

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

31 October and 2, 3 November 2017

(Extract from book 18)

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

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 16 October 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 and Minister for Resources	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment	The Hon. B. A. Carroll, MP
Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business	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, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, 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

(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 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 — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, 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 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 Elasmarr 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 Elasmar, 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:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹	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 ⁷	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	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 ⁸	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 ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ⁹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁸ Appointed 12 October 2016

⁹ Appointed 18 October 2017

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; 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, 31 October 2017

Industrial relations

11 481. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

Sport

11 486. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Sport): 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 informed that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

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:

Details of staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 488 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5001.]

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:

I am informed as follows:

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.

[Question 11 494 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5003.]

Industrial relations

11 503. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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:

I am advised that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice

[Question 11 503 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5354.]

Sport

11 509. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Sport): 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:

I am informed that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

Families and children

11 511. 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 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 511 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5006.]

Education

11 517. 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 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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

[Question 11 517 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5007.]

Industrial relations

11 526. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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 advised that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 526 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5357.]

Sport

11 531. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Sport): 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:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

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.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 533 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5010.]

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:

I am informed as follows:

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

[Question 11 539 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5011.]

Industrial relations

11 548. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 548 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5359.]

Sport

11 553. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Sport): 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 informed that:

Details of staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

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:

I am informed that:

Details of staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 555 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5014.]

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:

I am informed as follows:

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

[Question 11 561 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5015.]

Industrial relations

11 570. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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 advised that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 570 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5362.]

Sport

11 575. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Sport): 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:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

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:

I am informed that:

Details on staffing arrangements are outlined in departmental annual reports, as per past practice.

[Question 11 577 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5017.]

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.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

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.

[Question 11 583 reinstated by order of President on 21 September 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 September 2017, page 5018.]

Families and children

11 629. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Of the \$35.9 million funding allocation to boost overnight safety and supervision in residential care, as at 31 July 2017, how much has been spent.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In the first 100 days of our Government coming into office, I announced \$16m to increase staffing in all residential care units, including stand-up overnight staff and for the first time, \$1.5 million for spot audits of residential care facilities.

The 2016-17 State Budget provided \$35.9 million over two years to continue and expand funding in residential care to provide additional over-night staff and safety plans for all residential care units.

As the funding was for two years it is not expected to be fully expended as at 31 July 2017.

Families and children

11 644. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Which local areas are the service providers which accessed the \$1.6 million allocated funding for Aboriginal early years services delivering kindergarten located.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The six local government areas that have accessed the \$1.6 million allocated funding for Aboriginal early years services delivering kindergarten are:

- Shire of Campaspe
- City of Whittlesea
- City of Greater Shepparton
- City of Darebin
- Shire of East Gippsland
- Rural City of Swan Hill.

Industry and employment

11 668. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Industry and Employment: In relation to the \$1.7 million funding announcement for Pana Chocolate to help ex-offenders, as at 31 July 2017, how many young people who have had contact with the justice system has Pana Chocolate taken on.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government came to office with a clear agenda to create more jobs and help disadvantaged jobseekers into work. The government has now allocated over \$68 million to Jobs Victoria, reflecting the commitment that all Victorians should have the opportunity to share in the social and economic benefits that come from employment. The funding is enabling the development of a more coordinated and streamlined system of employment assistance to achieve better employment outcomes for disadvantaged Victorians.

On 17 August 2017, the former Minister visited Pana Chocolate to announce funding of \$1.7 million from Jobs Victoria to CVGT Australia and Jesuit Social Services to support Youth Justice clients into employment across metropolitan Melbourne.

Pana Chocolate is one of many employers from across the state that have employed jobseekers being assisted through Jobs Victoria.

At 30 June 2017, over 350 jobseekers being assisted through Jobs Victoria were identified as youth justice clients or ex-offenders.

For further information on Jobs Victoria please visit www.jobs.vic.gov.au.

Industry and employment

11 669. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Industry and Employment: In relation to Central Victorian Group Training (CVGT) Australia being commissioned to run the Second Chance program, what are the employment outcomes of the 55 young Victorians who have been assisted by the organisation.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government came to office with a clear agenda to create more jobs and help disadvantaged jobseekers into work. The government has now allocated over \$68 million to Jobs Victoria, reflecting the commitment that all Victorians should have the opportunity to share in the social and economic benefits that come from employment. The funding is enabling the development of a more coordinated and streamlined system of employment assistance to achieve better employment outcomes for disadvantaged Victorians.

CVGT Australia is one of the organisations that the Victorian Government is partnering with through Jobs Victoria to support disadvantaged Victorian jobseekers into employment. On 17 August 2017, the former Minister announced funding to CVGT to support 55 Youth Justice clients into sustainable employment. A formal funding agreement is being finalised, and this service will commence shortly.

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, 2 November 2017

Energy, environment and climate change

11 733. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): How much money did the Government allocate to the maintenance/upgrading of the Diamond Creek in the Nillumbik Shire in 2015 and 2016.

ANSWER:

The matters raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Water. The member will need to redirect her question to the Hon Lisa Neville.

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, 3 November 2017

Agriculture

11 830. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to the stocking of the Hazelwood Pondage with barramundi —

- (1) what was the total cost of stocking the pondage with barramundi;
- (2) how much of this total cost was paid by the Victorian Government;
- (3) was the Victorian Government contribution paid for with the revenue from recreational fishing licences, Target One Million funding or another source; and
- (4) if other parties contributed to the total cost, who were the parties and what was their contribution.

ANSWER:

The Hazelwood barramundi fishery has been very popular with anglers, with fish up to 85 cm in length being caught last summer.

An independent study found the fishery attracted more than 5000 anglers to the site over a four month period, contributing more than \$700 000 to the local economy.

The cost of purchasing and stocking barramundi into Hazelwood Pondage was \$62 480 and the total cost of establishing and managing the fishery was approximately \$185 000.

These costs have been fully paid for by state government through the Target One Million program.

The Government is committed to supporting and growing recreational fishing.

It is a fantastic pastime that gets people out into the great outdoors and provides a real economic benefit, especially in smaller regional communities.

The Target One Million program has been an outstanding success and the Government will continue to work closely with Engie, the community and recreational fishers to secure fishing access to the remaining barramundi and explore new opportunities at Hazelwood for other species.