

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**19 and 21 September 2017**

**(Extract from book 16)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(from 13 September 2017)

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

## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(to 12 September 2017)

Premier .....	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services .....	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer .....	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects .....	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade .....	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development .....	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports .....	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans .....	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries .....	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services .....	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations .....	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State .....	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation .....	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs .....	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water .....	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources .....	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing .....	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development .....	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence (until 23 August 2017) .....	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs .....	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections .....	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning .....	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary .....	Ms M. Thomas, MP

### Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Sullivan, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

**Procedure Committee** — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

### Legislative Council standing committees

**Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure** — #Mr Barber, Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

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

**Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues** — #Mr Barber, #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

**Fire Services Bill Select Committee** — Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

### Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, 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, Ms Hutchins, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula and Mr Walsh.

**Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

**Electoral Matters Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon and Ms Spence.

**Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

**Family and Community Development Committee** — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

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

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

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

**Public Accounts and Estimates Committee** — (*Council*): Ms Patten, 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* — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

*Council* — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

**President:**

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Purcell, Mr Ramsay

**Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

**Deputy Leader of the Government:**

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

**Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

**Deputy Leader of the Opposition:**

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

**Leader of The Nationals:**

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

**Leader of the Greens:**

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina <sup>1</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>6</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel <sup>2</sup>	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew <sup>7</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	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 <sup>5</sup>	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	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

<sup>1</sup> Appointed 16 April 2015

<sup>2</sup> DLP until 26 June 2017

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

<sup>5</sup> Resigned 6 April 2017

<sup>6</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>7</sup> Appointed 13 October 2016

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;

DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;

LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;

SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.*

*Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.*

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

*Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

**Tuesday, 19 September 2017**

**Police**

**11 040. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): Have any of the new 300 frontline police officers been appointed to the Eltham or Greensborough police stations, if so, how many and to which stations.

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has announced a comprehensive strategy to prevent, detect and disrupt crime in Victoria. The Community Safety Statement, released in December 2016, outlines our commitment to boost police numbers right across Victoria. Through our unprecedented \$2 billion investment in Victoria Police, the Andrews Government is funding 3315 additional frontline police to prevent harm in our communities and hold perpetrators to account.

The first 300 frontline police began to roll out into Melbourne's growth suburbs from May 2017. Wyndham, Brimbank, Hume, Moreland, Whittlesea and Casey will receive significant resources over the next 12 months and these extra police will greatly strengthen local police responses in those areas. A further 106 specialist police have also been allocated to deal with gang related crime and public order issues, as well as special response and monitoring capability.

Melbourne's north-west was allocated a substantial amount of police resources. In total, the North West Metropolitan Victoria Police Region gained 238 of the 300 additional police officers deployed including 45 for the new Mernda station. These resources will free up substantial police hours at all stations including Eltham and Greensborough.

The allocation of police resources, including the remaining 2729 additional frontline police to hit the beat over the next five years, will be determined by the newly developed Staff Allocation Model (SAM). The SAM was developed in conjunction with experts in modelling and resource allocation, and in consultation with The Police Association, so we know how many police are needed and where. It will also help police predict how many will be needed in the future-so they can start planning for them now.

**Families and children**

**11 268. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In the 2017-18 Budget, how much was allocated for new output initiatives for foster carers?

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making a difference to the lives of all children. Since coming to government, we have been working to better support everyday people, from all walks of life, who offer their hearts and their homes to children and young people in need.

Finding suitable foster carers for children and young people is an ongoing challenge; a challenge that under the previous Government was ignored.

Despite losing more foster carers from the system than were entering, the former Coalition government had no strategy nor a coordinated approach to attracting, recruiting and retaining carers. This function was undertaken by each individual foster care agency in Victoria.

This is why I announced a \$1.5m recruitment strategy in the first 100 days of our government coming into office.

We also provided \$3.2 million towards a foster care recruitment and retention strategy, including through a public campaign and support program.

This campaign became Fostering Connections which brought 26 foster care agencies in Victoria together for the very first time under one centralised marketing approach to the attraction, recruitment and retention of foster carers.

I have held a number of roundtables and discussions with foster carers across the State and listened to them directly about both the challenges of being a foster carer but also the rewards of being a foster carer.

This is why our first budget provided \$31.3 million over four years for an increase in carer payments — the first increase in a decade. This has benefited our foster carers, kinships carers as well as our permanent carers.

The 2016-17 Budget further invested \$16.2 million to provide increased support for carers and children. This included a combined foster and kinship care training calendar, a new kinship care manual and flexible funding for extraordinary expenses such as medical costs and transport.

Our Government Introduced Targeted Care Packages which provide wrap around supports for children or young people in or at risk of entering residential care to enable them to live in a home based placement. As of 30 July 2017 405 Targeted Care Packages had been created. These packages have benefitted children and carers including foster carers.

The 2017-18 Victorian Budget funded an additional 1982 home-based care placements and 100 more targeted care packages through a further \$59.6 million commitment.

Funding of \$116 million has been allocated by this Government since 2015-16 to meet the need for additional home-based care placements, including funding for caregiver payments, and client expenses.

### **Energy, environment and climate change**

**11 402. MS DUNN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Review of Performance Targets for Bushfire Fuel Management on Public Land completed by the Inspector-General for Emergency Management in May 2015, particularly in relation to bulldozing solid dead and drying wood and leaf fuel into large heaps which are subject to rain wash and erosion, what instructions are provided to operators with regard to fire control lines.

#### **ANSWER:**

Forest Fire Management Victoria's (FFMVic) Bushfire Management Manual — Planned Burning Control Line Preparation Standards has procedures to guide on-ground operators in the establishment and maintenance of fire control lines.

These procedures seek to minimise sediment wash off and erosion. Different methods are applied to reflect different site conditions and types of land.

**Energy, environment and climate change**

**11 406. MS DUNN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What are the implications of the huge quantities of carbon dioxide released by massive forest burns for Victoria and Australia’s climate change mitigation obligations.

**ANSWER:**

Victoria has committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 15 to 20 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020, and has a legislated target of net zero emissions by 2050. Australia has made international commitments to reduce its emissions by 5 per cent below 2000 levels by 2020, and by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Progress against these emissions reduction commitments is measured using the National Greenhouse Accounts, which include the State and Territories Greenhouse Gas Inventories. Under Kyoto Protocol accounting rules, greenhouse gases released from planned forest burns and bushfires are counted in the ‘forest management’ category (under the ‘Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry’ sector). Kyoto Protocol accounting rules allow exclusion of the most extreme bushfires under special rules for ‘natural disturbances’.

In Australia and Victoria, the ‘forest management’ category as a whole has been a significant ‘carbon sink’ since 1990. This means that ‘forest management’ has removed more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it has released.

Planned forest burns aim to reduce the impacts of damaging bushfires on communities, property and the natural environment. Planned burns release some greenhouse gas gases into the atmosphere, but can reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from forest fires by reducing the incidence and extent of bushfires.

**Public transport**

**11 408. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Ballarat Station redevelopment —

- (1) has the Government commissioned a business case on the redevelopment; if yes, will it be publicly released;
- (2) has the Government analysed the impacts on established local businesses and the Council-owned and restored Civic Hall, by the competition from the new Convention Centre included in the precinct redevelopment; and
- (3) has the Government analysed the impact in the reduction of car spaces at Ballarat Station as a result of the redevelopment.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) An Implementation Business Case was conducted in 2015 to investigate market-sounding, financial and economic impacts of the Ballarat Station Precinct Masterplan (2014). The Implementation Business Case contains commercially sensitive information and will not be released in the foreseeable future.
- (2) The Ballarat Station Precinct Redevelopment Implementation Business Case analysed the potential commercial impacts of the site in 2015. As the study was conducted prior to the City of Ballarat’s commencement of the restoration of Civic Hall, the impact of the restoration of Civic Hall was not included at the time.
- (3) The total number of commuter car parks to be delivered at Ballarat Station as a result of the redevelopment is 405, which exceeds the number of car parking spots currently available.

**Police**

**11 409. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 October 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 October 2015 at 7.00 am there were eight female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 410. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 October 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 October 2015 at 7.00 am there were 107 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 411. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 30 November 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 30 November 2015 at 7.00 am there were 10 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 412. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 30 November 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 30 November 2015 at 7.00 am there were 204 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 413. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 December 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 December 2015 at 7.00 am there were 12 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 414. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 December 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 December 2015 at 7.00 am there were 156 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 415. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 May 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 May 2016 at 7.00 am there were 10 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 416. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 May 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 May 2016 at 7.00 am there were 182 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 417. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 August 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 August 2016 at 7.00 am there were 11 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 418. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 August 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 August 2016 at 7.00 am there were 236 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 419. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 March 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 March 2017 at 7.00 am there were 11 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 420. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 March 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 March 2017 at 7.00 am there were 270 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 421. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 30 April 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 30 April 2017 at 7.00 am there were 10 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 422. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 30 April 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 30 April 2017 at 7.00 am there were 163 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 423. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 May 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 May 2017 at 7.00 am there were 10 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 424. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 May 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 May 2017 at 7.00 am there were 181 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 425. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 30 June 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 30 June 2017 at 7.00 am there were 12 female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 426. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 30 June 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 30 June 2017 at 7.00 am there were 194 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 427. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 July 2017 at 7.00 am there were nine female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

**11 428. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on 31 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 July 2017 at 7.00 am there were 263 male prisoners in police cells.

**Emergency services**

**11 456. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): How many of the 30 new career firefighters who graduated in late June 2017 will be located at the Eltham Country Fire Authority Station.

**ANSWER:**

Of the 30 new career firefighters who graduated in late June 2017, 4 graduates have been deployed to the Eltham Country Fire Authority (CFA) Station.

**Roads and road safety**

**11 474. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

It is ironic that the member has asked fishing questions to Ministers including questions about female employment, given the Coalition only has three women sitting on the front bench in each house of Parliament.

The Andrews Labor Government is proud to stand in contrast to the Coalition on its record of hiring and promoting women into leadership positions.

This is demonstrated by our Government's policy to ensure women are better represented on boards — with a requirement of reaching 50 per cent representation. This pledge has increased the number of women appointed to paid boards in Victoria from 38 per cent to over 50 per cent in just two years.

In addition, Victoria's first female Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford announced funding from the 2017/2018 Victorian Budget to re-establish the much loved Victorian Rural Women's Network. It speaks volumes that the former Coalition Government cut this vital service.

Minister Neville, Victoria's first female Minister for Police, recently honoured Madge Connor, Victoria's first policewoman, to recognise her role as a pioneer for women in the force. In 2017, Victoria Police is proud to have more than 4000 women serving as police officers, and many more public servants, Protective Services Officers and Police Custody Officers. A third of all police recruits are female and the current recruitment drive for 3135 new police encourages women to sign up, as part the Labor Government's push through the Community Safety Statement to improve gender equality within Victoria Police.

These are just some of the many examples of our Labor Government's commitment to pursuing the interests of all Victorians.

**Treasurer**

**11 477. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer’s office, as of 1 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that: budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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**Major projects**

**11 482. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

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### Water

**11 483. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

#### ANSWER:

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### Families and children

**11 488. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

#### ANSWER:

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### **Mental health**

**11 490. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

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**Education**

**11 494. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

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**Roads and road safety**

**11 496. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

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### Treasurer

**11 499. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer's office, as of 1 July 2017.

#### ANSWER:

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### Major projects

**11 504. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

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### Water

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**Mental health**

**11 513. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

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### Education

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### Roads and road safety

**11 519. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

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### **Treasurer**

**11 522. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer's office, as of 1 July 2016.

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**Major projects**

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**Water**

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### Families and children

**11 533. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

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### Mental health

**11 535. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

It is ironic that the member has asked fishing questions to Ministers including questions about female employment, given the Coalition only has three women sitting on the front bench in each house of Parliament.

The Andrews Labor Government is proud to stand in contrast to the Coalition on its record of hiring and promoting women into leadership positions.

This is demonstrated by our Government's policy to ensure women are better represented on boards — with a requirement of reaching 50 per cent representation. This pledge has increased the number of women appointed to paid boards in Victoria from 38 per cent to over 50 per cent in just two years.

In addition, Victoria's first female Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford announced funding from the 2017/2018 Victorian Budget to re-establish the much loved Victorian Rural Women's Network. It speaks volumes that the former Coalition Government cut this vital service.

Minister Neville, Victoria's first female Minister for Police, recently honoured Madge Connor, Victoria's first policewoman, to recognise her role as a pioneer for women in the force. In 2017, Victoria Police is proud to have more than 4000 women serving as police officers, and many more public servants, Protective Services Officers and Police Custody Officers. A third of all police recruits are female and the current recruitment drive for 3135 new police encourages women to sign up, as part the Labor Government's push through the Community Safety Statement to improve gender equality within Victoria Police.

These are just some of the many examples of our Labor Government's commitment to pursuing the interests of all Victorians.

### Education

**11 539. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

#### ANSWER:

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Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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**Roads and road safety**

**11 541. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

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**Treasurer**

**11 544. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer's office, as of 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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### Major projects

**11 549. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

#### ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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**Water**

**11 550. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

It is ironic that the member has asked fishing questions to Ministers including questions about female employment, given the Coalition only has three women sitting on the front bench in each house of Parliament.

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In addition, Victoria's first female Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford announced funding from the 2017/2018 Victorian Budget to re-establish the much loved Victorian Rural Women's Network. It speaks volumes that the former Coalition Government cut this vital service.

In my capacity as Victoria's first female Minister for Police, I recently honoured Madge Connor, Victoria's first policewoman, to recognise her role as a pioneer for women in the force. In 2017, Victoria Police is proud to have more than 4000 women serving as police officers, and many more public servants, Protective Services Officers and Police Custody Officers. A third of all police recruits are female and the current recruitment drive for 3135 new police encourages women to sign up, as part the Labor Government's push through the Community Safety Statement to improve gender equality within Victoria Police.

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**Families and children**

**11 555. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

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### Education

**11 561. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

#### ANSWER:

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Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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### Roads and road safety

**11 563. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

#### ANSWER:

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Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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### Treasurer

**11 566. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many new employees commenced work within the Treasurer's office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

### ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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**Major projects**

**11 571. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

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**Families and children**

**11 577. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

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### **Mental health**

**11 579. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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### **Education**

**11 583. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.*

*Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.*

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

*Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

**Thursday, 21 September 2017**

**Planning**

**11 485. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

Budget allocation of staff is reported as per past practice.

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### Planning

**11 530. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

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**Planning**

**11 574. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

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**Energy, environment and climate change**

**11 718. MS DUNN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Post any planned burn activities, does the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) or Forest Fire Management Victoria pay per kilometre for roadside hazardous tree removal; if so, how does DELWP or Forest Fire Management Victoria ensure that excessive tree removal does not take place.

**ANSWER:**

Hazardous trees are a safety risk impacting on the ability of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria to undertake fire management activities, and on the use and enjoyment of public land by the community.

Hazardous trees are removed only where there is no practical alternative to reducing the risk, and where it is safe to do so. The ecological values of hazardous trees are assessed prior to appropriate risk mitigation strategies being implemented.

Post any planned burn activity, a risk assessment and hazard identification is conducted by DELWP staff with regard to hazardous trees. Any hazardous tree treatment conducted by contractors is done under the direction and supervision of DELWP staff. Cost cannot be determined on a kilometre basis as the cost is dependent on the complexity and amount of work required. Most often works are undertaken on an hourly rate for post burn treatment.

**Energy, environment and climate change**

**11 719. MS DUNN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Will the Minister make available to the public the burn plan that is specific to the planned burn for West Boundary Road Burn 2HB R 031 in Providence Ponds.

**ANSWER:**

The operational burn plan for the Providence Ponds-West Boundary Track burn is available to the public by contacting the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning Macalister District directly.