluntary administration in early 2014 and advertised for sale on 11 February 2015.

During this period, I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) remained in regular contact with the company.

The Department continue to be in regular contact with Ernest Hillier to ensure that employees 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 informed of developments in relation to these matters.

I have not made any public comments on this matter.

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:

I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) contacted the ANZ Banking Group on 26 February 2015 regarding media reports that 140 staff at ANZ would be made redundant in the next three months.

Subsequently, ANZ confirmed that 130 jobs would be made redundant from the bank's Victorian back office operations, with approximately half of those whose jobs had been made redundant likely to be redeployed to other areas of the bank.

The Department continue to be in regular contact with ANZ to ensure that employees 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 informed of developments in relation to these matters.

I have not made any public comments on this matter.

Roads and road safety

438. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): 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 to assist my office with departmental liaison and administrative functions.

Their position title is Departmental Liaison Officer.

Ports

439. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Ports): 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 to assist my office 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:

I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) were informed of changes to Telstra's workforce on 4 February 2015.

The Department continue to be in regular contact with Telstra to ensure that employees 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 informed of developments in relation to these matters.

I have not made any public comments on this matter.

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:

I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) contacted Allied Mills on 12 February 2015 and were able to confirm that their workforce would be reduced by 45 employees.

The Department continue to be in regular contact with ANZ to ensure that employees 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 informed of developments in relation to these matters.

I have not made any public comments on this matter.

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:

IBM have never publically stated that it was to make jobs in Ballarat redundant.

I have however, been informed that IBM are currently reviewing its workforce skills mix in the context of fundamental changes to the ICD industry.

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources are in regular contact with IBM to ensure that, in the event that employees face redundancy or retrenchment, they are aware of the assistance available to them through the Victorian Government's Business in Transition Support Program.

I am regularly informed of developments in relation to these matters.

I have not made any public comments on this matter.

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:

I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (the Department) contacted the Royal District Nursing Service on 22 January 2015 and were advised that, as part of an organisation overhaul, 149 positions would be made redundant.

The Department were also advised that 65 new positions would be created which existing staff would be able to apply for, meaning a total of 84 staff would be made permanently redundant.

The Department continue to be in regular contact with the Royal District Nursing Service to ensure that employees 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 informed of developments in relation to these matters.

I have not made any public comments on this matter.

Public transport

492. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Werribee rail line —

- (1) Will Metro increase peak hour services from five trains per hour to eight trains per hour after Regional Rail Link services are introduced and, if so, when will this commence.
- (2) Will V/Line trains be taken off the Werribee rail line after Regional Rail Link services commence and, if so, when will this be done.
- (3) After Regional Rail Link services commence, will V/Line commence a shuttle service between Werribee and Geelong using a sprinter train and, if so, when will this commence.

ANSWER:

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

- 1) Regional Rail Link will relieve pressure on the Werribee line, providing the capacity to add more trains in the future to address growth in Melbourne's western corridor and between Melbourne and Geelong.
- 2) With the full commissioning of Regional Rail Link, all Geelong and Warrnambool trains will operate via the new tracks from West Werribee Junction to Footscray via new stations at Wyndham Vale and Tarneit, and then via Sunshine. This will take effect from 21 June 2015.
- 3) PTV and Metro Trains are developing timetable options for the introduction of new Metro services later in the year.

Corrections

502. 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) 9 February 2015;
- (b) 16 February 2015;
- (c) 16 March 2015;
- (d) 23 March 2015;
- (e) 30 March 2015; and
- (f) 6 April 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 6,004 male prisoners on 28 February 2015 and 5,939 male prisoners on 31 March 2015.

Corrections

503. 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) 9 February 2015;
- (b) 16 February 2015;
- (c) 16 March 2015;
- (d) 23 March 2015;
- (e) 30 March 2015; and
- (f) 6 April 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 451 female prisoners on 28 February 2015 and 447 female prisoners on 31 March 2015.

Corrections

504. 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 7am on —

- (a) 9 February 2015;
- (b) 16 February 2015;
- (c) 16 March 2015;
- (d) 23 March 2015;
- (e) 30 March 2015; and
- (f) 6 April 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 77 male prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 28 February 2015 and 109 male prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 31 March 2015.

Corrections

505. 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 7am on —

- (a) 9 February 2015;
- (b) 16 February 2015;
- (c) 16 March 2015;
- (d) 23 March 2015;
- (e) 30 March 2015; and
- (f) 6 April 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were three female prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 28 February 2015 and six female prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 31 March 2015.

Corrections

506. 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;
- (b) 19 February 2015;
- (c) 12 March 2015;
- (d) 19 March 2015;
- (e) 26 March 2015;
- (f) 2 April 2015; and
- (g) 9 April 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

There were 1,107 current parole orders on 28 February 2015 and 1,105 current parole orders on 31 March 2015.

Premier

507. MS PATTEN — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): In relation to media training by Mr Marcus West for Cabinet Ministers:

- (1) What is the primary focus of Mr West's activities.
- (2) Which Ministers are participating in Mr West's classes.
- (3) What is the cost of Mr West's services broken down per participant and as a total cost.
- (4) What other expenses are being paid to Mr West.
- (5) Does the payment for this training come from the Members individual training allowance.

ANSWER:

Communicating with constituents, stakeholders and the media is an important part of any Minister's job. As in any profession, training is undertaken as a matter of course.

The costs were in line with industry standards.

Treasurer

516. MS PATTEN — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to a possible legalisation of cannabis as a recreational substance, has the Department of Treasury and Finance done any economic modelling of the predicted financial outcomes of a cannabis industry as a new business sector and, if so, can the Minister provide details.

ANSWER:

DTF has not conducted any economic modelling in relation to the legalisation of cannabis.

Health

517. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): How many deaths have been attributed to use of the drug known as "Ice" in 2014 and in January to March of 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Government is concerned about ice, and delivered its Ice Action Plan in the first 100 days of office, as promised. Ice use is a complex problem that demands a holistic and long-term solution. The Ice Action Plan deals with things that cannot wait. It's about supporting families, treating users and making our community safer.

Under the Plan, the Government will invest \$4.7 million to help families identify and manage ice users and \$1 million to support frontline workers who are at risk of getting attacked at work. The Government will invest \$18 million to expand drug treatment and rehabilitation, so users can get the help they need, and set up a dedicated Ice Help Line that directs families and health professionals to the support they need.

A 1800 Ice Help phone line has been established so that people can get information, referral and access to other support when they need it.

An additional \$1 million will include the development of a standardised ice training course for front-line workers so they are best placed to address ice use.

Regarding ice related deaths, I am advised that the Coroners Court of Victoria is the custodian of the drug death register. I will work with the Attorney-General to ascertain an answer to your question and provide it to you.

Health

518. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): How many individuals were arrested in 2014 and in the first three months of 2015 in Victoria for possession of marijuana.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This question is not the responsibility of the Minister for Health and should be directed to the Minister for Police.

Police

520. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to Victoria Police's October Community Safety program, how much funding has been allocated for this program and what are its key focal points in 2015.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Victoria Police has indicated that the Victorian Safe Communities Network (VSCN) has ownership of Community Safety Month.

At this point in time there has been no funding allocated for the 2015 Community Safety Month activities. In 2014, \$10,000 total funding was allocated by the then Department of Health to the program.

The VSCN has an advisory group which includes Victoria Police and is currently planning key focal points and activities for delivery of the 2015 October Community Safety Month activities.

Attorney-General

522. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): Does the Government have any current plans to reform the exemptions for artists contained in section 11 of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 (Vic).

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 is administered by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. The question asked does not fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Attorney-General.

Health

523. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What current programs has the Government funded or has considered funding to provide heroin assisted treatment, for example, prescription heroin with psychosocial assistance, to severely dependent people who have not previously benefitted from multiple diverse treatments.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Pharmacotherapy is well established as an effective treatment for opioid dependence.

In Victoria, the delivery of pharmacotherapy includes flexible treatment options, such as methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone replacement, which are consistent with best and safe clinical practice in treating opioid-dependent patients.

There are also five state funded specialist pharmacotherapy services in Victoria that operate in association with general hospitals, offering support for people who are severely dependent.

Eastern Health Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre
54-62 Gertrude Street
Fitzroy

Eastern Health Alcohol and Drug Services
43 Carrington Road
Box Hill

Austin Health
Studley Road
Heidleberg

Southcity Clinic
61-69 Brighton Road
Elwood

Western Health Drug Health Services
3/7 Eleanor Steet
Footscray

There are no plans to introduce a prescription heroin program in Victoria.

Health

524. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): Will the Government amend legislation to place alcohol, tobacco and caffeine in new drug regulation schedules that acknowledge these substances are psychoactive and carry risks and that the purpose of these new schedules would be to ensure that the best possible health information be published and available to the public.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government has no plans to amend legislation to place alcohol, tobacco and caffeine in new drug regulation schedules.

Premier

526. MS PATTEN — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier):

- (1) How many staff are employed within the Premiers office to provide advice on LGBTIQ matters.
- (2) What dates were they appointed and what costs are incurred on salary and other expenses.

ANSWER:

Our Labor Government is proud to stand with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse and Intersex Victorians as we strive for equity, fairness and decency in our community.

I am advised by Ministerial Staff as well as Victoria's first Minister for Equality.

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial Office staff are employed under the Public Administration Act 2004.

Attorney-General

538. 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 outline, in detail, the reasons why it will not legalise X18+ classified films in line with public opinion.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- As the National Classification Scheme operates across the Commonwealth and all states and territories, the Government is awaiting a national approach to reform of the National Classification Scheme, including consideration of the recommendations of the 2012 Australian Law Reform Commission's review of the classification system.
- A term of reference of the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council is that the Council progress implementing the classification reform agenda recommended by the Australian Law Reform Commission.
- The Government will await consideration of the Australian Law Reform Commission's recommendations by the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council and not proceed with unilateral amendments to Victoria's classification legislation to legalise X18+ films.

Attorney-General

539. MS PATTEN — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to X18+ films, will the Government outline why these films are not being made legal when they are easily accessible for download and streaming on the internet, at no penalty.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- A key principle underpinning the National Classification Scheme is that children are protected from material that may cause harm.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 5 May 2015

COUNCIL

1387

- This principle also underpins the Victorian Classification (Publications, Films and Computer Games)(Enforcement) Act 1995 which prohibits the exhibition or sale of X18+ classified films, as they contain sexually explicit content.

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, 6 May 2015

Health

- 489. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Western Health's Footscray Hospital, in the last five financial years, how much funding did Western Health receive and spend each year on repairing aged and outdated facilities that would be replaced as part of the proposed redevelopment plan identified for the site in the Master Plan and in the Changing Health for a Changing West program.

ANSWER:

I thank the member for her question.

Western Health receives a budget allocation from the Victorian government each year, and manages the maintenance and repair of capital infrastructure through this funding allocation. I am advised that it is not possible to determine the amount that has been spent specifically on repairing the facilities at Footscray over the past 5 years.

It is clear that Footscray Hospital along with health services across Victoria have been impacted by the \$1 billion in cuts made by the previous Liberal government to Victoria's health system and their systematic underfunding of capital and infrastructure projects.

The Andrews Labor Government understands the changing needs of Melbourne's west and are committed to investing in healthcare in the western suburbs including commitment of \$200 million to build the Western Women's and Children's Hospital in Sunshine.