

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**6, 7 and 8 June 2017**

**(Extract from book 11)**

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## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(from 10 November 2016)

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Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries . . . . .	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
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Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources . . . . .	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
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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 Elasmarr, Mr Finn, 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 Eideh, #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 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 Barber, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

### 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 Elasmarr 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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**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

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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 <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>4</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>6</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph <sup>5</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

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

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

<sup>6</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>4</sup> 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



# CONTENTS

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

### TUESDAY, 6 JUNE 2017

7651.	Finance .....	3429
7705.	Health .....	3429
10 560.	Health .....	3430
10 571.	Health .....	3430
10 573.	Health .....	3430
10 574.	Health .....	3431
10 599.	Sport .....	3431
10 949.	Health .....	3431
11 041.	Roads and road safety .....	3432
11 052.	Roads and road safety .....	3432
11 054.	Corrections.....	3432
11 065.	Corrections.....	3432
11 103.	Families and children.....	3433

### WEDNESDAY, 7 JUNE 2017

11 038.	Training and skills .....	3435
11 039.	Training and skills .....	3435
11 057.	Special Minister of State .....	3436

### THURSDAY, 8 JUNE 2017

11 079.	Special Minister of State .....	3437
11 080.	Special Minister of State .....	3437
11 081.	Special Minister of State .....	3438
11 082.	Special Minister of State .....	3438
11 083.	Special Minister of State .....	3439
11 084.	Special Minister of State .....	3439
11 085.	Special Minister of State .....	3440
11 086.	Special Minister of State .....	3440
11 087.	Special Minister of State .....	3441
11 088.	Special Minister of State .....	3441
11 089.	Special Minister of State .....	3442
11 090.	Special Minister of State .....	3442
11 091.	Special Minister of State .....	3443
11 092.	Special Minister of State .....	3444
11 093.	Special Minister of State .....	3444
11 094.	Special Minister of State .....	3445





**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

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

**Tuesday, 6 June 2017**

**Finance**

**7651. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): In relation to mobile phones provided to the Minister's office —

- (1) how many mobile phones are allocated to the Ministerial Office by the Department of Treasury and Finance;
- (2) how many staff have been issued those phones;
- (3) how many handsets were purchased for the Ministerial Office; and
- (4) how many Ministerial staff have obtained reimbursements from the Ministerial Office for mobile phone accounts held in their name.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that the phones that are utilised by my office are provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance. The allocation, usage and reimbursement of any costs associated with mobile phones in the Office is consistent with the Department of Treasury and Finance Telephone Services Guidelines.

**Health**

**7705. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Victorian Auditor-General's report Efficiency and Effectiveness of Hospital Services: Emergency, tabled on 26 October 2016, the report identifies new quality performance measures that health services will begin to publically report on from 2017, for the new performance measure 'Patient's experience of ED care' —

- (1) which health services are already recording this data;
- (2) which health services have reported this data to the Department in 2016; and
- (3) what were the results of the data reported to the Department.
- (4) what results are reporting publically.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Victorian State Government Budget Paper 3, Chapter 2 (p.234) has a target output measure for the Department of Health and Human Services on patient experience of emergency department care. The target for the 2015-16 year was 85 per cent.

Routine publicly reported data for patient experience measures were published for the first time in 2016-17, and cover the first two quarters of that financial year. They are available on the Victorian Health Services Performance website: <http://performance.health.vic.gov.au/Home/Report.aspx?ReportKey=735>.

**Health**

**10 560. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):  
In relation to Labor’s commitment to upgrade ambulance facilities —

- (1) how much funding will be allocated to the Mernda Ambulance Station; and
- (2) when will project works associated with the Mernda Station be completed.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) Information regarding funding for land purchase for the Mernda Ambulance station was published on 19 October 2016 in the media release titled ‘First ever ambulance station for Mernda’ that is available at: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/first-ever-ambulance-station-for-mernda/>
- (2) Further funding has been allocated for the construction of the Mernda ambulance branch as part of the Andrews Labor Government’s \$500 million investment over five years to improve ambulance response times.
- (3) The Mernda Ambulance branch is targeted for completion by late-2018.

**Health**

**10 571. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):  
In relation to the flying squad of specialists to be sent to hospitals to tackle bullying —

- (1) has the flying squad been established, and if so, when; and
- (2) how many specialists and experts (FTE) are staffing the flying squad.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) The panel of independent experts was established in 2016 as part of the Victorian Government’s strategy *Our pathway to change: Eliminating bullying and harassment in healthcare*.
- (2) The Department of Health and Human Services has identified four independent experts who have the specific skills to undertake organisational assessments of workplace culture, including the prevention and management of inappropriate behaviour such as bullying and harassment. Independent experts are engaged based on the identified need and scope of the review at the health service and the specific expertise required.

**Health**

**10 573. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):  
In relation to the flying squad of specialists to be sent to hospitals to tackle bullying —

- (1) what is the cost of establishing and operating the flying squad; and
- (2) what is the expected cost of the flying squad in 2016-17.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

- (1) There are no costs in the establishment of the panel of independent experts. The costs in operating the panel of independent experts varies due to the nature and the scope of the work to be undertaken.
- (2) Costs for 2016-17 financial year will be variable based on the numbers of independent reviews undertaken.

**Health**

**10 574. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the flying squad of specialists to be sent to hospitals to tackle bullying: Has any hospital required a Ministerial direction to reduce the risk and incidence of bullying.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

No Ministerial direction has been required as health services have voluntarily co-operated.

**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**

**10 949. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund funded in the 2016-17 Budget —

- (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:

The Regional Health Infrastructure Fund is a \$200 million fund, being rolled out over four years, to rebuild rural and regional health facilities.

The Regional Health Infrastructure Fund does not nominate initiatives or allocate funding to the Response Time Rescue Fund.

**Roads and road safety**

**11 041. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Now that Option 1 has been selected for the Bolton Street upgrade are fauna rope bridges included in the detailed design.

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads is undertaking a flora and fauna impact assessment to determine the appropriate solutions, including the use of rope bridges for the Bolton Street Upgrade.

**Roads and road safety**

**11 052. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What representations were made from the Nillumbik and Banyule areas regarding the continuation of the North East truck curfew —

- (1) how many favoured a continuation of the curfew;
- (2) how many favoured a higher weight restriction for vehicles; and
- (3) how many sought to have the curfew rerouted.

**ANSWER:**

The decision for the North East Truck Curfew to remain in place with a modified weight limit of 16.5 tonnes was made following extensive community consultation.

In August 2016, VicRoads held two community information sessions in Heidelberg and Eltham, and further community consultation was also undertaken online. The results of this consultation, together with traffic data collected through the curfew process was shared at the 2nd Community Reference Group (CRG) meeting in November 2016.

The majority of CRG members indicated that a modification to the weight limit was the most preferred outcome.

The community feedback report can be accessed at: [vicroads.vic.gov.au/~media/files/documents/planning-and-projects/northeasttruckcurfew/community-feedback-report-north-east-truck-trial.pdf?la=en](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au/~media/files/documents/planning-and-projects/northeasttruckcurfew/community-feedback-report-north-east-truck-trial.pdf?la=en).

**Corrections**

**11 054. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many young people resident in the 3095, 3094, 3093 and 3088 postcode area were incarcerated in juvenile justice centres in 2015 and 2016.

**ANSWER:**

The information requested does not fall within the Corrections portfolio.

**Corrections**

**11 065. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Corrections: In relation to drug and alcohol rehabilitation for prisoners and remandees —

- (1) what assessments are conducted for prisoners upon entry to each prison to assess the level of drug treatment that is needed;
- (2) what is the waiting time for accessing drug and alcohol programs in each prison for sentenced prisoners;
- (3) in relation to counselling for participants in each of the drug and alcohol programs available in each Victorian prison, is there provision for one on one counselling in each program in each prison, if not, what provision is available for one on one counselling;

- (4) what drug and alcohol programs are available for remandees in Victoria; and
- (5) what are the completion rates of drug and alcohol programs for remandees in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

Prison health services are required to provide a general health assessment for 100 per cent of prisoners within 24 hours of entering the system or being transferred to another prison site. During this assessment, health staff enquire about the prisoner's drug use history. From this assessment, prisoners may be identified as requiring medical support for substance withdrawal, or as being eligible for Opioid Substitution Therapy. Health staff may also refer prisoners to Alcohol and other drugs (AOD) treatment providers for further assessment and, if eligible and suitable, ongoing treatment.

There is no average wait time for access to AOD programs across the system or at individual prisons, as wait times are not routinely collected for AOD programs.

The wait time to access programs will depend on the prisoner's level of risk and need, current eligibility and suitability, their sentence length, and whether or not the prisoner is engaged in other interventions during their sentence which may have a higher priority — for example, programs for serious violent offenders. Program placement is also determined by treatment readiness and capacity to engage effectively in a group therapy program.

Most short-duration AOD programs do not require the prisoner to be assessed, thereby reducing barriers to accessing these programs. This ensures that prisoners with a short sentence or immediate need are able to readily access AOD programs.

AOD individual counselling is available in Victoria's public prisons. On top of this, additional hours of AOD individual counselling are available for prisoners participating in intensive AOD criminogenic programs. Due to the intensive format of these programs, they are specifically structured with individual counselling augmenting the individual's participation. Other programs are not designed with individual counselling to be offered as a supplement. However, all prisoners in Victoria's public prisons have access to general AOD individual counselling independent of group programs.

Remandees have access to a suite of short AOD programs, a suite of exit preparation programs, AOD general individual counselling, and a suite of 24-hour AOD health programs. At the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, a 12-hour relapse prevention program is also available for women on remand.

In addition, AOD peer educators are available at all public prisons to support fellow prisoners in making healthy choices about drugs and drug use.

The Department of Justice & Regulation collects commencement and completion data for all AOD programs but data for remandee AOD participation and completion rates are not separately collected and therefore are not available.

**Families and children**

**11 103. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Specialist family violence navigators and the \$17.6 million allocated in the 2016-17 budget —

- (1) how many specialist family violence navigators were budgeted for within the \$17.6 million;
- (2) as at 30 April 2017, how much had been expended;
- (3) how many specialist family violence navigators were recruited; and
- (4) as at 30 April 2017, how many specialist family violence navigators were employed.

**ANSWER:**

This matter falls within the portfolio responsibility of the Special Minister of State.



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

**Wednesday, 7 June 2017**

**Training and skills**

**11 038. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: How many students enrolled at the Greensborough campus of Melbourne Polytechnic for Semester 1 2017.

**ANSWER:**

Four years after it closed because of funding cuts by the previous Liberal Government, the Greensborough campus of Melbourne Polytechnic has reopened returning skills and training to the people of Greensborough and north-east Melbourne.

The Andrews Labor Government is proud of its \$10 million investment to reopen the Greensborough campus which will focus on three main areas including health and community services, business and entrepreneurship and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Labor was elected to put people first and that means delivering on the things that matter most to people — including making sure locals have access to real training so they can get a real job.

This election commitment comes a year after the Labor Government returned training to Lilydale and the Yarra Ranges with the opening of Box Hill TAFE's Lilydale Lakeside campus.

TAFE Institutes are not required to report commercially sensitive training activity by campus. However, I have been advised by Melbourne Polytechnic that enrolments are going well at the Greensborough campus.

This is a great outcome for the rebuilding of Melbourne Polytechnic and the communities in Melbourne's North.

**Training and skills**

**11 039. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: How many people attended the open day at the Greensborough campus of Melbourne Polytechnic on March 19 2017.

**ANSWER:**

Four years after it closed because of funding cuts by the previous Liberal Government, the Greensborough campus of Melbourne Polytechnic has reopened returning skills and training to the people of Greensborough and north-east Melbourne.

The Andrews Labor Government is proud of its \$10 million investment to reopen the Greensborough campus which will focus on three main areas including health and community services, business and entrepreneurship and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Labor was elected to put people first and that means delivering on the things that matter most to people — including making sure locals have access to real training so they can get a real job.

This election commitment comes a year after the Labor Government returned training to Lilydale and the Yarra Ranges with the opening of Box Hill TAFE's Lilydale Lakeside campus.

Melbourne Polytechnic were solely responsible for the organisation of the Community Open Day at Greensborough.

I have been advised by Melbourne Polytechnic that the Open Day was well attended.

I was delighted to attend this Open Day. It was a fantastic event supported by the local community. It is great to see students already enrolled at Greensborough.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 057. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To the Special Minister of State: In light of the recently announced family violence measures what specific actions and/or funds have been given to women and children escaping violence in the Nillumbik area.

**ANSWER:**

- The City of Nillumbik is in the Department of Health and Human Services area of North Eastern Melbourne.
- In September 2016, the Government announced a significant boost in funding for family violence services. In the North Eastern Melbourne area this included new funding of:
  - \$2.4 million over two years in the Child Protection and Family Services output for women’s and children’s counselling and family violence flexible support packages; and
  - \$3.8 million over two years in the Housing Assistance output for case management and crisis support and transport for women and children.
- In May 2017, the Government announced the commencement of new therapeutic support to women, children and their families experiencing family violence. \$3.19 million over two years was provided in the North Eastern Melbourne area across both the Child Protection and Family Services and the Housing Assistance outputs.
- The 2017-18 Budget committed \$1.9 billion to family violence initiatives, this will support additional ongoing resources across Victoria, including in the North Eastern Melbourne area.



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**Thursday, 8 June 2017**

**Special Minister of State**

**11 079. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 1 — the implementation of the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework due by 31 December 2017, as at 9 May 2017 —

- (1) what is progress update for the implementation of this recommendation;
- (2) what is the exact budget allocation for this recommendation;
- (3) how much had been expended on this recommendation as at 30 April; and
- (4) will this recommendation be fully implemented by 31 December 2017.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) Following a competitive tender process, a consortia has been engaged to undertake the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (the Framework) redevelopment. The successful consortia partnership are KPMG, University of Melbourne and Thomson Goodall and Associates.
- (2) The 2016-17 budget provided \$20 million for multi-agency risk assessment and safeguarding, that included funding for the redevelopment of the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework. The 2017-18 Budget allocated \$30 million over 2 years to support implementation of the Framework, including for training, online tools and resources to help embed the Framework into organisational policies, procedures, practice guidance and tools.
- (3) The finalisation of the tender process for the redevelopment of the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management process was still underway at 30 April 2017.
- (4) The Government will report publicly on implementation of this recommendation at <http://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence/recommendations.html>

**Special Minister of State**

**11 080. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 3 — the development of a workforce development and training strategy, due to be operational by 1 January 2018, as at 9 May 2017 —

- (1) what is the progress update for the implementation of this recommendation;
- (2) will the workforce development and training strategy be operational by 1 January 2018;
- (3) what issues have been identified as obstacles to implementing this recommendation; and
- (4) what is the exact budget allocation for this recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) The workforce development and training strategy is dependent on the redevelopment of the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (the Framework) under Recommendation 1, which is due for completion by December 2017. A consortia has been engaged to undertake the redevelopment of the Framework.

- (2) Workforce development activities, including the rollout of training to priority sectors, will be informed by and further refined through the implementation process. Given the scale of change required as indicated by the Royal Commission, it is anticipated that implementation and associated workforce development and training activities will run over a number of years. The Government will report publicly on implementation of this recommendation at <http://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence/recommendations.html>
- (3) In implementing this important reform, government is giving close consideration to interdependencies between the redevelopment of the Framework and other major reform elements, including the new information sharing laws, Industry Plan, review of roles and responsibilities for perpetrator interventions, and the proposed Central Information Point. There are also multiple components to the redevelopment work itself, including the development of both new and revised risk assessment tools, the establishment of minimum standards, roles and responsibilities for family violence risk assessment and management across sectors, and work to support services to embed the redeveloped Framework into policies, procedures and systems. Further, the Framework will cover a very broad range of services, each with varying levels of understanding of family violence.
- (4) The 2017-18 Budget allocated \$30 million over two years towards implementation of the Framework. This will fund a range of implementation activities including workforce training, change management support, online tools and resources and the validation and evaluation of the redeveloped Framework.

### Special Minister of State

**11 081. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 4 — the roll-out of the Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPS) due as a priority by 31 March 2017, according to the Government website as at 9 May 2017, this recommendation was still in progress —

- (1) what were the reasons for not meeting the deadline to roll-out the Panels;
- (2) will the roll-out include the five criteria detailed in this recommendation, if not, what were the reasons for this; and
- (3) what is the total budget allocation for this recommendation.

### ANSWER:

- (1) The deadline for the rollout of the Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPs) was met with the statewide roll-out completed in June 2016. There are 18 RAMPs operating across Victoria, in each of the Department of Health and Human Services' 17 areas, with an additional RAMP in the Western District.
- (2) Yes. The statewide implementation of RAMPs has addressed each of the criteria recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence.
- (3) In 2014-15, \$17.3 million over four years was committed to rollout RAMPs and additional case management across the state. In 2014-15 the Department of Health and Human Services allocated \$360 861 over two years to Domestic Violence Victoria for training to support implementation of RAMPs and to build sector capacity in relation to high risk responses. An additional \$150 000 was allocated to Domestic Violence Victoria in 2016-17 to further support statewide coordination of RAMPs.

### Special Minister of State

**11 082. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 9 — examining options for the development of a single case-management data system to enable relevant agencies to view and share risk information in real time — due to be completed by 31 March 2017, as at 9 May 2017 according to the Government website this recommendation had not been implemented —

- (1) what is the reason for the delay in implementation;

- (2) what options have been considered;
- (3) has the process of examining options been completed; and
- (4) which option is likely to proceed.

**ANSWER:**

Through our discovery work on the establishment of the Central Information Point, which has included an ongoing process of co-design and consultation with government and non-government organisations, we have explored options for the development of a system that will enable key family violence agencies to view and share information in real-time.

As part of the \$89.5 million package allocated over two years for family violence information sharing systems reform, we will continue to collaborate with these agencies and learn from the manual operation of the Central Information Point, the Support and Safety Hubs, and the new information sharing environment, to build our understanding of what the family violence sector needs in an automated real-time information sharing system. This learning will inform a business case that will seek investment for the right technology for the future.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 083. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 17 — expanding the provision of Family Violence Flexible Support Packages to provide victims with assistance beyond the crisis period —

- (1) how much of the \$20 million allocated in the 2016-17 budget year was expended as at 30 April 2017;
- (2) did any support packages include longer term rental and mortgage subsidies and assistance with costs as detailed in this recommendation; and
- (3) how many people received support packages as at 30 April 2017.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) In September 2016 the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) allocated \$17 million in flexible support packages to family violence support agencies, including four additional statewide agencies. DHHS receives acquittals from agencies on a quarterly basis. As at 30 March 2017, agencies have reported that over \$6.9 million has been expended in 2016-17.
- (2) DHHS has collected discrete data on the number of packages that are spent on mortgages, rent and bonds since January 2017. Between 1 January 2017 and 30 March 2017, agencies have reported that over \$440 000 was spent on rent, bond and mortgage costs, noting that between July and December 2016 packages were also provided for this purpose.
- (3) As of 30 March 2017, agencies have reported that over 2900 packages were provided to victim survivors of family violence in 2016-17.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 084. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 25 — that Department of Health and Human Services work with Victoria Police to strengthen its current practice guidelines to facilitate further engagement with perpetrators of family violence, according to the Government website the implementation is in progress, what is the progress status of the implementation of this recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

To respond to recommendation 25, new child protection practice advice has been developed to provide increased guidance for the child protection workforce about working with perpetrators of family violence. The advice establishes clear practice requirements to ensure best practice approaches are applied state-wide, inclusive of inter-agency collaboration with Victoria Police, family violence services and men's services.

The advice was published on the electronic Child Protection Manual in March 2017 and is publicly available.

Work will continue to drive a cultural shift in the child protection workforce to embed changes to policy and practice advice and improve child protection's capability to work with perpetrators of family violence, inclusive of workforce training. This work and future practice guideline amendments will also be informed through the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework redevelopment, due for completion in December 2017.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 085. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 31 — to ensure funding of specialist family violence and sexual assault services to facilitate their collaboration —

- (1) what progress has been made in implementing this recommendation; and
- (2) how much funding had been expended on this recommendation as at 30 April 2017.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) Greater collaboration and better coordination between family violence and sexual assault services has been primarily supported to date through the Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASAs) participation in the Support and Safety Hubs co-design process—recognising that the Hubs will work closely with the CASAs and the Multi-Disciplinary Centres (MDCs) to assist victim survivors of intra-familial sexual violence to receive the right support that is based on their needs and choices.

We will build on the outcomes of this process to support collaboration between specialist family violence services and sexual assault services throughout 2017. This will be further supported through related reform of the creation of a family violence information sharing regime, the redevelopment of the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework and the review of the specialist family violence services Code of Practice. The promotion of shared casework models, information sharing and joint training opportunities will be pursued through these reforms.

- (2) The 2017-18 State Budget provides funding of \$100.1 million over four years and \$30 million ongoing to support counselling and therapeutic supports for victims of family violence. This funding will be used in part to facilitate and test new approaches to collaboration between the family violence and sexual assault services sectors.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 086. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 37 — the Safety Hubs in 17 locations —

- (1) what is the timeline for the rollout of the remaining 12 Hubs not mentioned in the 2017-18 budget;
- (2) who are the members of the Coordination Agency;
- (3) how many times have its members met; and
- (4) how much of the \$5 million budgeted for the Hubs in 2016-17 budget was expended as at 30 April 2017.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) A phased approach to the rollout of the Support and Safety Hubs is being taken. Details of the timeline for rolling out the Hubs are available in the *Family Violence Rolling Action Plan 2017-2020*.
- (2) The new coordination agency called Family Safety Victoria will be established as an independent administrative office within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- (3) Family Safety Victoria will be established from 1 July 2017.

- (4) \$2.8 million of the \$5 million budgeted for the Hubs in 2016-17 has been expended as at 30 April 2017.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 087. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 98 — that the government fund the establishment of specialist family violence advisor positions to be located in major mental health and drug and alcohol services by 31 March 2017, as at 9 May 2017 —

- (1) how many advisors have been recruited;
- (2) how many major mental health and drug and alcohol services are being considered for an advisor position; and
- (3) what is the exact budget allocation for this recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) Specialist family violence advisor positions will commence in the 2017-2018 financial year.
- (2) Positions will be created in alcohol and drug services and mental health services in each of the 17 Department of Health and Human Services regions, totalling 34 positions.
- (3) The budget allocation for these positions is \$17.4 million over the next four years.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 088. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 136 — pursuing an information sharing agreement between the Magistrates' Court of Victoria and the Children's Court of Victoria — and the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia —

- (1) what progress has been made in implementing this recommendation;
- (2) what issues have been identified as obstacles to the implementation of this recommendation; and
- (3) will this recommendation be fully implemented within the recommended timeframe by 30 September 2017.

**ANSWER:**

The Magistrates' Court of Victoria (MCV) are leading work to implement this recommendation in consultation with the Children's Court of Victoria (CCV). The MCV have had initial conversations with the Family and Federal Circuit Courts to progress this recommendation. The MCV is also currently reviewing the existing protocol that exists with these jurisdictions.

There will be significant reform relating to information sharing and family violence over the next 12 months. The new protocol will need to take into account the new information sharing regime (as required by this recommendation) and its encouragement of Commonwealth entities to participate.

Other issues and considerations include:

- The constraints of the existing case management systems (CMS) for MCV and CCV, and the recently announced investment for a new CMS which will enable effective information sharing between jurisdictions from 2019/2020,
- Resourcing and staffing to effectively implement the information sharing arrangement,
- Family Law Reform as outlined in the Family Law Amendment (Family Violence) Bill 2017 consultation paper, and

- the Parliamentary enquiry into ‘A Better Family Law System to Support and Protect those Affected by Family Violence’.

This recommendation sought that the MCV & CCV consider pursuing a formal information-sharing arrangement with the Family and Federal Circuit Courts. It is intended that significant engagement with these jurisdictions and a draft protocol would be developed within the recommended timeframe (18 months) with consideration to the broad range of reforms in this space.

### Special Minister of State

**11 089. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 148 — ensuring that funding agreements for mainstream family violence organisations incorporate a requirement for services to conduct cultural safety reviews and action plans in all areas of operations, governance, workforce and relationships with the community —

- (1) have all mainstream family violence organisations incorporated this requirement, if not, how many organisations are yet to incorporate this requirement; and
- (2) how much was invested in Aboriginal service providers to support this.

### ANSWER:

The Victorian Government will continue to work with Aboriginal service providers, including through family violence engagement structures such as the Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum, and non-Aboriginal service providers to obtain advice on the most appropriate approach and investment to address Recommendation 148.

Victorian Government departments and agencies are working to ensure funding agreements for mainstream family violence organisations include a cultural safety requirement. Departments will also work with mainstream family violence organisations to ensure ongoing compliance with cultural safety reviews and development of action plans.

The 2017-18 State Budget allocated \$95.4 million (over four years) for a whole of government approach to workforce and industry planning to strengthen the capacity of family violence and other social service sectors to prevent and respond to family violence.

To ensure family violence organisations are culturally safe for Aboriginal Victorians this investment includes \$4.5m (over two years) to:

- create Aboriginal cultural safety advisor positions for two years within Aboriginal organisations across the State to provide advice to mainstream family violence organisations on taking action to embed cultural safety for Aboriginal Victorians;
- develop a suite of resources to support organisations undertaking cultural safety reviews and action plan development; and
- purchase a standardised cultural safety training program.

The investment also includes \$5.64 million (over four years) for additional Aboriginal support workers to be employed within the Victims Assistance Program which will ensure that Aboriginal victims are provided with culturally safe and accessible victim support and improved access to the justice system.

### Special Minister of State

**11 090. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 170 — adopting a consistent and comprehensive approach to the collection of data on people with disabilities who experience or perpetrate family

violence, including collecting data from incident reports made to Department of Health and Human Services by disability services, as at 9 May 2017 —

- (1) what progress has been made in implementing this recommendation;
- (2) has an independent organisation been contracted to conduct a review of this recommendation, if so, when will the review be completed; and
- (3) what is the total funding allocated to implementing this recommendation.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) Work is underway to develop the Victorian Family Violence Data Framework (the Framework) which will inform the implementation of this recommendation. The Framework will provide consistent data definitions and standards, and identify data gaps, including for people with disabilities who experience or perpetrate family violence.

Work is also underway with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare to develop a national Family Violence Data Clearinghouse. This will bring together information on family violence data collections across states and territories, and provide a particular opportunity to compare data definitions and collection methodologies used across jurisdictions in relation to disability-specific family violence reporting.

- (2) An independent organisation has not been contracted to conduct a review of this recommendation.
- (3) A total funding amount allocated to implement this recommendation is not available as it is part of broader family violence data reform work.

**Special Minister of State**

**11 091. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 174 — the redesign of the police referral (L17) form to ensure that disability data is collected and training to be provided to help police members —

- (1) as at 9 May 2017 according to the Government website, work on this implementation had not been started yet the recommended time frame was for completion by 31 March 2017, what is the reason for the delay;
- (2) when will work start on this recommendation; and
- (3) when will this recommendation be fully implemented.

**ANSWER:**

The Victoria Police L17 form reflects the Common Risk Assessment Framework for Family Violence (the CRAF). Since 2004, police have recorded on the L17 form if a person has a disability. The existence of a disability indicates that a person may be at higher risk of being a victim of family violence and this informs the nature and type of police action.

Over the last 5 years police recorded the following disability data on the L17 form.

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Number of family incidents with a presence of a disability recorded	1314	1446	1768	1867	2051
<b>Total number of family incidents</b>	<b>49 943</b>	<b>60 546</b>	<b>65 179</b>	<b>70 902</b>	<b>78 007</b>
<b>% family incidents with disability</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>2.39</b>	<b>2.71</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>2.63</b>

*\*Source. Crime Statistics Agency Victoria*

In response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence (RCFV) recommendation 1, reforms to the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework (the Framework) are being led by DHHS and DPC. Work is now underway to implement the framework redevelopment process.

The redevelopment of the Framework will specifically focus on the needs and risks of all diverse communities, including people with a disability. The project will develop new tools and operational practice for all agencies that undertake family violence risk assessment and management. It is anticipated that these new risk assessment tools will be available for implementation during 2018. Further work to redesign the Victoria Police L17 form in response to RCFV recommendation 174 is dependent on the redevelopment of the Framework.

As with other reforms to police policy and practice, police will be trained through the new Victoria Police Centre of Learning for Family Violence, which is being established in response to RCFV recommendation 42. The new Centre of Learning will provide dedicated family violence education and training across Victoria Police, at all ranks. This education will build on four new training packages that have been released progressively since the Royal Commission reported in 2016. The Centre of Learning will incorporate education for police on the needs of people with a disability that are experiencing family violence.

### Special Minister of State

**11 092. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 195 — that all Ministers are required to report regularly on the risks and opportunities in their portfolio relevant to family violence —

- (1) are Ministers required to submit a written report;
- (2) have all Ministers made an initial report on their portfolio, if not, which Ministers have not yet reported;
- (3) how often are Ministers required to report on their portfolio; and
- (4) what steps have been implemented to ensure that Ministers consider the effect of proposed policies or legislation in their portfolio on the Statewide Family Violence Action Plan.

### ANSWER:

- (1) All Ministers, and the Government as a whole, are ensuring that family violence is considered and ingrained in all aspects of their work. This is being facilitated through a comprehensive governance and decision-making structure which enables a cohesive and connected response. A relevant Cabinet committee and the Victorian Secretaries Board Sub-Committee on Family Violence Reform are enabling extensive internal collaboration, overseeing the overall strategic management of the family violence reform agenda and considering regular reporting from departments and Ministers on the implementation status of recommendations.
- (2) A reporting status on all Royal Commission recommendations has been undertaken.
- (3) The Government is committed to publicly reporting on the status of implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations twice a year, which is also supported through internal reporting processes.
- (4) Ministerial allocation and associated responsibilities for each recommendation were undertaken in 2016, with continued consideration of policies and legislation and occurring through the relevant governance bodies.

### Special Minister of State

**11 093. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In your capacity as lead Minister of Family Violence Royal Commission recommendation 213 — establishing family violence principal practitioner positions in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Justice and Regulation — by 31 December 2016, as at 9 May 2017 —

- (1) how many family violence principal practitioner positions have been filled; and



- (2) how many applicants have been considered.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) As recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence, a family violence principal practitioner role has been created at the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Education and Training, and the Department of Justice and Regulation. All three positions have been filled.
- (2) An open, competitive and merit-based recruitment process was held by each of the departments, including advertising the positions online and in newspapers.

**Special Minister of State**

- 11 094. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In relation to the family violence royal commission recommendations: How many recommendations due to be implemented within 12 months of the report, i.e. by 30 March 2017, have not been fully implemented as at 9 May 2017.

**ANSWER:**

A status update on the implementation of all 227 Royal Commission recommendations is published on the family violence website ([www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence](http://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence)) twice a year. In addition the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor will report to Parliament on an annual basis in regards to the implementation of recommendations.