

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

Tuesday, 10 February 2015

(Extract from book 2)

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FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

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Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP

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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WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 10 February 2015

Ballarat Health Services

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr D. Davis

Raised on: 23 December 2014

REPLY:

I can assure the community of Ballarat and surrounding districts that the delivery of the most suitable range of health services in appropriately designed facilities is of paramount importance to the Andrews Labor Government.

This stands in stark contrast to the cuts and crisis that was the hallmark of the health system over the past four years under the previous government.

The response to address the impact of these cuts will require significant investment and an appropriate sequencing of projects.

In the lead up to last year's election, the now Labor Government committed to enhancing Ballarat Health Services and its capacity to fulfil its role as regional health services for the region.

I note this fit out did not occur under the previous government, an issue the community would rightly feel let down about.

This Government has committed \$10 million to the delivery of a second cardiac catheterization laboratory at Ballarat Health Services, building on our previous \$20 million commitment made in 2009—where we actually created the 'shell space' for this second laboratory.

Planning for future services, by its nature, takes time to ensure that the right decisions are made. Accordingly, it is necessary that the appropriate level of service and capital planning, which looks at projected future community needs and articulates the health service's response to changing service demand, is undertaken.

To this end, I am advised that officers from my Department are working closely with representatives from Ballarat Health Services to progress a service planning exercise.

I look forward to working with Ballarat Health Services, local members of Parliament and the community in the coming years as we progress the current planning and also deliver on improved and expanded health services for the people of Ballarat and the wider region.

Political harassment

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 23 December 2014

REPLY:

The government does not condone any type of violence or harassment. Any victim of such an incident should contact 000 for emergency assistance or report the matter through other avenues such as Crime Stoppers or directly at a police station.

The deployment of police resources across Victoria is the responsibility of the Chief Commissioner of Police, who is best placed to determine state-wide policing needs, including resourcing during the election period.

Footscray Hospital

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Hartland

Raised on: 23 December 2014

REPLY:

I thank the Honourable Member for Western Metropolitan for raising the matter of Footscray Hospital.

I can assure residents of Melbourne's west that the delivery of acute health services across their communities is of vital importance to the Andrews Labor Government.

This commitment is evidenced by our promise to fund a new \$200 million Western Women's and Children's Hospital in Sunshine, which will provide 237 beds, 39 special care nursery cots, four theatres and additional clinics, catering for the needs of the fastest growing area in Australia. This will allow for an extra 2000 births a year and free up beds and services at Sunshine and surrounding hospitals, including Footscray Hospital.

At the same time, my department continues to work with Western Health on significant planning to address the infrastructure needs at Footscray Hospital.

This is important as it provides both Western Health and the Department of Health with valuable information to consider the health service's asset development strategy over the medium to longer term.

Hospital beds

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 23 December 2014

REPLY:

Following four years of cuts and crisis inflicted on our health system by the former government, the Andrews Labor Government is determined to find the missing beds across our hospital system and increase capacity to better meet the needs of the Victorian community.

This priority will be informed through the independent identification of unused public hospital capacity and delivered through a \$200 million 'Beds Rescue Package', providing additional capacity and services across Victoria.

An independent expert, Dr Doug Travis, has been formally appointed to undertake a state-wide capacity census of all Victorian public health services. A survey has already been sent by Dr Travis to each Victorian hospital requesting current information on physical capacity, including in inpatient wards, operating theatres and emergency departments, so that unused and underutilised capacity can be identified. Dr Travis will also visit hospitals across Victoria in early 2015 to confirm survey results and discuss priority areas for additional funding to allow these unused beds and operating theatres to be opened so that more community needs can be met locally and in a timely manner.

Dr Travis will provide interim recommendations to the government by 31 March 2015 in line with the government's pre-election commitment. The interim recommendations will include advice on opportunities for the immediate increase of capacity within the Victorian health system, given the findings of the census. The findings and recommendations of the Travis Review will inform the government's delivery of its \$200 million 'Beds Rescue Package'. The final report of the Travis Review will be delivered to the Victorian Government by 30 June 2015.

Goulburn Valley Health

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 23 December 2014

REPLY:

I can assure the community of Shepparton and surrounding districts that the delivery of the most suitable range of health services in appropriately designed facilities is of the paramount importance to the Labor Government.

Following four years of cuts and crisis inflicted upon our health system by the former government, the needs right across our state are great, and addressing them will require significant funding and appropriate sequencing.

The Labor Government is committed to enhancing Goulburn Valley Health and its capacity to fulfil its role as regional health services for the Hume region.

Planning for future services, by its nature, takes time to ensure that the right decisions are made.

Accordingly, I am aware that upon completion of a current service planning project for Goulburn Valley Health, capital planning consultants will be engaged to develop a robust and achievable masterplan for the Shepparton campus.

The completion of the masterplan for the Shepparton campus, to accommodate staging options for its redevelopment, is important as it provides both Goulburn Valley Health and the Department of Health with valuable information to consider the health service's asset development strategy over the medium to longer term.

I look forward to working with Shepparton's new local member on this into the future.

Rye security cameras**Raised with: Minister for Police****Raised by: Mr O'Donohue****Raised on: 23 December 2014****REPLY:**

The Victorian Government believes that a comprehensive and multi-layered approach needs to be taken to address alcohol and drug-fuelled violence. One of the most important approaches to keep our communities safe is to provide young people with opportunities to encourage them to make positive choices for their future, through education, training, jobs and appropriate support, instead of being caught in a cycle of crime and incarceration.

I note that the Coalition election commitment was made after Mornington Peninsula Shire Council was unsuccessful in its application for \$250 000 in funding for more CCTV cameras in Rye under the competitive Public Safety Infrastructure Fund grants program in 2014. I am advised that the application was unsuccessful because Council failed to address basic eligibility requirements, and chose not to amend the application when given the opportunity to do so by the Department of Justice & Regulation.

I am also advised that the former Coalition Government had already allocated \$370 000 in 2010 election commitment funding to Council to install CCTV in Hastings, Mt Martha and Mt Eliza, and that there have been significant delays by Council in delivering these projects, with Mt Martha and Mt Eliza CCTV projects now not expected to be finalised until October 2015. I understand Council has also sought and received \$400 000 in funding from the Commonwealth for CCTV and lighting in Mornington, Mt Martha and Mt Eliza.

VicRoads relocation**Raised with: Premier****Raised by: Mr Ramsay****Raised on: 23 December 2014****REPLY:**

The Victorian Government is considering its options for the relocation of the VicRoads Head Office from its Kew site.

The Government agrees that this is a very important matter, and will be assessing the costs and benefits of all options.

The Government is committed to providing certainty for VicRoads staff as soon as practicable.