

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

6 and 8 December 2016

(Extract from book 19)

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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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

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(from 10 November 2016)

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Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
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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 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
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Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
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 Elasmarr, 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 Elasmarr 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

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, 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:

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

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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 Council.

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

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 6 December 2016

Families and children

7040. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children in relation the response provided to Question on Notice number 5427 where the Minister for Police stated that Victoria Police does not advise DHHS when a child in residential care commits a crime which is reported to them —

- (1) does DHHS know when a crime has been committed by a child living in residential care that is reported to Victoria Police; and
- (2) if DHHS does not know, what reporting procedures will be undertaken to ensure they are made aware when a child living in residential care commits a crime that is reported to Victoria Police.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

It is evident from the Member's questions that she has failed to understand both the verbal and written responses previously provided to her by myself and the Minister for Police, Lisa Neville.

The Department of Health and Human Services has local reporting arrangements in place with Victoria Police and continues to work with them around information sharing.

The vast majority of children and young people who commit crimes or receive custodial sentences are not in out of home care.

The Member chooses to continue to vilify children and young people in residential care who have been placed in out of home care due to past abuse or neglect.

Families and children

7050. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children in relation to children living in residential care who were charged with committing an offence, how many were charged between —

- (1) October-December 2014;
- (2) January-June 2015;
- (3) July-December 2015; and
- (4) January-June 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer to my response to Question on Notice 7040.

Families and children

7051. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children in relation to children known to child protection who committed offences from 1 January–31 December 2015, how many were —

- (1) between 0-9 years of age;
- (2) between 10-14 years of age; and
- (3) between 15-17 years of age.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services does not receive advice from Victoria Police about the reporting of crimes in relation to children known to child protection. Information about the reporting of crimes to police should be addressed directly to Victoria Police.

Families and children

7052. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children in relation to children known to child protection who committed more than one offence from 1 January–31 December 2015, how many were —

- (1) between 0-9 years of age;
- (2) between 10-14 years of age; and
- (3) between 15-17 years of age.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services does not receive advice from Victoria Police about the reporting of crimes in relation to children known to child protection. Information about the reporting of crimes to police should be addressed directly to Victoria Police.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7135. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Business Licensing Authority and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President’s ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding ‘fishing’ questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 ‘template’ questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7136. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Estate Agents Council and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7137. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Fire Services Levy Monitor and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7138. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Residential Tenancies Bond Authority and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7139. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Sex Work Ministerial Advisory Committee and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7174. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Liquor Control Advisory Council and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7175. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7176. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

7177. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 January 2015 and 30 June 2016 how many ergonomic chairs have been purchased by the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation and what is the total cost.

ANSWER:

I would refer the member to the President's ruling from 10 December 2015 regarding 'fishing' questions and ask the member reconsider the priority of the more than 100 'template' questions she alone asked across 20 portfolios in one sitting week.

Public transport

7465. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What is the current capacity of car parking at the Greensborough and Eltham railway stations and are there any plans to increase that capacity.

ANSWER:

Greensborough Station has over 200 spaces and Eltham Station has over 350 spaces.

Although there are no current plans to increase car parking at these stations, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources is currently working together with the Level Crossings Removal Authority to identify opportunities for access improvements at both Greensborough and Eltham stations (as well as other affected stations along the Hurstbridge line) as part of the Hurstbridge line duplication, which will be commencing in 2017.

The Government is committed to providing better access for passengers. This means a balance needs to be struck between providing additional car parking and providing alternative options for passengers to access stations.

Thanks to the tireless work and advocacy of the member for Yan Yean, Danielle Green MP and the member for Eltham, Vicky Ward MP, as part of the State Government's \$100 million Better Bus Networks program, better coordinated and more frequent bus connections with train services continue to be rolled out across the network. The new Route 343 bus service along the Hurstbridge line is still being reviewed and finalised, and the community will be advised in advance of any upcoming consultation sessions via local advertising and the Public Transport Victoria website. Both Greensborough and Eltham stations are also well serviced by existing buses, including two SmartBus routes which service Frankston, Melbourne Airport, Chelsea and Airport West.

At a network level, the Government has committed \$20 million to provide 1500 additional car parking spaces at stations across Victoria, using government land under a project to be managed by VicTrack.

Families and children

7470. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the sexual exploitation of children in child protection, residential care and secure welfare services facilities:

- (1) Since the four specialised child protection workers were employed to target the sexual exploitation of children in and out of home care, how many incidents or cases have been reported or managed by these workers; and
- (2) how many cases or incidents of sexual exploitation were reported by staff from secure welfare services facilities:
 - (a) between 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) between 1 July–31 December 2015; and
 - (c) between 1 January–30 June 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As has been explained to the Member on many occasions, these matters are reported as Category One incidents. Data relating to Category One incidents for Child Protection and Family Services is now available on the Department of Health and Human Services website on a quarterly basis, something the previous government did not do.

Incident reporting data is a snapshot in time of allegations made by clients of the Department of Health and Human Services. They are recorded and remain as incidents regardless of whether further information becomes available to substantiate or disprove an event. Incident reports include disclosures of historic abuse and assault that were alleged to have occurred before a client entered state care.

Category One incidents are the most serious incidents and include incidents such as death of clients, allegations of physical or sexual assault and serious client behavioural issues that impact on client or staff safety.

Where there is an allegation, it is met with a strong response that includes medical attention (should this be required), a report to police if it involves an allegation of physical or sexual abuse or a client is a victim of a crime, and counselling and support being offered to all parties.

As funded in the 2015-16 Budget, four specialised child protection workers have been employed to target the sexual exploitation of children in out of home care. These specialised positions have been established for the first time under the Andrews Labor Government.

In 2015 the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$16 million to increase staff in residential care units including for stand-up overnight staff. A further \$35.9 million was allocated in 2016. For the first time, \$1.5 million in funding was also made available for spot audits of residential care facilities. Our Government has also funded four child protection senior practitioners dedicated to addressing sexual exploitation. They work collaboratively with child protection, Victoria Police and members of the non-government sector and have led to an increased

knowledge and understanding of child sexual exploitation and greater identification of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

Last year our Government announced the *Keeping Children Safe from Sexual Exploitation Strategy* and the Enhanced Response model; a joint partnership between Child Protection and Victoria Police.

Families and children

7471. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to children in residential care facilities absconding and their whereabouts unknown: How many reports from residential care facilities to DHHS of children with whereabouts unknown were there as at:

- (1) 1 January 2015;
- (2) 30 June 2015;
- (3) 31 December 2015; and
- (4) 30 June 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

‘Other incident types’ include matters such as absent/ missing persons and form part of Category one incident data. This is described and reported on, on the Department’s website, which our Government has published on a quarterly basis for the full time.

It is of concern when any child is reported missing from care. The risks children are exposed to while missing vary greatly and relate to where the child or young person is spending time. As out of home care is not confined, children and young people exercise their right of movement as would be expected in any home environment. In some instances children and young people may be reported as missing where the out of home care service understands where the young person has gone to, such as when they return to see their family, and will maintain some phone contact with their carer allowing them to establish they are safe. In this circumstance the out-of-home care service will be required to register an incident report reporting the child or young person is absent from care without permission.

In March 2014, the Victorian Auditor-General found that “... there has been a fundamental failure to oversee and ensure the safety of children in residential care’. At a time when serious issues relating to residential care facilities was made public, the former Coalition Government failed to take measures to keep children living in residential care safe.

The report found that a sharp increase in the number of Category one incidents, mainly due to absent/ missing persons reports. He further noted that ‘missing children are at a heightened risk of sexual exploitation’.

In 2015 the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$16 million to increase staff in residential care units including for stand-up overnight staff. A further \$35.9 million was allocated in 2016. For the first time, \$1.5 million in funding was also made available for spot audits of residential care facilities. Our Government has also funded four child protection senior practitioners dedicated to addressing sexual exploitation. They work collaboratively with child protection, Victoria Police and members of the non-government sector and have led to an increased knowledge and understanding of child sexual exploitation and greater identification of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

The Andrews Labor Government acted to enhance safety for children and young people and is getting on with the task of reforming the child protection and out of home care system.

Energy, environment and climate change

7493. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What were the names and dates in 2014–15 of the four events where Ranger Roo attended to promote Parks Victoria.

ANSWER:

During the 2014-15 financial year, Ranger Roo attended the following events: the 2014 Variety Bash and Play Space plaque unveiling at Brimbank Park, the Children’s Week Picnic, the Party for Special Children, and the Wilsons Promontory National Park Summer Program.

These events occurred on 14 August 2014, 26 October 2014, 14 December 2014, and 5/23 January 2015.

Energy, environment and climate change

7496. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the financial expenditure of Parks Victoria participating in the 2015 A Day at the Zoo event.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria’s Annual Report outlines promotional activities undertaken by the agency. Additionally, it includes details on operating expenditure, wages and external expenses. The Annual Report is available online at the following address: <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications-list/annual-reports>.

Energy, environment and climate change

7500. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the financial contribution from Parks Victoria to the management of the Northern Plains Grassy Ecosystem, in:

- (1) 2014–15; and
- (2) 2015–16.

ANSWER:

Details about Parks Victoria’s management of Grassy Ecosystems can be found on the Parks Victoria website and in its annual reports, along with information on operating expenditure.

The annual reports are online at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications-list/annual-reports>.

Energy, environment and climate change

7501. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the financial contribution from Parks Victoria in to weed control programs in the Alpine peat lands in:

- (1) 2014–15; and
- (2) 2015–16.

ANSWER:

Details on Parks Victoria’s weed control programs along with information on operating expenditure can be found on the Parks Victoria Website and in its annual reports.

The annual reports are available online at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications-list/annual-reports>.

Energy, environment and climate change

7506. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change):

- (1) what is the current status of the Mount Buffalo Chalet redevelopment; and
- (2) what was the financial contribution of Parks Victoria towards the project in 2014–15.

ANSWER:

The status of the Mount Buffalo Chalet is available on Parks Victoria’s website at <http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/mountbuffalochalet>.

Parks Victoria’s Annual Report includes financial contributions to projects such as the Mount Buffalo Chalet. The annual report can be found online at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications-list/annual-reports>.

Energy, environment and climate change

7514. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Since 4 December 2014:

- (1) what is the breakdown of each major research and development activity undertaken by Parks Victoria or a consultant/contractor; and
- (2) what was the financial expenditure for each activity.

ANSWER:

Information on department-funded research programs is included in Parks Victoria’s annual reports at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications-list/annual-reports>.

Energy, environment and climate change

7519. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Between 1 March 2015 and 31 August 2016:

- (1) what was the income received from new cost-recovery fees for commercial filming permits; and
- (2) how many commercial filming permits were processed and approved during this period.

ANSWER:

Details on the number of filming, photography and event permits, as well as the income from these transactions, can be found in Parks Victoria’s Annual Reports online at <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/publications-list/annual-reports>.

Families and children

7527. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to DHHS child protection staff in the North Division:

- (1) how many child protection practitioners were ‘acting’ and not permanent in their position or role as at:
 - (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;

- (2) how many child protections practitioners resigned, went on extended sick or stress leave or left the North Division child protection offices between:
 - (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January 2016–30 June 2016;

- (3) how many child protection practitioner positions in the North Division were vacant or offices understaffed by as at:
 - (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;

- (4) how many complaints were lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the North Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels between:
 - (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January–30 June 2016;

- (5) how many complaints lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the North Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels were due to:
 - (a) bullying;
 - (b) stress;
 - (c) sexual harassment;
 - (d) other harassment;
 - (e) case overload;
 - (f) complaints against a direct superior or management;
 - (g) complaints against DHHS.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report provides data relating to numbers of child protection practitioners.

Child protection practitioners have access to a range of leave provisions to help them balance their work and personal commitments. This includes annual leave, personal/carers leave, long service leave, paid parental leave and a range of other special leave options.

For employees who are on sick leave or off work as a result of a work related injury, including stress, the Department maintains contact with the employee to ensure they can return to work when they are fit to do so.

The results of the 2015 People Matter Survey, an internal survey of child protection practitioner staff, was published on the Department's intranet for the first time under the Andrews Labor Government and widely discussed with staff. The results of the survey indicated that 87% of all CPP survey respondents viewed the Department as an employer of choice, with 91% of survey respondents indicating that they are committed to working in the Victorian Public Service for much of their career. True to form, surveys conducted under the previous Coalition Government were not published internally and hidden from staff. This is not surprising given they slashed over 600 jobs from the then Department of Human Services.

Since the launch of the Child Protection Recruitment Strategy in May 2015, over 330 child protection practitioners have been recruited across the State. We have achieved this by funding an effective recruitment strategy and addressing the high staff turnover rate that occurred under the previous Coalition Government.

Families and children

7529. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to DHHS child protection staff in the South Division:

- (1) how many child protection practitioners were ‘acting’ and not permanent in their position or role as at:
 - (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;

- (2) how many child protection practitioners resigned, went on extended sick or stress leave or left the South Division child protection offices between:
 - (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January 2016–30 June 2016;

- (3) how many child protection practitioner positions in the South Division were vacant or offices understaffed by as at:
 - (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;

- (4) how many complaints were lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the South Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels between:
 - (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January–30 June 2016;

- (5) how many complaints lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the South Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels were due to:
 - (a) bullying;
 - (b) stress;
 - (c) sexual harassment;
 - (d) other harassment;
 - (e) case overload;
 - (f) complaints against a direct superior or management;
 - (g) complaints against DHHS.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report provides data relating to numbers of child protection practitioners.

Child protection practitioners have access to a range of leave provisions to help them balance their work and personal commitments. This includes annual leave, personal/carers leave, long service leave, paid parental leave and a range of other special leave options.

For employees who are on sick leave or off work as a result of a work related injury, including stress, the Department maintains contact with the employee to ensure they can return to work when they are fit to do so.

The results of the 2015 People Matter Survey, an internal survey of child protection practitioner staff, was published on the Department's intranet for the first time under the Andrews Labor Government and widely discussed with staff. The results of the survey indicated that 87% of all CPP survey respondents viewed the Department as an employer of choice, with 91% of survey respondents indicating that they are committed to working in the Victorian Public Service for much of their career. True to form, surveys conducted under the previous Coalition Government were not published internally and hidden from staff. This is not surprising given they slashed over 600 jobs from the then Department of Human Services.

Since the launch of the Child Protection Recruitment Strategy in May 2015, over 330 child protection practitioners have been recruited across the State. We have achieved this by funding an effective recruitment strategy and addressing the high staff turnover rate that occurred under the previous Coalition Government.

Families and children

7531. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to DHHS child protection staff in the East Division:

- (1) how many child protection practitioners were 'acting' and not permanent in their position or role as at:
 - (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;
- (2) how many child protection practitioners resigned, went on extended sick or stress leave or left the East Division child protection offices between:
 - (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January 2016–30 June 2016;
- (3) how many child protection practitioner positions in the East Division were vacant or offices understaffed by as at:
 - (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;
- (4) how many complaints were lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the East Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels between:
 - (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January–30 June 2016;

- (5) how many complaints lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the East Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels were due to:
- (a) bullying;
 - (b) stress;
 - (c) sexual harassment;
 - (d) other harassment;
 - (e) case overload;
 - (f) complaints against a direct superior or management;
 - (g) complaints against DHHS.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report provides data relating to numbers of child protection practitioners.

Child protection practitioners have access to a range of leave provisions to help them balance their work and personal commitments. This includes annual leave, personal/carers leave, long service leave, paid parental leave and a range of other special leave options.

For employees who are on sick leave or off work as a result of a work related injury, including stress, the Department maintains contact with the employee to ensure they can return to work when they are fit to do so.

The results of the 2015 People Matter Survey, an internal survey of child protection practitioner staff, was published on the Department's intranet for the first time under the Andrews Labor Government and widely discussed with staff. The results of the survey indicated that 87% of all CPP survey respondents viewed the Department as an employer of choice, with 91% of survey respondents indicating that they are committed to working in the Victorian Public Service for much of their career. True to form, surveys conducted under the previous Coalition Government were not published internally and hidden from staff. This is not surprising given they slashed over 600 jobs from the then Department of Human Services.

Since the launch of the Child Protection Recruitment Strategy in May 2015, over 330 child protection practitioners have been recruited across the State. We have achieved this by funding an effective recruitment strategy and addressing the high staff turnover rate that occurred under the previous Coalition Government.

Families and children

7533. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to DHHS child protection staff in the West Division:

- (1) how many child protection practitioners were 'acting' and not permanent in their position or role as at:
- (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;
- (2) how many child protection practitioners resigned, went on extended sick or stress leave or left the West Division child protection offices between:
- (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January 2016–30 June 2016;

- (3) how many child protection practitioner positions in the West Division were vacant or offices understaffed by as at:
 - (a) 1 January 2015;
 - (b) 30 June 2015;
 - (c) 31 December 2015;
 - (d) 30 June 2016;

- (4) how many complaints were lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the West Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels between:
 - (a) 1 January–30 June 2015;
 - (b) 1 July–31 December 2015;
 - (c) 1 January–30 June 2016;

- (5) how many complaints lodged by child protection practitioners and staff in the West Division to either their direct superior, human resources, DHHS, the Fair Work Commission or any other avenues of complaint and independent channels were due to:
 - (a) bullying;
 - (b) stress;
 - (c) sexual harassment;
 - (d) other harassment;
 - (e) case overload;
 - (f) complaints against a direct superior or management;
 - (g) complaints against DHHS.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report provides data relating to numbers of child protection practitioners.

Child protection practitioners have access to a range of leave provisions to help them balance their work and personal commitments. This includes annual leave, personal/carers leave, long service leave, paid parental leave and a range of other special leave options.

For employees who are on sick leave or off work as a result of a work related injury, including stress, the Department maintains contact with the employee to ensure they can return to work when they are fit to do so.

The results of the 2015 People Matter Survey, an internal survey of child protection practitioner staff, was published on the Department's intranet for the first time under the Andrews Labor Government and widely discussed with staff. The results of the survey indicated that 87% of all CPP survey respondents viewed the Department as an employer of choice, with 91% of survey respondents indicating that they are committed to working in the Victorian Public Service for much of their career. True to form, surveys conducted under the previous Coalition Government were not published internally and hidden from staff. This is not surprising given they slashed over 600 jobs from the then Department of Human Services.

Since the launch of the Child Protection Recruitment Strategy in May 2015, over 330 child protection practitioners have been recruited across the State. We have achieved this by funding an effective recruitment strategy and addressing the high staff turnover rate that occurred under the previous Coalition Government.

Families and children

7535. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Commission for Children and Young People’s report “... as a good parent would...” of August 2015:

- (1) as at 1 September, how many of the 9 recommendations have been implemented;
- (2) provide a detailed and recommendation specific update on the implementation of:
 - (a) Recommendation 1: Immediate changes to the residential care model
 - (b) Recommendation 2: Medium-term changes to the residential care model
 - (c) Recommendation 3: Listen to the voice of the child
 - (d) Recommendation 4: Improve outcomes for children
 - (e) Recommendation 5: Establish a national register of carers
 - (f) Recommendation 6: Review the Departmental structure
 - (g) Recommendation 7: Improve data systems
 - (h) Recommendation 8: Prevent sexual exploitation
 - (i) Recommendation 9: Develop child-safe standards
- (3) In relation to Recommendation 6: Review the Departmental structure:
 - (a) when will the review be finalised;
 - (b) when will the review be made public;
 - (c) name the organisation or body who is conducting the review;
 - (d) what is the cost of the review.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services has established a formal process for updating the Commissioner for Children and Young People on progress on each of the nine recommendations. Significant progress has been made in relation to the issues identified.

It is important to remember that the Andrews Labor Government did not wait until the Commission handed down this report in order to make a number of immediate changes to the out of home care model that are already resulting in fewer young people residing in residential care.

We only needed to look to the failings of the previous Coalition Government and the scathing Victorian Auditor-General Report in March 2014, which found that “...there has been a fundamental failure to oversee and ensure the safety of children in residential care.”

Since coming to office, we have announced \$62 million for Targeted Care Packages to move more children from residential care to alternative placement options and to prevent children from entering residential care in the first place. Over 253 children and young people have been moved out of residential care and into home-based care alternatives.

We have also commenced the use of data analysis software to provide comprehensive data sets across multiple users. It will identify trends, risks and performance issues in order to support evidenced based policy making.

In 2015 the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$16 million to increase staff in residential care units including for stand-up overnight staff. A further \$35.9 million was allocated in 2016. For the first time, \$1.5 million in funding was also made available for spot audits of residential care facilities. Our Government has also funded four child protection senior practitioners dedicated to addressing sexual exploitation. They work collaboratively with child protection, Victoria Police and members of the non-government sector and have led to an increased knowledge and understanding of child sexual exploitation and greater identification of children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation.

We are also investing \$8 million in training to upskill residential care workers and support the introduction of a minimum qualification by the end of 2017. Something the former Coalition Government ignored, despite being aware that two-thirds of the residential care workforce did not hold any relevant qualification.

The *Roadmap for Reform* is a significant reform piece that signals the intention to reshape residential care into a short term treatment response for children and young people that is not a destination in and of itself.

Last year, our Government passed legislation to introduce minimum child safe standards for entities providing services to children.

We also announced the Keeping Children Safe from Sexual Exploitation Strategy and the Enhanced Response Model; a joint partnership between child protection and Victoria Police.

The Andrews Labor Government is actively engaging with the child and family sector to co design future institutional arrangements for the Department of Health and Human Services, taking account of the recommendations of the Commissioner.

Families and children

7536. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the review of Category 1 incident reporting:

- (1) when will the review be completed;
- (2) when will the review be made public;
- (3) when is it expected that changes to Category 1 incident reporting will be implemented; and
- (4) list the entities, departments, organisations and other industry people who are involved or were involved in the review.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health & Human Services is developing a new client incident management system. The new system will focus on the most serious incidents based on the impact on the client and will strengthen processes, systems and workforce capability to prevent, and effectively manage client incidents.

The new system will be delivered in two phases. Phase One is now complete and involved the development of a new client incident management policy and guidance following extensive consultation with external oversight bodies, peak organisations, in-scope service providers and advocacy organisations. The second phase will progressively implement the new client incident management system. This will involve testing operational protocols with full implementation expected by mid 2017.

Families and children

7618. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: When was the most recent full review of pre-service foster care training requirements undertaken.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The pre-service foster care training package, Shared Stories Shared Lives Victoria was introduced as the mandatory pre-service training package for foster carers in 2006-07.

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) is currently undertaking work to re-develop the assessment framework for prospective foster carers. Following this piece of work, the department will commence work to re-develop the pre-service foster care training package for Victoria.

In September 2016 I announced a package of \$19.2 million which includes funding for training for foster carers.

Families and children

7630. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the number of youth clients in custodial services —

- (1) how many females were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2015;
- (2) how many males were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2015;
- (3) how many young people were in the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2015;
- (4) how many females were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 31 December 2015;
- (5) how many males were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 31 December 2015;
- (6) how many young people were in the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct as at 31 December 2015;
- (7) how many females were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 31 March 2016;
- (8) how many males were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 31 March 2016;
- (9) how many young people were in the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct as at 31 March 2016;
- (10) how many females were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 June 2016;
- (11) how many males were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 June 2016;
- (12) how many young people were in the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 June 2016;
- (13) how many females were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2016;
- (14) how many males were in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2016;
- (15) how many young people were in the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2016;
- (16) what was the occupancy rate for females in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2016;
- (17) what was the occupancy rate for males in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2016; and
- (18) what was the occupancy rate for young people in the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct as at 30 September 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the average daily number of young people in custody in youth justice facilities is published in the Victorian State Budget papers.

Families and children

7635. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the age of youth clients in detention —

- (1) how old was the youngest client(s) in the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct between 1 January–30 September 2016; and
- (2) how many clients were under 15 years old in Parkville Youth Justice Precinct between 1 January–30 September 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the average daily number of young people in custody in youth justice facilities is published in the Victorian State Budget papers.

Youth affairs

7640. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Youth Affairs: Has the Government received a report from the Banyule Youth Summit held in May 2016 and will the Government be providing any increased funding for Banyule youth as a result of this summit.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is providing the Banyule City Council with funding of \$125 000 over three years through the Engage! program and \$72 000 over three years through the FReeZA program.

The Banyule Youth Summit which was held in May 2016 is an important element of the Engage! program delivered by Banyule City Council. The summit provided an opportunity for young people in Banyule to discuss issues that matter to them including education, the environment, social media, mental health, domestic violence, gender and sexual diversity, cultural diversity and Aboriginal culture.

The Department of Health and Human Services, which administers the Engage! program, has recently received a copy of the report from the summit. I have been advised that the Banyule City Council will work in partnership with young people, the wider community and other levels of government to progress the issues raised and to implement the recommendations of the summit.

Roads and road safety

7643. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In light of the RACV Redspot survey for 2016 which ranks Fitzsimons Lane between Main Road Eltham and Porter Street Templestowe as number five for residents battling traffic congestion, can the Minister please outline specifically what investigations are being undertaken to alleviate this traffic bottleneck.

ANSWER:

VicRoads is currently investigating the operation of the Fitzsimons Lane corridor. The investigation is anticipated to be completed by early 2017.

Public transport

7645. MR DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): With regard to the Caulfield to Dandenong level crossing removal project and specifically the community consultation panel chaired by Mr Stephen Dimopoulos, MP, Member for Oakleigh:

- (1) what processes were in place for the declaration and reporting of potential perceived conflicts of interest and relevant related pecuniary interests on the part of the members and Chair of the community consultation panel;
- (2) did all members of the community consultation panel, including its Chair, provide such declarations; and
- (3) will the Minister make these declarations public.

ANSWER:

Applicants for positions on the Stakeholder Liaison Group were initially screened for potential conflicts of interest. At the initial meeting of the Group, all members were asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest and none were noted.

Training and skills

7646. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In light of uncertainty in the Latrobe Valley following the collapse of TBM Training and WorkSafe, with respect to Morwell’s Partners in Training —

- (1) how much funding did the organisation receive under the Victorian Training Guarantee in 2015 and 2016 respectively;
- (2) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Certificate qualifications;
- (3) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Diploma qualifications; and
- (4) what was the 2015 student completion rate.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As a matter of course, the Department does not provide details on individual Training Providers regarding the level of funding, the number of students enrolled in government-subsidised training or a specific Training Provider’s completion rate. This information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

Training and skills

7647. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In light of uncertainty in the Latrobe Valley following the collapse of TBM Training and WorkSafe, with respect to ACE Assessment and Training —

- (1) how much funding did the organisation receive under the Victorian Training Guarantee in 2015 and 2016 respectively;
- (2) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Certificate qualifications;
- (3) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Diploma qualifications; and
- (4) what was the 2015 student completion rate.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As a matter of course, the Department does not provide details on individual Training Providers regarding the level of funding, the number of students enrolled in government-subsidised training or a specific Training Provider’s completion rate. This information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

Training and skills

7648. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In light of uncertainty in the Latrobe Valley following the collapse of TBM Training and WorkSafe, with respect to Skillinvest —

- (1) how much funding did the organisation receive under the Victorian Training Guarantee in 2015 and 2016 respectively;
- (2) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Certificate qualifications;
- (3) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Diploma qualifications; and
- (4) what was the 2015 student completion rate.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As a matter of course, the Department does not provide details on individual Training Providers regarding the level of funding, the number of students enrolled in government-subsidised training or a specific Training Provider's completion rate. This information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

Training and skills

7649. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In light of uncertainty in the Latrobe Valley following the collapse of TBM Training and WorkSafe, with respect to Apprenticeships Group Australia Apprenticeships Plus —

- (1) how much funding did the organisation receive under the Victorian Training Guarantee in 2015 and 2016 respectively;
- (2) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Certificate qualifications;
- (3) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Diploma qualifications; and
- (4) what was the 2015 student completion rate.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As a matter of course, the Department does not provide details on individual Training Providers regarding the level of funding, the number of students enrolled in government-subsidised training or a specific Training Provider's completion rate. This information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

Training and skills

7650. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In light of uncertainty in the Latrobe Valley following the collapse of TBM Training and WorkSafe, with respect to Community College Gippsland —

- (1) how much funding did the organisation receive under the Victorian Training Guarantee in 2015 and 2016 respectively;
- (2) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Certificate qualifications;
- (3) how many students are enrolled in government subsidised Diploma qualifications; and
- (4) what was the 2015 student completion rate.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As a matter of course, the Department does not provide details on individual Training Providers regarding the level of funding, the number of students enrolled in government-subsidised training or a specific Training Provider's completion rate. This information is considered to be commercially sensitive.

Agriculture

7674. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Minister's statement in the *Cranbourne News* on 5 October 2016 in relation to the Thompsons Road duplication that "The Thompsons Road upgrade will reduce traffic and travel time ..." —

- (1) by what proportion will traffic volumes be reduced; and
- (2) what are the estimated peak-period travel time savings between Westernport Hwy and Berwick-Cranbourne Road.

ANSWER:

Thompsons Road is an important east-west corridor and this project will add capacity and improve safety along the 10.7 kilometres of the road in a growing residential community.

The duplication of Thompsons Road will allow residents to better access and connect to employment, community facilities and services. By spending less time in traffic the upgrade will provide more reliable and safer journeys.

Traffic modelling indicates that the widening of Thompsons Road will add capacity and the upgrade of the Westernport Highway intersection will reduce congestion, making the drive safer and support Melbourne's growing south-east region.

Both stages will need to be complete before the full benefits of the project will be realised.

Corrections

7688. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: In relation to all prisons in Victoria and other facilities managed by Corrections Victoria —

- (1) For each of the periods between 1 September and 30 September 2016:
 - (a) how many items of contraband have been seized from prisoners;
 - (b) how many items of contraband have been seized from visitors;
- (2) what items of contraband have been detected in relation to prisoners and how many instances has each item been detected;
- (3) what items of contraband has been detected in relation to visitors and how many instances has each item been detected;
- (3) how many cell searches for contraband have been undertaken and how many items of contraband have been seized in each search; and
- (4) how many times have dog squads been used in contraband searches at the facility.

ANSWER:

1. For each of the periods between 1 September and 30 September 2016:
 - (a) 512
 - (b) 22
2. 27 x illicit drug items, 102 x non-prescribed drugs, 157 x sharp implements and tools, 17 x electronic devices, 162 x alcohol and smoking related items, 46 x other.
3. 6 x illicit drug items, 4 x sharp implements and tools, 2 x electronic devices, 7 x alcohol and smoking.
4. 645¹
5. 5049²

Note:

¹ The total number of cell searches reported relates only to searches conducted by the Security and Emergency Services Group. Prisons also conduct their own searches, however this information is not collected electronically. Contraband seizures are not electronically recorded against individual cell searches.

² While Security and Emergency Services Group canines are available for searches, the system is unable to collate every occasion upon which a canine has been utilised during a search. This figure is therefore calculated on searches that always utilise canines, being the following-prison Passive Alert Detection Dog (PADD), staff PADD,

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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visitor PADD, prison and mail property—as conducted by the Security and Emergency Services Group at each location. PADD searches may be on a person, area, property or combination.

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 Council.
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.
Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Special Minister of State

4809. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State: For the period between 16 September 2015 and 31 December 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

ANSWER:

- (a) \$0
- (b) \$0
- (c) \$0
- (d) \$0

Special Minister of State

4816. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State: As the Minister responsible for public sector administration and reform:

- (1) what are the current position titles of the four Department of Health and Human Services executives that received a remuneration increase greater than 15% in 2014–15; and
- (2) what are the current position titles of the five Department of Health and Human Services executives that received a remuneration increase between 10% and 15% in 2014–15.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Public Service offers competitive remuneration packages for executives to adequately attract, retain and reward high performing talent. The Government does not provide details of individual employees' remuneration.

In August this year the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet announced the Premier's approval announced of changes to the Victorian Public Service executive remuneration conditions, including the removal of bonuses. More information can be found at <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/news-publications/victorian-public-service-executive-bonuses>

Special Minister of State

4817. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State: As the Minister responsible for public sector administration and reform what are the current position titles of the two Department of Justice and Regulation executives that received a remuneration increase between 10% and 15% in 2014–15.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Public Service offers competitive remuneration packages for executives to adequately attract, retain and reward high performing talent. The Government does not provide details of individual employees' remuneration.

In August this year the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet announced the Premier's approval announced of changes to the Victorian Public Service executive remuneration conditions, including the removal of bonuses. More information can be found at:

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/news-publications/victorian-public-service-executive-bonuses>

Special Minister of State

4818. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State: As the Minister responsible for public sector administration and reform:

- (1) what are the current position titles of the four Department of Premier and Cabinet executives that received a remuneration increase greater than 15% in 2014–15; and
- (2) what are the current position titles of the four Department of Premier and Cabinet executives that received a remuneration increase between 10% and 15% in 2014–15.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Public Service offers competitive remuneration packages for executives to adequately attract, retain and reward high performing talent. The Government does not provide details of individual employees' remuneration.

In August this year the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet announced the Premier's approval announced of changes to the Victorian Public Service executive remuneration conditions, including the removal of bonuses. More information can be found at:

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/news-publications/victorian-public-service-executive-bonuses>

Special Minister of State

4819. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State: As the Minister responsible for public sector administration and reform:

- (1) What are the current position titles of the two Department of Treasury and Finance executives that received a remuneration increase greater than 15% in 2014–15; and
- (2) What is the current position title of the Department of Treasury and Finance executive that received a remuneration increase between 10% and 15% in 2014–15.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Public Service offers competitive remuneration packages for executives to adequately attract, retain and reward high performing talent. The Government does not provide details of individual employees' remuneration.

In August this year the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet announced the Premier's approval announced of changes to the Victorian Public Service executive remuneration conditions, including the removal of bonuses. More information can be found at:

<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/news-publications/victorian-public-service-executive-bonuses>

Special Minister of State

4921. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State: Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Special Minister of State

4987. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State: As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for Ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibilities.

Special Minister of State

5327. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State:

- (a) what was the Minister's 'Ministerial Office' air travel expenditure from the beginning of calendar year 1 January 2015 to 29 February 2016; and
- (b) what is the breakdown of that expenditure, including but not limited to, flight locations, individual cost and type of class (i.e. first, premium economy or economy) of travel undertaken.

ANSWER:

I refer the Member to my previous answers to questions on notice from Mrs Peulich LC 1392, LC 1393, LC 1394, LC 1395, LC 1396, LC 1397, LC 1398 and LC 1399.

There has been no further expenditure by my office on air travel beyond the information contained in the above listed answers.

Finance

7652. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 2 February 2015 for food relating to an office working meeting totalling \$32.00 —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was public money spent on food.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7653. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 16 March 2015 for food and biscuits totalling \$32.00 —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was public money spent on food and biscuits;

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7654. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 14 May 2015 for a cab charge totalling \$55.02 described as "Pick up location Restaurant to a destination in Glenroy." —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was this a one-way trip.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7655. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 14 May 2015 for cab charges totalling \$67.72 —

- (1) what was the purpose of the expenditure for —
 - (a) 5 May 2015, pick up location Unknown to a destination in Ascot Vale totalling \$22.26;
 - (b) 7 May 2015, pick up location Melbourne to a destination in Ascot Vale totalling \$23.41;
 - (c) 11 May 2015, pick up location Melbourne to a destination in Ascot Vale totalling \$22.05; and
- (2) why were the claims listed in (1)(a to c) one way destinations.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7656. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office received on 15 May 2015 for cab charges totalling \$295.89 —

- (1) what was the purpose of the expenditure for —
 - (a) 14 April 2015, pick up location Unknown to a destination in Attwood totalling \$57.23;
 - (b) 1 May 2015, pick up location Suburbs to a destination in the Suburbs totalling \$66.04;

- (c) 4 May 2015, pick up location Unknown to a destination in the Suburbs totalling \$57.33;
- (d) 7 May 2015, pick up location Unknown to a destination in Attwood totalling \$57.54;
- (e) date unknown, pick up location in Melbourne to a destination in Westmeadows totalling \$57.75; and

(2) why were the claims listed in (1) (a to e) one way destinations.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7659. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 25 May 2015 for cab charges totalling \$137.55 —

- (1) what was the purpose of the expenditure for —
 - (a) 21 May 2015, pick up location Gladstone Park to a destination in Melbourne totalling \$60.06;
 - (b) 22 May 2015, pick up location Suburbs to a destination in the Suburbs totalling \$77.49; and
- (2) why were the claims listed in (1) (a to b) one way destinations.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7660. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 9 June 2015 for a cab charge totalling \$64.47 described as "Pick up location Southbank to a destination in Westmeadows." —

- (a) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (b) why was this a one-way trip.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7661. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 17 June 2015 for cab charges totalling \$148.88 —

- (1) what was the purpose of the expenditure for —
 - (a) 17 June 2015, pick up location Werribee to a destination in Melbourne totalling \$68.35;
 - (b) 17 June 2015, pick up location Suburbs to a destination in the Suburbs totalling \$80.53; and
- (2) why were the claims listed in (1) (a to b) one-way destinations.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance's expenditure.

Finance

7662. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office on 29 June 2015 for a cab charge totalling \$58.58 described as “Pick up location Melbourne to a destination in Westmeadows.” —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was this a one-way trip.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Finance

7663. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office on 27 July 2015 for a cab charge totalling \$59.95 described as “Pick up location East Melbourne to a destination in Westmeadows.” —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was this a one-way trip.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Finance

7664. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office received on 4 August 2015 for a telephone bill totalling \$845.08 —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was a copy of the bill not provided.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Finance

7665. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office received on 4 August 2015 for a telephone bill totalling \$727.15 —

- (1) what was the nature of this expenditure;
- (2) the Telstra billing period is 2 February 2015–1 March 2015, why was this claim lodged in August 2015 when charges relate to usage in February 2015; and
- (3) what proportion of this expenditure related to international calls.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Finance

7666. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office on 14 August 2015 for a telephone bill totalling \$732.99 —

- (1) what was the nature of this expenditure;
- (2) why was a copy of the bill not provided; and
- (3) what proportion of this expenditure related to international calls.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Finance

7667. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office for a cab charge on 14th August 2015 totalling \$42.42 described as “Pick up location Melbourne to a destination in Jacana.” —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was this a one-way trip.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Finance

7668. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office on 16 October 2015 for parking totalling \$70.23, where was this expenditure incurred.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Finance

7669. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister’s Office received on 24 November 2015 for a cab charge totalling \$76.65 described as “Pick up location Suburb to a destination of Home.” —

- (1) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (2) why was this a one way trip.

ANSWER:

These expenses do not relate to the Minister for Finance’s expenditure.

Special Minister of State

8924. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State: How many properties relating to your portfolio have been purchased by the Department of Premier and Cabinet between 1 January 2015 to 23 November 2016 including —

- (a) the address of each property;

- (b) the zoning of each property;
- (c) the price was paid for the property; and
- (d) the size of the property.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Extensive reporting on properties is publically available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Annual Report and can be found on the Department's website.

Special Minister of State

8962. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Special Minister of State: How many properties relating to your portfolio have been sold by the Department of Premier and Cabinet between 1 January 2015 to 23 November 2016 including —

- (a) the address of each property;
- (b) the zoning of each property;
- (c) the price was received for the property; and
- (d) the size of the property.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Extensive reporting on properties is publically available in the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Annual Report and can be found on the Department's website.