

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

20, 21, 22 and 23 June 2017

(Extract from book 12)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 10 November 2016)

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

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett 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 O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): 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 Eideh 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 Pearson, Mr T. Smith, Ms Staley and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmar, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

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The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ³	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
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Elasmar, 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 ⁶	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 ⁵	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			

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Appointed 7 June 2017

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁴ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;

DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;

LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;

SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

*Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.
Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.
Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

Tuesday, 20 June 2017

Finance

7657. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office on 22 May 2015 for a cake totalling \$38.00 —

- (a) what was the purpose of this expenditure; and
- (b) why was public money spent on a cake.

ANSWER:

The general practice in my office is to fund such items privately. As a result, I have reimbursed the department.

[Question 7657 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 321]

Police

9725. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 3 October 2016;
- (b) 10 October 2016;
- (c) 17 October 2016;
- (d) 24 October 2016; and
- (e) 31 October 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 31 October 2016 at 7am there were 12 female prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

[Question 9725 reinstated by order of President on 22 February 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 21 February 2017, page 1102]

Police

9726. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 3 October 2016;
- (b) 10 October 2016;
- (c) 17 October 2016;
- (d) 24 October 2016; and
- (e) 31 October 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 31 October 2016 at 7am there were 148 male prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

[Question 9726 reinstated by order of President on 22 February 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 355]

Police

9727. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 7 November 2016;
- (b) 14 November 2016;
- (c) 21 November 2016; and
- (d) 28 November 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 30 November 2016 at 7am there were 6 female prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

[Question 9727 reinstated by order of President on 22 February 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 355]

Police

9728. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 7 November 2016;
- (b) 14 November 2016;
- (c) 21 November 2016; and
- (d) 28 November 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 30 November 2016 at 7am there were 162 male prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

[Question 9728 reinstated by order of President on 22 February 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 355]

Ambulance services

10 185. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): Regarding Ambulance Victoria's performance on 21 November 2016 —

- (1) what was the average Ambulance Victoria response time for a Code 1 call;
- (2) how many patients classified as Code 1 were not attended to by an ambulance;

- (3) how many patients that were not attended by an ambulance were managed over the phone; and
- (4) what explanation has been offered for why inconsistent information was given to callers to Ambulance Victoria with some patients being given no information on likely arrival times and others being instructed to make their own way to hospital.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The events of 21 November, including ambulance response, have been the subject of extensive inquiry by the Inspector General for Emergency Management. This final report can be accessed at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/emergencies/thunderstorm-asthma-event>

[Question 10 185, parts (2), (3) and (4), reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 357]

Health

10 186. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): Regarding the thunderstorm asthma event across Victoria on 21 November 2016 —

- (1) why were hospitals unable to restock Ventolin supplies on 21 November 2016; and
- (2) do hospitals have the capacity to restock emergency supplies in real time.

ANSWER:

I am informed that Health Purchasing Victoria has a role to assist hospitals that have activated their Code Brown plan to access emergency supplies. Where supplies are not available through regular sources, Health Purchasing Victoria can request emergency stock from other suppliers or from other states if necessary.

[Question 10 186, part (2), reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 357]

Health

10 187. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): Regarding the thunderstorm asthma event across Victoria on 21 November 2016 —

- (1) were all non-emergency patient transport and first aid agencies under SHERP fully utilised on 21 November; and
- (2) which non-emergency patient transport and first aid agencies under SHERP were called for additional shifts on 21 November 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The events of 21 November, including use of non-emergency patient transport, have been the subject of extensive inquiry by the Inspector General for Emergency Management. This final report can be accessed at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/ememencies/thunderstorm-asthma-event>

[Question 10 187, part (1), reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 357]

Ambulance services

10 189. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): Regarding communications during the thunderstorm asthma event across Victoria on 21 November 2016 —

- (1) which media outlets did Ambulance Victoria contact to inform them about the asthma event and the increased demand on Ambulance Victoria; and
- (2) at what times did Ambulance Victoria contact these media outlets.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The events of 21 November, including communications, have been the subject of extensive inquiry by the Inspector General for Emergency Management. This final report can be accessed at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/emergencies/thunderstorm-asthma-event>

[Question 10 189 reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 358]

Police

10 490. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 5 December 2016;
- (b) 12 December 2016;
- (c) 19 December 2016; and
- (d) 26 December 2016.

ANSWER:

On 30 December 2016 at 7am, I am advised, that there were 15 female prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

Police

10 491. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 5 December 2016;
- (b) 12 December 2016;
- (c) 19 December 2016; and
- (d) 26 December 2016.

ANSWER:

On 30 December 2016 at 7am, I am advised, that there were 100 male prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

Police

10 493. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 2 January 2017;
- (b) 9 January 2017;
- (c) 16 January 2017;
- (d) 23 January 2017; and
- (e) 30 January 2017.

ANSWER:

On 30 January 2017 at 7am, I am advised, that there were 18 female prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

Police

10 494. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (a) 2 January 2017;
- (b) 9 January 2017;
- (c) 16 January 2017;
- (d) 23 January 2017; and
- (e) 30 January 2017.

ANSWER:

On 30 January 2017 at 7am, I am advised, that there were 181 male prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

Roads and road safety

10 505. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many residents during VicRoads' community consultations or in subsequent submissions, specifically called for a permanent reduction of the speed limit to 50 km/h along Eltham's Bolton Street.

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that the community raised the current speed limit of 60km/h as a concern. I understand that in excess of 150 people attended and participated in the consultation sessions held in November 2015, which included support to lower speed and implement traffic calming solutions along Bolton Street in Eltham.

[Question 10 505 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1858]

Roads and road safety

10 508. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many residents, during VicRoads community consultations or in subsequent submissions, called for a three-metre wide pedestrian and cycle lane along Eltham’s Bolton Street.

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that it received 64 comments from the community to improve pedestrian and cycling facilities during the Bolton Street upgrade community consultation sessions held in November 2015. VicRoads has considered this feedback and has included a shared user path in the final design. Recent community engagement feedback has supported improving infrastructure and safety for pedestrians and cyclists travelling along Bolton Street.

[Question 10 508 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1859]

Public transport

10 525. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): When will the promised extra morning peak train service be moved from Greensborough to Eltham.

ANSWER:

One AM peak service will be extended from Greensborough to Eltham, and an additional service extended from Heidelberg to Greensborough when the new metropolitan rail timetable commences in August 2017.

[Question 10 525 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1861]

Sport

10 599. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business (for the Minister for Sport): How much government funding was provided for programs for young people in Nillumbik in —

- (a) 2015; and
- (b) 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Sport portfolio funding is generally provided for programs and facilities for people of all ages, not just for young people.

The Andrews Labor government has committed to invest \$100 million into the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and the \$22 million Better Indoor Stadiums Fund. Our Government recognises that local sports clubs are the lifeblood of our communities. They deserve modern, safe, inclusive and fully accessible facilities with room to grow and welcome more members than ever before.

We are also investing record amounts into Female Friendly Facilities to build or upgrade women’s change rooms-meaning female players will never again have to use makeshift areas to prepare for competition and training.

This is one of the biggest ever investments in women’s participation in sport by an Australian state government and is in stark contrast to that of the former Victorian Coalition Government.

Health

10 608. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to employee benefits, question 19 of the Department of Health and Human Services 2015-16 Financial and Performance Outcomes General Questionnaire shows that in 2015-16 there was an additional \$280 million spent on employee wages, comparing what was budgeted to the actual —

- (1) how much of the \$280 million was due to increased activity; and
- (2) how much of the \$280 million was due to Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) increases, including the paramedic work value case and nurses EBA.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Of the \$280 million spent on employee wages, the majority was due to increased activity across the portfolio. A minority relates to wages increases paid pursuant to health and human services industrial instruments.

Police

10 620. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (1) 6 February 2017;
- (2) 13 February 2017;
- (3) 20 February 2017; and
- (4) 27 February 2017.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 28 February 2017 at 7am there were 6 female prisoners in police cells.

To break down this information further would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources.

Police

10 621. 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 7am on the following dates —

- (1) 6 February 2017;
- (2) 13 February 2017;
- (3) 20 February 2017; and
- (4) 27 February 2017.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 28 February 2017 at 7am there were 248 male prisoners in police cells.

Health

10 948. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Ambulance Response Time Rescue Fund —

- (1) as at 1 March 2017, how much of the \$60 million fund has been allocated to specific initiatives.
- (2) what initiatives have received funding from the Response Time Rescue Fund;
- (3) when did or will each initiative commence and be complete;
- (4) how much funding has each initiative been allocated from the Response Time Rescue Fund; and
- (5) have these initiatives been solely funded by the Response Time Rescue Fund.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As at 1 March 2017, \$24.8 million of the \$60 million fund has been allocated to specific initiatives.

The following initiatives have been funded:

- Better match resources to patient needs
- Improve paramedic health and wellbeing
- Reduce time spent at hospitals
- New models for rural communities

Roads and road safety

10 951. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What consultations were undertaken with trucking representatives before the decision to ban trucks on Bolton Street in Eltham.

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that it conducted extensive consultation with community, council and industry about the Bolton Street truck bans, as part of the development of the north east truck curfews. I understand that the community and traders expressed widespread support to truck bans and there are ongoing discussions to ensure the bans balance the needs of industry and community.

[Question 10 951 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1900]

Public transport

10 965. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What are the patronage figures of the Night Network trains on the Hurstbridge line to December 2016.

ANSWER:

In 2016, there was estimated to be 19 000 trips on the Hurstbridge line during the Night Network hours.

[Question 10 965 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1904]

Aboriginal affairs

11 019. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): Could the Minister please confirm whether a decision has been made to sell the Galeena Beek site and also the site at the corner of Maroondah Highway and Healesville-Kooweerup Road.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Since the liquidation of the Galeena Beek Properties Limited, being the registered proprietor of mentioned site, Aboriginal Victoria have held ongoing consultations with affected groups. The consultations include establishing the Galeena Beek Advisory Group representing the community, the liquidators acting on behalf of the Galeena Beek Properties Limited and departmental staff.

The Victorian Government interest in a financial sense is limited to the value of the first mortgage in the name of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The Minister has agreed to sell the properties to protect the interests of the Victorian taxpayer and Aboriginal community. As part of the process the Advisory Group have the next few months to put forward recommendations to Aboriginal Victoria that are in the best interest for the local Aboriginal community.

Aboriginal affairs

11 020. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): What stakeholder consultations have taken place with the Indigenous community with respect to the future of the Galeena Beek site.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Since the liquidation of the Galeena Beek Properties Limited, being the registered proprietor of mentioned site, Aboriginal Victoria have held ongoing consultations with affected groups. The consultations include establishing the Galeena Beek Advisory Group representing the community, the liquidators acting on behalf of the Galeena Beek Properties Limited and departmental staff.

The Victorian Government interest in a financial sense is limited to the value of the first mortgage in the name of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The intention of the sale is to protect the Victorian taxpayer and Aboriginal community. As part of the process the Advisory Group have the next few months to put forward recommendations to Aboriginal Victoria that are in the best interest for the local Aboriginal community.

Aboriginal affairs

11 021. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): In relation to the Galeena Beek site, has the Minister given consideration for alternative proposals for the site, including an indigenous social enterprise, as proposed by the local Indigenous community.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Since the liquidation of the Galeena Beek Properties Limited, being the registered proprietor of three mentioned properties, Aboriginal Victoria have held ongoing consultations with the affected groups. The consultations include

establishing the Galeena Beek Advisory Group representing the community, the liquidators acting on behalf of the Galeena Beek Properties Limited and departmental staff.

The Victorian Government interest in a financial sense is limited to the value of the first mortgage in the name of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

The intention of the sale is to protect the Victorian taxpayer and Aboriginal community. As part of the process the Advisory Group have the next few months to put forward recommendations to Aboriginal Victoria, which may include alternative proposals for the sites, that are in the best interest for the local Aboriginal community.

Health

11 033. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the 2016 Victorian Telehealth Specialist Clinic initiative —

- (1) is the \$5 million that these projects will share the total value of this initiative, or a single round of a larger initiative; and
- (2) if this is a larger initiative, what is the total amount of funding that is available for Telehealth Specialist Clinics.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Telehealth Specialist Clinic initiative is a single initiative with a total value of funding at \$5 million.

Public transport

11 044. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Are there any plans to upgrade and/or increase parking at Montmorency Railway Station, if so, what will be done, and when.

ANSWER:

There is demand for more car parking across the network. To address this, the Victorian Government is making an ongoing commitment to fund additional car parking spaces across Victoria. This includes the \$20 million VicTrack station car park upgrades program, that will deliver up to 2100 new spaces across 16 stations (for more information, see <https://victrack.com.au/projects/key-projects/station-car-park-upgrades>). A further \$8.7 million was announced in the 2017-18 Budget to go towards additional station car parking and station upgrades. Montmorency station will be considered for additional car parking as part of these works.

Public transport

11 045. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What is the daily average usage of the bike cage at the Eltham railway station.

ANSWER:

Of the 26 capacity bike cage at the Eltham railway station, the daily average usage over the past three months has been 13.

Public transport

11 046. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Are there any plans to provide bike facilities at Montmorency Railway Station.

ANSWER:

There are no current plans to install a Parkiteer bicycle cage facility at Montmorency Railway Station.

Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has been progressively installing Parkiteer bicycle cages across the public transport network. PTV works with Bicycle Network Victoria to understand cycling patterns, and to determine the sites for Parkiteer bicycle cages.

Bicycle Network Victoria manages the Parkiteer program. Currently there are 98 cages spread across 95 locations on Victoria's public transport network. There are approximately 13 500 cyclists currently registered to use the Parkiteer programme.

Public transport

11 047. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What representations has the Government received for bike facilities to be provided at Montmorency railway station.

ANSWER:

The 2017-18 Budget provides approximately \$5 million for planning and development for the second stage of the Hurstbridge line upgrade, with a focus on addressing the single track between Greensborough and Eltham. Station infrastructure upgrades may be required at Montmorency as part of this project, including the need for bicycle facilities which will be considered in due course.

Public transport

11 048. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Are there any plans to provide bike facilities at Greensborough Railway Station.

ANSWER:

Greensborough station is already equipped with a Parkiteer Cage to be used by the public. It has a designed capacity to store up to 26 bicycles.

More information on can be found at <https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/programs>.

Public transport

11 049. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What representations has the Government received for a bike cage to be provided at Greensborough Railway Station.

ANSWER:

Public Transport Victoria confirms that Greensborough station is already equipped with a Parkiteer cage and bicycle hoops that are available to be used by the public.

Locations of Parkiteer cages are listed on the Bicycle Network website-<https://www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/programs/370/>.

Public transport

11 050. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What consideration has been given to providing a taxi stand at either Montmorency or Greensborough railway stations.

ANSWER:

The 2017-18 Budget provides approximately \$5 million for planning and development for the second stage of the Hurstbridge line upgrade, with a focus on addressing the single track between Greensborough and Eltham. Station

infrastructure upgrades may be required at Greensborough or Montmorency as part of this project, and subsequently any changes to car parking, drop off facilities or taxi provision will be considered in due course.

A further \$8.7 million was announced in the 2017-18 Budget to go towards additional station car parking and station upgrades. Additional car parking at Montmorency station will form part of these works.

Public transport

11 051. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What consideration has been given to building a train station at Eltham North near Allendale Road on the Hurstbridge line.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region for her continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's work to improve rail services on the Hurstbridge Line.

Works are now underway to remove two level crossings at Grange Road in Alphington and Lower Plenty Road in Rosanna, build a second track from Heidelberg to Rosanna, and build a new Rosanna Station.

Removing the level crossings and building a second track from Heidelberg to Rosanna will allow for more services, reducing crowding and carrying more people every single day.

The Victorian Budget 2017–18 provides \$5 million to finalise planning and start crucial technical and design work on the second stage of the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade, which will duplicate the single-track section between Greensborough and Eltham.

Additionally, we will extend two morning peak trains on the Hurstbridge line every day from August, boosting services for people between Rosanna and Eltham.

Transport for Victoria advises that there are currently no plans for new stations on the Hurstbridge line due to a low population growth rate north of Eltham.

Previous assessments found several factors in the Allendale Road site not being suitable for a station location, including flooding, size restrictions, and a lack of road access.

Emergency services

11 053. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): With the official opening of the new fire station in Eltham last November what plans does the Government now have for the future use of the old CFA building on Main Road, Eltham.

ANSWER:

As previously advised, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) is still considering all options for the site.

Industry and employment

11 055. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): What analysis has been undertaken to ascertain the level of youth unemployment in Nillumbik and Banyule and what measures have been specifically undertaken to alleviate those levels.

ANSWER:

The most recent data on youth unemployment by local government area was collected in the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census. This is available at www.abs.gov.au/census

The government is taking action on multiple fronts to help young unemployed people find and sustain employment as well as to complete their schooling and to undertake further education and training. For example, we have committed \$14 million to the Reconnect: Engagement and Learning Support Grants Program which assists young people to commence and stay in vocational training and helps them to become more employable.

The government is also continuing the Youth Employment Scheme, which currently provides around 280 traineeships per annum, providing young Victorians aged 15-24 with work experience in the public service that will help them develop skills and gain qualifications that can lead to ongoing employment. As an extension to the YES program, we recently launched the new Jobs Victoria Youth Cadetship Scheme which will provide 135 YES graduates with a further two years of valuable experience and a stronger pathway to a career in the Victorian Public Sector.

To expand employment opportunities, especially for young people, we are also increasing apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities through initiatives such as the Major Projects Skills Guarantee. This requires that all principal contractors engaged to deliver publicly funded building and construction, infrastructure, civil engineering and other capital projects valued at \$20 million or over use apprentices, trainees and cadets for at least 10 per cent of the projects' labour hours. Since its commencement, the Major Projects Skills Guarantee generated over 1420 employment opportunities for Victorian apprentices, trainees and cadets, giving them the chance to work on some of Victoria's biggest projects.

In August 2016, \$39.2 million was allocated to 38 new employment services to assist disadvantaged Victorian jobseekers into work as part of the Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN). Young jobseekers are an important target group under the program, with \$5 million going to three specialist youth services, and a further 20 services funded to assist a range of jobseekers, including young Victorians. Over 1000 jobseekers aged 15-24 have now registered with JVEN, and more than 320 of those young people have already been placed into employment (as at 15 May 2017).

Eleven JVEN services are delivering assistance in the Northern metropolitan region of Melbourne. Further information about the Jobs Victoria initiative, including details of organisations delivering JVEN services, is available at: www.jobs.vic.gov.au

Education

11 059. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister of Education): In relation to educational buildings within the North Western Victoria Region —

- (1) what campus buildings are currently declared surplus;
- (2) what campuses are currently closed;
- (3) what campuses, that are currently closed, have not been declared surplus;
- (4) what is the total land space of campuses that have not been declared surplus but are currently closed; and
- (5) in their final year of operation, what was the maximum student capacity for the closed campuses.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Extensive reporting on properties is publicly available in the Department of Education and Training's Annual Report and can be found on the Department's website.

Education

11 060. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister of Education): In relation to educational buildings within the North Eastern Victoria Region —

- (1) what campus buildings are currently declared surplus;
- (2) what campuses are currently closed;
- (3) what campuses, that are currently closed, have not been declared surplus;
- (4) what is the total land space of campuses that have not been declared surplus but are currently closed; and
- (5) in their final year of operation, what was the maximum student capacity for the closed campuses.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Extensive reporting on properties is publicly available in the Department of Education and Training's Annual Report and can be found on the Department's website.

Education

11 061. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister of Education): In relation to educational buildings within the South Eastern Victoria Region —

- (1) what campus buildings are currently declared surplus;
- (2) what campuses are currently closed;
- (3) what campuses, that are currently closed, have not been declared surplus;
- (4) what is the total land space of campuses that have not been declared surplus but are currently closed; and
- (5) in their final year of operation, what was the maximum student capacity for the closed campuses.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Extensive reporting on properties is publicly available in the Department of Education and Training's Annual Report and can be found on the Department's website.

Education

11 062. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister of Education): In relation to educational buildings within the South Western Victoria Region —

- (1) what campus buildings are currently declared surplus;
- (2) what campuses are currently closed;
- (3) what campuses, that are currently closed, have not been declared surplus;
- (4) what is the total land space of campuses that have not been declared surplus but are currently closed; and
- (5) in their final year of operation, what was the maximum student capacity for the closed campuses.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Extensive reporting on properties is publicly available in the Department of Education and Training's Annual Report and can be found on the Department's website.

Agriculture

11 066. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: Does VicForests or its contractors use FLASH21 during logging coupe regeneration burns, if so —

- (1) has VicForests conducted an assessment of the health risks to VicForests staff or contractors and members of the general public posed by the compounds created by the degradation of FLASH21 upon and after use; and
- (2) has VicForests conducted an assessment of the risks to the natural environment, including aquatic toxicity and poisoned water sources, by the compounds created by the degradation of FLASH21 after use.

ANSWER:

I welcome Ms Dunn's concerns for VicForests staff and its contractors.

I have been advised that VicForests, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), and contractors use Flash 21 for both regeneration burns and fuel reduction burns.

VicForests engages DELWP on a fee for service basis to prepare and mix aerial drip torch fuel. As such, VicForests has not conducted specific assessments of Flash 21.

Public transport

11 071. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Has Public Transport Victoria conducted any cost-benefit analyses or other studies into installing cameras on older trams (not the new E-Class trams) in the existing tram fleet to monitor motor vehicles illegally passing trams when passengers are boarding or exiting at a tram stop.

ANSWER:

TFV will continue to monitor the safety of passengers and motorists to determine whether cameras are required.

Public transport

11 072. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Has the Minister or the Department considered the Grampians and Barwon South West Region Passenger Services Cost and Feasibility Study endorsed by eight Shires and Councils of the State's west, which proves that the reintroduction of passenger rail services to Horsham and Hamilton would be socially beneficial and is cost effective, and if so, does the State Government have a response to the feasibility study and can the Minister provide access to the response.

ANSWER:

The Government is currently considering the report.

Roads and road safety

11 073. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the proposed Mordialloc Bypass —

- (1) will the Government be undertaking an Environment Effects Statement process prior to finalising the bypass design, particularly with regard to waterways, water-tables, flora and fauna and in particular avian species;
- (2) will the Government be evaluating the potential or likely impact of the proposed freeway extension on Braeside Park and the wetlands and heritage buildings on the park, the Kingston Green Wedge and environmental, horticultural and Aboriginal Cultural Heritage issues thereon and the amenity of the residents of Aspendale Gardens (east of Wells Road), Richfield, Waterways and Dingley Village;
- (3) will the bypass use bridges or a causeway to cross waterways;
- (4) has the Government undertaken traffic modelling of the impact of this project on Wells Road, Governor Road, White Street, Springvale Road and Warrigal Road; and
- (5) has the Government modelled the potential for flooding impact on neighbouring residential areas, including the suburb of Waterways and Bowen Parkway.

ANSWER:

- (1) In May 2017, the Victorian Government committed \$300 million to build the Mordialloc Bypass by late 2021. It is possible that the project will trigger planning approvals of the Commonwealth Environment Minister under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999, and/or require referral as an Environmental Effects Statement (EES). To determine this, further planning and investigation is required including conducting flora, fauna and heritage studies, completing more detailed design and finalising the alignment to allow VicRoads to conduct a thorough assessment of the project impacts against the EES referral guidelines. If required, a written referral would then be sent to the Minister for Planning requesting a decision on whether an EES is required.
- (2) As part of the project assessments both the project's direct impacts and impacts on surrounding land use will be assessed. This will include assessments of potential environmental, cultural heritage, waterway and community impacts amongst others.
- (3) The bypass will use bridges to cross waterways; however the extent of the bridging is yet to be determined. The final design and layout of the Mordialloc Bypass has not been finalised. VicRoads is undertaking further planning and environmental investigations, and will consult further with the community on the draft designs. This will determine the extent of bridging to be constructed, and other factors such as the form and design of bridges, the management of environmental impacts and the best ways to manage the traffic, water and environment both now and into the future.
- (4) Planning for the Mordialloc Bypass has been ongoing for a number of years to ensure we get the best outcome for the community. As part of this, preliminary traffic modelling has been undertaken. However, as I stated earlier, the final design and layout of the project is subject to further traffic modelling and other investigations. Construction of the Mordialloc Bypass is considered to be the optimal solution for the challenges the road network is facing in the area, accommodating the predicted traffic demands and growth into the future, and relieving some of the demand on Wells Road, Springvale Road, White Street and other roads in the area.
- (5) Preliminary modelling has been undertaken, with further modelling to be undertaken in the coming months to investigate requirements to avoid any adverse impacts.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 075. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): How much money is being specifically allocated, in this May 2017 budget, for individuals who are registered on the Disability Support Register and waiting for their Individual Support Plans to be attributed funding.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- The 2017-18 State Budget includes \$1.347 billion for disability services and \$745.8 million for Victoria’s contribution to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- The Disability Support Register is a database with details of all the people with a confirmed need for support to meet their disability needs.
- The Disability Support Register is not a waiting list. It allocates support based on priority need, including through Individual Support Packages.
- Participants on the Disability Support Register are the first to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme in every area as it rolls out and they also have the opportunity to enter early if their needs are urgent.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 076. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): How many people registered on the Disability Support Register will not be directly allocated funds from this May 2017 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- The Disability Support Register is a database with details of all the people with a confirmed need for support to meet their disability needs.
- The Disability Support Register is not a waiting list. It allocates support based on priority need, including through Individual Support Packages.
- The 2017-18 State Budget includes \$1.347 billion for disability services and \$745.8 million for Victoria’s contribution to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- Participants on the Disability Support Register are the first to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme in every area as it rolls out and they also have the opportunity to enter early if their needs are urgent.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

11 078. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): The YourPlay scheme is meant to help pokies users manage their losses by making commitments before they start to play, however it is a voluntary scheme and does not appear to have had much uptake —

- (1) how many pokies venues have had no activity (in terms of a user playing with YourPlay inserted and money turn over) with YourPlay in the month of March; and
- (2) what is the percentage of games played and money lost with YourPlay versus without YourPlay.

ANSWER:

Since the YourPlay scheme launched on 1 December 2015, and as at 30 April 2017, there have been:

- 3 million gaming machine sessions using YourPlay
- 7.4 million responsible gambling information messages delivered to players advising them of their losses
- 42 054 YourPlay cards activated

Although, long-term behaviour change will take time and effort to embed YourPlay into the gambling environment, the take up and use of the voluntary pre-commitment scheme to date is encouraging.

The department undertook a search of reports that contain the information you have requested, however the information you seek does not exist.

Attorney-General

11 097. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In your capacity as Lead for Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 126—that the Melbourne Children’s Court establish family violence applicant and respondent worker positions to assist young people and families in situations where adolescents are using violence in the home—by 31 March 2017, according to the Government website, as at 9 May 2017 work on this recommendation has not yet started —

- (1) what is the reason work on this recommendation has not yet started;
- (2) when will work start on this recommendation; and
- (3) when will this recommendation be fully implemented.

ANSWER:

The 2017–18 State Budget provided an unprecedented investment of \$1.9 billion to implement recommendations arising from the Royal Commission. As a result of this record funding, the Children’s Court is currently undertaking preparatory and planning work to implement recommendation 126.

It is expected that Applicant and Respondent Practitioners will be established at Melbourne Children’s Court by August 2017.

Attorney-General

11 098. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In your capacity as Lead for Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 156—that the Government amend the section 6 of the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (Vic) to expand the statutory examples of family violence to include forced marriage and dowry-related abuse—by 31 March 2017, according to the Government website, as at 9 May 2017, work on this recommendation has not yet started —

- (1) what is the reason work on this recommendation has not yet started;
- (2) when will work start on this recommendation; and
- (3) when will this recommendation be fully implemented.

ANSWER:

Work on this recommendation has commenced. A targeted consultation process is being undertaken, which will inform the response to this recommendation.

Families and children

11 102. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to the \$1.9 billion family violence funding in the 2017-18 budget, how much was reprioritised from the Child Protection Department of Health and Human Services budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The \$1.9 billion family violence package is a whole of government initiative to deliver on the Government's 10-year strategy to fulfil every recommendation from the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

I note that the member and the Coalition are yet to indicate their support for each of these recommendations.

No monies were reprioritised from the Child Protection Department of Health and Human Services budget to fund this package.

Families and children

11 104. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to family violence support service organisations including women's refuges —

- (1) how many organisations requested additional funding during the 2016-17 year to date; and
- (2) how many organisations had their request for additional funding for the 2016-17 year declined.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The department receives funding requests from a range of existing and prospective community sector agencies across a wide range of channels of varying formality, ranging from requests made as part of competitive tender processes, to ad hoc requests directed informally to departmental officers.

Formal requests are considered in the context of available budget, merit, value for money and alignment with government priorities.

Often when proposals are presented a co-design process is undertaken. Organisations and the department work together to re-develop informal submissions into evidence based programs that will improve outcomes for Victorians

Women's refuges are the responsibility of the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing.

Families and children

11 119. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to child brides, how many reports to Department of Health and Human Services were made of underage marriage cases in 2016, and how many reports have been made to date in 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

All instances of forced marriage involving children or young people are a form of child abuse and recorded as such by the Department.

The department does not currently record specific data on the number of such reports. Work is underway to update the department's client record system to enable recording of reports regarding forced marriage involving children.

This is a crime that is referred to police for their investigation.

The Australian Federal Police advised the department that in 2015-16 there were 19 reports of forced marriage in Victoria, some of which involved children.

In May 2016 my department developed guidance for child protection practitioners to support their practice in relation to reports of forced marriage involving children or young people. My department also works with various communities to develop a better understanding of Australian law on this issue and to encourage reporting of such illegal practices.

In November 2016, a meeting of all state and territory Community Services Ministers agreed forced marriage involving children or young people is an issue of national significance and a collaborative and evidence based approach between jurisdictions will be progressed.

Health

11 232. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Clinical Technology Refresh and the \$11.9 million allocated in the 2017-18 budget —

- (1) is the entire \$11.9 million for cyber security, if not, how much is; and
- (2) what is the remaining money for.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As stated in the Victorian Budget, \$11.9 million will be invested in cyber security and network connectivity, to implement preventative cybersecurity controls and tools to detect suspicious cybersecurity events across 29 identified Victorian Health Service networks.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 238. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Aging): In relation to the recent announcement of the transfer of the management away of 4000 public homes to the not for profit sector:

- (1) which properties are to be transferred and where;
- (2) what measurable benefits or improvements does the Government intend to see following these transfers; and
- (3) how will the Government measure these benefits or improvements and when.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The specific dwellings to be offered to community housing agencies will be determined following feedback from a range of stakeholders including the community housing sector, departmental staff and tenant representatives. Community housing agencies with access to greater support such as Commonwealth Rent Assistance are able to provide flexible housing management and can grow more social housing and tailor their services to work with the needs of individual tenants and neighbourhoods. Progress will be monitored in detail after the transfer occurs.

Energy, environment and climate change

11 242. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to refrigerant gases such as R410A, R22, and R32 that escape from air conditioners into the atmosphere:

- (1) what is the Government doing about refrigerant gases that escape into the atmosphere when a split system air conditioner has broken down and the tradesperson does not use the correct tools to reclaim the gases;
- (2) what is the Government doing about refrigerant gases that escape into the atmosphere when air conditioning units are brought to rubbish tips and disposed of incorrectly by operators; and
- (3) will the Government consider an incentive scheme to encourage the responsible handling of refrigerant gases.

ANSWER:

Control of refrigerant gases is a responsibility of the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy (DoEE) under the Montreal Protocol. More information can be found at:
<http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/ozone>.

DoEE implements national regulations applying to people who acquire, possess, dispose of or handle ozone depleting substances or synthetic greenhouse gases in the refrigeration and air conditioning industry.

Under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulations 1995, people who handle these substances in bulk or in equipment, and people who work on equipment containing these gases, are required to hold a Refrigerant Handling Licence. Companies or individuals who acquire, possess or dispose of these substances are required to hold a Refrigerant Trading Authorisation. The Australian Refrigeration Council (ARC) is appointed as the Industry Board to administer these licences and authorisations. More information regarding the licensing and enforcement system is available on the ARC website: <https://www.arctick.org/>.

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.

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

Energy, environment and climate change

10 910. MR MORRIS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What was the total cost incurred by Parks Victoria in the Financial Year 2015-16 with regards to the operation of the Canadian Regional Park.

ANSWER:

The cost for Canadian Regional Park in the 2015-16 financial year are mentioned in the 2015-16 Victorian Budget, Paper 3, page 61 and Paper 4, page 37.

[*Question 10 910 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 9 May 2017, page 2158*]

Energy, environment and climate change

10 970. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to Crown-owned land in the electorate of Eltham, relating to the Minister's portfolio —

- (1) what is the description of and, where available, the address of all such land; and
- (2) does the Government intend to sell any of this land or acquire and new land in the electorate.

ANSWER:

Crown land in the electorate of Eltham is managed by various authorities including: Parks Victoria, Nillumbik and Banyule Shires, other government agencies, and locally appointed committees of management.

The use and status of this Crown land includes land reserved for conservation, public recreation, leisure and tourism purposes.

The Victorian Government Land Transactions Policy and Guidelines 2016 provides a framework to achieve integrity, impartiality, accountability and transparency in land transactions. It also ensures land transactions are conducted in accordance with the highest standards of probity, relevant legislation and Victorian Government policy.

At this time there are no plans to sell or acquire land in the electorate of Eltham. The honourable member may also be interested to know that at this time there are no plans to sell or acquire land in the electorate of Kew, either.

[*Question 10 970 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1905*]

Planning

11 164. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to the construction of a GovHub in the Latrobe Valley —

- (1) where is the proposed site of the GovHub; and
- (2) during the construction phase of the GovHub, what strategy will be implemented to preference local commercial contractors.

ANSWER:

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Regional Development. The member will need to redirect her question to the Hon Jaala Pulford MP.

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, 22 June 2017

Housing, disability and ageing

11 058. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In light of the recently announced family violence measures how much has been allocated to assisting women escaping violent situations in the Nillumbik area.

ANSWER:

The Andrew's Labor Government is leading Australia in action to tackle family violence.

Building on last year's \$572 million down payment, The 2017-18 State Budget provides an additional \$1.91 billion over four years to respond to family violence, and to deliver on recommendations from the Family Violence Royal Commission. This will support ongoing resources across Victoria, including in the Nillumbik area.

All of the reforms funded under the \$572 million are progressing as planned, and the \$1.91 billion will continue to be delivered as outlined in the Rolling Action Plan.

I appreciate the interest that the Member is taking in the reforms.

I do note that the Opposition is yet to provide any assurance that it accepts in full the recommendations of the Royal Commission in Family Violence, including all the funding associated with meeting the recommendations, funding which the Andrew's Labor Government has committed to and which will assist women and children in the Nillumbik area affected by family violence.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 099. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to your family violence funding announcement on 13 April 2016 regarding housing for women and children escaping family violence, as at 30 April 2017 —

- (1) how much of the \$25 million over two years for accommodation for the homeless was expended;
- (2) how much of the \$21 million over two years to redevelop refuges was expended;
- (3) how much of that amount was expended on output initiatives, which had a budget of \$6.2 million;
- (4) how many of the six refuges currently have 24 hour staffing;
- (5) how much of the \$50 million for rapid housing assistance was expended;
- (6) how many new social housing properties were built;
- (7) how much of the \$16 million in 2016-17 to provide private rental assistance was expended;
- (8) how much of the \$40 million over two years to provide flexible responses including to stay safe at home was expended; and
- (9) how many flexible tailored responses were delivered.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrew's Labor Government is leading Australia in action to tackle family violence.

Building on last year's \$572 million down payment, The 2017-18 State Budget provides an additional \$1.91 billion over four years to respond to family violence, and to deliver on recommendations from the Family Violence Royal Commission.

All of the reforms funded under the \$572 million are progressing as planned, and the \$1.91 billion will continue to be delivered as outlined in the Rolling Action Plan 2017-2020.

I appreciate the interest that the Member is taking in the reforms.

I do note that the Opposition is yet to provide any assurance that it accepts in full the recommendations of the Royal Commission in Family Violence, including all the funding associated with meeting the recommendations, funding which the Andrew's Labor Government has committed to through the past two budgets.

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.

Friday, 23 June 2017

Premier

11 095. MS CROZIER — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Premier): In your capacity as Lead for Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 105 — through the Council of Australian Governments encourage the Commonwealth Government to consider a Medicare item number for family violence counselling — by 31 March 2017, as at 9 May the recommendation, according to the Government website was still in progress —

- (1) has a decision been reached regarding a new Medicare item number for family violence;
- (2) how many discussions or communications took place during the last year with the Commonwealth Government regarding this recommendation;
- (3) when will the outcomes of any discussions or communications regarding this recommendation be made public; and
- (4) at what point will this recommendation be deemed to be implemented — after discussions with no decision or when a Medicare item number for family violence is established.

ANSWER:

This Labor Government established Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence and is delivering on every single one of the 227 recommendations handed down by the Commission.

Last year's Budget committed \$572 million to start work on the urgent changes for more counsellors, more prevention programs, more support for children and more provision of emergency housing. This year's budget dedicates a record \$1.91 billion investment to fulfil that promise that we will match each and every recommendation with funding it needs.

The Victorian Government has advocated for the Commonwealth Government to consider a Medicare item number for family violence counselling. In December 2016 I tabled a COAG paper on this issue.

At this meeting, the Commonwealth advised that they did not support establishing a Medicare item number for family violence counselling and therapeutic services. However, the Commonwealth and Victorian Health Ministers did agree to work together to determine whether gaps exist in primary health care for women experiencing family violence and that they would report back to COAG for consideration.

This work is continuing.

The Victorian Government provides public updates of progress against each of the recommendations of the royal commission at: <http://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence/recommendations.html>.

The Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor will hold government to account by reporting to Parliament on the implementation of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

Premier

- 11 096. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Premier): In your capacity as Lead for Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 162 — through COAG encourage the Commonwealth to broaden the Migration Regulations Act 1994 so it is consistent with the Family Violence Protection Act 2008 (VIC) and to ensure that people seeking to escape violence are entitled to crisis payments, regardless of their visa status — by 31 March 2017, as at 9 May 2017 —
- (1) how many discussions or communications took place during the last year with the Commonwealth Government regarding this recommendation;
 - (2) what is the result of the discussions or communications with the Commonwealth Government regarding amending the Migration Regulations Act 1994 (Cth);
 - (3) what is the result of the discussions or communications with the Commonwealth Government regarding providing crisis payments to people seeking to escape violence, regardless of their visa status;
 - (4) define what ‘regardless of their visa status’ includes, for example does it include a temporary, limited number of days visa;
 - (5) how much in funding required for crisis payments has been estimated for this recommendation; and
 - (6) at what point will this recommendation be deemed to be implemented — after discussions with the Commonwealth but no decision or when the Act has been amended and people seeking to escape family violence are entitled to crisis payments, regardless of their visa status.

ANSWER:

This Labor Government established Australia’s first Royal Commission into Family Violence and is delivering on every single one of the 227 recommendations handed down by the Commission.

Last year’s Budget committed \$572 million to start work on the urgent changes for more counsellors, more prevention programs, more support for children and more provision of emergency housing. This year’s budget dedicates a record \$1.91 billion investment to fulfil that promise that we will match each and every recommendation with funding it needs.

The Victorian Government has advocated for change to the Migration Regulations Act 1994 through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). In December 2016, I tabled a COAG paper which encouraged the Commonwealth Government to consider enhancing protection for migrant victims of family violence under Australian law. This has led to further work at the officials level (led by the Commonwealth) on this issue.

The Victorian Government provides public updates of progress against each of the recommendations of the royal commission at: <http://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence/recommendations.html>.

The Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor will hold government to account by reporting to Parliament on the implementation of the Royal Commission’s recommendations.