

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

28 October to 10 November 2016

(Extract from book 17)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 9 November 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade.	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	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 Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for International Education and Minister for Corrections.	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 Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs.	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water.	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	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 Planning.	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms G. A. Tierney, MLC

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Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Mr O'Donohue, 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 — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — #Mr Barber, Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

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 Bourman, Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Nardella and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*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 and Ms McLeish.

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*): 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*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, 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 — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

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The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

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Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

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	SFFP	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	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

CONTENTS

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

28 OCTOBER TO 10 NOVEMBER 2016

<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	6081
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6082
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	6082
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	6083
<i>Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	6083
<i>Western Victoria Region</i>	6084
<i>Western Metropolitan Region</i>	6084
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6084
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region</i>	6085
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	6086
<i>Eastern Victoria Region</i>	6086
<i>South Eastern Metropolitan Region</i>	6087
<i>Northern Victoria Region</i>	6087
<i>Southern Metropolitan Region</i>	6087

ANSWERS TO CONSTITUENCY QUESTIONS

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers and received by Hansard in the period shown.

28 October to 10 November 2016**Western Victoria Region**

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Regional Development
Asked on: 9 March 2016

ANSWER:

Last year the Andrews Government committed to the biggest upgrade to regional rail freight in decades— the full Murray Basin Rail Project— which will standardise and upgrade the entire Murray Basin rail network.

This \$416 million project will boost the safety, capacity and reliability of freight services in Northern Victoria and better connect primary producers to the State's major ports. Under the Labor Government's comprehensive plan, lines from Geelong to Mildura, Manangatang, Sea Lake and Murrayville will be standardised, and the existing unused standard gauge connection between Maryborough and Ararat will be reopened.

The last kilometre into the Port of Geelong is majority owned by private landholders comprising the Port of Geelong (including Lascelles Wharf), and others such as Incitec Pivot.

The Murray Basin Rail Business Case did not assess building a rail connection on privately owned land for a private company.

Instead, the focus of the Business Case was to improve competition and access to Victoria's ports and increase the potential for private investment across the rail network and associated supply chains.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 30 August 2016

ANSWER:

As with many projects on the road network, a range of views exist within the community with regards to potential benefits and/ or impacts that they have. In this instance, a need for a pedestrian crossing on Warrenheip Street was requested by members of the local community as some residents with disabilities, mobility restrictions, the elderly, or parents with young children are finding it difficult or dangerous to cross Warrenheip Street to access the shopping area.

As a result, VicRoads discussed this proposal with many stakeholders including the City of Ballarat, Vision Australia and the Buninyong and District Community Association when determining an appropriate crossing facility and has recently, along with Mr Geoff Howard MP, undertaken wider consultation within the township to ensure the most appropriate outcome for the community is realised.

Outcomes of the consultation have confirmed that a pedestrian crossing facility is supported by the wider Buninyong community and VicRoads is adjusting the design to accommodate specific concerns raised.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 31 August 2016

ANSWER:

To support the growing number of cyclists and improve the existing bicycle network within and around the greater metropolitan area, planning work was undertaken at a state and local government level.

In 2014 and 2015, VicRoads conducted workshops with Bicycle Network, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and all councils to identify a network of Strategic Cycling Corridors across metropolitan Melbourne. Strategic Cycling Corridors are a subset of the Principal Bicycle Network with a focus on providing safe and easy connections between key destinations such as major activity centres, national employment clusters and transport hubs. At these workshops, Beach Road was identified as a Strategic Cycling Corridor.

The Government has established a \$100 million Safer Cyclists and Pedestrians Fund to invest in new, dedicated cycling and walking facilities across Victoria, keeping bikes and pedestrians away from traffic. Amongst other considerations, this fund will give priority to routes located on Strategic Cycling Corridors where bicycle related crashes occur.

Beach Road Corridor Strategy proposals will be considered as part of this work, along with other priorities across the state under the \$100 million Safer Cyclists and Pedestrians Fund.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Minister for Emergency Services
Asked on: 13 September 2016

ANSWER:

The firefighting aviation fleet for this summer will comprise 48 aircraft (both helicopters and fixed wing) and will be in place for the season. In addition, more than 100 'call when needed' aircraft will be available. The fleet will include two large air tankers, capable of dropping over 12 000 litres of water or fire retardant, and four large helitank aircraft, including the two familiar orange air-cranes.

Each fire season, the Emergency Management Commissioner and fire agency chiefs determine the appropriate locations of Victoria's firefighting aircraft fleet based on the predicted season, the fire risk in particular areas, and to ensure the best support for the state strategically.

Aircraft generally have a home base but are moved around the state to support other areas as that risk changes. For example, while one of the air-cranes was based in Ballarat, it spent a significant amount of its time assisting fires in other parts of Victoria last summer.

This summer, Ballarat and more broadly the southwest of Victoria will for the first time have a water-bombing helicopter with the capability to respond to fires at the same time as fire trucks. Unlike the air-crane, this helicopter has the capability to connect to the pre-determined dispatch system which means, instead of waiting for the fire trucks to arrive on the scene and requesting air support, it arrives around the same time as the fire trucks, and in that way, provides a faster attack on fires with the aim of ensuring small fires remain small. The air-crane cannot respond as quickly, and takes at least 20 minutes to get into the air.

The air-crane previously located at Ballarat will operate from Moorabbin this summer to provide strategic support across the state.

Having aircraft which can respond through pre-determined dispatch is a key recommendation of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and outcomes supported by both sides of Government.

The Emergency Management Commissioner has written to regional CFA representatives and the Mayors of the Moorabool and Ballarat municipalities to confirm the aircraft placement strategy and the better protection of the wider community. He has also personally spoken to a number of other councillors and brigade representatives.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 15 September 2016

ANSWER:

VicRoads recently completed a detailed planning investigation for a link between Melbourne Airport and the future Outer Metropolitan Ring Road transport corridor, which included a bypass of Bulla.

The Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning, has decided not to approve Amendment C190 to the Hume Planning Scheme so further work to minimise impact on surrounding properties can be undertaken.

VicRoads is currently undertaking that review.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Melhem
Directed to: Minister for Health
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

1. The 2016-17 Statement of Priorities for health services providing maternity care require the establishment of an organisation wide approach to fetal surveillance competency policy and associated procedures for all staff providing maternity care.
2. To support health services achieve this priority, the 2016-17 Budget allocated one off grants to implement the necessary monitoring and compliance systems and change management activities.
3. Western Health received \$88 000 as part of this allocation.

Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and Transdev will work together on any future network planning for this area.

Unlike the previous Liberal government who slashed funding to bus services, the Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving bus services across Victoria, investing \$100 million to deliver a better bus network.

Western Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

The afternoon V/Line coach service to Torquay now stops at Merrijig Drive next to Surf Coast Secondary College, making it quicker and easier for students to get home.

I thank everyone at the school who advocated for this and the local Member Gayle Tierney who was instrumental in ensuring this small but important change occurred.

The previous Liberal government slashed funding to bus services across Victoria. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving bus services across Victoria, investing \$100 million to build a better bus network.

Western Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

Funding has been allocated for the Gap Road and Home Street intersection upgrade in Sunbury. This project includes the removal of the existing roundabout and installation of new traffic signals at the intersection. In order to make the intersection safer for all road users, raised platforms are also proposed to be constructed on all four approaches.

VicRoads advises me that preconstruction activities including detailed design have commenced. Construction is expected to commence in late 2017.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 11 October 2016

ANSWER:

The previous Liberal Government did not remove a single level crossing on the Frankston line. In contrast, the Andrews Labor Government is removing 12 with 3 already gone.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to allowing the community to have the opportunity to provide feedback on planning processes. The proposed development at Ormond Station is currently on public exhibition with submissions due by 2 December 2016 with public hearings to take place in February 2017.

Northern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Industry and Employment
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN) program is the centrepiece of the \$53 million Jobs Victoria initiative announced in this year's budget, which is delivering a new, whole-of-government approach to streamline support services for disadvantaged jobseekers.

On Saturday 20 August 2016, the Andrews Labor Government announced that we will help more than 4000 disadvantaged Victorians find meaningful work and keep it through JVEN.

The government has approved \$39.2 million in funding to 38 employment providers across regional Victoria and Melbourne to deliver JVEN services; providing personalised and flexible assistance to place people in ongoing work and help employers to find the staff they need.

Eleven providers have been approved for funding to service the Northern Metropolitan region. This will equate to over \$7.2 million in funding to achieve over 800 sustainable employment outcomes in that region.

The full list of providers that will provide JVEN services to the Northern Metropolitan region are:

- Brotherhood of St Laurence
- Choice Career Services
- CVGT Australia
- Jesuit Social Services
- Matchworks
- Melbourne's Northern Economic Wedge Inc.
- Orygen Youth Health
- VICSEG New Futures
- Whitelion
- Workways Australia Ltd.

A range of people will be supported by these providers, including refugees, asylum seekers, youth justice clients, disengaged young people and culturally diverse jobseekers.

VICSEG New Futures is a JVEN specialist multicultural services provider that will be targeting culturally diverse jobseekers and assisting them into sustainable employment outcomes.

Complementing the JVEN program, the government continues to fund a number of specialist employment programs including the Youth Employment Scheme (YES), the Business in Transition Support (BiTS) program and Work and Learning Centres.

If you, or any of your constituents would like more information about the program and how to access JVEN services, visit www.jobs.vic.gov.au.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 12 October 2016

ANSWER:

I appreciate your interest in the former Shepparton Park Primary School and the proposal to acknowledge the significance of the site.

As you have noted, the school operated for 56 years and played an important part in the local community during that time.

The question of how the former site is formally recognised is a matter best considered by the local council. I suggest that you raise this matter with the Greater City of Shepparton, who may wish to consult with Heritage Victoria or the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning, who administer the Register of Geographic Names.

Eastern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Police
Asked on: 13 October 2016

ANSWER:

There have been no cuts to Victoria Police.

There are more police officers in Victoria now than there were in November 2014.

All Victorians continue to receive a 24-hour policing response. The decision of how and where police resources are deployed is a matter for the Chief Commissioner. The Chief Commissioner has assured me that the allocation of police resources across Victoria is continuously monitored by the respective command officers to ensure the best possible policing service is delivered to the Victorian community.

Victoria Police continues to work on a new deployment model examining an area's crime trends and socio-economic factors to best inform resourcing decisions. The deployment model is yet to be finalised, but Victoria Police advises the deployment of 406 new police will cover growth corridors and other areas of high need.

The Government continues to give Victoria Police the resources and powers it needs to fight crime—funding an additional 406 police in the 2016-17 State Budget, providing police with new technology and specialist equipment, and introducing new laws to target offenders who commit home invasions and carjackings.

In October, we announced \$26.2 million to expedite the 406 new police announced in the Victorian Budget 2016–17, following detailed discussions with Chief Commissioner Ashton. These police officers will be sworn in by the end of June 2017, rather than June 2018. The first of the additional police officers will start hitting the beat in early 2017.

Almost 250 Police Custody Officers have been deployed to 22 stations, working more than 18 400 shifts to free up police time.

Over the next 12 months, 1000 police, Protective Services Officers and custody officers will be in training at the Victoria Police Academy.

The Government will continue to work with the Chief Commissioner to tackle the complex law and order challenges we see today, to give Victoria Police the resources they need to keep our community safe now, and into the future.

South Eastern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Sport
Asked on: 13 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Frankston Dolphins Junior Football Club, not to be confused with the Frankston Football Club, has just completed its 43rd year of competition in the Frankston & District Junior Football League, fielding a club record 17 teams across age groups ranging from U9s to U17s, including two girls teams and over 100 Auskick participants. The girls U13s won the premiership in 2016, and the club intends to field an open-age women's team in 2017. The club is an AFL-accredited "Quality Club" and is a "Good Sports" Level 3 accredited club. It has not gone into receivership, does not hold any gaming licences and does not owe poker machine levies to anyone. I am informed that the club is going from strength to strength, and I look forward to its continued presence in South Frankston as one of the stronger family clubs in local footy, providing a valuable social outlet and support for the local community.

Northern Victoria Region

Question asked by: Ms Symes
Directed to: Minister for Education
Asked on: 25 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government recognises that Victoria is experiencing significant population growth and is taking action to invest in school infrastructure to meet the demands of this increase.

In the 2016-17 State Budget, we invested \$50 million into the Shared Facilities Fund (SFF). This new fund will deliver integrated community facilities on school sites.

Integrated school and community facilities play an integral role in bringing together communities, building a sense of collective purpose. They allow for increased access local services and participation opportunities, and foster a sense of community pride and value in schools.

I am pleased to advise that, in addition to the \$50 million Shared Facilities Fund, the Victorian Government is also investing \$50 million in the Growing Suburbs Fund through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) for Melbourne's interface councils. A further \$100 million has been allocated for the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund through the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Sport and Recreation Victoria, to develop and improve community sport and recreation infrastructure throughout the state, plus an additional \$22 million for the Better Indoor Stadiums fund.

Southern Metropolitan Region

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Public Transport
Asked on: 26 October 2016

ANSWER:

The Government's reforms have been designed to ensure that people who rely on Wheelchair Accessible Taxis (WAT) have access to safe, affordable and reliable services. The \$2 per trip levy is not a tariff increase and it does not mean trips will be \$2 more expensive per trip. In fact, it is expected that fares, in particular for WAT trips, will reduce.

In reforms bought in by the previous Government the current annual fee for a WAT licence is \$19 250. Under the proposed Government reforms this licence fee will be removed. This annual licence cost is equivalent to nearly

10,000 trips each year at \$2 per trip and its removal will decrease the costs for operators and allow for fares to be decreased.

The Government's reforms also include an increase in the lift fee to \$20 to help make sure services are reliable. The Government has also set up a Fairness Fund which includes \$20 million to assist passengers with a mobility impairment and has announced the appointment of a dedicated Commissioner for disability services to the Taxi Services Commission.

It is also anticipated that the Government reforms will encourage additional operators into the market which will increase the number of WAT enabled vehicles in operation.

Further information on the Government's reforms are available at www.taxi.vic.gov.au