

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

24, 25 and 26 May 2016

(Extract from book 8)

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 22 May 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 23 May 2016)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for 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 Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, 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 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 M. Kairouz, 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 — #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, #Ms Hartland, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek, Ms Tierney and Mr Young.

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, Mr Drum, 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, Ms McLeish and Ms Sheed.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): 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: Ms G. TIERNEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmar, Mr Finn, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:
The Hon. G. JENNINGS

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

Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

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

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

Leader of the Greens:
Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

CONTENTS

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2016

<i>Wyndham City Council</i>	2563
<i>Safe Schools program</i>	2563
<i>Goulburn Valley Health</i>	2564
<i>Ferrars Street primary school</i>	2565
<i>Melbourne CBD schools</i>	2565
<i>Austurk community language and culture program</i>	2566
<i>School bullying</i>	2566
<i>Bendigo bus services</i>	2567
<i>Family violence</i>	2568, 2581, 2586
<i>Nunawading police station</i>	2569
<i>Elevated rail proposal</i>	2570
<i>Epping Road, Epping</i>	2570
<i>Road safety</i>	2571
<i>Ryan and McNulty Sawmillers</i>	2571
<i>Motorcycle ministerial advisory council</i>	2572
<i>Police resources</i>	2572
<i>V/Line services</i>	2574
<i>Calder Highway Ravenswood interchange</i>	2574
<i>Deakin University Warrnambool campus</i>	2575
<i>Gatehouse Dandenong young women's project</i>	2576
<i>VicTrack vacant rail buildings program</i>	2576
<i>VicRoads land</i>	2577
<i>Interface Growth Fund</i>	2577
<i>Caring Mums</i>	2578
<i>Bass Coast economic development</i>	2579
<i>Motorcycle safety</i>	2579
<i>Health funding</i>	2580
<i>Western Metropolitan Region small business</i>	2580
<i>Bicycle parking</i>	2581
<i>Murray Basin rail project</i>	2582
<i>Mernda Dragons Rugby League Club</i>	2582
<i>TAFE funding</i>	2583
<i>Police custody officers</i>	2583
<i>Possums</i>	2584
<i>Street harassment</i>	2585
<i>Echuca-Moama bridge</i>	2585
<i>Keysborough South schools</i>	2586
<i>Shepparton bypass</i>	2587
<i>Bimbadeen Heights Primary School</i>	2587
<i>Point Cook schools</i>	2588
<i>Yarram Primary School</i>	2588
<i>Western Victoria Region roads</i>	2589
<i>Mount Pleasant development</i>	2589
<i>Country Fire Authority enterprise bargaining agreement</i>	2590
<i>Greyhound adoption</i>	2591

WEDNESDAY, 25 MAY 2016

<i>South Melbourne public housing</i>	2593
<i>Health funding</i>	2593
<i>Ballarat Base Hospital</i>	2594
<i>West Gippsland Hospital</i>	2595
<i>West Gippsland Healthcare Group</i>	2596
<i>Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre</i>	2596
<i>Multicultural affairs task force</i>	2597
<i>Goulburn Valley Health</i>	2597

THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2016

<i>Cardinia Road, Pakenham, level crossing</i>	2599
--	------

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Tuesday, 24 May 2016

Wyndham City Council

Raised with: Minister for Local Government

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 9 February 2016

REPLY:

I have previously advised the Member that alleged breaches of the Local Government Act should be referred in the first instance to the Local Government Inspections and Compliance Inspectorate for investigation.

With reference to the Members specific request I advise that he has not presented to my department or myself any justification which would provide the basis of asking the Parliament to sack the council.

I would encourage the Member to work with his Council in the best interests of their local community.

Safe Schools program

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Ms Shing

Raised on: 23 February 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Everyone has the fundamental right to live in a safe environment free from bullying and discrimination regardless of race, background, religious beliefs or gender.

The Andrews Labor Government is strongly committed to protecting all our students, and making sure they learn in safe and inclusive schools, where they feel supported to achieve their educational potential.

Safe Schools Coalition helps us create safe and inclusive schools, where kids who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex can go to school without being bullied, harassed or discriminated against.

The program delivers training and resources to help principals and teachers ensure their schools are not only free from homophobia and transphobia, but that they are welcoming and celebrate diversity.

Around 11 per-cent of young people experience feelings of same sex attraction, and approximately 4 percent are gender diverse. But sadly, around 75 per-cent of same sex attracted and gender diverse young people experience verbal or physical abuse and 80 per cent occurs in schools. Suicide rates and rates of depression are also higher for these students.

I am delighted that so far, 264 Victorian government, independent and Catholic schools have already signed up to the Safe Schools Coalition, and in the last State Budget we increased funding to Safe Schools by \$1.04 million to expand the program into every government secondary school.

The program encourages tolerance and understanding by offering training to teachers on how to create environments free of homophobia and transphobia.

It does not provide any materials that discuss or recommend sexual activities or any health or medical advice for same sex attracted, intersex or transgender people. It does not teach sexual practices, chest binding or encourage students to cross dress or promote sexual “agendas”.

Schools that have a student transitioning or affirming their gender identity can seek support and advice from Safe Schools Coalition free of charge.

Building safe and inclusive schools is part of ensuring Victoria remains a successful multicultural society. Strengthening our diversity is one of our state’s greatest assets. The capacity of our young people to understand others, including other world views, and to act with tolerance and respect, is an essential skill.

Goulburn Valley Health

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 23 February 2016

REPLY:

I acknowledge the issues that you have raised in relation to the Ambulance transfer times and emergency department performance at Goulburn Valley Health. I can assure you that the Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing capacity at Goulburn Valley Health so that it improves access for patients in the Shepparton area and can fulfil its role as a regional health service for the Hume region.

The Department of Health and Human Services is supporting health services across Victoria to implement strategies to improve patient flow in emergency departments and timeliness in starting patient treatment. These strategies include models of care such as Goulburn Valley Health’s new short stay observation unit, which provides an alternative short term admission pathway, fast tracking of low acuity patients and supporting alternative care options for people presenting at the emergency department.

I acknowledge the work done by the staff at Goulburn Valley Health to manage the growing number of patients in the emergency department and the significant increase in the acuity of these patients. I can advise that the Andrews Labor Government provided \$161.4 million to Goulburn Valley Health in the 2015-16 budget— an increase of more than \$10 million.

As part of the \$200 million Hospitals Beds Rescue Fund, Goulburn Valley Health received funding to open eight beds, which will enable it to treat an extra 635 patients each year and help ease the pressure on its emergency department. I can advise that these beds are fully operational.

Furthermore, I am very pleased to say that the Andrews Labor Government has committed \$168.5 million to redevelop Goulburn Valley Health. This will mean more patients treated more often and state of the art facilities to match. This hospital redevelopment project follows on from the \$1 million in planning money provided in last year’s budget to get the project on track after four years of inaction by the former Coalition Government.

The existing Emergency Department will be extended to add extra treatment bays, doubling its current capacity, and a new short stay unit to improve waiting times. Additional inpatient beds and an expanded operating theatre suite will also result in increased surgical activity close to where people live.

This exciting project is expected to be completed in late 2020 and will result in more than 140 jobs being created during peak construction.

Ferrars Street primary school

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert

Raised on: 23 February 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government is building a brand new primary school on Ferrars Street. The plans for the school have been released, and they show that the Ferrars Street School will be the first ever vertical school in Victoria. The school is designed to incorporate community facilities and an array of innovative public spaces.

Soil remediation works commenced in April. The 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$44 million has been secured for the construction and delivery of the new school and its integrated community facilities are scheduled to open for the start of the school year in January, 2018.

In addition to this exciting new development, the site on the corner of Buckhurst, Kerr and Ferrars Street has been purchased to provide adjacent open park land. It is anticipated that this, too, will be ready for use in January, 2018.

Melbourne CBD schools

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Ms Patten

Raised on: 25 February 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The 2016-17 Budget delivers the largest ever investment in Victorian school infrastructure, allocating \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state. To deal with this major new investment, combined with our investment in the 15/16 budget which was also historic, \$730 million, we have created a new Victorian School Building Authority.

Victoria is experiencing unprecedented population which is leading to overcrowding at existing schools. It is anticipated that the total school age population (5-17) in Victoria will increase by over 90 000 student enrolments between 2016 and 2021.

Many schools across Victoria are facing enrolment pressures. This pressure is being experienced in the regions, across our growth areas, and as you are well aware, across the inner city.

The latest budget including funding to buy land, build or complete 23 new schools. This additional funding means that 42 new school projects are now in the pipeline which will come online in the next few years.

The Government is delivering on its commitment to undertake a school provision review in Docklands and the immediate surrounding suburbs of North Melbourne, West Melbourne, Melbourne, Parkville and Flemington. Stage One of the school provision review in Docklands is now complete. Stage One of the review found that more capacity will be needed by 2031 to meet the expected increase in demand for Government primary and secondary school places.

Stage Two of the review is underway and will look at options to better meet the needs of the Docklands residents. This will involve further consultation with the community and key stakeholders. This review will contribute to our decision making on school provision across the inner city into the future.

Austurk community language and culture program**Raised with: Minister for Education****Raised by: Mrs Peulich****Raised on: 25 February 2016****REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Roxburgh Rise Primary School is supportive of community use of its facilities and currently has another language school operating on its site.

Austurk submitted its proposal to the school at a meeting on 10 February. The approval of Roxburgh Rise's new school council (to be formed within the next few weeks) will need to be given to this proposal which would have a significant impact on the school.

In the meantime, I understand that the school is considering the hire of its multi-purpose building to Austurk. While the possible availability of classrooms is also an option under consideration, access could to these only be provided when not required for ordinary school purposes (a determination currently subject to staff consultation).

Primary school classrooms are usually and specifically set up for each grade, and used by teachers at the end of student class times. Secondary school classrooms may be more appropriate, and assistance can be provided to help investigate other locations if areas and times available at Roxburgh Rise Primary School are not suitable to Austurk.

School bullying**Raised with: Minister for Education****Raised by: Dr Carling-Jenkins****Raised on: 25 February 2016****REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring action is being taken to make schools safer and protect all Victorian students from bullying and cyber bullying. Our ongoing partnership with the Alannah and Madeline Foundation (AMF) has led to over 1600 Victorian schools participating in eSmart, a framework designed by AMF to assist schools to develop a culture that promotes the safe, smart and responsible use of technology.

The Bully Stoppers initiative developed to establish a common understanding of bullying for Victorian schools and their communities and provide support, provides clear guidance and practical tools to help everyone effectively prevent and respond to bullying.

The Bully Stoppers online toolkit was developed by the Department in partnership with national and international experts and provides evidence-based, practical advice and resources to empower school leaders, teachers, parents and students understand what to do when they see bullying or are being bullied.

The Bully Stoppers online toolkit also contains an interactive learning module for teachers, which has been developed as a practical guide to support teachers to respond and manage bullying behaviours within schools. The module assists teachers to:

- recognise bullying behaviours

- identify how a student may be involved-as a victim, a bully or a bystander
- recognise a range of methods of intervention that are available to address cases of bullying and when they can be most appropriately employed.

Interactive modules are also available to parents and primary and secondary students.

Bully Stoppers grants have also been provided to support localised efforts in schools. This has included a number specialist settings to help them implement strategies, initiatives or programs to prevent and respond to bullying, that address the unique needs of their school community.

Interest in Bully Stoppers has been strong from schools and the wider community. The National Safe Schools Hub provides links to Bully Stoppers resources, as does the national Bullying No Way! Website and the Alannah and Madeline Foundation's eSmart Schools Framework.

In 2015, 117 schools were provided with a grant of \$5500 to participate in the Victorian Government's Building Resilience in School Communities project. Each participating school administered the Resilience Survey to collect, collate and analyse the self-reported strengths of Australian young people. Schools then implemented a project to address the needs identified in their school population.

In addition to these, all Victorian schools can participate in the Safe Schools Coalition. The Safe Schools Coalition is not simply an anti-bullying initiative. It is preventative — designed to stamp out homophobic and transphobic language in schools, which if unchallenged could lead to bullying on the basis of sexuality or gender identity.

This is of great importance, due to the size of the cohort and the impact that this sort of abuse. Approximately 11 per cent of young people experience feelings of same sex attraction, and approximately 4 per cent could be defined as gender diverse. Research shows that 75 per cent of same sex attracted young people experience homophobic abuse, and that 80 per cent of this occurs in schools. Further, the suicide risk for these young people is far higher than for their heterosexual peers. There is a need for this to be addressed in addition to, and separately from, other anti-bullying initiatives.

In regard to children and young people on the autism spectrum, the Department has a range of supports in place to improve their schooling experience. These include extensive professional learning opportunities for teachers and school staff including Inclusion Online Learning, postgraduate studies through the Autism Teaching Institute (ATI).

The Department has worked in partnership with Aspect (Autism Spectrum Australia) to provide training to teachers to implement students focused programs such as, peer education training and Aspect movie club. The teacher led peer education program is based on Carol Gray's work (Sixth Sense II) for upper primary and secondary school classes. The program introduces mainstream students to the features of ASD and how they can develop the skills and sensitivities to support their peers at school. Aspect Movie Club is a training program that enables teachers in Victorian schools to develop the skills to run a social skills program that has been developed by Aspect in response to the need for an age appropriate program for secondary school students.

Bendigo bus services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Drum

Raised on: 8 March 2016

REPLY:

The new Bendigo bus network provided an increase in the number of bus services operating throughout Bendigo, particularly during peak times.

Since the introduction of the Bendigo bus network earlier this year, I requested that PTV continue to work closely with the local community on the roll-out of the new routes and the location of bus stops.

Meetings with local residents across Bendigo have taken place over the past months and PTV to address any concerns that have been raised.

The new Bendigo network provides extra school specials for students across Bendigo. To help meet demand for local schools along route 5, a new school special was introduced. Students attending Crusoe College in Kangaroo Flat have access to three school town special bus services in addition to route 55 bus. These routes service Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Golden Square, Maiden Gully and Kangaroo Flat.

Unlike the previous Liberal Government, who cut bus routes across Victoria and neglected to review the Bendigo bus network, the Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving bus networks in Bendigo and across regional Victoria.

We understand the importance of reviewing bus networks now and in the future, identifying ways to further improve bus routes and make changes when they are needed to meet demand and local need. The Bendigo community will continue to play a key role in bus planning.

Family violence

Raised with: Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

Raised by: Ms Tierney

Raised on: 9 March 2016

REPLY:

I thank the inspiring and courageous women of Western Victoria for their commitment to improving the lives of so many women in their community.

The Royal Commission delivered its report and recommendations to Government on 29 March 2016. The Victorian Labor Government has committed to implementing each of the 227 recommendations from the report.

On April 13 2016, the Andrews Labor Government announced a \$572 million statewide funding boost over two years in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to respond to the recommendations that the Royal Commission has flagged as urgent. This package is the start of a long-term process and delivers 65 of the Royal Commission's most urgent recommendations.

Our government is working in collaboration with victim-survivors, advocates and members of the sector to design a system of best practice. I am proud that we have established a Victim-Survivor's Advisory Council and a Family Violence Steering Committee. These entities will help design a system that prevents family violence, delivers tailored support to victim-survivors and holds perpetrators to account.

I would be honoured to join the Member for Western Victoria to meet with local advocates to provide them with an update on the work of the Andrews Labor Government to address family violence and gender inequality.

Nunawading police station

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 9 March 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering on our promise to give police the resources and the powers they need to fight crime and keep the Victorian community safe. The 2016/17 State Budget included an investment of \$661.3 million to give Victoria Police the necessary resources to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence.

An extra 300 frontline general duties police will be deployed across Victoria. The Chief Commissioner has indicated that deployment will focus on responding to local crime issues in growth corridors and other areas of greatest need, to be determined in consultation with The Police Association. A further 106 specialist police officers and 52 support personnel will be recruited and trained for specialist areas like the Public Order Response Team, Special Operations Group, forensics and fingerprint unit. This brings the total number of new police personnel funded by the Andrews Government since it came to office to 1156.

We are making a major investment in police equipment and technology to put Victoria Police at the forefront of providing smarter more responsive policing. For the first time, police will have mobile technology, including mobile tablets, enabling police to access and exchange up to date information while in the field. Combined with new body worn cameras, this investment will significantly enhance Victoria Police's frontline operations.

The Government is also investing \$148.6 million over four years to free up police to undertake frontline duties protecting our community where they are needed. This will occur by recruiting, training and deploying custody officers to supervise prisoners at around 22 police stations across Victoria, including Ringwood Police Station.

An independent police force is best placed to determine where, when and how police are deployed. The Victoria Police Act 2013 gives the Chief Commissioner of Police the autonomy to make these crucial decisions. The Chief Commissioner has made it clear that the resources of Victoria Police will be deployed to where they are needed — on the frontline tackling important issues such as gang-crime, family violence and responding to emerging threats.

The Chief Commissioner has also said police stations play an important role in policing and they will continue to do so. But officers in a car on the road can respond to incidents much quicker than if they are back at the station, and in policing, minutes can save lives.

The Nunawading Police Station counter, service was relocated to the new Forest Hill police complex in September 2015. Counter service is available to the public at Box Hill and Forest Hill Police Stations, which are approximately 4 km away from Nunawading. Victoria Police advises that the community were notified of the changed counter service hours at Nunawading Police Station by local media and notices placed on the Nunawading building.

Forest Hill police station services the old Nunawading response zone and offers 24 hour police response services to the same community.

Elevated rail proposal

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

RMIT and the University of Melbourne recently released a report entitled 'The Benefits of Level Crossing Removals: lessons from Melbourne's historical experience'.

The Andrews Government holds RMIT and the University of Melbourne in extremely high regard, respecting the integrity, independence and quality of their research and reports. It is noted from the member's adjournment that he believes these institutions employ academics who he describes as "hired guns" and has alleged that the report they have produced is not impartial.

The report looks at Melbourne's historical experience with removing level crossings. It compares rail-under or rail-over options for level crossing removals since the 1890s and contributes to the public debate on level crossing removals and, more widely, on the revitalisation of Melbourne's public transport systems. While the Level Crossing Removal Authority supported the research, its findings represent many years of work by its well-respected authors and is consistent with their ongoing investigations of better integration of land use and active transport futures for Melbourne. It should be noted the research, which commenced several years ago, has been independently peer-reviewed and was conducted entirely separately to any of the Level Crossing Removal Authority's activities.

Neither the University of Melbourne nor RMIT have had any involvement in, or influence on, the procurement, design development or delivery process for any of the level crossings being delivered. The report's authors do not have any official or paid role with the Level Crossing Removal Authority.

Epping Road, Epping

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr Ondarchie

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

In August 2015, I had the opportunity to attend the Thomastown Transport Forum, convened by Ms Bronwyn Halfpenny MP to provide an opportunity for the community to hear from the State Government and representatives from VicRoads regarding the O'Herns Interchange project and other transport matters in the north. The community provided valuable insight into their thoughts and priorities for the road network in the north.

The Victorian Government has committed to contributing \$40.7 million towards a new diamond interchange connecting O'Herns Road to the Hume Freeway in Epping, and the duplication of 1.4km of O'Herns Road east of the interchange. The Government continues to work closely with the Federal Government to secure the remaining funding required for the Project. Once funding has been secured, the community consultation process will commence.

In addition to the State Government's commitment to the new diamond interchange at O'Herns Road, project options have also been investigated to consider the relative need and timing of additional local network improvements. These include the extension of Edgars Road and the signalisation of the existing roundabout at the intersection of Epping Road, Findon Road, High Street and O'Herns Road. Traffic modelling undertaken during the investigations of these projects indicate significant improvements to congestion along Epping Road following their completion.

VicRoads has advised its officers met Ms Gellel and the City of Whittlesea's Director of Advocacy on 1 April 2016, to discuss the road network priorities adjacent to the Epping Views Primary School including the proposed construction of the O'Herns Road Project Interchange and the signalisation of the existing roundabout at the intersect' n of Epping Road, Findon Road, High Street and O'Herns Road.

Road safety

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

The number of fatalities on Victoria's roads this year is deeply troubling and things have to change. Tragically, we are experiencing the worst start to the year on Victorian roads in a decade. I appreciate Mr O'Donohue's concerns regarding this important issue.

The Andrews Labor Government is making roads safer across the state with a \$426.6 million investment, with a particular focus on rural and regional roads. 2500 kilometres of road is set to receive world-class safety improvements.

In particular, we are upgrading roads across regional Victoria and will make an unprecedented investment this year to help keep people safe on country roads, where there is an overrepresentation of road fatalities and serious injuries.

The Andrews Labor Government is working with our road safety partners, the Transport Accident Commission, VicRoads, Victoria Police and others to ensure the Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan will deliver for Victorians on this critical issue.

The Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan will be released in due course.

I thank the member for his question.

Ryan and McNulty Sawmillers

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development

Raised by: Ms Symes

Raised on: 10 March 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to drive job creation and facilitate new investment and improved infrastructure in regional Victoria through the establishment of its \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

We are supporting regional economies by helping businesses to become more competitive and sustainable leading to growth and new jobs.

I am aware that Ryan & McNulty Sawmillers of Benalla is one such business.

Ryan & McNulty's \$900 000 expansion and upgrade of its timber processing and manufacturing facility at Benalla, including connection to natural gas, will create seven new jobs and increase the company's workforce to approximately 52 employees.

I am pleased to have approved an application for \$100 000 to Ryan & McNulty under the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund to assist this project and support new jobs in Benalla.

Motorcycle ministerial advisory council

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 22 March 2016

REPLY:

VicRoads is undertaking a review of the Motorcycle Advisory Group (MAG) in consultation with my office, current members of MAG and other interested stakeholders. Mr Codognotto of the Independent Riders' Group is amongst those interested stakeholders, and has been invited to provide comment as part of the review.

The review is close to completion. I note it was the previous Coalition Government that formed the MAG after disbanding VMAC.

Police resources

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Mr Ramsay

Raised on: 22 March 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering on our promise to give police the resources and the powers they need to fight crime and keep the Victorian community safe. The 2016/17 State Budget included an investment of \$661.3 million to give Victoria Police the necessary resources to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence. This is in addition to our commitment in the 2015/16 State Budget of \$7.8 million over four years to provide for more police to be stationed in the growing areas of Bellarine and Geelong. Victoria Police advises that fifteen new sworn police officers have been deployed to meet the current and future demand in the region including at Drysdale, Portarlington and Queenscliff.

An extra 300 frontline general duties police will be deployed across Victoria. The Chief Commissioner has indicated that deployment will focus on responding to local crime issues in growth corridors and other areas of greatest need, to be determined in consultation with The Police Association. A further 106 specialist police officers and 52 support personnel will be recruited and trained for specialist areas like the Public Order Response Team, Special Operations Group, forensics and fingerprint unit. This brings the total number of new police personnel funded by the Andrews Government since it came to office to 1156.

We are making a major investment in police equipment and technology to put Victoria Police at the forefront of providing smarter more responsive policing. For the first time, police will have mobile technology, including mobile tablets, enabling police to access and exchange up to date information while in the field. Combined with new body worn cameras, this investment will significantly enhance Victoria Police's frontline operations.

The Government is also investing \$148.6 million over four years to free up police to undertake frontline duties protecting our community where they are needed. This will occur by recruiting, training and deploying custody officers to supervise prisoners at around 22 police stations across Victoria, including Geelong Police Station.

An independent police force is best placed to determine where, when and how Police are deployed. The Victoria Police Act 2013 gives the Chief Commissioner of Police the autonomy to make these crucial decisions. The Chief Commissioner has made it clear that the resources of Victoria Police will be deployed to where they are needed — on the frontline tackling important issues such as gang-crime, family violence and responding to emerging threats.

The Chief Commissioner has also said police stations play an important role in policing and they will continue to do so. But officers in a car on the road can respond to incidents much quicker than if they are back at the station, and in policing, minutes can save lives.

The residents of Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula and the Surf Coast continue to receive a 24-hour police response from across the police service areas. Police now have additional resources to increase patrols in the Bellarine Peninsula and Geelong CBD and around transport hubs.

Policing across the Geelong and Surf Coast Police Service Areas is managed in a flexible manner to ensure the best possible use of available police resources for community safety.

I am advised the significant increase in property and deception offences in the Geelong Police Service Area, is attributed to two incidents. One where an offender was charged with over 1000 deception and theft offences and another where two offenders were charged with over 300 deception offences.

I am also informed that increased crime in Queenscliff, also within the Geelong Police Service Area, can be attributed to the rise in property and deception offences. Victoria Police has advised that these increases are a result of increased community confidence in reporting property damage and graffiti offences. Victoria Police has also advised that increases in theft offences can be attributed to one offender being charged with multiple thefts from motor vehicles.

Victoria Police also advises that the Surf Coast's Local Area Commander holds quarterly meetings with representatives from the local council to address community safety. These meetings enable Victoria Police and the Surf Coast Shire to discuss the local crime issues in the area, as well as provide opportunities for collaboration.

The roster at the Torquay Police Station was also expanded to include a night shift, approximately eight months ago. This has allowed local police to identify areas of concern and increase patrols in these locations.

I am informed that increased reporting of graffiti offences and a targeted police operation has contributed to the rise in property offences. Victoria Police has also advised that increases in theft offences can be attributed to one offender being charged with multiple thefts and increases in sexual offences can be mainly attributed to a historical matter where one offender was charged with over 50 offences.

The Chief Commissioner has advised that expanded counter services at Portarlington, Drysdale and Queenscliff were finalised prior to Christmas. There is currently a 7 day service at Portarlington and Drysdale, and service 4 days a week at Queenscliff, increasing reporting opportunities for the public.

I also noted your comment about CCTV funding for Drysdale.

The 2016-17 State Budget includes \$19.4 million of new funding to continue and expand the Community Crime Prevention Program (CCPP) over the next two years as part of a \$596 million Public Safety Package.

This includes funding to continue the Public Safety Infrastructure Fund (PSIF), which provides grants of up to \$250,000 to local councils to implement urban design initiatives and technology, such as CCTV and lighting, to improve community safety, security and confidence in public places. Applications for the 2016-17 round of grants are open until 2 September 2016.

The Public Safety Infrastructure Fund is a highly competitive grants program, and the Department of Justice and Regulation considers each application on its merits using a robust, multi-stage assessment process. An expert panel, including a representative from Victoria Police, considers the applications to determine the final funding recommendations to be made.

A 2015-16 PSIF application from the City of Greater Geelong, which included a proposal to install CCTV in Drysdale and Ocean Grove, was assessed as unsuitable for funding. The department has advised me that it has provided the City of Greater Geelong with detailed feedback on the reasons for this assessment to assist it with future applications.

V/Line services

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Morris

Raised on: 22 March 2016

REPLY:

The finalisation of costs for the disruption will not be complete until services are fully restored and the accelerated wheel wear maintenance program is complete in midyear. The final costs are expected to be shared with the State and its commercial partners, therefore as this is subject to commercial discussions it would be inappropriate to comment further at this stage.

The previous Government cut the funding of V/Line by \$120 million, had a plan to cut 100 jobs and did not support our regional operator at a time when regional patronage and population was growing.

In this year's Budget we have allocated \$141 million to help our regional operator provide the modern, reliable service that regional Victorians deserve.

Calder Highway Ravenswood interchange

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Ms Dunn

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

The Ravenswood Interchange will replace the dangerous intersection of the Calder Highway and the Calder Alternative Highway, 16 km south of Bendigo, where there have been two lives lost and seven serious crashes since 2009.

This is an \$86 million jointly funded project between the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments in recognition of the need to improve safety and reliability for all drivers.

Planning for the Ravenswood Interchange project commenced in 2009 and is, thereby, covered by the Environmental Effects Statement (EES) for the upgrade of the Faraday to Ravenswood section of the Calder Highway completed in 2000.

This current project does not trigger the necessary requirements for a separate EES under the Environmental Effects Act 1978 (Victorian Government 2006).

Under the Act, a project must meet at least two criteria to trigger an EES referral to the Minister. Criteria include

- The loss of critical habitat;
- The loss of a significant proportion of remaining habitat or a population; and
- Present potential major effects on the health, safety or wellbeing of a human community.

VicRoads has obtained assessments from two independent ecological consultants, both of whom have determined that a separate EES is not necessary.

This has not diminished VicRoads' commitment to the serious nature of managing its environmental responsibilities at Ravenswood.

VicRoads has undertaken a geotechnical investigation specific to the site to gather information on the physical properties of the soil and rock, including the water table levels and soil contamination.

VicRoads has taken a range of additional and new steps to minimise environmental impacts. These include:

- An independent, comprehensive, on-ground tree count to ensure accuracy in its environmental planning. This study recorded the species, location and diameter at chest height of every tree on site and was used to source appropriate vegetation offsets (determined under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999) from the same Goldfields bioregion;
- The project also identified appropriate seed collection on site for use in future revegetation. Once completed, the site will be revegetated with over 8100 trees, shrubs and native grasses;
- Detailed protocols that outline sensitive environmental practice. This is a new initiative that ensures a zoologist supervises the removal of trees identified as large or habitat trees;
- Development of close relationships with environmentalists and local community members to provide information, briefings and site tours to create solutions; and
- Positive initiatives that will give back to the environment and the local area. Some of the initiatives include:
 - The relocation of habitat logs to support fauna;
 - The creation of habitat for birds;
 - Establishment of biolinks;
 - Revegetation of areas near the interchange site; and
 - The opportunity of direct seeding as an important method for revegetation.

Deakin University Warrnambool campus

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Mr Purcell

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Consultation is occurring with other providers to explore alternate delivery options at the campus. Consideration is also being given to addressing the issues currently impacting the Warrnambool campus which include determining the higher education needs of the region and creating relevant pathways to assist entry into undergraduate courses. This includes exploring potential alliances with neighbouring institutions that may strengthen opportunities for students to progress from diploma courses to undergraduate degrees.

While the State Government has a limited role in the operation of universities, which are self-governing bodies and primarily the responsibility of the Commonwealth, I understand the Minister for Training and Skills has been working with Deakin University and the Federal Government to find a solution that maximises access to higher education in the region. To date, this has included meetings with a number of key stakeholders including the Deakin University Vice-Chancellor, Federation University Vice-Chancellor, the Federal Member for Wannon and the Commonwealth Minister for Education and Training.

The Victorian Government is committed to continued provision of tertiary education at the Warrnambool campus and the Minister for Training and Skills and I have both offered any assistance required to tackle these issues and ensure sustainability of tertiary education in the region.

Gatehouse Dandenong young women's project

Raised with: Minister for Families and Children

Raised by: Ms Springle

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

The Young Women's Project is an initiative of St Kilda Gatehouse operating in Dandenong.

The Andrews Labor Government shares a common desire with St Kilda Gatehouse to see improved outcomes for vulnerable young women who are at risk of or engaged in sexual exploitation.

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.

The Department of Health and Human Services provides further funding to organisations in the Dandenong area that work directly with young women who have been exposed to sexual exploitation. The Youth Substance Abuse Service and South East Centre for Sexual Assault are two organisations responding collectively to issues connected to homelessness, poverty and sexually abusive behaviours.

Along with the Department, these two organisations are represented on a steering group that has been established to guide and inform the Young Women's Project. Other members include Monash Health, the Youth Substance Abuse Service, Victoria Police, Launch Housing, WAYSS Ltd and the South East Centre Against Sexual Assault. This steering group meets quarterly and the new Practice Leader for Sexual Exploitation in the South Division also meets regularly to provide secondary support.

The Department has been and is continuing to work with Gatehouse in relation to its capacity to become a registered organisation. If Gatehouse was to become a registered organisation, it would have capacity to enter into formal funding arrangements with the department through new initiatives such as Targeted Care Packages.

VicTrack vacant rail buildings program

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Ms Tierney

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I thank the Member for Western Victoria for the Adjournment Debate matter she raised on 23 March 2016 in relation to VicTrack's vacant buildings program.

I am happy to arrange a briefing to talk in more detail about this successful program and potential future priorities. My office will be in contact with your office to arrange a suitable time.

The program identified appropriate community uses of disused railway buildings and then funded refurbishment of those buildings, aligned to the community's vision.

I thank the member for opening the newly refurbished Dunkeld station on my behalf. This \$360 000 refurbishment has restored the station building and will be used by local artists as a working, gallery and exhibition space.

VicRoads land

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr Davis

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

VicRoads advises me that the property located at 4 Studley Park Road, Kew, was originally acquired by VicRoads specifically for road purposes and is now surplus on the completion of the road project.

The Victorian Government Land Transactions Policy and Guidelines requires VicRoads to seek expressions of interest from other state, commonwealth or local government agencies to acquire properties surplus to road purposes, through the Government's first right of refusal process. This ensures efficient land use across Government.

VicRoads advises me that it attempted to negotiate the transfer of the property to the City of Boroondara at a diminished value, based on the use as public open space. However, the City of Boroondara opted not to exercise its option to acquire the property at 4 Studley Park Road, Kew, under the first right of refusal process.

Subsequently, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) expressed interest in the land under the Government's first right of refusal process to utilise the site for a tram power upgrade project.

VicRoads further advises me that following the conclusion of the first right of refusal process for the property, the City of Boroondara has requested to reopen discussions with VicRoads on the possibility of acquiring the land.

With the aim of reaching a mutually beneficial outcome, VicRoads intends to undertake further collaboration with PTV and council in regard to the future public use of the site.

Interface Growth Fund

Raised with: Minister for Local Government

Raised by: Mr Melhem

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

The Interface Growth Fund is generating local jobs by helping outer-suburban communities build local infrastructure that is vital for growing communities to thrive into the future.

Wyndham City Council has advised that:

- the Wyndham Aboriginal Community Centre is expected to generate at least 30 FTE jobs during the construction phase, and at least 5 jobs during the ongoing operations phase
- the Chirnside Park Hub Redevelopment is expected to generate 63 FTE jobs during the construction phase, and 28 FTE jobs during the ongoing operations phase, and
- the Community Connections project is expected to generate up to 8 jobs during the construction phase, as well as extending the employment period of some of council's existing contractors. The project's improved pedestrian and cycling facilities will also enhance accessible and active travel to local employment, education, training and services.

Hume City Council has advised that:

- the Sunbury Warm Water Pool project is expected to deliver a minimum of 15 jobs during the construction phase, and a minimum of 2 jobs during the ongoing operations phase
- the Annadale Interim Community Facility is expected to support 5 jobs in the local community
- the John Ilhan Memorial Reserve Stage 2 is expected to support 12 construction jobs, and
- the Craigieburn Park Inclusive Play Space is expected to support 2 construction jobs in the local community.

Melton City Council has advised that:

- the Aged Services Centre Redevelopment is expected to generate 50 jobs during the construction phase and 27 ongoing jobs
- the Pride of Melton project will generate 29 FTE jobs during the construction phase, and 75 FTE ongoing jobs, and
- the Bridge Road Regional Play Space project will generate 20 jobs during the construction phase and 5 ongoing jobs.

The significant number of jobs expected to be generated demonstrates the economic impact the Interface Growth Fund and other leveraged funding will have on local communities.

Caring Mums

Raised with: Minister for Women

Raised by: Ms Crozier

Raised on: 23 March 2016

REPLY:

I would like to thank the Member for raising the Caring Mums program with me, which is supported by the National Council of Jewish Women in Australia and the National Council of Women of Victoria.

The Royal Commission delivered its report and recommendations to Government on 29 March 2016. The Victorian Labor Government has committed to implementing each of the 227 recommendations from the report.

On April 13 2016, the Andrews Labor Government announced a \$572 million statewide funding boost over two years in the 2016-17 Victorian Budget to respond to the recommendations that the Royal Commission has flagged as urgent. This package is the start of a long-term process and begins the implementation of 65 of the Royal Commission's most urgent recommendations.

Prior to the release of the Royal Commission's report into Family Violence the Andrews Labor Government announced a \$10 million family violence package that will provide immediate assistance to relieve the demand pressures on critical family violence services across the State.

As part of this package, \$2 million over two years has been allocated to support culturally diverse communities who are experiencing family violence and address demand. This includes \$1.5 million for the Capacity Building and Participation Program for culturally diverse family violence prevention, service access and gender equality projects.

The Capacity Building and Participation Program, administered by the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, is designed to build the knowledge and skills of multicultural communities to fully participate and contribute to everyday life in Victoria. Under the 2016-17 program, medium grants of up to \$75 000 per year for one or two years are available for community capacity building projects that benefit

multicultural communities, including projects that address family violence prevention, family safety or family violence service responsiveness.

Further information about the grants, including eligible organisations, can be located at www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/grants. I am informed that on 5 April 2016, the Department of Premier and Cabinet directly contacted the Caring Mums program to advise of the availability of the grant funding and the closing date for applications.

Bass Coast economic development

Raised with: Minister for Regional Development

Raised by: Mr Mulino

Raised on: 24 March 2016

REPLY:

I visited Bass Coast Shire Council on 1 April 2016 in company with Ministers Merlino, D' Ambrosio, Eren, Hennessy and Neville where I had the pleasure of meeting Ms Jordan Crugnale, Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council, who led presentations on several major initiatives proposed at Bass Coast Shire.

Ministers conducted individual round-table discussions with representatives from local business, Council, government agencies and the community. We listened to the participants talk about their experiences and challenges and took away suggestions on how our government could better support their communities.

I certainly came away from these very productive meetings with a more detailed appreciation of the important role that tourism plays in the beautiful areas in Bass Coast Shire,

The Premier and I launched Victoria's Regional Statement in November 2015. The statement identified the desire for Gippsland communities to strengthen their economic resilience through innovation, improved liveability and by creating further opportunities for nature based tourism.

The Government will consider the ideas raised by the Bass Coast community on how it might support liveability, tourism innovation and economic diversity within the region.

Motorcycle safety

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Ms Dunn

Raised on: 24 March 2016

REPLY:

VicRoads is undertaking a review of the Motorcycle Advisory Group (MAG) in consultation with my office, current members of MAG and other interested stakeholders. Mr Codognotto of the Independent Riders' Group is amongst those interested stakeholders and has been invited to provide comment as part of the review.

The review is close to completion. I note it was the former Coalition Government that formed the MAG after disbanding VMAC.

With regard to data collection and the inclusion of off-road crashes and motorcycle riders that are not appropriately licensed in road trauma statistics, while these riders may not be representative of the general riding public, they are still people who have experienced road trauma; as such, their inclusion in the data is both appropriate and necessary in achieving the Towards Zero road safety vision.

Health funding**Raised with: Minister for Health****Raised by: Ms Wooldridge****Raised on: 12 April 2016****REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government has sponsored important legislative reforms that will make significant improvements to the health and wellbeing of Victorians and deliver on Government election and policy commitments, including the Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016, the Assisted Reproductive Treatment (Amendment) Act 2016, the Health Complaints Act 2016 and the Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient) Act 2015.

The 2016-17 Budget provides \$21.3 million over four years to the health portfolio to facilitate access to medicinal cannabis for patients in exceptional circumstances, and provides \$7.3 million to the agriculture portfolio to support access to medicinal cannabis.

Additional funds will be provided to the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (the Authority) and the office of the Health Complaints Commissioner (the Commissioner) to equip them to perform their new functions.

No additional funds will be required for health services to implement nurse and midwife to patient ratios because they are currently funded to the ratios.

Western Metropolitan Region small business**Raised with: Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade****Raised by: Mr Eideh****Raised on: 12 April 2016****REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to enhancing the capability of small business owners and prospective small business owners to effectively plan, run and manage their business. Access to business mentoring, workshops and seminars is available through the Business Victoria web portal (business.vic.gov.au).

The Small Business Mentoring Program provides small businesses and prospective business owners with access to low-cost business mentoring and expert advice. The business mentors, provided by the Small Business Mentoring Service, have extensive experience in business or in senior industry roles. Businesses can work with a mentor of their choice to address operational or financial issues, planning and strategies for future growth. Between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2016, 56 mentoring sessions have been held in the Western Metropolitan Victorian Government Business Office region.

In addition to the Small Business Mentoring Program, the government also offers the Small Business Victoria Workshops program which provides businesses and prospective business owners with the skills and knowledge to make informed business decisions. Small businesses attending these practical sessions gain skills in marketing and growing their business, networking and developing action plans to help achieve their business goals. Between 1 July 2015 and 31 March 2016, 302 participants have taken part in 29 workshops held in the Western Metropolitan Victorian Government Business Office region.

Bicycle parking

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Ms Dunn

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

As this matter relates to the installation of temporary bicycle parking areas at major events, it should be raised with the Hon John Eren, Minister for Tourism and Major Events.

Family violence

Raised with: Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

Raised by: Ms Shing

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

The Royal Commission into Family Violence delivered its report to the Victorian Government on 29 March 2016. The Andrews Labor Government has committed to implementing all of the 227 recommendations from the report.

As the Member is aware, creating the intergenerational change that is needed to end family violence is an enormous task. Our government is working with an understanding that in order to achieve the outcomes that are needed, the voices of those who have been at the forefront of this harm need to be front and centre.

That is why the Andrews Labor Government has established a new Victims' Survivors Advisory Council, as well as a Family Violence Steering Committee. Consulting with these entities and members of the community will guide the development of a comprehensive 10 year Victorian Family Violence Action Plan.

On 11 March 2016, I had the opportunity to discuss the outcomes of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and the process of re-designing the Victorian family violence system with Quantum Support Services in Morwell. The Latrobe Women in Business and the Victorian Trades Hall Council Gender Dialogue events both provided a valuable insight into the experiences of women in this region and the importance of initiatives that are tailored to the needs of this community. These discussions in Gippsland and other similar events that I will attend across Victoria over the coming months will help to shape the Government's response to the Royal Commission's recommendations.

A key focus of these discussions was the \$572 million investment over two years within the 2016-17 State Budget to address 65 of the most urgent recommendations and to begin the process of fixing this broken system. This initial family violence package will increase access to housing and crisis refuges, invest in prevention and specialist support initiatives and help ensure perpetrators are held to account in a way that leads to behavioural change.

The investment will reach all parts of the State and includes \$5 million to plan for the establishment of 17 support and safety hubs across Victoria. The hubs will provide an entry point into local specialist family violence services, other support programs and improve access to universal services.

Addressing Aboriginal family violence is also a focus of the family violence funding package, with \$25.7 million allocated over two years. This will provide more support for Aboriginal Victorians at risk of family violence through Aboriginal community led prevention and early intervention initiatives; mediation, dispute resolution and inter-generational trauma training; and Aboriginal conflict resolution workers.

Funding of \$3.3 million has been allocated in 2016-17 to family violence responses in culturally and linguistically diverse communities. This allocation will provide specialist family violence services delivered by an enhanced In Touch Multicultural Centre against Family Violence and other service providers.

Murray Basin rail project

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr Ramsay

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

Following an assessment of the business case and consultation with freight industry and regional communities, the Victorian Government has committed to the \$416 million project partnering with the Commonwealth Government to deliver the project, which will benefit farmers, grain exporters and local businesses by standardising and increasing axle loads on all of the region's freight rail freight lines.

The Murray Basin Rail Business Case examined 23 TAL options and verified that the significant additional expense caused by the substantial re-railing required on the lines meant this was not considered viable on current forecast freight volumes.

Additionally, upgrading to 23 TAL would introduce a greater risk to the project as both rail formation and the condition of bridges and culverts would need to be extensively assessed to determine the full extent of investment required and the subsequent benefit of the increased capital expenditure.

The future of 23 TAL upgrade on these lines remains open and should the Commonwealth Government wish to provide additional funding to upgrade the Murray Basin standard gauge network to 23 TAL the Victorian Government would welcome it.

The Port of Geelong, currently the major grain port for Victoria, has a standard gauge grain rail loop, funded by the Brumby Government in 2008 at a cost of \$33 million, which can accommodate trains up to 23 TAL.

As I have previously informed you, the last kilometre into the Port of Geelong is majority owned by private landholders comprising of 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.

I thank the Member for the question.

Mernda Dragons Rugby League Club

Raised with: Minister for Sport

Raised by: Mr Ondarchie

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

I refer to the Adjournment Debate you have raised in the Legislative Assembly on 12 April 2016 regarding the Mernda Dragons Rugby League Club.

Providing high quality sport and recreation facilities is a key aim of the Victorian Government, and is integral to the health and well-being of all Victorians.

In 2015 I launched the Government's \$100 million Community Sports Infrastructure Fund that will facilitate the upgrade and development of community sports facilities over the next four years. The 2017-18 funding round is currently open and the guidelines for this program can be found at www.sport.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs. I would note however that only local government authorities are eligible to apply for funding, and I encourage the

Mernda Dragons Rugby League Club to contact Mr Paul Reading, Manager Leisure Services and Planning, Whittlesea City Council telephone 9217 2304 to discuss this project.

Thank you for raising this matter with me. I trust this information has been of assistance to you.

TAFE funding

Raised with: Minister for Training and Skills

Raised by: Mr Leane

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Since coming to office in 2014 the Victorian Government has committed to providing almost half a billion dollars' worth of targeted investment into the TAFE sector to benefit individual students, industry, the economy and the Victorian community.

This investment includes the establishment of the \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund including

\$200 million over four years to support TAFE institutes to deliver community service activities, which are an important part of the unique role that institutes play in the Victorian education system.

The first \$50 million of this funding has been allocated and will be delivered to institutes by the end of May 2016. As you mentioned announcements detailing individual institute allocations have occurred across the state in recent weeks. Through these announcements I have taken the opportunity to meet with some TAFE CEOs to discuss how this funding will positively impact disadvantaged and vulnerable students in Victoria.

Invitations to submit proposals for the next \$50 million of this funding will be announced in the first quarter of 2016-17. The focus for this round of funding will be to provide further support to TAFE institutes to deliver community service activities through building their capability, provision of assets for community use, support for delivery in thin or niche markets and learner support activities.

This Government is committed to supporting TAFE institutes to be sustainable and to provide Victorians with the education, training and support they need to get jobs and be active participants in the Victorian economy and community.

Police custody officers

Raised with: Minister for Police

Raised by: Ms Symes

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced a \$596 million Public Safety Package as part of the 2016-17 State Budget, delivering on our promise to give police the necessary resources to respond to gang-related crime, gun crime, terrorist threats and family violence. This reflects the government's commitment to work with the Chief Commissioner to ensure we provide the resources to police that will keep our community safe.

Victoria Police will have an extra 406 sworn police officers and 52 support personnel bringing the total number of new police personnel funded by the Andrews Government since it came to office to 1156. An extra 300 frontline police will be deployed across Victoria responding to local crime issues and demand for police in growth areas. A

further 106 specialist police officers and 52 support personnel will be recruited and trained for specialist areas like the Public Order Response Team, Special Operations Group, forensics and fingerprint staff.

The full deployment of 400 Police Custody Officers (PCOs), funded in last year's budget will be fast tracked by six months to the end of 2017, further freeing up police officers to return to the frontline. I am advised that Victoria Police is on track to deploy the first 200 custody officers by June this year.

PCOs undertake custody management duties including processing and supervising detained people, managing visitors to police cells, facilitating access to health services and other administrative tasks as required. PCOs are also empowered to perform other duties such as facilitating appearances before court and performing hospital guard duties.

The first 84 new custody officers are already deployed to a number of police stations across the State and have now been rostered on for more than 1340 shifts since they were first deployed in January 2016. As you have indicated, the overall feedback on the PCOs has been very positive with police, over time, being released back to frontline duties where they can focus on keeping the community safe.

I am advised that Wangaratta and Wodonga each welcomed their first four PCOs on 1 May 2016 with Shepparton receiving two officers. Victoria Police advises that as part of the deployment of the first 200 custody officers, subject to operational need and passing the requisite training courses, it is proposed to deploy a total of 12 custody officers at Wangaratta, nine at Shepparton and seven at Wodonga. In accordance with section 10 of the Victoria Police Act 2013, the decision of how and where future PCOs are deployed is appropriately a matter for the Chief Commissioner.

Possums

Raised with: Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

There are two types of possums in urban areas of Melbourne: Common Brushtail Possums and Common Ringtail Possums. They are well suited to living in the suburbs as the trees and gardens around our houses provide a modified woodland similar to their natural habitat. People and possums can live together successfully, and learning about possums can be both educational and fun.

Like all other native animals, possums are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975 and it is illegal to harass or interfere with possums. Ringtail Possums do not generally live in buildings or cause damage, and therefore are not able to be trapped. However, Common Brushtail Possums living within buildings or causing damage to municipal parks and gardens may be controlled.

However, there are conditions and restrictions in respect of trapping Brushtailed Possums living within buildings. Brushtailed Possums can be trapped by the home owner or occupiers and building managers (or their staff) and released elsewhere on the property on which they are captured (after sunset on the day of capture). Any trap used must be a cage trap designed not to cause injury to the possum. Where it is not reasonably possible to release the possum on the property, possums must be humanely destroyed by a registered veterinarian with 24 hours of capture. An effective way to stop possums getting into roofs is to watch for them after dark and block off their access points. Importantly, all branches that lead to the roof should be pruned, leaving a gap of at least 1.5 metres so that possums cannot access the roof.

More information about living with possums can be found on the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning website at:

[http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/wild life/problems-with-wildlife/possums](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/environment-and-wildlife/wild%20life/problems-with-wildlife/possums)

Street harassment

Raised with: Minister for Equality

Raised by: Ms Patten

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

I thank the Member for raising this important matter.

The Andrews Labor Government is serious about addressing homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and discrimination against people with intersex variations.

As announced in the recent budget, \$15 million will support the establishment of an LGBTI Pride Centre, which will provide a home for many of our LGBTI community organisations, so that they can focus on supporting community members and furthering inclusion and acceptance in the broader Victorian community.

In addition to this, the 2016-17 Victorian Budget invests \$4 million over four years for an LGBTI Grants Program to strengthen the sustainability of LGBTI community organisations and develop the governance and leadership skills of LGBTI community leaders. The grants will provide LGBTI communities and organisations with the extra support they need to ensure Victorians live free from discrimination. The funding complements the LGBTI Multicultural Grants which support culturally diverse LGBTI Victorians. These grants will comprise a minimum grant pool of \$500 000 over four years.

Finally, a further \$2.5 million over 4 years is allocated to initiatives that combat homophobia, biphobia and transphobia. This includes a rural and regional roadshow which will be led by the Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality. The roadshow will provide LGBTI community members living outside Melbourne with better access to support, as well as the delivery of LGBTI education and training for mainstream services. The funding recognises the need for equality and respect for LGBTI Victorians and tackling all forms of discrimination.

Echuca-Moama bridge

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr Drum

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

In recognition of the importance of this project, the State Government included an allocation of \$96 million to the project in its 2015-16 budget, noting that final funding arrangements would require the confirmation of reciprocal funding from the Commonwealth and NSW State Governments.

The Victorian Government continues to discuss with the Commonwealth Government opportunities for increased Federal funding for nationally significant transport projects across Victoria, including for the Echuca-Moama Bridge. These discussions are ongoing.

I have informed the Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport that the project information required for the Commonwealth Government for its assessment is being prepared and will be forwarded in due course.

Family violence

Raised with: Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

Raised by: Ms Crozier

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

The Royal Commission delivered its report and recommendations to the Victorian Labor Government on 29 March 2016. The Andrews Labor Government has committed to implementing each of the 227 recommendations from the report.

The 2016-17 State Budget includes \$572 million over two years to address 65 of the most urgent recommendations and to begin the process of fixing this broken system. This initial family violence package will increase access to housing and crisis refuges, invest in prevention and specialist support initiatives and help ensure perpetrators are held to account in a way that leads to behavioural change.

The investment includes \$40 million over two years for the Safe at Home — Flexible Support Packages initiative, which will enable family violence victims to remain safe in their homes and provide brokerage funds that will enable increased home security through devices such as home alarms and security lighting.

In regards to the progress of the Personal Safety pilot, which is being delivered by a consortium led by the Safe Futures Foundation, the initiative will provide an opportunity to test how technology can be employed to improve the safety of women and children. It will trial personal duress alarms and CCTV for women at high risk of family violence to keep them safe in their homes and communities.

Keysborough South schools

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Mrs Peulich

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The 2016-17 Budget is delivering record spending on Victorian school infrastructure, allocating \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state.

The Budget delivers the largest ever investment in school infrastructure, providing Victorian schools with a record \$924 million to build and upgrade schools across the state and an additional \$200 million to better maintain existing school facilities.

This package includes:

- \$287 million to acquire land and build or complete 23 new schools, many in Melbourne's growth areas, where they are needed most. This includes funding to acquire a site for a new primary school in Keysborough South.
- \$375 million to undertake and plan 147 school upgrades at existing schools, including funding for 60 projects in rural and regional Victoria and 20 specialist schools.
- \$92 million to establish 10 cutting-edge Tech Schools at TAFEs and universities across Victoria, including four in regional Victoria.

The Department of Education and Training is aware that there is residential development underway in the Keysborough South area and the population is expected to grow in the future.

Shepparton bypass

Raised with: Treasurer

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

The Government recognises the importance of the Shepparton Bypass and we are continuing to discuss opportunities for increased Commonwealth funding for nationally significant transport projects across Victoria with the Commonwealth Government.

The Government is also aware of the importance of upgrading the existing Shepparton Alternate Route.

In recognition of this, the Government is providing planning and development funding in the 2016-17 State Budget for the Shepparton Alternate Route upgrade. This is part of the Government's commitment to provide \$52 million in the budget under the Building our Regions program to improve road infrastructure in regional Victoria.

Bimbadeen Heights Primary School

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Mr Mulino

Raised on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through our 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, ensuring that every community has access to a great local school, and every child gets the chance to succeed.

This program will be delivered by a brand new infrastructure body-the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA). This new Authority is an important step for us in how we build the Education State and shape our education system for the future.

I am delighted to confirm that, as part of this funding, the Government has allocated \$5.3 million to upgrade and modernise Bimbadeen Heights Primary School. I have asked the VSBA to assist the school to plan for this exciting project, and to help it prepare for the upcoming capital works project.

Once Bimbadeen Heights Primary School receives its capital funding, the VSBA will work closely with the school and provide further support in the development and delivery of its project to ensure the best outcome for the school community.

Point Cook schools

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Mr Finn

Raised on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The Victorian Government continues to be committed to investing in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of more than \$1.1 billion in the 2016-17, State Budget. This represents the largest ever investment in Victorian school infrastructure.

The most ambitious school building project in history provides for 23 new schools in growth areas throughout the State, including funding of \$102 million for land acquisition, which includes the site for the proposed Sanctuary Lakes P-9 site in Point Cook.

In addition, the government has now identified a site for a new senior secondary school in Point Cook, which was not previously planned for by the former government, and is working on securing the purchase of this site.

Once opened, these new schools will help to meet the challenges of increasing enrolment pressures in the Point Cook area by providing new, state of the art education facilities to allow for an increase in the student capacity within the Point Cook community.

In addition we have fast tracked the Public Private Partnership program and will deliver 15 new schools across the state in 2017 and 2018. This includes Point Cook South P9 which will open its doors to students in 2017.

To meet demand in the short term we have invest \$63.6 million in relocatable buildings across the State.

The Victorian Government is conscious that enrolment growth pressures are being felt in a number of communities, including in the Wyndham area, and will continue to work with the Council to monitor population projections, and ensure all Victorian students have access to high quality education as the population continues to grow.

Yarram Primary School

Raised with: Minister for Education

Raised by: Ms Shing

Raised on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

Solid, safe and efficient infrastructure is the foundation of our education system, supporting teachers, principals, students, parents and carers to work in the best environments possible.

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government. This has been demonstrated through the Government's 2016-17 State Budget allocation of \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state, ensuring that every community has access to a great local school, and every child gets the chance to succeed.

I am delighted to confirm that, as part of this funding, the Government has allocated \$4 million to undertake significant upgrades at Yarram Primary School. This funding will allow the school to begin an exciting capital

works project, which will include modernising and upgrading classrooms, the library, and administration and toilet blocks.

Once Yarram Primary School receives its capital funding, the Department of Education and Training will work closely with the school to ensure the best outcome for the school community.

Western Victoria Region roads

Raised with: Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Raised by: Mr Purcell

Raised on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

VicRoads advises me that a program of pavement reconstruction totalling over 22 kilometres in length at an approximate cost of \$15 million was delivered successfully in this past financial year in South Western Victoria.

Many of those projects on the Princes, Glenelg, Henty, Hamilton and Hopkins Highways, as well as the Colac-Ballararat, Timboon-Colac and Woolsthorpe-Heywood Roads, restored and strengthened these important road sections in South Western Victoria. In addition, sites on Bayside Road, which is a major port access route in Geelong, along with sites on the Geelong-Portarlington and Portarlington-Queenscliff Roads on the Bellarine Peninsula were rebuilt to carry large, modern freight vehicles, now and into the future.

These projects are in addition to an extensive annual program of major repairs and resurfacing totalling more than 260 kilometres that has been successfully delivered by the South Western Maintenance Alliance in 2015-16.

A similar extensive program of road renewal will be delivered in the 2016/17 financial year, with further sites on the Princes, Glenelg and Hopkins Highways being rebuilt. The details for these projects will be announced soon.

VicRoads also advises me that a significant pipeline of works is being developed for submission for funding for delivery in future programs.

VicRoads further advises me that, in conjunction with scientists from the Australian Road Research Board (ARRB), it is currently undertaking ongoing detailed modelling of Victoria's arterial road network to predict future performance against various funding scenarios. This will enable optimised and better targeted annual works programs to be delivered more effectively.

Mount Pleasant development

Raised with: Minister for Planning

Raised by: Mr Morris

Raised on: 14 April 2016

REPLY:

I understand that the City of Ballarat (council) recently resolved to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a Planning Permit for a three lot subdivision at 711 Bond Street Mount Pleasant. I also understand that there were 4 objections that were lodged with council at the time of advertising the planning permit application. I am advised that none of the objectors sought to review council's decision at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

I note that once council issues the planning permit for the three lot subdivision, that building permits would be required to construct future dwellings on the lots created.

Under Part 4 of the Victorian Building Regulations 2006, a registered building surveyor will need to assess the appropriateness of the proposed dwellings including setbacks from boundaries, overlooking and overshadowing of

habitable room windows and private open space before issuing a building permit. It should be noted that these requirements under the building regulations are similar to the ResCode requirements of Clause 54 of the Ballarat Planning Scheme, which would have been used to assess the future dwellings had a planning permit been required.

I would encourage concerned parties to liaise with council's municipal building surveyor regarding the building permit process and how their concerns regarding future dwellings on the lots could be addressed through this process.

Country Fire Authority enterprise bargaining agreement

Raised with: Minister for Emergency Services

Raised by: Ms Bath

Raised on: 3 May 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of Country Fire Authority (CFA) firefighters, both paid and volunteer, including those of the CFA brigades in Gippsland. The CFA firefighters play a paramount role in protecting Victoria from all manner of disasters.

Please be assured that I have noted the concerns expressed by members of the CFA in your electorate. As I have stated publicly, the focus of the Victorian Government is ensuring that we reach an enterprise agreement with the United Fire Fighters Union that respects and values the great work of both our paid and volunteer firefighters.

Thank you for your invitation to visit Gippsland. I will be most happy to meet with CFA brigade members at a future date.

Country Fire Authority enterprise bargaining agreement

Raised with: Premier

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 4 May 2016

REPLY:

No agreement has been reached yet.

We are working with the union, management and agencies to bring to an end this long running dispute with our firefighters.

We will continue to negotiate in good faith to achieve an outcome that respects the contribution that all firefighters make to the safety of Victorians.

Greyhound adoption

Raised with: Minister for Racing

Raised by: Ms Shing

Raised on: 4 May 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government's Plan to Keep Victorian Racing Strong outlined a number of key initiatives to further grow and strengthen all three racing codes, including the renewal of the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) for a further four years.

The government has committed over \$1.5 million to Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) through the VRIF to fund initiatives that improve animal welfare and support responsible breeding and sales practices.

Last June, the Board of GRV made a decision to cease the Greyhound Owners & Breeders Incentive Scheme (GOBIS). The government will work with GRV to ensure that GOBIS funds are redistributed to initiatives to improve animal welfare programs, encourage sustainable breeding and improve the retirement and re-homing of greyhounds after racing.

I would welcome an application from GRV to access these funds for any suitable projects to further the already successful Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP).

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Wednesday, 25 May 2016

South Melbourne public housing

Raised with: Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing

Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert

Raised on: 22 March 2016

REPLY:

The member seeks action on concerns relating to safety and damage to property. She should know that criminal matters are the responsibility of Victoria Police. It is disappointing that the member has again chosen to run down the good name of public housing tenants and their communities when statistics show crime rates on public housing estates are below those in the broader community.

My department has a strong working relationship with Victoria Police and both agencies take the safety and security of all public tenants very seriously.

I am advised that the department has inspected the fire escape doors at 200 Dorcas Street and confirmed they are operating correctly.

I can confirm that the windows at the front entrance of 200 Dorcas Street were vandalised in recent months. I am advised that the windows were repaired within 24 hours of the department being notified.

I am also advised that the CCTV cameras at 200 Dorcas Street are working correctly. CCTV footage is recorded and available to Victoria Police.

The department's cleaning and gardening contractor is required to collect and remove any syringes each day.

Security guards are stationed at 200 Dorcas Street seven days a week. The guards patrol the building and check every floor, including the communal laundries. The guards also provide daily reports and all maintenance related matters are assessed and actioned by the local housing office. The guards are instructed to immediately refer any urgent maintenance to the after-hours maintenance service. In addition to this, all tenants are encouraged to contact the department's Housing Call Centre for any maintenance related issues, including repairs to broken windows.

The department continues to proactively engage with the residents of 200 Dorcas Street to discuss tenant safety and security concerns. The department will continue to work with the Victoria Police, focused on the safety and security of the tenants who live at 200 Dorcas Street. The department will also take action in accordance with the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 if Victoria Police lays charges against a current tenant that relate to their tenancy.

Health funding

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Hartland

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

The 2014-15 Commonwealth Budget announced significant changes to public hospital funding arrangements under the National Health Reform Agreement, including cessation of funding guarantees, and revising indexation

arrangements from 1 July 2017. The impact to Victorian hospitals is billions of dollars less funding than would have been the case had these cuts not been imposed.

In addition to these cuts, the acting Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool has advised the Commonwealth Treasurer to recover Commonwealth funding for public hospitals in Victoria of \$73.2 million in 2015-16 and cut \$36.6 million ongoing from 2016-17. This is due to the Administrator overturning a previous decision to exclude activity funded under the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services in growth calculations for Victoria. This was funding already received by Victoria for surgeries already performed.

Upon news of the Commonwealth's \$73.2 million cuts in 2015-16, health services advised what effect this would have for their activities and what would be required to adjust to the funding cuts.

Western Health advised that the likely impact would be the need to reduce the services provided at Williamstown Hospital.

The Victorian Government is doing everything possible to recover these funds, including taking action in the High Court.

In the meantime, the Victorian Government has ensured that the total funding for Williamstown Hospital's Emergency Department has been maintained in 2015-16, despite the reduction in Commonwealth funds by the Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool.

You would also be aware that the Andrews Labor Government has invested a further \$1.3 billion in the 2016-17 State Budget for acute health services. This funding will be distributed to health services, including Western Health, to ensure service levels are maintained and improved over the next four years.

You can be assured that the Victorian Government is doing all it can to protect health services from the cuts of the Federal Liberal Government, and in stark contrast to these cuts, is investing record amounts in our hospitals, including Williamstown Hospital and Western Health.

Ballarat Base Hospital

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Mr Morris

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor State Government is committed to enhancing Ballarat Health Services and its capacity to fulfil its role as the regional referral centre for health services in the Grampians region.

This Government has committed \$10 million to the delivery of a second cardiac catheterization laboratory at Ballarat Health Services which is forecast to commence construction works later this year.

The Drummond St building is forecast to be completed in late 2016.

Planning for future services takes time to ensure that the right decisions are made.

Accordingly, it is necessary that the appropriate level of service and capital planning, which looks at projected future community needs and articulates the health service's response to changing service demand, is undertaken.

I am advised that officers from the Department of Health and Human Services are working closely with representatives of Ballarat Health Services to progress a service planning exercise around the future bed stock at Ballarat Health Services, as well as a redesign for the critical level 1 hot-floor including linkages between the existing Henry Bolte Building and the new Drummond St building.

This redesign will achieve optimal clinical flows, including increased theatre capacity and throughput. This planning will also take into consideration the new Cardiac Catheter laboratory also on Level 1.

I can also confirm that the Andrews Labor Government has announced in the recent 2016/17 State Budget \$200m for a Regional Health Infrastructure Fund. This Fund will allow rural and regional health services to bid for funding capital works for projects that will enhance service delivery.

As part of the 2016-17 Victorian State Budget, an additional \$1.3 billion investment has been made by the Labor Government for hospital service, with a focus on elective surgery, emergency department access and performance, specialist clinics and mental health services. The Budget delivers the single biggest one-off investment in elective surgery in Australian History.

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

West Gippsland Hospital

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Bath

Raised on: 12 April 2016

REPLY:

The Andrews Labor Government committed the development of a West Gippsland Strategic Services Plan to identify service delivery issues, current and emerging health needs, and a recommendation on the scope of health service to be delivered by West Gippsland Healthcare Group, and other service providers, for the growing Baw Baw Shire population.

The department engaged independent consultants in August 2015 to undertake the project. The project has been overseen by a steering committee which includes representation from West Gippsland Healthcare Group, Latrobe Regional Hospital, Monash Health and the department.

The final report is near completion and will outline the future development of healthcare services required to meet the changing needs of the Baw Baw Shire community over the next five years. The report will also provide a foundation for medium and long term strategies to address the increased health services requirements of a growing population, and inform the future planning and development options for the West Gippsland Healthcare Group.

I have recently visited West Gippsland Healthcare Group, met with its board members and the Chief Executive Officer, and have a deeper understanding of the hospital's needs and challenges. I am committed to working together with West Gippsland Healthcare Group, and other local health organisations, to strengthen and build upon our existing health system and improve the Baw Baw community's access to contemporary health services.

To improve the provision of high quality, safe and accessible care to all Victorian rural and regional communities and thanks to the advocacy of the Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing, I am pleased to advise that the 2016/17 Victorian Budget has invested \$200 million to support hospitals and services through a Regional Health Infrastructure Fund. Of this investment, \$1 million will be provided to plan the West Gippsland Healthcare Group redevelopment at Warragul Hospital.

West Gippsland Healthcare Group**Raised with: Minister for Health****Raised by: Ms Fitzherbert****Raised on: 3 May 2016****REPLY:**

I am committed to working together with West Gippsland Healthcare Group, and other local health organisations, to strengthen and build upon our existing health system and improve the Baw Baw community's access to contemporary health services.

To develop a deeper understanding of the hospital's needs and challenges, I recently visited West Gippsland Healthcare Group, met with its board members and the Chief Executive Officer and, as a result of my visit and the long term advocacy of the Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing MP, announced a \$1 million investment to help plan the West Gippsland Healthcare Group redevelopment. This initiative was made possible through the Victorian Government's \$200 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund which will improve the provision of high quality, safe and accessible care to all Victorian rural and regional communities.

I have directed the Department of Health and Human Services to continue working with the West Gippsland Healthcare Group, Latrobe Regional Hospital, Monash Health and other service providers to progress the priority areas for service development.

This process will involve, amongst other things, the development of a range of short, medium and long term strategies which will respond to the Strategic Services Plan when finalised, a review of current master planning to inform investigations into the range of redevelopment options (including redevelopment on the new site), and development of business cases to address urgent local demand.

It is expected this process will commence shortly along with the development of collaborative partnerships which will be required to progress the transition plans, key strategies and actions recommended by the finalised Strategic Services Plan.

Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre**Raised with: Minister for Health****Raised by: Mr Leane****Raised on: 4 May 2016****REPLY:**

I am pleased to respond to your Adjournment Request of 4 May 2016 relating to the breast cancer centre at the Maroondah Hospital.

I was delighted to visit the Maroondah Hospital precinct on 21 April 2016 with you to announce funding of the government's election commitment of \$10 million to develop Stage 1 of the Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre.

The Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre is a welcome and valuable service for Eastern Health and public patients in Melbourne's outer east. Planning for this exciting service is progressing, and in accordance with Eastern Health policy, consumer representatives have been integral in the service and facility design program to date, and will continue to be represented for the duration of this development.

The new centre will feature:

- an additional mammography screening room,

- additional consulting and interview rooms for use by allied health professionals including oncologists, surgeons, breast nurses, radiologists and counsellors, and
- a group room that can accommodate the provision of supportive group services including information, education, training, self-care, wellness, survivor and other group programs and services.

The project has already progressed into Design Development phase, and is on target to commence building works in early 2017.

I would be pleased to provide updates on progress as the project develops. Project information and progress updates will also be available on the Eastern Health website to help keep the wider community informed about this exciting addition to the Maroondah Hospital.

Thank you again for providing me with the opportunity to share these developments with you.

Multicultural affairs task force

Raised with: Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Raised by: Mrs Peulich

Raised on: 4 May 2016

REPLY:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting newly arrived migrants to successfully settle in Victoria and to fostering a socially cohesive, harmonious multicultural Victoria built on the foundations of democracy.

The Victorian Government is also strongly committed to addressing instances of violence involving young people from various backgrounds. Victoria Police will continue to investigate and act to bring to justice those who break the law.

We also recognise that the engagement of Victoria's youth is especially important to secure the future of our State as is the need to address key factors associated with youth disengagement including unemployment, disconnection from school or further education, and cultural isolation.

To this end, we recognise that a collaborative, holistic response, working across portfolios is required to effect change. This is why a whole of government approach with a focus on increasing police responses, youth crime prevention strategies and early intervention is a priority for the Government.

The Victorian Multicultural Commission, Office of Multicultural Affairs and Citizenship, Victoria Police and key Victorian Government departments and agencies will continue to work closely with community leaders and representatives from Victoria's culturally diverse communities to address the underlying issues of social disengagement and to ensure communities are an integral part of the response.

Goulburn Valley Health

Raised with: Minister for Health

Raised by: Ms Lovell

Raised on: 5 May 2016

REPLY:

Last month I was delighted to join the Premier Daniel Andrews and members of the community to announce the \$168.5 million redevelopment of the Shepparton campus of Goulburn Valley Health.

The redevelopment of the Shepparton campus will ensure that Goulburn Valley Health is able to treat more patients from its primary and extended catchment areas in modern, state of the art facilities, with greater capacity for both the emergency department and elective surgery.

The funded project comprises all three works packages identified in the Business Case and includes the following components:

- a new four storey building to provide three new operating theatres and two new wards with existing theatres refurbished to provide greater efficiency;
- the existing Emergency Department will be extended to add additional treatment bays, doubling its current capacity, and a new short-stay unit will be built to improve patient wait times;
- the hospital's maternity unit will be refurbished and a new Special Care Nursery will be constructed;
- a new expanded 16 chair dialysis unit will be constructed; and
- medical imaging services will be expanded and modernised.

The site-wide master plan that provides the basis for the staged redevelopment of the campus also includes outpatients and mental health in future redevelopment stages as outlined in the 2015 Service Plan.

The funded project focuses on addressing the Shepparton campus' most immediate needs first and I am pleased to advise that capital consultants are currently being engaged to complete the design and implementation of the project.

I congratulate the Member for Shepparton, Suzanna Sheed MP and the community for their work as part of the Community Advisory Group in support of this great project.

WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

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

Thursday, 26 May 2016

Cardinia Road, Pakenham, level crossing

Raised with: Minister for Public Transport

Raised by: Mr O'Donohue

Raised on: 13 April 2016

REPLY:

Melbourne's level crossings cripple our road network, impact the reliability of rail services and pose a safety risk for local communities. The Andrews Government is removing 50 of these level crossings by 2022 so that we can improve safety, make travelling around Melbourne easier whether you are a road or rail user and create thousands of jobs.

I note your concerns regarding the Cardinia Road level crossing and the burden it places on our transport network. There are approximately 180 level crossings on Melbourne's electrified rail network and this is the biggest ever project to remove them. We're focussing on removing the 50 level crossings already identified before looking at additional locations, but I appreciate your feedback so I can understand where people are having concerns.