

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

8, 9 and 10 August 2017

(Extract from book 13)

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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 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 Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

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 ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁶	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ²	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 ⁷	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
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
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 ⁴	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			

¹ Appointed 16 April 2015

² DLP until 26 June 2017

³ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁴ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁵ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁶ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁷ Appointed 13 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;

LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;

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

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TUESDAY, 8 AUGUST 2017

7707.	Health	4131	11 152.	Families and children	4151
7712.	Families and children	4131	11 153.	Families and children	4152
10 190.	Health	4131	11 154.	Families and children	4152
10 587.	Roads and road safety	4132	11 155.	Families and children	4152
10 593.	Roads and road safety	4132	11 156.	Families and children	4153
10 594.	Roads and road safety	4133	11 157.	Families and children	4153
10 595.	Roads and road safety	4134	11 158.	Families and children	4153
10 959.	Roads and road safety	4134	11 159.	Families and children	4154
10 960.	Roads and road safety	4135	11 160.	Families and children	4154
10 961.	Roads and road safety	4135	11 161.	Energy, environment and climate change	4154
10 962.	Roads and road safety	4135	11 163.	Industry and employment	4155
10 963.	Emergency services	4135	11 224.	Families and children	4156
10 971.	Health	4136	11 225.	Health	4156
10 985.	Housing, disability and ageing	4136	11 226.	Health	4157
10 986.	Housing, disability and ageing	4137	11 227.	Health	4157
10 987.	Housing, disability and ageing	4138	11 236.	Energy, environment and climate change	4157
10 988.	Housing, disability and ageing	4138	11 240.	Public transport	4158
10 993.	Health	4139	11 241.	Housing, disability and ageing	4158
10 994.	Health	4139	11 243.	Energy, environment and climate change	4158
10 995.	Health	4140	11 248.	Families and children	4159
10 996.	Health	4140	11 249.	Families and children	4159
11 023.	Mental health	4140	11 251.	Families and children	4160
11 024.	Mental health	4141	11 258.	Families and children	4160
11 025.	Special Minister of State	4141	11 262.	Families and children	4160
11 026.	Special Minister of State	4141	11 263.	Families and children	4161
11 030.	Education	4142	11 265.	Families and children	4161
11 032.	Health	4143	11 269.	Families and children	4161
11 034.	Public transport	4144	11 271.	Families and children	4162
11 035.	Public transport	4144	11 272.	Families and children	4163
11 036.	Public transport	4144	11 273.	Families and children	4163
11 037.	Public transport	4145	11 276.	Corrections	4163
11 042.	Roads and road safety	4145	11 277.	Corrections	4164
11 074.	Housing, disability and ageing	4145	11 278.	Corrections	4164
11 077.	Housing, disability and ageing	4145	11 279.	Corrections	4164
11 100.	Aboriginal affairs	4146	11 280.	Corrections	4164
11 105.	Families and children	4147	11 281.	Corrections	4164
11 106.	Families and children	4147	11 282.	Corrections	4164
11 107.	Families and children	4147	11 283.	Corrections	4165
11 108.	Families and children	4147	11 284.	Corrections	4165
11 109.	Families and children	4147	11 285.	Corrections	4165
11 110.	Families and children	4147	11 286.	Corrections	4165
11 111.	Families and children	4148	11 287.	Corrections	4165
11 112.	Families and children	4148	11 288.	Corrections	4165
11 113.	Families and children	4148	11 289.	Corrections	4166
11 114.	Families and children	4148	11 290.	Corrections	4166
11 115.	Families and children	4148	11 296.	Education	4166
11 116.	Families and children	4149	11 297.	Education	4166
11 117.	Families and children	4149	11 298.	Education	4167
11 118.	Families and children	4149	11 299.	Education	4167
11 145.	Families and children	4150	11 300.	Education	4168
11 146.	Families and children	4150	11 301.	Education	4168
11 147.	Families and children	4150	11 303.	Local government	4169
11 148.	Families and children	4150	11 304.	Health	4169
11 149.	Families and children	4151	11 306.	Public transport	4170
11 150.	Families and children	4151	11 307.	Health	4170
11 151.	Families and children	4151	11 308.	Roads and road safety	4170
			11 309.	Roads and road safety	4171

CONTENTS

11 315.	<i>Energy, environment and climate change</i>	4171	11 168.	<i>Public transport</i>	4189
11 318.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4172	11 169.	<i>Public transport</i>	4189
11 330.	<i>Families and children</i>	4172	11 170.	<i>Public transport</i>	4190
11 331.	<i>Families and children</i>	4173	11 239.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4190
11 332.	<i>Families and children</i>	4173	11 244.	<i>Families and children</i>	4191
11 333.	<i>Families and children</i>	4173	11 245.	<i>Families and children</i>	4191
11 334.	<i>Families and children</i>	4174	11 246.	<i>Families and children</i>	4192
11 335.	<i>Families and children</i>	4174	11 247.	<i>Families and children</i>	4192
11 336.	<i>Families and children</i>	4174	11 250.	<i>Families and children</i>	4193
11 337.	<i>Families and children</i>	4174	11 257.	<i>Families and children</i>	4193
11 338.	<i>Families and children</i>	4175	11 259.	<i>Families and children</i>	4194
11 339.	<i>Families and children</i>	4175	11 267.	<i>Families and children</i>	4194
11 340.	<i>Special Minister of State</i>	4175	11 294.	<i>Police</i>	4195
11 341.	<i>Special Minister of State</i>	4175	11 295.	<i>Police</i>	4195
11 342.	<i>Special Minister of State</i>	4176	11 302.	<i>Agriculture</i>	4195
11 343.	<i>Special Minister of State</i>	4176	11 310.	<i>Industry and employment</i>	4196
11 344.	<i>Special Minister of State</i>	4176	11 311.	<i>Industry and employment</i>	4196
11 345.	<i>Special Minister of State</i>	4176	11 319.	<i>Families and children</i>	4196
11 354.	<i>Public transport</i>	4177	11 320.	<i>Families and children</i>	4196
11 355.	<i>Public transport</i>	4177	11 321.	<i>Families and children</i>	4197
11 357.	<i>Families and children</i>	4177	11 322.	<i>Families and children</i>	4197
11 358.	<i>Families and children</i>	4178	11 323.	<i>Families and children</i>	4198
11 360.	<i>Families and children</i>	4178	11 324.	<i>Families and children</i>	4198
11 383.	<i>Planning</i>	4179	11 325.	<i>Families and children</i>	4199
11 385.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4179	11 326.	<i>Families and children</i>	4199
11 387.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4180	11 327.	<i>Families and children</i>	4200
11 388.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4180	11 346.	<i>Families and children</i>	4200
11 392.	<i>Training and skills</i>	4181	11 347.	<i>Families and children</i>	4201
11 393.	<i>Training and skills</i>	4181	11 348.	<i>Families and children</i>	4201
11 394.	<i>Education</i>	4182	11 353.	<i>Energy, environment and climate change</i>	4201
11 398.	<i>Agriculture</i>	4182	11 361.	<i>Families and children</i>	4202

WEDNESDAY, 9 AUGUST 2017

11 029.	<i>Special Minister of State</i>	4183
11 031.	<i>Police</i>	4183
11 067.	<i>Police</i>	4184
11 068.	<i>Police</i>	4184
11 069.	<i>Police</i>	4184
11 070.	<i>Police</i>	4185
11 120.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4185
11 121.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4185
11 122.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4185
11 123.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4185
11 124.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4186
11 125.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4186
11 126.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4186
11 127.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4186
11 128.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4186
11 129.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4187
11 130.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4187
11 131.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4187
11 132.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4187
11 133.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4187
11 134.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4188
11 165.	<i>Public transport</i>	4188
11 166.	<i>Public transport</i>	4188
11 167.	<i>Public transport</i>	4189

11 362.	<i>Families and children</i>	4202
11 363.	<i>Families and children</i>	4203
11 365.	<i>Families and children</i>	4204
11 366.	<i>Families and children</i>	4205
11 371.	<i>Families and children</i>	4205
11 374.	<i>Families and children</i>	4206
11 384.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4207
11 386.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4207
11 389.	<i>Housing, disability and ageing</i>	4207
11 391.	<i>Agriculture</i>	4208
11 397.	<i>Police</i>	4209

THURSDAY, 10 AUGUST 2017

11 135.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4211
11 136.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4211
11 137.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4211
11 138.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4211
11 139.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4212
11 140.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4212
11 141.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4212
11 142.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4212
11 143.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4212
11 144.	<i>Attorney-General</i>	4213
11 291.	<i>Corrections</i>	4213
11 292.	<i>Corrections</i>	4213
11 293.	<i>Corrections</i>	4213

CONTENTS

11 349.	<i>Emergency services</i>	4214
11 350.	<i>Emergency services</i>	4214
11 351.	<i>Emergency services</i>	4215
11 372.	<i>Families and children</i>	4215
11 381.	<i>Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation</i>	4215
11 382.	<i>Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation</i>	4216

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, 8 August 2017

Health

- 7707. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): The department rates health services quarterly, using a performance assessment score (PAS) —
- (1) In Quarter 4 of 2015-16, how many health services were assessed to have achieved the following scores:
 - (a) standard monitoring (PAS \geq 70);
 - (b) performance watch (PAS 50–69);
 - (c) intensive monitoring (PAS \leq 49); and
 - (2) which health services were rated for “intensive monitoring”.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Performance assessment score indicators are reported through hospital annual reports.

[Question 7707 reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 March 2017, page 1440]

Families and children

- 7712. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to Child Protection, children in residential care attending school —
- (1) on 1 July 2016 how many children in residential care attended school;
 - (2) on 1 August 2016 how many children in residential care attended school;
 - (3) on 1 September 2016 how many children in residential care attended school;
 - (4) on 2 October 2016 how many children in residential care attended school; and
 - (5) on 2 November 2016 how many children in residential care attended school.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services does not have records of whether a child living in residential care attended school on any nominated day. Records of daily attendance of children at school are held by the Department of Education and Training.

Health

- 10 190. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): Regarding Ambulance Victoria’s attendance at emergencies on 21 November 2016, were there any other deaths on the 21 November 2016 between 6pm and 11pm, not related to asthma, which occurred between 000 being called and an ambulance arriving.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The events of 21 November 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 10 190 reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 359]

Roads and road safety

10 587. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What is the direct cost to the State Government of the decision to declare Bolton Street in Eltham an arterial road under the auspices of VicRoads and where will the funding come from.

ANSWER:

In August 2014, the Andrews Labour Government committed \$10.5 million for the upgrade of Bolton Street in Eltham, which includes \$300 000 for project development.

VicRoads advises me that it expects the cost to declare Bolton Street to be approximately \$50 000 which will be sourced from the project funding.

[Question 10 587 reinstated by order of President on 10 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1870]

Roads and road safety

10 593. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What were the average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2014 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets —

- (a) Main Road, Eltham;
- (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty;
- (c) Wattletree Road;
- (d) Bolton Street;
- (e) Fitzsimons Lane;
- (f) St Helena Road;
- (g) Karingal Drive;
- (h) Diamond Creek Road; and
- (i) Bridge Street.

ANSWER:

The average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of casualty crashes in 2014 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets are:

Vehicles per day (vpd)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (a) Main Road, Eltham-24 000 vpd | crashes-1 |
| (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty-23 000 vpd | crashes-0 |
| (c) Wattletree Road-15 000 vpd | crashes-5 |

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 8 August 2017

COUNCIL

4133

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| (d) Bolton Street-18 000 vpd | crashes-2 |
| (e) Fitzsimons Lane-55 000 vpd | crashes-4 |
| (f) St Helena Road-17 000 vpd | crashes-2 |
| (g) Karingal Drive-21 000 vpd | crashes-1 |
| (h) Diamond Creek Road-25 000 vpd | crashes-2 |
| (i) Bridge Street-6000 vpd | crashes-1 |

[Question 10 593 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1871]

Roads and road safety

10 594. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What were the average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets —

- (a) Main Road, Eltham;
- (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty;
- (c) Wattletree Road;
- (d) Bolton Street;
- (e) Fitzsimons Lane;
- (f) St Helena Road;
- (g) Karingal Drive;
- (h) Diamond Creek Road; and
- (i) Bridge Street.

ANSWER:

The average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of casualty crashes in 2015 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets are:

Vehicles per day (vpd)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (a) Main Road, Eltham-24 000 vpd | crashes-4 |
| (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty-23 000 vpd | crashes-0 |
| (c) Wattletree Road-15 000 vpd | crashes-6 |
| (d) Bolton Street-18 000 vpd | crashes-1 |
| (e) Fitzsimons Lane-55 000 vpd | crashes-2 |
| (f) St Helena Road-17 000 vpd | crashes-2 |
| (g) Karingal Drive-21 000 vpd | crashes-1 |
| (h) Diamond Creek Road-25 000 vpd | crashes-5 |
| (i) Bridge Street-6000 vpd | crashes-5 |

[Question 10 594 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 March 2017, page 1872]

Roads and road safety

10 595. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What were the average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2016 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets —

- (a) Main Road, Eltham;
- (b) Main Road, Lower Plenty;
- (c) Wattletree Road;
- (d) Bolton Street;
- (e) Fitzsimons Lane;
- (f) St Helena Road;
- (g) Karingal Drive;
- (h) Diamond Creek Road; and
- (i) Bridge Street.

ANSWER:

The average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of casualty crashes in 2016 recorded in the following Eltham electorate streets are:

Vehicles per day (vpd)

(a) Main Road, Eltham-24 000 vpd	crashes-3
(b) Main Road, Lower Plenty-23 000 vpd	crashes-4
(c) Wattletree Road-15 000 vpd	crashes-2
(d) Bolton Street-18 000 vpd	crashes-0
(e) Fitzsimons Lane-55 000 vpd	crashes-2
(f) St Helena Road-17 000 vpd	crashes-1
(g) Karingal Drive-21 000 vpd	crashes-0
(h) Diamond Creek Road-25 000 vpd	crashes-3
(i) Bridge Street-6000 vpd	crashes-1

[Question 10 595 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1872]

Roads and road safety

10 959. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Fitzsimons Lane roundabout to Bridge Street, Eltham.

ANSWER:

The latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of casualty crashes in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road in Eltham from the Fitzsimons Lane roundabout to Bridge Street in Eltham is 30 000 vehicles per day (2015, 2016); and four crashes (2015) and three crashes (2016), respectively.

[Question 10 959 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1893]

Roads and road safety

10 960. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Bridge Street to Luck Street.

ANSWER:

The latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of casualty crashes in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road in Eltham from Bridge Street to Luck Street is 26 000 vehicles per day (2015 and 2016); and three rashes (2015) and one crash (2016), respectively.

[Question 10 960 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1893]

Roads and road safety

10 961. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Luck Street to Wattletree Road.

ANSWER:

The latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of casualty crashes in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road in Eltham from Luck Street to Wattletree Road is 26 000 vehicles per day (2015 and 2016); and one crash (2015) and zero crashes (2016), respectively.

[Question 10 961 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1893]

Roads and road safety

10 962. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What are the latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of accidents in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road, Eltham from Wattletree Road to Research Warrandyte Road.

ANSWER:

The latest average daily figures of traffic volumes and total number of casualty crashes in 2015 and 2016 recorded along Main Road in Eltham from Wattletree Road to Research Warrandyte Road is 22 000 vehicles per day (2015 and 2016); and one crash (2015) and zero crashes (2016), respectively.

[Question 10 962 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1893]

Emergency services

10 963. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): What is the current number of Country Fire Authority volunteers in the Nillumbik region and how many were there in 2015.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to supporting the significant contribution of its emergency services volunteers, through much needed investment in equipment, training and development, community engagement and education, and facility improvements.

The Government recently announced significant reforms to our fire services. The first priority in these reforms was to restore CFA to a volunteer and community focused organisation, with an additional investment of \$100 million to improve capital works and to improve support and training for CFA volunteers, because we want to retain and increase the number of CFA volunteers.

The \$15 million Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Grants Program was established to ensure emergency services volunteers can continue to deliver their crucial work to keep Victorians safe. This valuable funding will assist eligible emergency services organisations to enhance their operational capability, encourage retention and growth of volunteers, and provide further benefit to the community to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

On 13 February 2017, the first tranche of successful recipients under this scheme were announced. Currently, over 250 grants, totalling more than \$5 million, are being paid across the State.

The Victorian Government has also committed an extra \$20 million for CFA volunteer brigades for 28 firefighting trucks, as well as work wear and protective clothing for thousands of volunteer firefighters.

These significant investments are in addition to over \$14 million in grants available to emergency services volunteers each year through the Victorian Government's Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment and Valuing Volunteers Programs.

In 2015-16, CFA as a whole had 57 111 volunteers. As at 31 May 2017, there were 859 Country Fire Authority volunteers in the Nillumbik region. At 30 June 2015, there were 827 volunteers.

Volunteer numbers can fluctuate through the seasons, but remain consistent over time.

Health

10 971. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): 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:

I am informed that:

There are six public cemeteries in the electorate of Eltham at Arthurs Creek, Diamond Creek, Kangaroo Ground, Smiths Gully, Greensborough and Eltham. There are currently no plans to sell or to acquire any additional Crown land in the electorate.

Housing, disability and ageing

10 985. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to one bedroom public housing units in each of the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;
- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

We know there isn't enough social housing across Victoria, and that's why this government has committed \$799 million since March 2016 in additional housing and homelessness support, building on \$2.1 billion in financial backing to deliver thousands of new social housing units-unlike the previously government which cut \$330 million from housing. We know our stock is ageing and unfit for purpose, which is why we're renewing estates to build more units, unlike Liberal MPs who oppose these redevelopments.

The Andrews Labor Government is dedicated to addressing housing need, including in the listed postcodes, through our Social Housing Growth Fund, which will deliver 2200 additional units over 4 years. We look forward to working with local Councils, who I have written to on this matter, on how we can use these funds to grow social housing. As the fund is established and proposals are assessed, it will become clearer where new social housing is to be built in areas such as those listed.

The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through budget reporting and departmental annual reports.

[Question 10 985 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1897]

Housing, disability and ageing

10 986. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to two bedroom public housing units in each of the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;
- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

We know there isn't enough social housing across Victoria, and that's why this government has committed \$799 million since March 2016 in additional housing and homelessness support, building on \$2.1 billion in financial backing to deliver thousands of new social housing units-unlike the previously government which cut \$330 million from housing. We know our stock is ageing and unfit for purpose, which is why we're renewing estates to build more units, unlike Liberal MPs who oppose these redevelopments.

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The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through and departmental annual reports.

[Question 10 986 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1898]

Housing, disability and ageing

10 987. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to three bedroom public housing units in each of the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;
- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

We know there isn't enough social housing across Victoria, and that's why this government has committed \$799 million since March 2016 in additional housing and homelessness support, building on \$2.1 billion in financial backing to deliver thousands of new social housing units—unlike the previous government which cut \$330 million from housing. We know our stock is ageing and unfit for purpose, which is why we're renewing estates to build more units, unlike Liberal MPs who oppose these redevelopments.

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The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through and departmental annual reports.

[Question 10 987 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1898]

Housing, disability and ageing

10 988. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): With reference to four bedroom public housing units in each of the following postcodes: 3093, 3094, 3095 and 3088 —

- (a) how many units are there;
- (b) what funds have been spent in the last two years;
- (c) what is the average age of the units;
- (d) what is the occupancy rate;
- (e) what is the current waiting list for units; and
- (f) what plans are there to buy more units.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

We know there isn't enough social housing across Victoria, and that's why this government has committed \$799 million since March 2016 in additional housing and homelessness support, building on \$2.1 billion in financial backing to deliver thousands of new social housing units—unlike the previous government which cut

\$330 million from housing. We know our stock is ageing and unfit for purpose, which is why we're renewing estates to build more units, unlike Liberal MPs who oppose these redevelopments.

The Andrews Labor Government is dedicated to addressing housing need, including in the listed postcodes, through our Social Housing Growth Fund, which will deliver 2200 additional units over 4 years. We look forward to working with local Councils, who I have written to on this matter, on how we can use these funds to grow social housing. As the fund is established and proposals are assessed, it will become clearer where new social housing is to be built in areas such as those listed.

The Andrews Labor Government has not altered the reporting methods of the previous government with regards to requested information. Detailed information is available through and departmental annual reports.

[Question 10 988 reinstated by order of President on 6 June 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1899]

Health

10 993. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the investigation into Victorian public hospital waiting list manipulation, announced in the Herald Sun article titled "Great Health Sham" on 23 December 2016 —

- (1) what will this investigation examine;
- (2) when will this investigation be complete; and
- (3) will the findings of this investigation be made public, if so, when will the findings of this investigation be made public.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

An independent audit of hospitals is being undertaken to ensure that all patients waiting for elective surgery are reported consistently and in accordance with policy.

I am advised that all patients identified at the end of last year have now been appropriately waitlisted.

The findings of this investigation will be made public as soon as possible.

Health

10 994. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the investigation into Victorian public hospital waiting list manipulation, announced in the Herald Sun article titled "Great Health Sham" on 23 December 2016 —

- (1) has any evidence of deliberate data manipulation been uncovered;
- (2) if so, by which hospital(s); and
- (3) have any matters arising from the investigation been referred to IBAC or Victoria Police.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

An independent audit of hospitals is being undertaken to ensure that all patients waiting for elective surgery are reported consistently and in accordance with policy.

I am advised that all patients identified at the end of last year have now been appropriately waitlisted.

The findings of this investigation will be made public as soon as possible.

Health

10 995. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the investigation into Victorian public hospital waiting list manipulation, announced in the Herald Sun article titled “Great Health Sham” on 23 December 2016 —

- (1) which hospitals failed to record Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery on their official waiting lists; and
- (2) how many patients were identified at each of these hospitals as waiting for Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery but not on the waiting list.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

An independent audit of hospitals is being undertaken to ensure that all patients waiting for elective surgery are reported consistently and in accordance with policy.

I am advised that all patients identified at the end of last year have now been appropriately waitlisted.

The findings of this investigation will be made public as soon as possible.

Health

10 996. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the investigation into Victorian public hospital waiting list manipulation and the 943 patients referred to in the Herald Sun article titled “Great Health Sham” on 23 December 2016 —

- (1) have all 943 patients on the “hidden waiting list” had appointments;
 - (a) of them, how many were deemed to need surgery; and
 - (b) of them, how many deemed needing surgery have had their operation and how many are on the waiting list.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

An independent audit of hospitals is being undertaken to ensure that all patients waiting for elective surgery are reported consistently and in accordance with policy.

I am advised that all patients identified at the end of last year have now been appropriately waitlisted.

The findings of this investigation will be made public as soon as possible.

Mental health

11 023. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to the Department of Health and Human Services contract, C4358, the Aboriginal Metropolitan Ice Partnership Pilot Formative Evaluation, how many times did Departmental executive officers or Victorian Public Service staff meet with LeeJenn Health Consultants Pty Ltd prior to the start date of 28 January 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Victorian Public Service staff met with LeeJenn Health Consultants Pty Ltd twice, in the period in question.

Mental health

11 024. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): In relation to the Department of Health and Human Services contract, C4358, the Aboriginal Metropolitan Ice Partnership Pilot Formative Evaluation, was any probity adviser appointed to monitor the awarding of the contract, and if so, who was the probity adviser.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As per Victorian Government Purchasing Board guidelines, normal probity adviser rules applied to this project.

The departmental procurement advisor assigned to the project provided probity advice throughout the procurement process.

Special Minister of State

11 025. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister for State: In relation to claims from the Minister's Office in November and December 2015 for purchases of magnets totalling \$255.44, what was the purpose of this expenditure on magnets.

ANSWER:

All office expenditure by Ministerial Offices complies with DPC purchasing requirements which are subject to the Victorian Government Purchasing Board (VGPB) policies.

The VGPB requires all mandated departments (which includes DPC) to purchase goods and services through State Purchase Contracts (SPCs), which are standing offer agreements for Victorian government common use goods and services, that are established when value for money can best be achieved through aggregating demand. These standards have been in place since the VGPB was established under the Financial Management Act 1994.

The SPC for provision of stationery and workplace consumables used by DPC was established following an open tender process undertaken by Department of Treasury and Finance with the selected supplier being chosen on the basis of rigorous evaluation processes covering specifications, quality, value for money and local supplier support policy.

This mandatory SPC is with a sole supplier, being Complete Office Supplies (COS), and commenced on 11 October 2015 for a three year period.

The purpose of the expenditure on magnets outlined in your question was to purchase magnets.

Special Minister of State

11 026. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister for State: In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office in September 2015 for a custom date stamp totalling \$397.56, a date stamp at Officeworks costs \$26.96, why did the Minister require a customised date stamp at an extra cost of \$370.60.

ANSWER:

All office expenditure by Ministerial Offices complies with DPC purchasing requirements which are subject to the Victorian Government Purchasing Board (VGPB) policies.

The VGPB requires all mandated departments (which includes DPC) to purchase goods and services through State Purchase Contracts (SPCs), which are standing offer agreements for Victorian government common use goods and services, that are established when value for money can best be achieved through aggregating demand. These standards have been in place since the VGPB was established under the Financial Management Act 1994.

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This mandatory SPC is with a sole supplier, being Complete Office Supplies (COS), and commenced on 11 October 2015 for a three year period.

This item of expenditure relates to the purchase of multiple stamps. An example the stamps purchased is below. A search of the Officeworks website for the item “date stamp” produced 12 results, none of which specify that correspondence has been received by the Office of the Special Minister of State.

Education

11 030. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): Under the proposed changes to the Victorian Education and Training Reform Regulations —

- (1) what is the rationale for requiring children to attend a mainstream school while awaiting home school approval;
- (2) what research has the Department undertaken regarding the further study and employment outcomes of home schooled children;
- (3) will the Department be commissioning further research into the further study and employment outcomes of home schooled children;
- (4) what will be required to be included in the proposed home schooling plans;
- (5) will the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) be provided with additional resources to oversee home schooling plans and reviews; and
- (6) what procedures will apply for parents of home schooled children to appeal decisions from VRQA.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- 1) What is the rationale for requiring a child to attend mainstream school while awaiting home school approval?

The Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (the Act) requires that all children of compulsory school age (between the ages of 6 and 17) must be enrolled in a school or be registered for home schooling. The proposed Regulations do not prevent a student from being removed from school or impose any new requirement on home school families.

Under the current Education and Training Reform Regulations (current Regulations), the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) must process an application for home schooling within a 14-day period. The obligation for children of compulsory school age to remain enrolled in school until such an application is approved is implicit in the requirements of the Act.

The proposed Regulations will extend the present day 14-day period to a 28-day period. The time period is being extended because the proposed Regulations will require VRQA to assess a newly introduced learning plan, which will accompany the application under the proposed reforms. The proposed 28-day period is required to allow the VRQA enough time to assess applications to ensure that the child will receive regular and efficient instruction across the eight key learning areas.

I fully understand that there may be situations where a child who is enrolled at school is unable to continue to attend school for a period of time due to illness, stress, bullying, or other difficulties. In this situation, a parent should contact the principal to discuss the situation, including what alternative arrangements are available. Where there is a reasonable excuse for non-attendance, a child can be excused from attending school for a period of time. If a parent decides that the child would benefit from a home schooling environment, the parent should contact the

VRQA and start to prepare a registration application and a learning plan. For some applications the registration process will very quick and for others it may take longer, in particular where the initial application is incomplete.

During the interim period a child of compulsory school age must remain enrolled in school, however, where the child is unable to attend school because of special circumstances, a parent could start to deliver instruction at home. The child's school may be able to support the parent to do this by providing some materials or guidance. Once the VRQA has assessed the learning plan as suitable, the parent and child will be registered for home schooling.

Where a parent requests that their child be excused from attendance at school and discussions with the Principal have not led to a resolution, the Department has a comprehensive Parent Complaint Policy that provides mechanisms for complaints relating to schools and Principals to be addressed by the regional office, or central office, as appropriate. If the Department cannot deal satisfactorily with a complaint, the parent could contact the Independent Office for School Dispute Resolution for assistance.

In response to the feedback received from the home schooling community, I have requested some amendments to the proposed Regulations to make it clear that children who have a 'reasonable excuse' for not attending school will not have to continue to attend the school while their application for home schooling registration is being assessed. The proposed Regulations have been altered so that the section that establishes 28-day application assessment period references the existing 'reasonable excuse' provisions in the Act. It is important that parents are aware of the options that are available to them if their child is facing difficulties at school.

- 2) What research has the Department undertaken regarding the further study and employment outcomes of home schooled children?

In the course of reviewing the current Regulations, preparing the Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) and the drafting of the proposed Regulations, the Department undertook research into home schooling practices and outcomes. As part of this process, the Department engaged with all other Australian States and Territories to discuss their regulatory systems and relevant outcomes.

An important function of the proposed Regulations will be increased visibility over the home schooling community and an increased capacity to collect information and data to inform more targeted policy in the future. Part of the value of the proposed Regulation is they would allow for deeper insights into outcomes for home schooling students, as well as visibility into which teaching methodologies are being adopted by the home schooling community.

Health

11 032. 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) which 15 projects have been funded from this fund; and
- (2) how much funding has been allocated to each project and over what time period.

ANSWER:

I am informed that 16 projects have been funded for 12 months. They are:

- Alfred Health: A co-ordinated approach to telehealth in Alfred Health's specialist clinics and state-wide services
- Austin Health: Austin Health State Wide Services Telehealth Program
- Ballarat Health Services: The Integration of Telehealth into the Ballarat Health Services Persistent Pain Management Service
- Barwon Health: Implementing Telehealth access to Specialist clinics on an organisational and regional scale
- Bendigo Health Care Group: Establishment of a Bendigo Health Telehealth Outpatients Service

- Eastern Health: Telemedicine @ Eastern: Specialist Clinics
- Melbourne Health: Melbourne Health Telehealth divisional implementation strategy
- Monash Health: Monash Health Telehealth in Children’s Program
- Northeast Health Wangaratta: Specialists to you—a consortium approach to specialist clinics for rural patients
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre: Establishment of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) Telehealth Network
- Portland District Health: An integrated approach to Chronic Pain Management in the Rural Community of Portland and district
- The Royal Children’s Hospital: State-wide access to RCH paediatric sub-speciality services
- The Royal Women’s Hospital: Menopause after cancer service
- Rural Northwest Health: Flying Doctor Telehealth Specialist Service
- Royal Victorian Eye & Ear Hospital: Telehealth improving the patient experience in a tertiary speciality hospital
- The Royal Children’s Hospital/Barwon Health: Developing a Victorian Telehealth Community of Practice

Total funding for this initiative is \$5 million.

Public transport

11 034. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): How many residents in postcode 3088 used Myki concession fares in 2015 and 2016 and of these, how many used Seniors concession cards.

ANSWER:

The myki system does not require passengers to register their myki, and therefore it does not automatically collect data on the address or location of residence for all travellers.

Public transport

11 035. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): How many residents in postcode 3095 used Myki concession fares in 2015 and 2016 and of these, how many used Seniors concession cards.

ANSWER:

The myki system does not require passengers to register their myki, and therefore it does not automatically collect data on the address or location of residence for all travellers.

Public transport

11 036. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): How many residents in postcode 3093 used Myki concession fares in 2015 and 2016 and of these, how many used Seniors concession cards.

ANSWER:

The myki system does not require passengers to register their myki, and therefore it does not automatically collect data on the address or location of residence for all travellers.

Public transport

11 037. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): How many residents in postcode 3094 used Myki concession fares in 2015 and 2016 and of these, how many used Seniors concession cards.

ANSWER:

The myki system does not require passengers to register their myki, and therefore it does not automatically collect data on the address or location of residence for all travellers.

Roads and road safety

11 042. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the North East truck curfew, how many infringement notices have been issued on —

- (a) Ryans Road;
- (b) Wattletree Road;
- (c) Main Road, Eltham;
- (d) Lower Plenty Road;
- (e) Karingal Drive;
- (f) St Helena Road; and
- (g) Para Road.

ANSWER:

Statistics on infringement notices for the North East Truck Curfew are available by suburb rather than street. VicRoads advises me that from the introduction of the curfew until the end of March 2017, a total of 159 infringement notices have been issued in the following suburbs; Eltham, Greensborough, Heidelberg, Lower Plenty, Macleod, Rosanna and Watsonia.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 074. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): How many individuals are currently registered on the Disability Support Register waiting to be attributed funding for their Individual Support Plans.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The number of individuals registered on the Disability Support Register waiting to be attributed funding for their Individual Support Plans is not publically available data.

Publically available information is accessible on the Parliament of Victoria website, where I answered questions on this matter during the Public Accounts and Estimates committee hearings.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 077. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): For those people who transition to the NDIS and who have not been allocated funds for their ISP from the State government; what process will the State government employ to efficiently ensure individuals are not processed twice and that the level of Individual Support Plans funding is equivalent via the NDIS and that these individuals receive priority.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In order to ensure a smooth transition to the NDIS in Victoria, people in each area will transition according to an agreed participant phasing plan. People on the Disability Support Register who have not yet been allocated funding will be the first group to transition within each area. In addition to the roll out schedule and in recognition that some people have a more immediate and pressing need for support, people on the Disability Support Register across the state with an urgent need for support are being provided with the opportunity to transition to the NDIS ahead of their area, regardless of where they live.

The NDIS Act 2013 enables the sharing of specified data between the Victorian Government and the NDIA to enable streamlined access by people who are already receiving services or who are on the Disability Support Register. This ensures individuals are not required to undergo duplicate planning processes. The NDIA provides report to Victoria on the progress of access and the approval of plans so that the transition can be completed.

The recent Productivity Commission Position Paper on National Disability Insurance Scheme Costs comments favourably on Victoria's approach of prioritising people with urgent and complex needs.

Aboriginal affairs

11 100. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): According to your family violence funding announcement on 13 April 2016 in relation to support for Aboriginal Victorians at risk of family violence, funding of \$25.7 million 'helps meet recommendations 145 and 146 of the Commission' which advises a continued partnership with Aboriginal communities and adequate funding to Aboriginal community controlled organisations —

- (1) what is the total funding required to fully implement recommendations 145 and 146;
- (2) do all Aboriginal community controlled organisations currently have adequate funding for culturally appropriate family violence services for Aboriginal women and children;
- (3) do all Aboriginal community controlled organisations currently have adequate funding for family-centred services and programs—including programs that focus on cultural strengthening—therapeutic child-centred programs and one-door integrated services;
- (4) do all Aboriginal community controlled organisations currently have adequate funding for culturally appropriate legal services for victims and perpetrators to meet the increased demand for services and the need for State-wide coverage;
- (5) do all Aboriginal community controlled organisations currently have adequate funding for crisis accommodation and support options for Aboriginal women and children based on best practice models with access to longer term housing;
- (6) do all Aboriginal community controlled organisations currently have adequate funding for culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal men who perpetrate family violence—including access to suitable accommodation;
- (7) do all Aboriginal community controlled organisations currently have adequate funding for early intervention and prevention actions in Aboriginal communities—including whole-of-community activities and targeted programs; and
- (8) which Aboriginal community controlled organisations currently do not have adequate funding for family violence services.

ANSWER:

The Member for the Southern Metropolitan Region can refer to this link that shows details of 2017 funding provided to address family violence in Aboriginal communities: <http://www.premier.vic.gov.au/more-support-for-aboriginal-victorians-facing-family-violence/> Further detail on Aboriginal specific, family violence related budget Initiatives can be found at Chapter 1 of the Victorian Budget 2017-18, Budget Paper 3. This investment includes targeted funding to address Family Violence Royal Commission Recommendations 145 and 146. The Victorian Government will continue to work in partnership with Aboriginal communities and services to ensure these vital services are effectively delivered.

Families and children

11 105. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, how many units within the facility were open as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

I refer to my answer to Question on Notice 11 110.

Families and children

11 106. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, how many units within the facility were closed as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

I refer to my answer to Question on Notice 11 110.

Families and children

11 107. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, how many units with the facility were inoperable as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

I refer to my answer to Question on Notice 11 110.

Families and children

11 108. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility: how many beds within the facility were open as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

There were a total of 118 beds available for young people to be accommodated across both the secure and low security sites at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct on 30 April 2017.

I refer to my answer to Question on Notice 11 110 for an explanation as to the reasons for this.

Families and children

11 109. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, how many beds within the facility were closed or inoperable as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

I refer to my answer to Question on Notice 11 110.

Families and children

11 110. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, what are the reasons beds were closed or inoperable as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

On 30 April 2017, one low security unit was closed at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct due to a lack of young people classified as suitable for low security beds at that time. In addition there was one inoperable bed due to repairs required to the flooring of that bedroom.

Families and children

11 111. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, how many beds within the maximum security units were open as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

There were 45 beds available to accommodate young people in secure units at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct on 30 April 2017

Families and children

11 112. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, how many beds within the maximum security units were closed or inoperable as at 30 April 2017.

ANSWER:

There were no closed or inoperable beds in secure units at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct on 30 April 2017.

Families and children

11 113. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, as at 30 April 2017 how many detainees were on remand.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to young people in youth justice facilities on remand is contained in the Youth Parole Board Annual Report.

The Andrews Labor Government is dedicated to the diversion of young people from remand and linking them with supports in the community, where appropriate.

The court is responsible for decisions regarding remand and bail and on making its decision, must be satisfied on a range of considerations, as outlined in the Bail Act 1977.

Families and children

11 114. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, as at 30 April 2017 how many detainees were serving a sentence.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to young people in youth justice facilities serving a sentence is contained in the Youth Parole Board Annual Report.

Families and children

11 115. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, as at 30 April 2017 how many youth justice workers were full time or permanent part time.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has funded an additional 41 new youth justice worker positions across the Victorian Youth Justice system, and undertaken new recruitment processes to have a pipeline of applicants. This will improve the safety of staff and young offenders at the precinct. Recruitment is underway to strengthen the youth justice workforce, including additional frontline unit staff to bolster coverage of day to day operations.

Data relating to youth justice staffing is available in the relevant Department's Annual Report.

Families and children

11 116. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, as at 30 April how many youth justice workers were agency staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has funded an additional 41 new youth justice worker positions across the Victorian Youth Justice system, and undertaken new recruitment processes to have a pipeline of applicants. This will improve the safety of staff and young offenders at the precinct. Recruitment is underway to strengthen the youth justice workforce, including additional frontline unit staff to bolster coverage of day to day operations.

Data relating to youth justice staffing is available in the relevant Department's Annual Report.

Families and children

11 117. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, as at 30 April 2017 how many security staff were full time or permanent part time.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has funded an additional 41 new youth justice worker positions across the Victorian Youth Justice system, and undertaken new recruitment processes to have a pipeline of applicants. This will improve the safety of staff and young offenders at the precinct. Recruitment is underway to strengthen the youth justice workforce, including additional frontline unit staff to bolster coverage of day to day operations.

Data relating to youth justice staffing is available in the relevant Department's Annual Report.

Families and children

11 118. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister Families and Children: In relation to Malmsbury Youth Justice facility, as at 30 April 2017 how many security staff were agency staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has funded an additional 41 new youth justice worker positions across the Victorian Youth Justice system, and undertaken new recruitment processes to have a pipeline of applicants. This will improve the safety of staff and young offenders at the precinct. Recruitment is underway to strengthen the youth justice workforce, including additional frontline unit staff to bolster coverage of day to day operations.

Data relating to youth justice staffing is available in the relevant Department's Annual Report.

Families and children

11 145. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Following the disturbances at the Parkville precinct over the weekend of 12-14 November 2016, and before the decision was made to gazette the Grevillea Unit of Barwon Prison as a youth justice centre, what efforts were made to ascertain whether the Acheron Boys' Home could be upgraded to provide secure accommodation for up to 40 young people.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Following the incidents on the weekend of 12-14 November, alternative options to address urgent capacity were assessed having regard to the availability and suitability of facilities to safely and securely accommodate high risk young people. The Grevillea Unit was the most suitable facility identified.

Families and children

11 146. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Following the disturbances at the Parkville precinct over the weekend of 12-14 November 2016, and before the decision was made to gazette the Grevillea Unit of Barwon Prison as a youth justice centre, why was the Acheron Boys' Home rejected in favour of Grevillea.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Following the incidents on the weekend of 12-14 November, alternative options to address urgent capacity were assessed having regard to the availability and suitability of facilities to safely and securely accommodate high risk young people. The Grevillea Unit was the most suitable facility identified.

Families and children

11 147. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Following the disturbances at the Parkville precinct over the weekend of 12-14 November 2016, and before the decision was made to gazette the Grevillea Unit of Barwon Prison as a youth justice centre, what efforts were made to ascertain whether the Barooka Healing Place could have been part of the solution to the problem of where to place young people in the youth justice system.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Following the incidents on the weekend of 12-14 November, alternative options to address urgent capacity were assessed having regard to the availability and suitability of facilities to safely and securely accommodate high risk young people. The Grevillea Unit was the most suitable facility identified.

Families and children

11 148. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: At the time that the decision was made to gazette the Grevillea Unit of Barwon Prison as a youth justice facility, how many beds were available to Koori young people at the Barooka Youth Healing place.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Following the incidents on the weekend of 12-14 November, alternative options to address urgent capacity were assessed having regard to the availability and suitability of facilities to safely and securely accommodate high risk young people. The Grevillea Unit was the most suitable facility identified.

Families and children

11 149. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Following the gazettal of the Grevillea Unit as a youth justice centre on 17 November 2016, why did the Department decide not to transfer young people over the age of 18 into Grevillea from Malmsbury.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Decisions regarding which young people were to be transferred to Grevillea Unit were made by my department, based on an assessment of suitability and taking into account the circumstances and needs of the individual young people concerned.

Families and children

11 150. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Following the disturbances at the Parkville precinct over the weekend of 12-14 November 2016, was advice received by the Minister, the Department of Health and Human Services or its Director of Secure Services that a unit at Parkville could be ready to safely house children in one day.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The incidents on the weekend of 12-14 November 2016 at Parkville Youth Justice Precinct resulted in extensive damage to units and the loss of secure accommodation. Four residential facilities with 60 beds and one programs facility were rendered unusable and reduced capacity to accommodate young people at Parkville from 123 beds to 63 beds. These incidents highlighted the inadequacy of Parkville as a secure facility.

Advice received by the Department of Health and Human Services estimated that repair and fortification works would take a number of months to complete to enable young people to be safely and securely accommodated within the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct.

Families and children

11 151. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: On how many days during 2016 were the secure “Ulabara” and “Admissions” units (at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre’s senior site) at full capacity.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the average number of young people in custody in youth justice facilities is published in the Victorian State Budget papers.

Families and children

11 152. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: On 12 November 2016, were the secure “Ulabara” and “Admissions” units operating at full capacity, if not, how soon after 12 November 2016 did the secure “Ulabara” and “Admissions” units reach full capacity.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the average number of young people in custody in youth justice facilities is published in the Victorian State Budget papers.

Families and children

11 153. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Following the disturbances at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct on the weekend of 12-14 November 2016, and before the decision was made to gazette the Grevillea Unit of Barwon Prison as a youth justice centre, how many young people were transferred from other units at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre into the secure “Ulabara” and “Admissions” units at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Movements between units are based on a number of factors to ensure the placement of young people is suitable and appropriate. These movements occur on an ongoing basis.

Transfers are an operational decision undertaken following client risk assessment. Transfers occur on a daily basis across the youth justice centres based on the operational requirements of the system and assessments of the young person’s circumstances.

As the Member has been advised previously, to manually interrogate each of the daily placement decisions would require a substantial diversion of Department resources away from service delivery.

Families and children

11 154. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Following the disturbances at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct on the weekend of 12-14 November 2016, and before the decision was made to gazette the Grevillea Unit of Barwon Prison as a youth justice centre, how many young people were transferred from Parkville Youth Justice Precinct into the secure “Ulabara” and “Admissions” units at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Movements between units are based on a number of factors to ensure the placement of young people is suitable and appropriate. These movements occur on an ongoing basis.

Transfers are an operational decision undertaken following client risk assessment. Transfers occur on a daily basis across the youth justice centres based on the operational requirements of the system and assessments of the young person’s circumstances.

As the Member has been advised previously, to manually interrogate each of the daily placement decisions would require a substantial diversion of Department resources away from service delivery.

Families and children

11 155. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Between 14 November 2016 and 31 December 2016, were any young people who were using beds in the secure “Ulabara” or “Admissions” units at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre allowed outside those units during the day and onto the senior site, if so, why were they not transferred to other units on the senior site.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Movements between units are based on a number of factors to ensure the placement of young people is suitable and appropriate. These movements occur on an ongoing basis.

Transfers are an operational decision undertaken following client risk assessment. Transfers occur on a daily basis across the youth justice centres based on the operational requirements of the system and assessments of the young person's circumstances.

As the Member has been advised previously, to manually interrogate each of the daily placement decisions would require a substantial diversion of Department resources away from service delivery.

Families and children

11 156. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What specific training have Corrections officers received in relation to their responsibilities under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 regarding young people detained in the youth justice system.

ANSWER:

Corrections Victoria's Security and Emergency Services Group (SESG) have been deployed to youth justice centres to assist with security and emergency responses.

SESG staff have had Working with Children checks completed and an operational order which outlines their responsibilities under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (The Act).

SESG staff have been briefed on their responsibilities under the Act.

All Youth Justice staff are regularly briefed on their responsibilities under the Act.

Families and children

11 157. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What formal, regular supervision is in place for youth justice staff in youth justice centres to assist them to work through concerns and issues that may arise through their work.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Staff supervision in youth justice centres is a structured process where staff meet at least monthly with their line manager for formal supervision. This provides support for staff, helps them to improve their job performance and improves outcomes for young people.

In addition to this formal process, staff receive 'on-the-job' supervision and coaching on their performance, where issues are addressed as they arise. They are also encouraged to approach their line manager at any time when they want to raise concerns.

A Clinical Supervision Program also exists to provide staff with support following incidents in youth justice centres, group and individual clinical supervision, coaching, and short-term counselling for individual staff.

Staff also have access to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Employee Assistance Program, an independent service providing counselling to staff, and processes to make protected disclosures should they wish to report improper conduct.

Families and children

11 158. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: On 25 November 2016, were young people detained at Parkville Youth Justice Precinct locked down in their cells while staff attended a White Ribbon Day barbecue.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I have been advised that there were no lockdowns on 25 November 2016 at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct. Staff attending events like this would do so in their own break time so that there would be no impact on staffing availability within the Precinct.

As I have previously advised the member, it is sometimes necessary for young people to be isolated due to a range of security or safety risks. Where this occurs this is done in compliance with the Children Youth and Families Act 2005.

Families and children

11 159. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Between January 2012 and April 2017, what rehabilitation programs were run in youth justice centres by the Department of Health and Human Services which were not outsourced to external agencies.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Rehabilitation services at youth justice centres are delivered by a funded service. Since 2014, the Youth Health and Rehabilitation Service (YHaRS) has been contracted to deliver health and rehabilitation services to children and young people detained in Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Justice Precincts and rehabilitation services to young people residing in the community who are sentenced and under the supervision of Youth Justice on community based orders.

Families and children

11 160. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Crime Prevention grants for community organisations to work with youth network offenders, how many offenders has Victoria Police nominated as meeting the criteria for those grants.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: This is a matter for the Minister for Police.

Energy, environment and climate change

11 161. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the odour and pollution emanating from the Melbourne Regional Landfill at Ravenhall —

- (1) will the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) reforms increase resourcing for the EPA;
- (2) what are the current levels of leachate coming from the tip site;
- (3) what are the current levels of methane coming from the tip site;
- (4) what are the permitted levels of leachate and methane according to Cleanaway's permit;
- (5) how many Pollution Abatement notices has the EPA given to Cleanaway regarding the Ravenhall site;
 - (a) how many time has Cleanaway breached these notices; and
- (6) how many Directions has the EPA given to Cleanaway regarding the Ravenhall site.

ANSWER:

In the recent Budget I was pleased to announce an unprecedented investment of \$162.5 million into the reform of the Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA). This significant investment will strengthen EPA’s enforcement and environmental health capabilities, and shows the Andrews Labor Government’s commitment to EPA as a well-resourced, modern regulator that protects Victorians, and their environment from the harmful effects of pollution and waste.

EPA have advised that they are aware that current leachate levels within the landfill cells at Melbourne Regional Landfill exceed the permitted levels. A statutory notice has been issued to the landfill operator to rectify this issue. Based on recent correspondence, EPA understands that the operator is on track to meet the requirements of the notice.

EPA have advised that they are aware that current methane levels measured in boundary wells exceed the permitted levels. A statutory notice has been issued to the landfill operator to rectify this issue, and a penalty infringement notice served for this breach of licence conditions.

The allowable leachate levels at Melbourne Regional Landfill are outlined in their EPA licence (number 12160). Condition LI_L4.1 of this licence requires the licence holder to “extract leachate from cells such that the depth of leachate above the lowest point of the drainage layer does not exceed 300mm”.

EPA uses the best practice environmental management publication Siting, design, operation and rehabilitation of landfills (the Landfill BPEM; publication 788) to assess the performance of all licensed landfills against action levels for landfill gas. Methane makes up a percentage of these landfill gases. Table 1 below outlines the permitted concentrations of methane for all licensed landfills, including the Melbourne Regional Landfill:

Location	Action Level and unit
Landfill Cap surface (final)	100 parts per million (ppm)
Landfill Cap surface (intermediate-during rehabilitation works)	200 ppm rehabilitation works)
Underground at the landfill boundary	1% Methane volume for volume (v/v)
Underground services on and adjacent to the landfill site i.e. Telstra pits, stormwater drains	10 000 ppm
Building/structures on and adjacent to the landfill site	5000 ppm

EPA has served a total of four Pollution Abatement Notices to the operator of Melbourne Regional Landfill.

Cleanaway have not breached these notices at any time.

EPA has not issued any directions to Cleanaway regarding the Melbourne Regional Landfill site.

Industry and employment

11 163. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to 150 State Government positions to be based in a GovHub in the Latrobe Valley —

- (1) what is the Government’s immediate plan to boost jobs in the region, given that the GovHub will not be completed until 2020;
- (2) what preference will be given to local community members who have lost their jobs as a consequence of the closure of Hazelwood Power; and
- (3) what key selection criteria will be applied to ensure that the recruitment process is fair to all job seekers.

ANSWER:

- (1) The government is working to create jobs in the Latrobe Valley, and has recently made a number of job creation announcements in partnership with local businesses.

In addition to establishing the Latrobe Valley Authority, the government has a range of programs and assistance available to attract new investment and create jobs including;

- \$10 million Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund;
- \$5 million Hazelwood Supply Chain Transition Program;
- \$200 million Regional Jobs Fund; and
- \$34 million Regional Skills Fund.

Since October 2016, the Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund has created 145 FTE jobs and leveraged \$14.3 million of investment to Latrobe Valley.

The Latrobe Valley is also set to benefit from the Victorian 2017-18 State Budget. As part of the \$1.45 billion Regional Rail Revival package we are investing \$435 million to upgrade the Gippsland Line. With a dedicated project office in the Latrobe Valley, this upgrade will create more than 400 jobs.

- (2) The new Victorian Government office complex will provide accommodation for up to 300 office staff, including 150 public sector roles. Many of these roles to be established will be advertised locally.

Recruitment and selection processes for all Victorian Public Sector roles are based on employment principals of merit and equity.

Families and children

- 11 224. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How much of the \$8.5 million allocated for independent oversight and delivery in Budget Paper No. 3 page 78 will go to the Commission for Children and Young People.

ANSWER:

I am informed that in 2017-18:

The Commission for Children and Young People has been funded \$3.334 in this budget to enable them to increase their resources to deliver on the significant reforms that have been legislated. This includes the Reportable Conduct scheme and the enforcement and compliance system for the Child Safe Standards.

The Commission will play a vital role in monitoring organisations to ensure that allegations of abuse and neglect of children are appropriately investigated and responded to.

Health

- 11 225. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In the 2017-18 Budget, why has independent oversight and delivery only been funded for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- The independent oversight and delivery has been funded for 2017-18 and 2018-19 to allow time to for an evaluation of the requirements to implement the new Health Complaints Act in light of operational experience. Outcomes from the evaluation will enable the Commissioner and the Department to better determine the ongoing needs of the Health Complaints Commissioner’s Office.

Health

11 226. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What is the total cost of the multiple Department of Health and Human Services re-organisations over this term of government including external consultants, planning, training and payouts.

ANSWER:

Unlike the former Government that in its 4 years focused on cuts to health and that botched its recommissioning of mental health services, this Government has been focused on reforming and delivering services. This has resulted in some changes to the staff roles and responsibilities, reporting lines and accountabilities.

The question asked fails to adequately define ‘re-organisation’ and therefore can’t be addressed in the manner sought.

Health

11 227. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Duckett Report —

- (1) \$215 million has been allocated for implementation of the quality and safety reforms, what exactly will the nearly \$50 million per year be spent on, including a breakdown with line items and amounts;
- (2) how much of next year’s \$44.5 million for implementation of the quality and safety reforms will be funding for staff, contractors, consultants and associated operational costs located in 50 Lonsdale Street.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The \$215 million will contribute to implementation of the recommendations of the Targeting Zero report-Review of Hospital Safety and Quality Assurance in Victoria and the government’s commitments made in Better, Safer Care in response to that report.

On the recommendation of Targeting Zero, highly respected experts have been brought in to lead the new entities-Safer Care Victoria and the Victorian Agency for Health Information. They have been established as independent from the department and therefore the CEOs will determine how best to utilise the available resources to meet their objectives.

The department will work with the entities to consider priorities and ensure responses are coordinated. This work is ongoing and therefore allocation of funding at a finer level is therefore not yet finalised.

- (2) As allocations have not yet been finalised, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of staff, contractors, consultants and associated operational costs at this time. These will be reported on for Safer Care Victoria, the Victorian Agency for Health Information and the Department of Health and Human Services as part of annual reporting for 2017-18.

Energy, environment and climate change

11 236. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): What is the status of the Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy that the Government committed to developing in 2015.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has begun working to deliver on the actions outlined in the Energy Efficiency and Productivity Statement that we released in 2015.

The government has allocated \$29.4 million in the 2017-18 State Budget, across four years, for energy efficiency and productivity. This is in addition to \$24.2 million allocated for energy efficiency in the 2016-17 State Budget.

This funding is already helping businesses and households reduce their energy costs, and it will also improve the energy efficiency of poor performing residential and commercial buildings.

The Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy, which sets out details of these programs and funding, will be released shortly.

Public transport

11 240. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the advertising screens installed in City Loop stations:

- (1) who holds the contract for managing the advertising and entertainment content on these screens;
- (2) when does this contract end;
- (3) how much revenue have these advertising screens made since they were installed; and
- (4) how much of this revenue has been invested back into improving the public transport system.

ANSWER:

XTD Limited holds the contract.

The contract will end on 30 June 2021.

Information is unable to be released due to being classified as commercial in confidence.

Details of revenue streams is unable to be released due to being classified as commercial in confidence.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 241. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Aging): In relation to the pest control measures in public housing estates in Carlton, North Melbourne and Flemington:

- (1) what reports of cockroach infestations is the Minister aware of in the high rise public housing estates; and
- (2) what pest management measures are in place to prevent cockroach infestations in the high rise public housing estates.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Daily inspection regimes in some locations, subject to such infestation, complement ordinary maintenance. All residents are able to contact the Housing Call Centre, their local housing office or, where relevant, after-hours estate security services to report any concerns about the cleanliness of the buildings and the estate, and are encouraged to do so.

Energy, environment and climate change

11 243. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to deer as a pest species in Victoria:

- (1) how many feral deer are there in Victoria; and
- (2) why haven't deer been classified as a pest species.

ANSWER:

It is not known how many wild deer exist in Victoria, however 77 000 deer were killed in Victoria by hunters in 2015, as stated in the Game Management Authority's 2015 Deer Harvest Report.

Under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CALP Act), all deer, except Chital, Hog, Red (including Wapiti (Elk)), Sika, Sika-Red Deer hybrids, Fallow Deer, Javan Rusa, and Sambar, are declared pest animals in Victoria.

The Sustainable Hunting Action Plan 2016-2020 provides for a more strategic approach to deer management. A Deer Management Strategy is now being prepared jointly by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The strategy aims to reduce the impact of deer on native biodiversity and their damage to property, while maintaining hunting opportunities.

Families and children

11 248. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to contracts for Respectful Relationships, can the Minister please provide a detailed explanation of what the \$325 552 contract for ACIL Allen Consulting for 'Respectful Relationships Evaluation' is for.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The contract with ACIL Allen Consulting is to evaluate the Respectful Relationships initiative.

Independent evaluation is standard practice across government programs to make sure public money is being used efficiently and effectively. The evaluation will measure the outcomes and impact of the initiative, and ensure that the investment has achieved its stated purpose.

Families and children

11 249. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: The one Budget line item for Out-of-Home Care in the 2017-18 Budget allocated \$59.6 million, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the funding for —

- (1) residential care
 - (a) staffing;
 - (b) resourcing;
 - (c) running of facilities;
 - (d) building; and
 - (e) maintenance;
- (2) 100 new Targeted Care Packages;
- (3) Foster carer initiatives; and
- (4) Kinship care initiatives.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 2017-18 Budget allocation of the \$59.6 million for out-of-home care includes \$17.3 million for Targeted Care Packages, including an additional 100 Packages; and \$42.3 million for 1982 home-based care placements.

Families and children

11 251. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the number of children in Out-of-Home care, as at 31 December 2016, how many children were living in —

- (1) Residential care;
- (2) Foster care; and
- (3) Kinship care.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Quarterly data relating to the average daily number of children in residential care, foster care and kinship care is published in the Department’s Annual Report. Figures as at 31 December 2016 will be available in the upcoming Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report.

Families and children

11 258. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the one Budget line item for the child protection system in the 2017-18 Budget allocating \$72.2 million, can the Minister please provide a detailed breakdown of funding allocations in each area of the child protection system.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- Of the \$72.2 million allocated in the 17-18 Budget:
 - \$67 million will fund 450 FTE to meet estimated additional growth in demand.
 - \$1.1 million will fund the implementation of Section 18.
 - \$2.49 million will fund the continuation of the Child Protection Specialist Intervention Unit.
 - \$1.59 million will fund enhancements to Child Protection After Hours Emergency Service.

Families and children

11 262. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to unallocated cases in child protection, as at 31 December 2016 —

- (1) what percentage of children in the child protection had unallocated cases;
- (2) how many children in real numbers had not been assigned a case worker; and
- (3) what percentage of those children were under 12 months old.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Unlike the previous Coalition Government, there are a number of additional performance measures that are now available on the Department of Health and Human Service’s website, not only by quarter but by Division also.

The Member should welcome the degree of transparency afforded by this Government given it was not the practice of her own government to do the same.

Data related to the average rate of unallocated cases as at 31 December 2016, by Division and by quarter, will be available in the Department of Health and Human Services Annual Report.

Families and children

- 11 263. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to unallocated cases in child protection, as at 31 March 2017 —
- (1) what percentage of children in the child protection had unallocated cases;
 - (2) how many children in real numbers had not been assigned a case worker;
 - (a) how many of those children had not been assigned a case worker for more than one week;
 - (b) how many of those children had not been assigned a case worker for more than one month;
 - (c) how many of those children had not been assigned a case worker for more than three months;
 - (d) how many of those children had not been assigned a case worker for more than six months; and
 - (3) what percentage of those children were under 12 months old.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Unlike the previous Coalition Government, there are a number of additional performance measures that are now available on the Department of Health and Human Services' website, not only by quarter but by Division also.

The Member should welcome the degree of transparency afforded by this Government given it was not the practice of her own government to do the same.

Data related to the average rate of unallocated cases as at 31 March 2017 will be available in the Department of Health and Human Services Annual Report.

Families and children

- 11 265. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many Indigenous child protection practitioners were employed by Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as at —
- (1) 31 December 2016; and
 - (2) 31 March 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the employment of child protection workers is published in the Department's Annual Report.

The 2017-18 budget committed \$72.2 million to fund a total of 450 child protection practitioners across the state, the largest-ever expansion in child protection workers in Victoria.

The previous Coalition government only funded 192.3 new positions over their entire four years despite rising demand. In our first three budgets we have funded 610.8 new child protection positions.

Families and children

- 11 269. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the recruitment campaign for foster carers —
- (1) how many foster carers were actually recruited in 2016 from the 'over 2600 enquires', as stated in the 20 March 2017 media release;
 - (2) how many foster carers have been recruited since announcing the additional funds to continue recruitment on 20 March 2017; and
 - (3) how many foster carers left the system between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

We also provided \$3.2 million towards a foster care recruitment and retention strategy, including through a public campaign and support program. This has enabled 26 foster care agencies in Victoria to come together for the very first time under one centralised approach to the attraction, recruitment and retention of foster carers.

The 2016-17 Budget further invested \$16.2 million to provide increased support for carers and children. This initiative addresses barriers to the recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and permanent carers by providing additional funding to support the children with the most complex needs.

The 2017-18 budget includes funding for a further 1982 home based placements.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to home based care in Victoria and work in this area did not start or end with the launch of Fostering Connections, it is ongoing work.

Families and children

11 271. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to experienced child protection workers, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) 2017-18 Budget Estimates Questionnaire, page 74, states ‘the Department identified a shortage of candidates within the Department who have the requisite skills and experience to perform the roles of Advanced and Senior Child Protection Practitioners’ —

- (1) how many Child Protection Practitioners were identified as lacking the requisite skills and experience to perform their roles; and
- (2) how many additional Child Protection Practitioners are required to make up the identified shortage of candidates.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The department only recruits and appoints practitioners to ongoing Advanced and Senior Child Protection Practitioner roles where the candidate meets the requisite qualifications, skills, attributes and values to work effectively in these roles on a permanent basis.

Data relating to the employment of child protection workers is published in the Department’s Annual Report.

The 2017-18 budget committed \$72.2 million to fund a total of 450 child protection practitioners across the state—the largest expansion in child protection workers in Victoria. The previous Coalition government only funded 192.3 new positions over their entire four years despite rising demand. In our first three budgets we have funded 610.8 new child protection positions.

Families and children

11 272. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to substantiated child protection reports, in 2016 —

- (1) how many reports to child protection resulted in no case being opened;
- (2) what percentage of reports to child protection resulted in no case being opened;
- (3) how many reports to child protection were re-reports; and
- (4) what percentage of reports to child protection were re-reports.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

It is clear that the Member is unaware of how Child protection reports work. All reports made to child protection result in a case being opened.

It is expected that if circumstances change and risk escalates for children there will be a percentage of re-reports to child protection. This is appropriate as we would expect the community to make reports based on the most current information available regarding a child's safety.

Families and children

11 273. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to child protection cases closing early, in 2016:

- (1) how many cases were closed due to lost contact with families before their plan was completed; and
- (2) what percentage of cases were closed due to lost contact with families before their plan was completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My department does not collect the data the Member has requested.

Corrections

11 276. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Barwon Prison as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 277. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Beechworth Correctional Centre as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 278. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 279. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Dhurringile Prison as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 280. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Fulham Correctional Centre as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 281. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Hopkins Correctional Centre as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 282. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Judy Lazarus Transition Centre as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 283. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Langi Kal Kal as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 284. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Loddon Prison as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 285. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Marnoneet Correctional Centre as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 286. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Melbourne Assessment Prison as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 287. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Metropolitan Remand Centre as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 288. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Port Phillip Prison as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 289. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Tarrengower Prison as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Corrections

11 290. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers were employed at Karreenga Prison as of 31 May 2017.

ANSWER:

Information regarding the number and classification of Corrections Victoria staff can be found in the Department of Justice and Regulation annual report.

Education

11 296. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): As at 1 January 2017, how many Victorian primary school teachers were in the following age brackets —

- (a) 20-25 years;
- (b) 26-35 years;
- (c) 36-45 years;
- (d) 46-55 years; and
- (e) 56 years and over.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Teachers in Government Primary schools (at 17th January 2017, staff on pay)

Under 26	1533
26-35	7580
36-45	4875
46-55	3596
56 and over	3178
Total	20 762

NB Teachers includes Leading Teachers, Classroom Teachers Grade 1 & 2 and Paraprofessionals

Education

11 297. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): As at 1 January 2017, how many Victorian secondary school teachers were in the following age brackets —

- (a) 20-25 years;
- (b) 26-35 years;
- (c) 36-45 years;
- (d) 46-55 years; and
- (e) 56 years and over.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Teachers in Government Secondary schools (at 17th January 2017, staff on pay)

Under 26	694
26-35	4562
36-45	3455
46-55	3681
56 and over	3321
Total	15 713

This does not include teachers in Primary, Pri/Sec and Language schools, or Camp and non-school locations.

NB Teachers includes Leading Teachers, Classroom Teachers Grade 1 & 2 and Paraprofessionals

Education

11 298. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): As at 1 January 2017, how many Victorian primary school principals were in the following age brackets —

- (a) 20-25 years;
- (b) 26-35 years;
- (c) 36-45 years;
- (d) 46-55 years; and
- (e) 56 years and over.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Principals in Government Primary schools (at 17th January 2017, staff on pay)

Under 26	-
26-35	21
36-45	201
46-55	335
56 and over	520
Total	1077

NB Principals include Executive Class, Principals and Liaison Principals

Education

11 299. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): As at 1 January 2017, how many Victorian secondary school principals were in the following age brackets —

- (a) 20-25 years;
- (b) 26-35 years;
- (c) 36-45 years;
- (d) 46-55 years; and
- (e) 56 years and over.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Principals in Government Secondary schools (at 17th January 2017, staff on pay).

Under 26	-
26-35	1
36-45	28
46-55	86
56 and over	115
Total	230

This does not include principals in Primary, Pri/Sec and Language schools, or Camp and non-school locations.

NB Principals include Executive Class, Principals and Liaison Principals

Education

11 300. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): As at 1 January 2017, how many Victorian primary school deputy principals were in the following age brackets —

- (a) 20-25 years;
- (b) 26-35 years;
- (c) 36-45 years;
- (d) 46-55 years; and
- (e) 56 years and over.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Assistant Principals in Government Primary schools (at 17th January 2017, staff on pay)

Under 26	-
26-35	54
36-45	224
46-55	207
56 and over	250
Total	735

Education

11 301. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): As at 1 January 2017, how many Victorian secondary school deputy principals were in the following age brackets —

- (a) 20-25 years;
- (b) 26-35 years;
- (c) 36-45 years;
- (d) 46-55 years; and
- (e) 56 years and over.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Assistant Principals in Government Secondary schools (at 17th January 2017, staff on pay)

Under 26	-
26-35	31
36-45	143
46-55	180
56 and over	166
Total	520

This does not include Assistant Principals in Primary, Pri/Sec and Language schools, or Camp and non-school locations.

Local government

11 303. MR DAVIS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Local Government): In relation to the waste levy collected for the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) by municipal councils in recent years, I seek answers to the following questions in table form —

- (1) how much was collected by each of Victoria’s 79 municipalities in 2015-16;
- (2) how much was collected by each of Victoria’s 79 municipalities in 2016-17;
- (3) how much is expected to be collected in each of Victoria’s 79 municipalities in 2017-18;
- (4) what is the mean impost (average) amount collected in each of Victoria’s 79 municipalities in each of the following years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 from:
 - (a) residential ratepayers; and
 - (b) business ratepayers.

ANSWER:

The matters raised fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change. The member will need to redirect his question to the Hon Lily D’Ambrosio.

Health

11 304. 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 June 2017 how much of the \$200 million fund has been allocated to initiatives;
- (2) what initiatives have received funding from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund;
- (3) when did or will each initiative commence and be complete;
- (4) how much funding has each initiative been allocated from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund; and
- (5) have these initiatives been solely funded by the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A total of 93 projects have been funded from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund. A list of projects, including the amount allocated to each, is available on the health.vic website which can be found at <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/planning-infrastructure/regional-health-infrastructure-fund>.

Projects have commenced and will be completed at various times.

All projects are solely funded from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund apart from a single project, being Wimmera Cancer Care Centre. The Wimmera Cancer Care Centre received a \$2.6 million allocation from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund along with co-contributions from the Commonwealth Government (\$1 million), community fund raising (\$1.45 million) and \$300 000 from Wimmera Health Care Group.

Public transport

11 306. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Could the Minister please outline how the \$500 000 budget investment for Montmorency railway station will be spent.

ANSWER:

As outlined in the media release dated 2 May 2017 titled ‘Record investment keeps rolling Melbourne’s suburbs’, \$13.7 million will upgrade Huntingdale and Werribee bus interchanges, create extra parking at Montmorency and Cardinia Road stations, and build a new bus interchange and more parking at Ballarat station.

The details of works at Montmorency station are being developed in conjunction with the development work for the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade Stage 2 duplication.

Health

11 307. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): Could the Minister please specify when construction will begin on the new ambulance station in Eltham, following the receipt of a conditional planning permit from the Banyule City Council.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The department is actively working with Ambulance Victoria to progress the new ambulance station in Eltham.

The project is currently in the tender phase and anticipated to start construction August 2017 with a targeted completion by early 2018.

The government continues to support Ambulance Victoria and its planning for future investment needs, and Eltham remains a focus for a new station. The Andrews Labor Government is investing a record \$500m — to employ 450 more paramedics, put more new ambulances on the road and build 15 new and upgraded stations across Victoria.

Roads and road safety

11 308. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the geotechnical and engineering investigations in preparation for the development of an option for the North East Link —

- (1) where are preparations being undertaken in —
 - (a) St Helena;
 - (b) Greensborough;
 - (c) Eltham North;
 - (d) Eltham;
 - (e) Research;
- (2) are any of these tests being undertaken on private land; and
- (3) how many of the sites are on the north of the Yarra River and how many are on the south of the Yarra River.

ANSWER:

The North East Link Authority has been undertaking a raft of investigations as part of the early planning work for the project, which will close the missing link in Melbourne's road network.

We've chosen more than 50 sites for this first round of geotechnical work across the project area in the north-eastern suburbs. These stretch from as far afield as the M80 Ring Road at Greensborough across to Ringwood, Warrandyte, Heidelberg, Lilydale, Bayswater, Donvale and Eltham. The sites are predominately on public land which is owned by VicRoads or the local Council including parklands, road reserves and roadsides. At this stage, we have accessed one privately owned piece of land in Bulleen.

This geotechnical testing will provide valuable information about ground conditions across Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs. Depending on the location of each site, the drilling could be up to a depth of 40 metres in some instances to properly understand the type of materials that will be encountered. After the drilling is completed, the sites will be restored.

It's important to note that these geotechnical tests are being undertaken throughout the north-eastern suburbs, and are not necessarily related to any potential route the project may take. They're part of the broader information we're pulling together to help shape which corridors we investigate for the North East Link. Our work includes talking to the local community, investigating issues across local roads and the surrounding transport network as well as studying traffic and public transport movements. The Authority has also been using historical data from other government agencies such as Melbourne Water, VicRoads and councils."

Roads and road safety

11 309. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Could the Minister please outline when and how will the communities in Greensborough, St Helena, Eltham North, Eltham and Research be consulted about the investigations and development of proposed options for the North East Link.

ANSWER:

The North East Link is the missing piece in Melbourne's road network. It's an essential project to enhance Victoria's competitive advantage and support efficient movement of freight, while also protecting the things communities across Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs value such as the environment and their local community.

The North East Link will cater for 100 000 cars and trucks every day-relieving congestion in local streets and taking long haul trucks off local roads. The project will also support the more efficient use of Melbourne's entire transport network.

North East Link Authority has been charged with planning the project and will be sharing information in the coming months about what it sees as the opportunities and challenges ahead and the outcomes of their investigation work to date.

Energy, environment and climate change

11 315. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Minister's instruction to Parks Victoria, to lead the development of a Management Plan for the Belfast Coastal Reserve and the implications that this Management Plan would have on activities which significantly impact the threatened Hooded Plover —

- (1) has the Minister acted to refer the development of the Management Plan to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment, under the conditions of the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999; if not, why not.
- (2) has the Minister sought any advice from the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy as to whether there is any risk of a significant impact occurring from horse training on the Belfast Coastal Reserve to the threatened Hooded Plover; and

- (3) who is the responsible body for the threatened Hooded Plover at the Belfast Coastal Reserve to make application to the Commonwealth Department of Environment, to ensure that the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is not being contravened.

ANSWER:

The development of a management plan for the Belfast Coastal Reserve does not require referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment and Energy under provisions of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

Public consultation is currently underway, with a draft plan to be released in October for further public consultation.

My department has advised that under provisions of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, referral to the Commonwealth Government is not required at this time.

There is no requirement to make an application to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 318. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Department of Health and Social Services facilities located at 33 Alfred Street, North Melbourne —

- (1) why has the Eritrean Islamic Society Association been asked to vacate the premises at 33 Alfred Street, North Melbourne; and
- (2) will they be given an alternative space to allow them to carry out their support of the Eritrean community in North Melbourne.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

ERIS continues to serve residents in the community space at North Melbourne.

Families and children

11 330. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the allocation of \$7.18 million to 'brokerage funding to permanent carers' in the last two years, could the Minister provide a detailed explanation of brokerage funding and a breakdown of the \$7.18 allocated funds.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 2016-17 State Budget provided \$16.2 million over two years for increased support for children and carers. Of this funding, \$7.18 million over two years has been allocated to provide flexible support packages for new and existing permanent carers and to establish a helpline for permanent carers.

This funding consists of \$2 million for brokerage to support new permanent care placements, \$4.58 million for brokerage to support existing permanent care placements and \$562 500 for the establishment of a state-wide helpline for permanent carers, operated by Permanent Care and Adoptive Families.

This is the first time that permanent carers have been eligible to receive this type of financial support.

Families and children

11 331. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to funding for foster carers in the 2017-18 Budget, could the Minister advise how much of the allocated \$59.6 million for home-based care placements is directly for foster carers.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The \$59.6 million in funding allocated for out-of-home care in the 2017-18 Budget is allocated to additional home-based care placements to meet the growth in need for out-of-home care, and for Targeted Care Packages.

Budget funding for placements is based on forecasts. This funding includes caregiver reimbursements and client expenses. The actual number of placements and distribution of funding between placement types will not be known until the end of each financial year.

Families and children

11 332. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the 1, 982 new home-based care placements in the 2017-18 Budget as advised during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings, could the Minister please advise how many placements will be in —

- (a) Foster care;
- (b) Kinship care; and
- (c) Permanent care.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Budget funding for placements is based on forecasts. This funding includes caregiver reimbursements and client expenses. The actual number of placements and distribution of funding between placement types will not be known until the end of each financial year.

Families and children

11 333. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the compulsory survey sent by the Department of Health and Human Services to community service providers on the new Client Incident Management System information technology implementation readiness, how many service providers responded by the due date of 16 June 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The department has developed a new client incident management system that will focus on the most serious incidents and strengthen processes, systems and workforce capability to prevent, and effectively manage client incidents.

The new client incident management system will be implemented in over 1700 health and human services organisations funded by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Implementation of the new client incident management system includes a new information technology system which will support electronic submission of client incident information to the department.

The department continues to work with service providers, third party information technology vendors and peak bodies to assist with implementation readiness.

For service providers who do not have a client incident information system, the department-built client incident register has been made available for use.

Families and children

11 334. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the compulsory survey sent by the Department of Health and Human Services to community service providers on the new Client Incident Management System information technology implementation readiness, how many service providers responded that they would use their own incident management system rather than the new DHHS built system.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11333.

Families and children

11 335. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the compulsory survey sent by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to community service providers on the new Client Incident Management System (CIMS) information technology implementation readiness —

- (a) how many service providers responded that they would use their own incident management system rather than the new DHHS built system; and
- (b) how many service providers have not made any progress in making changes to information technology systems to accommodate the CIMS policy.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11333.

Families and children

11 336. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the compulsory survey sent by the Department of Health and Human Services to community service providers on the new Client Incident Management System information technology implementation readiness, how many service providers responded that they currently store records of client incidents by paper files.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11333.

Families and children

11 337. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the compulsory survey sent by the Department of Health and Human Services to community service providers on the new Client Incident Management information technology implementation readiness, how many service providers responded that they currently store records of client incidents by Excel spreadsheets or Access databases.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11333.

Families and children

11 338. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the compulsory survey sent by the Department of Health and Human Services to community service providers on the new Client Incident Management System information technology implementation readiness, how many service providers responded that they currently store records of client incidents electronically via incident management systems.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11333.

Families and children

11 339. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the compulsory survey sent by the Department of Health and Human Services to community service providers on the new Client Incident Management System information technology implementation readiness, how many different incident management reporting systems were reported.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11333.

Special Minister of State

11 340. MS CROZIER — To ask the Special Minister for State: In your capacity as lead Minister of the Family Violence Royal Commission Recommendation 227, could the Minister provide details of any discussions with the Commonwealth Government in regards to entering into a partnership agreement in areas of overlapping responsibility.

ANSWER:

- Victoria continues to work with the Commonwealth Government through the COAG process to ensure they are contributing their fair share to preventing and responding to family violence.
- In December 2016, COAG noted that Victoria would bring a paper in 2017 proposing improved cross-jurisdictional funding arrangements in family violence and related services in areas of overlapping responsibility.
- Victoria is working with state, territory and Commonwealth First Ministers' Departments to clarify areas of overlapping responsibility and develop options to improve intergovernmental arrangements for family violence, including to ensure long-term, sustainable funding.

Special Minister of State

11 341. MS CROZIER — To ask the Special Minister for State: In your capacity as lead Minister of the Family Violence Royal Commission Recommendation 227, in relation to any discussions with the Commonwealth Government on entering into a partnership agreement in areas of overlapping responsibility, which (if any) areas have been discussed and which areas will be pursued.

ANSWER:

- Victoria continues to advocate for action on family violence in areas of Commonwealth responsibility.
- Victoria is working with other jurisdictions to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of the Commonwealth, states and territories across key areas of intersection related to family violence, including primary prevention, social services and justice systems.
- This work will inform a proposal to improve cross-jurisdictional funding arrangements in family violence and related services, with a view to it being considered at the next meeting of COAG.

Special Minister of State

11 342. MS CROZIER — To ask the Special Minister for State: In relation to family violence leave for the Victorian Public Sector, as at 30 May 2017, how many public sector workers applied for family violence leave.

ANSWER:

- (1) Family violence leave has been introduced in 72 enterprise agreements across the public sector since mid-2016, covering approximately 216 000 employees. As at 30 May 2017, 58 claims for family violence leave had been received.

Special Minister of State

11 343. MS CROZIER — To ask the Special Minister for State: In relation to family violence leave for the Victorian Public Sector, as at 30 May 2017, how many days of family violence leave were claimed on average.

ANSWER:

- (1) Family violence leave has been introduced in 72 enterprise agreements across the public sector since mid-2016, covering approximately 216 000 employees. As at 30 May 2017, the number of days of family violence leave claimed on average was 5.1 days of leave per claim.

Special Minister of State

11 344. MS CROZIER — To ask the Special Minister for State: In relation to family violence leave for the Victorian Public Sector, if there were any claims for family violence leave retrospective for leave taken before mid-2016.

ANSWER:

- (1) Data on retrospective claims for family violence leave taken before mid-2016 is not currently available. However, given the relatively small percentage of Victorian Public Sector employees who have applied for family violence leave since 2016, it is not expected that the number of retrospective leave claims (if any) will be large.

Special Minister of State

11 345. MS CROZIER — To ask the Special Minister for State: In relation to family violence leave for the Victorian Public Sector, how many days of family violence leave in total were taken.

ANSWER:

- (1) Family violence leave has been introduced in 72 enterprise agreements across the public sector since mid-2016, covering approximately 216 000 employees. 58 claims for family violence leave have been made, averaging 5.1 days leave per claim, totalling 295.5 days.

Public transport

11 354. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Ballarat Station precinct redevelopment, which does not include provisions in this stage of the development for coaches or a taxi/ride-share pick-up and drop off zone, could the Minister advise why these public transport facilities have not been included in the redevelopment of the public transport hub.

ANSWER:

The \$51 million Ballarat Station Precinct redevelopment project will transform the historic heart of the city into a vibrant, accessible and connected commercial community hub.

The Labor Government’s investment will also provide a jobs boost for the region with around 140 local jobs to be created.

As part of this project a new \$5 million bus interchange will be delivered. Construction is due to be completed in 2018, subject to planning and heritage approvals.

The interchange will bring local buses even closer to the station, improving access to the train station and Ballarat more broadly. Work is underway to finalise the design of the bus interchange and facilities for buses, coaches and taxis.

Public transport

11 355. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to community consultations on the Ballarat Station precinct redevelopment, it was stressed that it should be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provide for walkability between transportation modes, the Ballarat Station precinct redevelopment plans do not provide for either, can the Minister advise if the Ballarat Station precinct redevelopment is in compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

ANSWER:

All works associated with the Ballarat Station Precinct Redevelopment will meet the necessary regulatory obligations including the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

Families and children

11 357. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the increase in the number of children in out-of-home care projected in the 2017-18 Budget Papers: Up to and including the 2016-17 Budget forecasts the Department was forecasting decreases in the average number of children in out-of-home care, however, the Department is now forecasting a significant increase in this measure —

- (1) is the Department now seeing, in the data, the effects of the ‘permanency reforms’ which came into effect in March 2016; and
- (2) are the effects of these reforms on the data one of the reasons why the Department is now forecasting increases in this particular measure.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 2017-18 target and the 2016-17 expected outcome is higher than the 2016-17 target due to increased length of stay in out-of-home care and increased demand consistent with historic trends, with a heightened observance of child abuse in the community arising from inquiries such as the Royal Commission into Family Violence and the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. It is not attributable to the permanency amendments.

Families and children

11 358. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the number of Child FIRST assessments and interventions: In line with previous Budgets, next year’s forecast number (13 103) is 25 per cent lower than this year’s expected outcome, the Department continually under-forecasts the actual number of Child FIRST assessments and interventions, however the Department acknowledges that historic trends show increases due to ‘heightened observance of child abuse in the community, arising from inquiries such as the Royal Commission into Family Violence and the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse’ —

- (1) why is next year’s forecasted number of Child FIRST assessments and interventions 25 per cent lower than this year’s expected outcome;
- (2) due to the acknowledgement by the Department about the increases, why would these not also be reasons why the Department might foresee an increase in the number of Child FIRST assessments and interventions next year over and above the actual number this year; and
- (3) are these Child FIRST assessments and interventions being completed with less attention to detail by staff who are too busy and stressed because they are trying to cope with numbers that are way out of proportion to what they’re funded to deal with.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The target reflects funded episodes of support. Expected outcome is an indication of the system’s capacity to adapt to and manage demand.

In 2017-18 the government has funded Child FIRST and Family Services an additional \$29.2 million. This includes a boost of \$2.1 million for Child FIRST and an increase of 1422 in the number of Child FIRST assessments.

This builds on previous investment by our government. In the 2015-16 budget, our government provided \$48.1m towards Child FIRST and the 2016-17 budget provided a further \$5.7m.

Child FIRST is continuing to provide an appropriate level of assessment and intervention. The new funding responds to additional demand.

Families and children

11 360. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to reports to Child Protection Services about the wellbeing and safety of children —

- (1) is the Department able to provide reasons as to why the expected number of Child Protection reports for 2016-17 is actually lower than the forecast number of 121 600; and
- (2) can the Department provide an explanation as to why the number of Child First interventions and assessments has skyrocketed by 33 per cent this year, over the forecast number, while there are fewer than expected reports flowing through to Child Protection.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The forecast number of reports to child protection for 2016-17 is lower than expected due to a higher proportion of family violence reports (L17s), where children have been exposed to family violence, being referred by Victoria Police to Child FIRST, family services or family violence services. This reflects positive reporting behaviour on behalf of Victoria Police. Child FIRST is designed to support families who need assistance and not a statutory response.

Reports to Child FIRST have increased due, in part, to Victoria Police referring a higher proportion of L17s to Child FIRST. The target reflects funded episodes of support. Expected outcome is an indication of the system's capacity to adapt to and manage demand.

The additional investment made by our government in Child FIRST in each of our budgets reflects the greater focus on prevention and early intervention under the Roadmap for Reform.

Planning

11 383. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to the Crown land granted to the West Melbourne Baptist Church at 621 King Street, West Melbourne on 1 October 1866 —

- (1) can the Minister clarify that to modify the requirements under the Model Trust Deed the requirements needed to be gazetted; and
- (2) what evidence exists to show how the trust deed was invalidated under Model Trust Deed 5510.

ANSWER:

- (1) I do not have any role in or oversight of the "Model Trust Deed" in relation to 621 King St, West Melbourne. The process for amending the "Model Trust Deed", if there is process at all, isn't in any legislation and as such isn't required to be gazetted.
- (2) I understand this question is perhaps asking "what is the basis upon which the use of this site is no longer restricted". I am advised that the process of "allowance" under the State Aid to Religion Abolition Act 1871 removed all restrictions of a public nature in relation to the title to the land at 621 King St. If any "trusts" remain in relation to the title, they would be private trusts.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 385. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to the tenant engagement of anyone affected by the redevelopments of public housing in Ascot Vale —

- (1) how will the Department facilitate effective channels for residents to raise concerns;
- (2) can residents make formal submissions regarding the renewal process;
- (3) how will residents' submissions regarding the renewal process be considered;
- (4) what will the Minister do to actively engage with the African community;
- (5) will interpreters be available at all consultation engagements;
- (6) will there be funding for independent capacity building of communities so that residents can engage effectively and independently with the master planning process;
- (7) will all residents be entitled to return to the Ascot Vale estate specifically or just to the general area; and
- (8) what is being done to minimise the number of residents who will need to be moved off the estate for construction.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The department is conducting a consultation process in relation to the redevelopment. This is not being held by the deliberate campaign of misinformation and fear mongering, cynically led by the deal Member for Melbourne, scaring people into believing they won't have the right to return to the estate.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 387. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to the re-settling back of residents affected by the redevelopments of public housing in Ascot Vale —

- (1) will people who need a carer be able to move into a 2-bedroom apartment;
- (2) will there be ground floor flats for residents that need them;
- (3) will there be baths for residents that need them;
- (4) how will you minimise disruption for the elderly residents; and
- (5) what will you do to actively maintain the community the elderly residents rely on.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The briefings offered to the Greens Party addressed these issues and I would refer you to your parliamentary colleague the Member for Melbourne.

Local Greens MP's have failed to attend any relocation information sessions on estates, where all relevant questions are comprehensively answered by experienced staff—instead preferring to hold utterly alarmist “emergency meetings” months after consultation has commenced speaks volumes of the Greens Party disingenuousness.

Residents will continue to be given all the support and advice they need through the relocation process. Residents will have first opportunity to return to new homes once works are complete, with their tenure unaffected.

The government will continue to work with tenants on this issue as reflected in our recent pledge with the Victoria Public Tenants Association.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 388. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to the rationale about redevelopments to the public housing estate in Ascot Vale —

- (1) are there any credible studies showing a public/private mix has worked in practice elsewhere;
- (2) will the public/private mix be determined by these studies;
- (3) how many public housing apartments are being replaced and what was the rationale that led to these apartments to be chosen; and
- (4) what is the rationale that illustrates that a change in built form alone will fix problems on the estate.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. In regards to the questions raised I am disappointed that the Greens Party continue to oppose the renewal and growth of public housing. I am further disappointed that the Greens Party opposes opportunities to break down the stigma and discrimination faced by public and social housing tenants.
2. There has been research on the effects of concentrating disadvantage in relation to health, education, crime and employment opportunities. For instance, publications by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute

3. The Department of Health and Human Services is currently investigating the most appropriate public/private mix and most suitable model of integration for each estate.
4. Eight hundred and thirty six run-down dwellings, constructed in the 1950s, will be replaced at Ascot Vale. They are difficult to access for older residents, families with young children and people with disability or mobility issues because they do not have lifts. They are also difficult and inefficient to heat and cool. Modern dwellings with lifts and seven star energy ratings will be built in their place.
5. The designs for each estate will improve safety and security through lighting, building and dwelling security measures, orientation of buildings, passive surveillance and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles. The renewal will deliver active, usable open space and facilities for each building.

Training and skills

- 11 392. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: How many teachers and support staff were employed to run courses at Greensborough TAFE in semester one of 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's Greensborough campus is becoming a vibrant, multi-purpose community and education precinct.

The co-location of partners such as the Melbourne Innovation Centre and the Banyule-Nillumbik Tech School on the site will create significant opportunities and benefits for the community and Melbourne Polytechnic, attracting potential students to the site and offering a variety of opportunities for cross-pollination and industry experience for students already enrolled at Greensborough.

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

Workforce staffing details can be accessed via each Institute's annual report.

Training and skills

- 11 393. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: With the anticipated opening of the Banyule-Nillumbik Tech School in mid-2018, the appointment of the Director, and with construction about to commence, can the Minister please outline the planned budget for 2017-18 and the projected costs for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

The budgets and projected costs for Tech Schools in Victoria are a matter for the Minister for Education.

Education

11 394. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): When is construction due to begin on the \$8.3 million upgrade of Montmorency South Primary School and when is this work due to be completed.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Information about all the Andrews Government's school capital investments, including at Montmorency South Primary School, can be found at the Victorian School Building Authority's website: www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au.

Agriculture

11 398. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to the high risk bird species in Victoria —

- (1) what is the Government doing about high risk invasive bird species in Victoria; and
- (2) will the Government implement controls to prevent new high risk bird species from establishing in Victoria, like the Indian Ringneck, which has a significantly high chance of successfully establishing in the wild.

ANSWER:

In 2014, the Governor-in-Council declared 19 species of non-indigenous birds as pest animals under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. Agriculture Victoria's non-indigenous bird management policy sets out a risk based approach to the management of these birds. The policy and declarations also enable Agriculture Victoria to manage the impact of certain bird species, should they escape captivity and become established in the wild in Victoria.

Declared birds include:

- One species as a prohibited pest animal (the House Crow). This species is not known to be present in Australia.
- Two species as controlled pest animals (the Greater Flamingo and the Greater Rhea). These species can be kept in Victoria, but only in high security collections such as zoological parks.
- The feral and wild populations of 16 non-indigenous birds species as regulated pest animals: Egyptian Goose, Canada Goose, African Collared-dove, Northern Bobwhite, Red Avadavat, Common Waxbill, Tricoloured Munia, Java Sparrow, Red-cheeked Cordonbleu, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Peach-faced Lovebird, Monk Parakeet, Nanday Parakeet, Alexandrine Parakeet, Rose-ringed Parakeet (Indian ringneck), Ostrich. Note: the captive populations of these species are not declared, meaning these 16 species can continue to be kept and traded in Victoria.

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, 9 August 2017

Special Minister of State

11 029. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister for State: In relation to a claim from the Minister's Office in November 2015 for professional fees from PricewaterhouseCoopers totalling \$2250.00 —

- (a) what services were provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers; and
- (b) what was the nature of the training provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

ANSWER:

PricewaterhouseCoopers facilitated training and support.

Police

11 031. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Minister for Police): In light of recent media reports that thousands of Australians have downloaded instructions to make a 3D printed gun, what action will the Government take to prevent use or possession of a digital blueprint for the manufacture of a 3D printed gun.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has introduced new laws to get illegal guns off our streets. This has included:

- lowering the threshold for trafficking from ten to three guns
- tightening the meaning of possession of a firearm to make the work of police easier
- introducing a new offence of illegally manufacturing a firearm
- increasing the maximum sentence for theft of firearms from ten to 15 years.

The Government's work has not stopped. We are also introducing new laws to crack down on drive-by shootings and working with police to further strengthen these measures.

We will continue to work with Victoria Police and other jurisdictions on emerging firearm manufacturing technology and equipment. Following a review of firearms manufacturing offences, the Law, Crime and Community Safety Council recently announced the development of potential model legislation. Rather than addressing specific applications as they become apparent, proposals will more broadly focus on new and emerging technologies that could be used in the manufacture of firearms.

This national work is ongoing and the government will be keen to consider any recommendations that are made for future legislative change in this area.

Police

11 067. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on the following dates —

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

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 31 March 2017 at 7am there were 11 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

11 068. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on the following dates —

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

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 31 March 2017 at 7am there were 270 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

11 069. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on the following dates —

- (1) 3 April 2017;
- (2) 10 April 2017;
- (3) 17 April 2017; and
- (4) 24 April 2017.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 30 April 2017 at 7am there were 10 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

11 070. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 am on the following dates —

- (1) 3 April 2017;
- (2) 10 April 2017;
- (3) 17 April 2017; and
- (4) 24 April 2017.

ANSWER:

I am advised that on 30 April 2017 at 7am there were 163 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.

Attorney-General

11 120. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, how many staff employed by DHHS have moved over to the Department of Justice and Regulation.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 121. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, how many staff who worked in Youth Justice under DHHS will not be offered a role under the Department of Justice and Regulation.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 122. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, how many new staff had been employed by the Department of Justice and Regulation to work in the Youth Justice area.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 123. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, how many full time or permanent part time staff are budgeted for to work in Youth Justice under the Department of Justice and Regulation.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 124. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, how many full time or permanent part time staff work in Youth Justice at Corrections Victoria.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 125. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, how many staffing positions in Youth Justice in Corrections Victoria are yet to be filled.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 126. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, what was the total cost to the Department of Justice and Regulation to take on and operate the Youth Justice area.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 127. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, what was the total cost for changes to Departmental stationery and publications, including letterhead, signage and websites due to taking on Youth Justice.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 128. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, what was the total cost for changes for new Youth Justice uniforms under Corrections Victoria.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 129. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, how many additional Corrections Victoria staff have been employed to manage Youth Justice facilities.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 130. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, were there any staff working in Youth Justice facilities in security or Safety and Emergency Response Team under DHHS.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 131. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, were there any staff working in Youth Justice facilities as youth justice workers under DHHS.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 132. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, were there any reviews planned or underway of Youth Justice diversion programs under DHHS.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 133. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017, were there any reviews planned or underway of Youth Justice case management and rehabilitation services under DHHS.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

- 11 134. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, what will be the main differences in management of Youth Justice under the Department of Justice and Regulation instead of DHHS.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Public transport

- 11 165. MR MORRIS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What will be the maximum speed on the Murray Basin Rail for freight trains between Maryborough and Ballarat.

ANSWER:

The Murray Basin Rail Project will deliver important upgrades to improve Victoria's rail freight network and provide the Murray Basin area with better rail freight services and greater choices for less cost.

The project will drive economic growth, create jobs and provide a major boost to the transport industry, agricultural sector and regional communities.

Once the Murray Basin Rail Project is completed, trains on the freight network will be able to carry more product, more often and at a reduced cost.

There will be huge benefits to the Victorian and national economy, with the project supporting an increase in competition between the three ports and operators of freight trains and increasing export volumes to overseas markets.

V/Line will undertake an assessment of the rail speed between Maryborough and Ballarat prior to the completion on the Murray Basin Rail Project.

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11 170. MR MORRIS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What will be the average trip time on the Murray Basin Rail for passenger trains between Maryborough and Ballarat.

ANSWER:

The Murray Basin Rail Project will deliver important upgrades to improve Victoria's rail freight network and provide the Murray Basin area with better rail freight services and greater choices for less cost.

The project will drive economic growth, create jobs and provide a major boost to the transport industry, agricultural sector and regional communities.

Once the Murray Basin Rail Project is completed, trains on the freight network will be able to carry more product, more often and at a reduced cost.

There will be huge benefits to the Victorian and national economy, with the project supporting an increase in competition between the three ports and operators of freight trains and increasing export volumes to overseas markets.

V/Line will undertake an assessment of the rail speed between Maryborough and Ballarat prior to the completion on the Murray Basin Rail Project.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 239. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Aging): In relation to the redevelopment of the public housing estate in Abbotsford Street, North Melbourne:

- (1) what provisions are being made to transfer the tenants in this estate to temporary homes while the estate is redeveloped;
- (2) given some of these tenants are highly vulnerable, what is the Minister doing to ensure no one's health, safety, and wellbeing is adversely affected;
- (3) will the current tenants be able to return to their homes once redevelopment is complete; and
- (4) why is the Minister not providing even more public housing at this estate once the redevelopment is complete.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Greens MP's have failed to attend any relocation information sessions on any estate, where all relevant questions are comprehensively answered by experienced staff-instead preferring to hold utterly alarmist "emergency meetings" months after consultation has commenced.

Residents will be given as much warning and support as possible through the relocation process. Residents will have first right to return to new homes once works are complete, with their tenure unaffected.

Families and children

11 244. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Respectful Relationships program training The Early Childhood Reform Plan, page 17 states ‘The Victorian Government is providing Respectful Relationships Professional Learning to 4000 early childhood educators in funded kindergarten programs’ —

- (1) what is the Budget allocation for providing two days of Respectful Relationships training to 4000 early childhood educators across Victoria;
- (2) how many kindergartens are included in training for 4000 early childhood educators;
- (3) will it be mandatory for all Victorian kindergartens with funded programs to participate in the Respectful Relationship training;
- (4) did the contract for the provision of Respectful Relationships Professional Learning commence on 17 May 2017;
- (5) will the training commence in each of the 17 Local Department of Education and Training (DET) areas on 30 June 2017; and
- (6) when will the training commence in each of the Local Council areas.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$3.4 million over two years for the Respectful Relationships professional learning package for early years educators. Funding for this program was part of the \$572 million initial response to the Family Violence Royal Commission into Family Violence in the 2016/17 Budget.

In this year’s budget the Government announced a further \$1.9 billion family violence package as a whole of government initiative to deliver on our 10 year strategy to fulfil every recommendation from the Royal Commission.

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

The Family Violence Royal Commission’s report acknowledged the important transformational role of primary prevention through education and recommended a respectful relationships prevention initiative.

We know that the early years are a critical time to help children develop a secure sense of self and healthy respectful relationships with others, and to learn to value diversity. This investment will strengthen early educators’ capacity to model and instil respectful relationships in everything they do with children and their families. It includes non-mandatory professional learning to strengthen the practice of up to 4000 early childhood educators in 2200 kindergarten programs. This is supported by evidence-based and age-appropriate online materials, developed in consultation with early childhood experts, practitioners and parents.

The process to award the contract for professional learning is currently underway with a staged rollout to commence in the near future. Determination of scheduling in local areas will be determined once the professional learning contract is awarded.

Families and children

11 245. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the dedicated Respectful Relationships program workforce —

- (1) what is the total staffing and resourcing cost of the 17 Liaison Officers to ‘build partnerships with family violence agencies in early childhood settings’;
- (2) who will the Liaison Officers report to;
- (3) how many staff will report to the Liaison Officers;

- (4) what is the total staffing and resourcing cost of the 17 Project Leads to ‘promote whole setting approaches to respectful Relationships education’ in early childhood and kindergarten settings;
- (5) who will the Project Leads report to; and
- (6) how many staff will report to the Project Leads.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Respectful Relationships Project Leads and Liaison Officers are regionally-based Department of Education and Training staff who support implementation of Respectful Relationships in both schools and early childhood settings.

The majority of their role is to support the implementation of the whole school approach to Respectful Relationships in Victorian Government schools, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Part of their role will be to support the Government’s commitment to deliver Respectful Relationships training to up to 4000 early childhood educators.

These roles are funded out of the \$21.8 million over two years allocated to Respectful Relationships in the 2016-17 Budget.

The roles are embedded in the Department’s 17 Local Areas, and report to the Health, Wellbeing and Specialist Services Managers in each Area. No staff report to Project Leads or Liaison Officers.

Families and children

11 246. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What is the total 2017-18 Budget allocation for the Respectful Relationships programs for early childhood settings and kindergartens.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$3.4 million over two years for the Respectful Relationships professional learning package for early years educators. Funding for this program was part of the \$572 million initial response to the Family Violence Royal Commission into Family Violence in the 2016-17 Budget. For the 2017-18 financial year, \$1.7 million is allocated.

In this year’s budget the Government announced a further \$1.9 billion family violence package as a whole of government initiative to deliver on our 10 year strategy to fulfil every recommendation from the Royal Commission.

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

Families and children

11 247. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the \$55.3 million School Readiness funding —

- (1) how much of the \$55.3 million to be introduced in 2019 is for actual funding for kindergartens;
- (2) how will kindergartens be assessed for funding;
- (3) how much of the \$55.3 million is for staffing associated with the School Readiness program;
- (4) how many new staff will be employed for the School Readiness program in the Department of Education and Training across Victoria; and
- (5) when will new staffing recruitment begin.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Budget 2017/18 delivers \$55.3 million over the next four years to introduce school readiness funding in our kindergartens, giving support to the children who need it most with Australia's first needs based funding model which will allow for speech therapists, child psychologists and other experts to assist children to develop their language, literacy and numeracy skills. This will also enable kindergarten providers to improve their quality and provide better support to children who need the most help to learn and thrive.

Any service with a funded kindergarten program, including long day care, is eligible to receive the funding. The amount of additional funding that kindergarten providers will receive will be based on the needs of the children attending. We will use an approach that considers the education and occupation of parents to determine the amount. This is the same measure currently used to allocate needs-based funding in government schools.

The investment of \$55.3 million comprises \$54.3 million over four years in direct support to kindergartens with \$1 million over four years (an average of \$260 000 each year) to inform and prepare services for the rollout of the reform. None of the \$55.3 million is for staffing associated with the school readiness program. Additional staffing in the Department of Education and Training (DET) to support kindergarten services is separately funded in the reforms. 50 new DET staff with early childhood expertise will be progressively rolled out across the state, timed to commence in the six months prior to the start of school readiness funding in each area.

Families and children

11 250. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to funding for Child Protection, why is there no Budget allocation past 2018 for —

- (1) the child protection system;
- (2) Out-of-Home care; and
- (3) 'Strengthening Responses for Families'.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Since 2015-16, the Andrews Labor Government has committed more than \$600 million in new funding to improve support to families, children and young people, including those involved with the child protection system, out-of-home care and 'Strengthening Responses for Families'.

The Andrews Government will continue our process of co-design with service providers, practitioners and importantly children and young people to develop flexible, evidence informed services.

Future investment will be considered in the context of future budgets.

Families and children

11 257. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the 2017-18 Budget line item 'Intervening Early—Strengthening Responses to Families allocating \$29.2 million —

- (1) provide a detailed breakdown of the funding allocation;
- (2) of the 1200 families to be funded, provide a breakdown of the funding packages available to those families;
- (3) how will those families receiving a package be assessed; and
- (4) how will the funding packages be evaluated.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: The funding breakdown is:

Continuation of lapsing 2016-17 funding	\$5.9 m
Demand growth in Child FIRST	\$2.1m
Increased investment in intensive family services	\$16.1m
Trial and evaluate evidence-based programs across the continuum from early intervention to placement prevention and reunification.	\$5.1m
Total	\$29.2m

Funding will be provided for at least 2000 additional Child FIRST assessments and intensive interventions (up to 10 hours of support) and intensive support (more than 100 hours of support) will be provided for 1000 families per year.

Families' needs will be assessed through Child FIRST, and subsequently Support and Safety Hubs as they are implemented.

Service delivery will be monitored as part of ongoing departmental service agreement management processes. A new approach to measuring outcomes in family services will be tested in 2018.

Families and children

11 259. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to funding of child protection initiatives in the 2017-18 Budget, why is there no funding allocation past 2018.

ANSWER:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice No: 11250.

Families and children

11 267. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to Foster Carer spot audits commencing in April 2017, as at 31 May 2017 —

- (1) how many organisations that work with foster carers had been sent notification of an upcoming audit;
- (2) how many of those community organisations on receipt of notification had sent back their register of active carers;
- (3) how many spot audits had been conducted;
- (4) how many organisations had been identified as having areas of non-compliance; and
- (5) how long does DHHS provide an organisation with non-compliance areas to resolve any issues in compliance.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Government is committed to ensuring vulnerable children and young people in home-based care are cared for in a safe and secure home-based care environment. This is why our government has introduced spot audits of residential care and foster care for the first time.

All 24 departmentally funded organisations providing foster care were informed that audits will be conducted.

At 31 May 2017, five organisations had been audited, all of which had provided their register of active carers prior to audit.

At 31 May 2017, 5 spot audits of foster care arrangements have been conducted.

All audits conducted have identified areas of non-compliance against the program requirements for home-based care in Victoria.

Organisations are given 14 days to provide a response to the department on actions taken to address any issues of non-compliance.

Police

11 294. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00am on the 29 May 2017.

ANSWER:

On 31 May 2017 at 7.00 am there were 10 female prisoners held 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

11 295. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00am on the 29 May 2017.

ANSWER:

On 31 May 2017 at 7.00 am there were 181 male prisoners held 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.

Agriculture

11 302. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to the Minister's written response to Mr O'Sullivan's Question Without Notice (question dated 25 May 2017) regarding the Heyfield Timber Mill —

- (1) what department or authority completed the 'appropriate analysis, modelling and business valuation';
- (2) when was the 'appropriate analysis, modelling and business valuation' begun and completed;
- (3) who commissioned the 'appropriate analysis, modelling and business valuation';
- (4) what professional services firm independently supported the work;
- (5) when was the independent analysis commissioned and when was it completed;
- (6) how much was the professional services firm paid;
- (7) was the work awarded through a public tender process; and
- (8) what timber supply scenarios (cubic metres per year) were considered in the analysis.

ANSWER:

Regional Development Victoria, together with the Department of Treasury and Finance, completed analysis, modelling and business valuation with support from PPB Advisory. Costs will be outlined in the Annual Report later this year. The work was awarded after a number of Requests For Quotation were sought from the panel of the State Purchase Contracts listing for professional advisory services for commercial and financial advisory services.

Industry and employment

11 310. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): In relation to the 115 000 jobs created in Victoria in the twelve months up to April 2017, how many of them were in the North-East.

ANSWER:

Data on job growth is updated on a monthly basis and can be quite volatile at the regional level. The Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Labour Force Survey is published each month and data at the LGA and sub-LGA level is published on a quarterly basis via the Small Area Labour Force data. Both sets of data are available from the Australian Government's Labour Market Information Portal at www.lmip.gov.au.

Industry and employment

11 311. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): What is the current level of unemployment among young people under 25 years of age in the North-East.

ANSWER:

Data on employment and unemployment is published every month and can be quite volatile, especially at the regional level. The monthly Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Labour Force data and Small Area Labour Force data are available from the Australian Government's Labour Market Information Portal at www.lmip.gov.au.

Families and children

11 319. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the \$10 million allocated in the 2017-18 Budget to build Early Childhood Development facilities co-located at new primary schools, and advice following the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings that the funding is for three facilities, what are the three locations of the new primary schools where these early childhood facilities will be co-located.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to providing quality early childhood services.

That's why, as part of the 2017-18 budget, we released the early childhood reform plan and invested \$202 million in early childhood to give every child the best start in life. This includes \$10 million to plan and build Early Childhood facilities co-located at new primary schools.

More detailed planning and site analysis is underway to determine the best location for early childhood development facilities co-located on government schools. The Department is working with stakeholders including local governments, prior to announcing these sites.

The Department will also work with stakeholders to determine the range of services required in each local area and the proposed service.

Families and children

11 320. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the \$10 million allocated in the 2017-18 Budget to build Early Childhood Development facilities co-located at new primary schools, and advice following the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings that the funding is for three facilities, what are the range of services budgeted for in these co-located kindergartens.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11319.

Families and children

11 321. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Gender Equality Budget Statement in the 2017-18 Budget Papers detailing \$98.4 million ‘for kindergarten initiatives that will help improve educational outcomes for girls’, and the Minister’s inability during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings to explain what this initiative for girls is for, could the Minister provide a detailed explanation of this budget initiative and a breakdown of the funding allocation.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government’s Victorian Budget 2017-18 includes a record investment of \$98.4 million for kindergarten initiatives forms part of the Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan.

As I highlighted during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearing, these initiatives benefit all Victorian children-to help them be ready for school and ready for life-and improve educational outcomes for both girls and boys.

Over the next four years, our investment across the Victorian kindergarten system consists of:

- \$55.3 million in school readiness funding, so that kindergarten services can provide additional support to children who need it
- \$22.8 million investment to increase the amount of support provided to kindergartens to improve their quality
- \$6.3 million to meet growing demand for Early Start Kindergarten
- \$2.3 million to create additional kindergarten places so children who need them most don’t miss out \$5 million so that more children with a disability can attend and fully participate in kinder each year
- \$5.5 million to local governments to expand central enrolment and make it easier for families to find a spot at a local kindergarten
- \$1.1 million to reform the way we fund kindergarten in non-government schools, to encourage more to offer a kindergarten program, particularly in low socioeconomic communities.

In addition to the \$98.4 million, we are also investing \$10 million in new early childhood facilities that will be co-located with Government primary schools.

The Victorian Budget 2017/18 marks the next step in Victoria becoming the Education State. We have the opportunity to leave a legacy that will transform the lives of Victorian children for generations and our reforms will help every child thrive-and give them the best start in life.

Families and children

11 322. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Gender Equality Budget Statement in the 2017-18 Budget Papers detailing \$98.4 million ‘for kindergarten initiatives that will help improve educational outcomes for girls’, and the Minister’s inability during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings to explain what this initiative for girls is for, could the Minister provide an explanation on how this initiative will improve educational outcomes for girls, and are there similar initiatives for boys.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my answer to Question on Notice 11321.

Families and children

11 323. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Gender Equality Budget Statement in the 2017-18 Budget Papers detailing \$98.4 million ‘for kindergarten initiatives that will help improve educational outcomes for girls’, and the Minister’s advice that it ‘falls under Minister Richardson’s portfolio’ and the fact that the Minister for Women with responsibility for Gender Equality advised that the Department of Treasury and Finance compiled the Gender Equality Budget Statement, which Minister is actually responsible for this initiative.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The member should understand by now that the Early Childhood Education Reform Plan falls under the Families and Children portfolio and the Gender Equality Strategy falls under the Women’s portfolio.

Families and children

11 324. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Minister’s advice during the 2017-18 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings that kindergarten investment was ‘\$108.4 million in outputs’, when will the Minister correct the record to reflect that kindergarten investments in the 2017-18 Budget are actually \$105.5 million in outputs.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The premise of the member’s question is incorrect.

As part of the 2017-18 State Budget, the Andrews Labor Government has committed \$108.4 million to help improve Victoria’s kindergarten system. This investment provides a range of initiatives to support children who are falling behind, improve access and inclusiveness, provide additional early childhood facilities, and help raise kindergarten quality. Our investment includes:

- \$87.1 million for Education State reform-High quality learning and development for three and four year olds. This investment is to better support the children most in need, build a higher quality system, and make sure kindergarten is inclusive for all
- \$6.3 million for Early Start Kindergarten for vulnerable children
- \$5.0 million for Ensuring children with significant disabilities can participate in kindergarten:
- \$10 million for Early Childhood Development facilities.

It appears that the member has calculated the figure of \$105.5 million by adding the above less the \$10 million for early childhood facilities, but adding \$7.2 million for Early Childhood Intervention Services instead.

Funding to expand Early Childhood Intervention Services is not provided to kindergartens. As such, it should not be grouped as part of our investment in kindergartens. Instead, this important funding is dedicated towards helping more children with disabilities benefit from early therapeutic interventions during the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Conversely, \$10 million for early childhood development facilities should be included as part of the Government's investment in kindergartens. This is because this funding will help construct co-located early childhood development facilities at government schools.

Our investment in Early Childhood Intervention Services is just one of the many non-kindergarten initiatives funded in the 2017-18 Budget. In total, the Andrews Labor Government has invested \$93.7 million in non-kindergarten initiatives including expansions to Early Childhood Investment Services, Maternal Child Health services, parenting services and early childhood Koorie services.

Families and children

11 325. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to Early Childhood Intervention Services and the 1800 children on the waiting list for those services as advised during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings in May, as at 1 June 2017, how many children have not yet had their National Disability Insurance Scheme planning undertaken.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

On 16 September 2015, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments signed a Bilateral Agreement to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme across Victoria over three years.

As part of the Bilateral Agreement, it was agreed children on the Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) waitlist would enter the scheme over the first two years of transition, ahead of their geographical area.

The Department of Education and Training transferred the agreed number of children from the ECIS waitlist to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

My Department is actively supporting efforts to facilitate the transition of families of young children with developmental delay and disabilities into the scheme.

I have written to the Commonwealth Minister for Social Services raising my concerns about the NDIA's delays in meeting their obligations under the Bilateral Agreement and the serious impact of these delays on Victorian children with developmental delays and disabilities.

Families and children

11 326. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to Early Childhood Intervention Services and the 1800 children on the waiting list for those services as advised during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings in May, as at 1 June 2017, how many children have not yet been contacted by the National Disability Insurance Agency following their details being provided in January 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

On 16 September 2015, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments signed a Bilateral Agreement to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme across Victoria over three years.

As part of the Bilateral Agreement, it was agreed children on the Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) waitlist would enter the scheme over the first two years of transition, ahead of their geographical area.

The Department of Education and Training transferred the agreed number of children from the ECIS waitlist to the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA).

My Department is actively supporting efforts to facilitate the transition of families of young children with developmental delay and disabilities into the scheme.

I have written to the Commonwealth Minister for Social Services raising my concerns about the NDIA's delays in meeting their obligations under the Bilateral Agreement and the serious impact of these delays on Victorian children with developmental delays and disabilities.

Families and children

11 327. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to Early Childhood Intervention Services and the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, could the Minister provide a detailed explanation and reason for the delays that occurred in the Barwon area as advised during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee budget hearings in May.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

There were some delays for some children in the transition of Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) clients to the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the Barwon Area during the first year of the trial period which commenced on 1 July 2013.

These delays can be attributed to implementation challenges of the new scheme, such as new National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) planners being appointed, new processes and policy being implemented, and delays in agreeing plans with families.

During this time officials from the Department of Education and Training worked closely with the NDIA to support the transition of children into the scheme, and engaged extensively with families to support their understanding of the new scheme.

No children ceased receiving services as a result of the delay. ECIS clients continued to receive services during this transition period.

Families and children

11 346. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the riots in youth justice, how much in total, including legal costs did the Department of Health and Human Services spend for youth offenders to appear before a court as a result of their rioting behaviour at the Parkville facility on —

- (1) 31 October 2015;
- (2) 6 and 7 March 2016;
- (3) 11 and 13 September 2016;
- (4) 17 October 2016;
- (5) 12, 13 and 14 November 2016;
- (6) 7 January 2017;
- (7) 21 January 2017; and
- (8) 24 January 2017.

ANSWER:

Young people defending criminal justice proceeding are entitled to legal representation, as provided for by section 524 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005.

Where young people were required to appear before a court in relation to the incidents in question, the Department of Health and Human Services did not directly fund their legal representation. Young people who did not have a

lawyer could apply for legal assistance through Victoria Legal Aid. This continues to be the case since the transfer of responsibility of youth justice to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017.

Questions related to the amount of legal assistance provided to young people through Victoria Legal Aid can be referred to the Attorney General.

Families and children

11 347. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the riots in youth justice, how much in total, including legal costs did the Department of Health and Human Services spend for youth offenders to appear before a court as a result of their rioting behaviour at the Malmsbury facility on —

- (1) 17 September 2016;
- (2) 22 October 2016;
- (3) 28 November 2016; and
- (4) 25 January 2017.

ANSWER:

Young people defending criminal justice proceeding are entitled to legal representation, as provided for by section 524 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005.

Where young people were required to appear before a court in relation to the incidents in question, the Department of Health and Human Services did not directly fund their legal representation. Young people who did not have a lawyer could apply for legal assistance through Victoria Legal Aid. This continues to be the case since the transfer of responsibility of youth justice to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017.

Questions related to the amount of legal assistance provided to young people through Victoria Legal Aid can be referred to the Attorney General.

Families and children

11 348. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the riots in youth justice, how much in total, including legal costs did the Department of Health and Human Services spend for youth offenders to appear before a court as a result of their rioting behaviour at the Grevillea Unit at Barwon Prison on 3 January 2017.

ANSWER:

Young people defending criminal justice proceeding are entitled to legal representation, as provided for by section 524 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005.

Where young people were required to appear before a court in relation to the incidents in question, the Department of Health and Human Services did not directly fund their legal representation. Young people who did not have a lawyer could apply for legal assistance through Victoria Legal Aid. This continues to be the case since the transfer of responsibility of youth justice to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017.

Questions related to the amount of legal assistance provided to young people through Victoria Legal Aid can be referred to the Attorney General.

Energy, environment and climate change

11 353. MS DUNN — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the recent planned burn in Providence Ponds Nature Conservation Reserve by Forest Fire Management Victoria, over 100 trees were felled on the basis that they were

hazardous and one of the few remaining colonies of the New Holland mouse may have been wiped out, with only one New Holland mouse being found since the planned burn; could the Minister advise —

- (1) was this planned burn a fuel reduction burn or an ecological burn;
- (2) on what basis were the felled trees considered hazardous;
- (3) were any of the felled trees hollow-bearing;
- (4) was the Commonwealth Government's Department of Environment and Energy consulted prior to the burn, considering the potential threat the burn posed to a federally-listed species;
 - (a) if yes, what form; and
 - (b) will the Minister make publicly available the Fire Management Plan for the recent burn in Providence Ponds Nature Conservation Reserve.

ANSWER:

Providence Ponds-West Boundary Track burn was a fuel reduction burn.

Hazardous trees are a safety risk impacting on the ability of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria to undertake fire management activities and on the use and enjoyment of public land by the community. A hazardous tree is a tree which is assessed to be at risk of total or partial collapse, including branch fall, where this may impact identified high use areas such as roads.

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

Monitoring undertaken following the planned burn indicates the New Holland Mouse is still present in the area where the fuel reduction burn took place.

The Alpine and Greater Gippsland Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and the Gippsland Regional Fire Operations Plan are both available on the DELWP website.

Families and children

11 361. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the increased budget next year for 'policing services and crime prevention' and allocation within that budget line to youth justice-specific activities —

- (1) what proportion of next year's \$3.04 billion budgeted amount for 'policing services and crime prevention' is allocated specifically to youth justice-specific activities;
- (2) what youth-specific 'prevention activities' are included in this line item; and
- (3) do the 'youth network offender' crime prevention grants sit within this line item and if not, do they sit anywhere in this year's or last year's budget.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister for Police.

Families and children

11 362. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to funding for youth justice community based services: The budget for youth justice community-based services revised downward for the current 2016-17 financial year from \$71.6 million to \$52.6 million, while the budget for Youth Justice Custodial Services was revised upward over the same period from \$89.8 million to \$100.7 million: The lower allocations for community-based services reflects the fact that certain 'functions and activities' have been retained by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

despite the administrative transfer of youth justice to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017 —

- (1) what exactly are those ‘functions and activities’; and
- (2) do they continue to appear in DHHS line items.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services retained responsibility for three youth justice community programs, as part of the machinery of government changes that came into effect on 3 April 2017.

The three programs are:

Finding Solutions-supports young people and their families to address issues that may lead to family breakdown and provides early intervention to strengthen and support young people and their families.

Adolescent Support-provides support services for young people living at home or living independently who may be former child protection clients. The aim is to engage the young person through Youth Services involvement.

Refugee Minors-provides case management and support services for unaccompanied humanitarian minors.

Ongoing budget for the three retained services and overheads has been transferred across to the department’s Child Protection and Family Services output.

Families and children

11 363. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the average daily number of young offenders/clients under community based supervision —

- (1) why were there 43 per cent fewer young people accessing community-based services this year than budgeted —
 - (a) does this reflect the reallocation of resources away from community-based services, or is the reallocation reflective of the reduced numbers;
- (2) on what basis does the Department expect that the number of young people accessing community-based youth justice services will increase next year;
- (3) when exactly was the decision made to revise down this year’s expected number of young people accessing community-based services and on what basis was that revision made;
- (4) did the decision to revise down this year’s expected number of young people accessing community-based services coincide with or have anything to do with the administrative transfer of youth justice from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 6 April 2017; and
- (5) why is there such a discrepancy between the high target for this year and the actual number of young people accessing community-based services —
 - (a) does this reflect internal decisions, including decisions to reallocate funds.

ANSWER:

(1)(a) This performance measure represents the number of young people aged 10-17 years on an average day (in the financial year) that are under the community statutory supervision of youth justice. This includes young people subject to community based dispositions such as supervised bail, probation, youth supervision or youth attendance orders, and parole. This reflects decisions made under legislation by judicial officers and the Youth Parole Board, both of whom are independent of government.

Consistent with previous years, a decline is continuing in the number of young people being supervised in the youth justice system under community-based orders. In 2016-17, the expected number is 920 when the target was set at 1625. This is a positive outcome with fewer young people entering the youth justice system.

Given there has now been a downward trend over a number of years, the expected number for 2017-18 was reduced.

- (2) This is not a measure of young people accessing community-based services. Instead it is a measure of the average daily number of clients under community-based supervision as ordered by the independent judiciary and Youth Parole Board.

The target for 2017-18 was reduced from 1625 to 1200 taking into account both the clear trend in reducing numbers, and also the significant number of reforms that have been introduced in the youth justice system. These two factors were considered in arriving at the new figure.

- (3) This is not a measure of young people accessing community-based services. Instead it is a measure of the average daily number of clients under community-based supervision as ordered by the independent judiciary and Youth Parole Board.

As part of preparing the annual budget, a process is entered into across government to review all performance measures in the budget papers. The revised measure was published when the budget was released. on 2 May 2017.

- (4) The target for 2017-18 was reduced from 1625 to 1200 taking into account both the clear trend in reducing numbers, and also the significant number of reforms that have been introduced in the youth justice system. These two factors were considered in arriving at the new figure. The change in administrative arrangements was not a relevant factor affecting the quantification of a revised target.

- (5)(a) This is not a measure of young people accessing community-based services. Instead it is a measure of the average daily number of clients under community-based supervision as ordered by the independent judiciary and Youth Parole Board.

Consistent with previous years, a decline is continuing in the number of young people being supervised in the youth justice system under community-based orders. In 2016-17, the expected number is 920 when the target was set at 1625. This is a positive outcome with fewer young people entering the youth justice system.

The target for 2017-18 was reduced from 1625 to 1200 taking into account both the clear trend in reducing numbers, and also the significant number of reforms that have been introduced in the youth justice system. These two factors were considered in arriving at the new figure.

Families and children

- 11 365. MS SPRINGLE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the average daily custodial centre utilisation rate for males over fifteen years —

- (1) on what basis is the Department expecting that the utilisation rate of custodial centres will increase to 90 to 95 per cent next year;
- (2) does the figure for this year's expected result of 76 per cent take into account the utilisation of the Grevillea youth justice centre between 21 November 2016 and 12 May 2017;
- (3) does the figure for this year's expected result of 76 per cent take into account the beds that came offline after various incidents inside youth justice centres during the current year, including the catastrophic series of incidents at Parkville youth justice precinct on 12 to 14 November 2016; and
- (4) could the Minister explain this discrepancy with the number of occasions throughout the year the Minister suggested that Victoria's youth justice centres were 'at capacity', however the expected result for this line item (76 per cent) suggests that was rarely the case.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The target utilisation rate for males over 15 years of age is the same for 2017-18 as it was for 2016-17.

The damage caused by the November 2016 riots at Parkville Youth Justice Centre reduced the bed capacity of the youth justice custodial system. This takes into account beds that were deemed unusable at Parkville Youth Justice Centre and additional capacity provided at Grevillea Youth Justice Centre.

The average daily utilisation rate takes into account bed capacity and numbers of detainees over a full 12 month period. The damage caused by the November 2016 riot at Parkville Youth Justice Centre reduced the bed capacity of the youth justice custodial system for more than half of the 2016-17 year. This takes into account beds that were deemed unusable at Parkville Youth Justice Centre and additional capacity provided at Grevillea Youth Justice Centre.

There were a number of occasions where the youth justice custodial system was operating at capacity due to reduced bed numbers following the November 2016 riot at Parkville Youth Justice Centre.

Families and children

11 366. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to strengthening the response with Youth Justice Custodial Services —

- (1) what is 'Strengthening Workforce Response';
- (2) does it include provision for additional staff and if so how many;
- (3) does it include provision for additional qualified staff and if so how many; and
- (4) on what basis has any decision to increase staff number been made.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government has provided \$10.5 million over two years through the 2016-17 budget update to address immediate and urgent workforce issues to improve the ability of custodial precincts to manage and change the behaviours of volatile and violent offenders. The investment provided for the recruitment of 41 FTE youth justice-centre positions. Management and supervision was strengthened with an additional four operations managers and on-call practice leaders to provide advice and support to custodial staff on the management of young people.

The \$10.5 million over two years provided for an additional 41 new ongoing staff positions in youth justice over the last 12 months. In addition, 150 staff have been recruited in recent months through ongoing recruitment. Extra staff from Corrections Victoria continue to be deployed across the youth justice centres in order to strengthen security and to support staff to manage young people's behaviour and respond to incidents.

This initiative funded an additional four operations managers, a senior custodial operations role to support the General Managers, and on-call practice leaders to provide advice and support to custodial staff on the management of young people. The investment also included additional psychologists, a clinical adviser to address violent behaviours and bolster coverage of day to day operations.

The government recognises the importance of a stable and appropriate workforce within youth justice centres to ensure a safe and secure environment, in which rehabilitation services can be delivered to young people.

Families and children

11 371. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the decision to build a new youth justice facility and forecasting expenditure of funds allocated to the project, is the Department budgeting for an increased number of young people to be remanded or sentenced to custodial terms and if yes, on what basis is that assessment being made.

ANSWER:

Whilst overall demand for custodial facilities has remained relatively constant over the last few years, more recently an increase in demand is being experienced due to the increase in remand numbers.

Forecasts for future demand in the youth justice custodial system have been undertaken on the basis of population growth and criminal justice trends.

To meet this future demand the Government is building a new \$288.7 million fit-for purpose youth justice facility in the vicinity of Cherry Creek in Wyndham.

The facility will have 224 beds for remand and sentenced clients, a 12 bed mental health unit, and an 8 bed intensive supervision unit and has been future proofed to allow for future growth within the facility over the next thirty years. The department will continue to monitor the need for further capacity in the system and will take appropriate steps as necessary.

This new youth justice facility is a vital investment for our state to ensure the safety of the wider community, youth justice staff and young people in contact with the justice system.

Families and children

11 374. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to Corrections Victoria staff at youth justice centres —

- (1) are Corrections Victoria staff currently working at Victorian youth justice centres;
- (2) on what evidentiary basis is it determined that having Corrections Victoria staff at youth justice centres improves the safety of both staff and young people and is there a data set that demonstrates this; and
- (3) does the Government have evidence that Corrections Victoria staff are better than youth justice staff at forming beneficial respectful and therapeutic relationships with young people.

ANSWER:

Security and Emergency Service Group (SESG) staff from Corrections Victoria are based at the Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Justice Precincts to provide additional security and emergency response capability as required.

The deployment of these Corrections Victoria staff was in response to a series of serious incidents, in youth justice centres which had threatened the safety and security of staff, young people and the community. Their deployment was part of the commitment to improving the capacity of staff in Youth Justice Precincts to work more effectively and safely with the extremely challenging young people in their care in the short term, while addressing more fundamental issues of failing infrastructure, stabilising the workforce, and clear and consistent approaches to behaviour management.

Corrections Victoria staff receive advanced incident response training that has not been usually available for youth justice custodial staff. Since the transfer of youth justice services to the Department of Justice and Regulation, all Youth Justice Safety and Emergency Response Teams have been trained in Tactical Options and formation line skills to improve their effectiveness of incident response and management, preventing the escalation of incidents. This training will continue to be rolled out in the next 12 months to all youth justice custodial staff.

Youth Justice workers continue their critical role of engaging young people in their care and working towards improved outcomes through access to health, education and programs to address issues underlying their behaviour. Corrections staff working in youth justice centres are primarily responding to security matters and emergencies, and are not working with young people to form an ongoing therapeutic relationship.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 384. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to the redevelopments of public housing in Ascot Vale —

- (1) when will the Minister be able to tell current public housing residents exactly what will happen to their homes and when it will happen;
- (2) when the refurbishments are complete, what will be the exact numbers of community and public housing available;
- (3) what is being done to meaningfully engage residents in the planning process; and
- (4) where exactly will residents be moved to if they have to be moved off the estate.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services has been meeting with the community at Ascot Vale to seek their view and input into the redevelopment and inform them of the redevelopment process options. There will be at least 10% increase in Social Housing units. The Department of Health and Human Services is meeting with each tenant individually and through their representative organisations to discuss their housing requirements and the areas to which they would like to move during the redevelopment, as well as running relocation sessions to inform tenants.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 386. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to the relocation of residents affected by the redevelopments of public housing in Ascot Vale —

- (1) when will residents be told that they will have to leave their homes;
- (2) will lifetime tenants continue to be guaranteed security of tenure;
- (3) will there be apartments large enough for every family to return;
- (4) how long will residents be relocated for on average; and
- (5) what processes will be used to ensure the timely return of residents to the estate.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Greens MP's have failed to attend any relocation information sessions on any estate, where all relevant questions are comprehensively answered by experienced staff-instead preferring to hold utterly alarmist "emergency meetings" months after consultation has commenced.

Residents will be consulted and supported in all aspects of the relocation process, which will not commence until late 2017. Residents will have first opportunity to return to new homes once works are complete, with their tenure unaffected.

Housing, disability and ageing

11 389. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to a future upgraded Ascot Vale estate —

- (1) why is there only a 10 per cent increase in social housing when there are tens of thousands on the waiting list;
- (2) will residents with children in school still be close to those schools if they are moved;
- (3) will there be an increase in services to help high needs tenants;

- (4) how will security concerns be addressed;
- (5) how many new apartments in total are being built;
- (6) how many square metres of open space will be lost;
- (7) how will you retain the current neighbourhood character;
- (8) how will you incorporate heritage buildings into the new plan;
- (9) how high will the towers be;
- (10) will there be overshadowing of private houses across the street;
- (11) how will overshadowing of open space within the estate be minimised;
- (12) how much green space will be retained; and
- (13) what transport planning has been done for the area.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Residents will be given all the support, notice and advice they have asked through the relocation process. Residents will have first right to return to new homes once works are complete, with their tenure unaffected.

The department is conducting a thorough consultation process in relation to the redevelopment, actively engaging with all residents through interpreters where necessary. This is not being helped by the deliberate campaign of misinformation and fear mongering cynically led by the Federal Member for Melbourne, scaring people into believing they won't have the right to return to the estate.

The government recently committed to a public pledge on the renewal program around tenants rights with the Victorian Public Tenants Association. We call on all other political parties and stakeholders to do the same.

Through the community-informed design process and working closely with residents, neighbours and stakeholders, the department has identified the issues for each estate, including improvements to safety. The designs for each estate will improve safety and security through lighting, building and dwelling security measures, orientation of buildings, passive surveillance and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.

The total number of dwellings to be delivered will be determined after the Planning Scheme Amendment process is completed. The resulting Development Plan Overlay schedule will set the maximum heights that can be delivered across the estate.

The Public Housing Renewal Program will renew the estates and deliver active, usable open spaces and facilities for each building, as required under the Better Apartment Design Standards. The delivery of podium parking within buildings will further enable open space to be used for recreation rather than car parking as is currently the case.

The Government and Community will consider the proposal from the Department of Health and Human Services and all community submissions, to consider whether the development is appropriate to neighbourhood character.

The built form on the edges of the estate will respect the neighbourhood character and surrounding dwellings.

The renewal will deliver active, usable open space and facilities for each building, as required under the Better Apartment Design Standards.

A transport study will be completed as part of the Planning Scheme Amendment.

Agriculture

11 391. MS BATH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to the Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee (WDMAC) and the management of wild dogs in Victoria —

- (1) how many applications were received for the Committee;
- (2) how many applications were received from women for the Committee;

- (3) how many applications were received satisfying category (e), as defined in the WDMAC Terms of Reference Appendix 1;
- (4) why was the decision made to include in the WDMAC Terms of Reference Appendix 1 the provision for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change to recommend up to two appointments and who made this decision;
- (5) why was the decision made to include in the committee, two members who have experience in dingo conservation;
- (6) does the Government support the declaration of dingoes as unprotected on all private land and on public land within three kilometres of any private land boundary in the specified regions covering Eastern Victoria and North West Victoria; and
- (7) is the Government preparing/planning to conduct remote area aerial baiting in spring 2017.

ANSWER:

Agriculture Victoria conducted an open competitive expression of interest process to find members with experience in wild dog management, wild dog research, catchment management and threatened species management. Agriculture Victoria received 21 expressions of interest from well-qualified and experienced candidates, including one expression of interest from a female candidate. Of the 21 expressions of interest, 14 indicated knowledge of dingo conservation, biodiversity protection and threatened species management in Victoria.

The Victorian Government is committed to working with affected landholders to reduce the economic, social and environmental impacts of wild dogs and dingo hybrids in Victoria, whilst also ensuring the conservation of the dingo on most public land. A collaborative approach creates a shared understanding that enables stakeholders to effectively work together and may result in innovative and new approaches to reduce the negative impacts of wild dogs.

The Order in Council declaring the dingo as unprotected wildlife in certain areas of the State continues to enable the protection of livestock from wild dogs and dingoes on private land and along the boundaries of public land in some areas of the State, while also ensuring the conservation of the dingo on most public land.

The 2016-17 Victorian Budget included \$3 million over three years (as part of the \$6.3 million Fox and Wild Dog Management Initiative) to build capability in the community to manage wild dogs across tenures and increase the frequency of aerial baiting to twice a year. The Spring round of aerial baiting is scheduled for October 2017 and will be conducted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Police

11 397. MS PENNICUIK — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In light of the recommendation that an explicit target be set for recruitment of at least 50 per cent women for future squads of police and Protective Service Officers and that this remains in place until equality is achieved —

- (1) of the 2729 new sworn police officers delivered in the 2017-18 budget, what percentage are women;
- (2) what systems and processes have been established that capture baseline data across the organisation with respect to remuneration and women's access to training, upgrades, and promotion; and what access to leadership training do women in the police force now have in light of the recommendations.

ANSWER:

Thank you for your question. I can assure you that Victoria Police is committed to growing a workforce that is representative of the communities it serves-valuing the diversity of age, gender, culture, religion and sexual orientation of its employees.

This year marks 100 years of women in policing and Victoria Police is celebrating gender diversity by honouring the contribution women have made, and continue to make.

As at 10 July 2017, 31 per cent of all police officers employed by Victoria Police were female, and 18 per cent of PSOs were female.

In regards to your question concerning the 2279 new recruits, the recruitment process for these police officers is an ongoing process and their eventual make up will be determined by application and selection.

The Chief Commissioner of Police has previously stated that Victoria Police wants to increase the representation of women.

There are a number of recruitment campaign tactics with a focus on women. These include techniques such as the use of visual imagery of female police members in media campaigns, and inspiring personal accounts from female police officers featured in recruitment areas such as the Victoria Police Careers website www.policecareer.vic.gov.au.

There is also dedicated messaging in these campaigns regarding women in policing, which focuses on the value of gender balance in our workforce, and the value of having female police at the forefront of modern policing, in leadership positions, in metro and country locations and in specialist roles.

Victoria Police values the different attributes, life experiences, capabilities and skills that each employee brings to the organisation and that it values the diversity of employees and is Committed to facilitating an environment which is inclusive and safe from discrimination, sexual harassment, victimisation and bullying.

In the Victoria Police Equity and Diversity Plan, Victoria Police recognised that through greater workforce diversity and inclusion, the ability to provide better services to the community and improve employee engagement and productivity is increased.

Reports such as the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission's (VEOHRC) Independent review into sex discrimination and sexual harassment, including predatory behaviour in Victoria Police and the Victoria Police Mental Health Review illustrated some of the challenges facing police today and highlight further areas where a growth of capability is required. Victoria Police is developing various initiatives to address the issues of diversity and inclusiveness highlighted in these reports.

With regards to the capturing of baseline data, this information is captured as part the Human Resource Processes and Database, enabling data to be retrieved regarding gender, including rank. It is important to appreciate that remuneration is based on rank and is not gendered.

Victoria Police offers a range of performance development programs and flexible work options such as access to parental leave. This ensures that career development opportunities are accessible while achieving work life balance.

To support this the Government has approved funding of \$116.7 million to enable Victoria Police to backfill parental leave.

The funding also provides for leadership capability training to address current gender imbalance and cultural barriers to ensure that all employees are safe and respected in the workplace regardless of sex, sexuality, race or ethnicity.

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, 10 August 2017

Attorney-General

11 135. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, had the Youth Parole Board moved under the Department of Justice and Regulation.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 136. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017 have any DHHS employed members of the Youth parole Board be replaced with Department of Justice and Regulation employed staff.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 137. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the responsibility for Youth Justice moving from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to the Department of Justice and Regulation on 3 April 2017, as at 30 April 2017 are there any plans to replace all DHHS employed members of the Youth parole Board with Department of Justice and Regulation employed staff.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 138. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the number of youths detained in the Youth Justice system, as at 30 April 2017, how many males up to the age of 18 years were serving custodial sentences in Victoria's Youth Justice facilities and how many males up to the age of 18 were on remand in Victoria's Youth Justice facilities.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 139. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the number of youths detained in the Youth Justice system, as at 30 April 2017, how many males between the ages of 18 and 21 years were serving custodial sentences in Victoria’s Youth Justice facilities, and how many males between the ages of 18 and 21 years were on remand in Victoria’s Youth Justice facilities.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 140. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the number of youths detained in the Youth Justice system, as at 30 April 2017, how many females were serving custodial sentences in Victoria’s Youth Justice facilities and how many females were on remand in Victoria’s Youth Justice facilities.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 141. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to the number of Aboriginal or Torres Strait youths detained in the Youth Justice system, as at 30 April 2017, how many were serving custodial sentences in Victoria’s Youth Justice facilities and how many were on remand in Victoria’s Youth Justice facilities.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 142. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to Youth Justice Diversion programs, as at 30 April 2017, how many youths were accessing a Youth Diversion program and how many youths were on a waiting list to access a Youth Diversion program.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 143. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to Youth Justice case management, as at 30 April 2017 —

- (1) how many youths had been assigned a case manager —
- (2) how many youths were on a wait list to be assigned a case manager; and
- (3) how many youths in the Youth Justice system did not have an active case manager.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Attorney-General

11 144. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Attorney-General): In relation to Youth Justice, as at 30 April 2017 how many youths in the Youth Justice system were on Community Corrections orders.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Minister of Families and Children.

Corrections

11 291. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers left their employment at Corrections Victoria in 2015 and 2016.

ANSWER:

In 2014, 162 prison officers left their employment with the Department of Justice & Regulation representing a 7.48 percent attrition rate.

In 2015, 158 prison officers left their employment with the Department of Justice & Regulation, representing a 6.19 percent attrition rate. In 2015 CV recruited 364 new custodial officers to public prisons.

In 2016, 205 prison officers left their employment with the Department of Justice & Regulation representing a 7.34 percent attrition rate. In 2016 CV recruited 479 new custodial officers to public prisons.

The reasons for the departure of these officers include resignation, retirement and expiration of fixed-term contracts.

The Andrews Government has also embarked upon an extensive recruitment program in the Community Corrections System, as well as further continuous recruitment throughout the completion of the Harper Review reforms.

Corrections

11 292. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How many prison officers changed their employment location to work at a different prison in 2015 and 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised that this information is not able to be systematically extracted from available databases, other than by manual search of individual records. With this in mind it would be an unreasonable burden on the Department's time and would require an unnecessary diversion of Departmental resources as pursuant to Legislative Council Standing Order 8.12.3

Corrections

11 293. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: How much was paid in total to prisoners for their earnings in the year in 2015 and 2016.

ANSWER:

Victoria has one of the highest prisoner employment rates in Australia, with at least 8 in 10 prisoners employed across the Victorian system in 2015-16.

The total earnings paid to prisoners in 2014 was \$10 953 447.33 which equates to an average amount paid of \$6.87 per prisoner per work day

The total earnings paid to prisoners in 2015 was \$11 583 555.43, which equates to an average amount paid of \$7.09 per prisoner per work day.

The total earnings paid to prisoners in 2016 was \$11 211 866.85 which equates to an average amount paid of \$6.56 per prisoner per work day.

Prisoner employment plays a crucial role in prisoner rehabilitation, with prisoners learning skills and work habits that will improve the likelihood of them securing employment following their release.

More than half of these prisoners are employed in service industries within the prison (for example, kitchens, laundries, billets), while a third are employed in the commercial industries operated by Prison Industries.

Emergency services

11 349. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): What was the reason for the Country Fire Authority call-outs to Malmsbury youth Justice facility on —

- (1) 2, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24 and 25 January 2017;
- (2) 5, 6, 11, 17 and 24 February 2017;
- (3) 11, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26 and 27 March 2017;
- (4) 8, 13, 14 and 15 April 2017;
- (5) 1, 6, 11, 14, 16, 24 and 31 May 2017; and
- (6) 3 and 6 June 2017.

ANSWER:

The Country Fire Authority attended the Malmsbury Youth Justice Facility during the period of 2 January 2017 to 6 June 2017 for a number of reasons including:

- Fire
- False alarms/ malfunctioning alarms
- Cooking fumes/ burnt food
- Assisting police or government agencies

Emergency services

11 350. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): How many Country Fire Authority vehicles attended call-outs to Malmsbury youth justice facility on —

- (1) 2, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24 and 25 January 2017;
- (2) 5, 6, 11, 17 and 24 February 2017;
- (3) 11, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26 and 27 March 2017;
- (4) 8, 13, 14 and 15 April 2017;
- (5) 1, 6, 11, 14, 16, 24 and 31 May 2017; and
- (6) 3 and 6 June 2017.

ANSWER:

The appliances that attended the Malmsbury Youth Justice Facility varied from one to several depending on the incident type, as is standard procedure.

Emergency services

11 351. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): Hlong were Country Fire Authority (CFA) or CFA personnel in attendance and on site at the Malmsbury youth justice facility during call-outs on —

- (1) 2, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 22, 24 and 25 January 2017;
- (2) 5, 6, 11, 17 and 24 February 2017;
- (3) 11, 16, 18, 21, 22, 26 and 27 March 2017;
- (4) 8, 13, 14 and 15 April 2017;
- (5) 1, 6, 11, 14, 16, 24 and 31 May 2017; and
- (6) 3 and 6 June 2017.

ANSWER:

Depending on the incident, Country Fire Authority personnel have spent between 4 and 45 minutes at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Facility per call out.

Families and children

11 372. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the decision to build a new youth justice facility and forecasting expenditure of funds allocated to the project, is the Department budgeting for a reduced number of young people accessing community-based youth justice services, or is the Department simply allocating fewer resources per community-based client and if yes, on what basis.

ANSWER:

There has been no reduction in the allocation of funds for community based youth justice services due to the funding allocated for the project to construct a new youth justice facility.

There has been no reduction in the youth justice community based services budget. Rather, as part of the machinery of government changes the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) retained approximately \$20.3 million (from the community based services output) for three programs, associated corporate overheads and depreciation, which has more than offset an increase of \$10.6 million which includes funding for the new intensive bail supervision and youth control order initiatives.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

11 381. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): In relation to the Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into the Retirement Housing Sector —

- (1) when will the Government respond to the recommendations of the Legal and Social Issues Committee Inquiry into the Housing Sector; and
- (2) has the Government made any provision in the budget for improved dispute resolution in the retirement housing sector.

ANSWER:

- (1) The Government will respond to the Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into the retirement housing sector (Inquiry) on or before 7 September 2017.

This accords with Legislative Council Standing Order 23.30, which requires the Victorian Government to respond to reports of Legislative Council committees that recommend Government action within six months

of the report being tabled in Parliament. The Legal and Social Issues Committee tabled its report on this particular Inquiry on 7 March 2017.

- (2) The Government is currently considering the Inquiry's recommendations and developing its response.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

11 382. MR BARBER — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): In relation to the Australian Consumer Law Review —

- (1) does the Minister support the Australian Consumer Law Review's Final Report proposal to introduce 'Lemon Laws' in Victoria (where a good fails to meet the consumer guarantees within a short specified period time, a consumer would be entitled to a refund or replacement without needing to prove a 'major failure'); and
- (2) does the Minister support the Australian Consumer Law Review's recommendation that unfair contract terms protections be applied to contracts regulated by the Insurance Contracts Act 1984 (Cth) in Victoria.

ANSWER:

On 31 March 2017, Consumer Affairs Australia and New Zealand delivered its Final Report on the Australian Consumer Law Review to consumer affairs Ministers around the country.

This was a comprehensive and wide-ranging review by senior consumer law officials, and the first since the law was introduced in 2011.

The Final Report sets out a package of 19 proposed legislative reforms to strengthen and clarify the Australian Consumer Law. It includes proposals for enhanced consumer rights where goods fail to meet the consumer guarantees within a short specified period of time, and to extend unfair contract terms protections to contracts regulated by the Insurance Contracts Act 1984 (Cth).

These proposals have been put forward after extensive consultation with stakeholders about the effectiveness of the consumer guarantees, and the terms and conditions of insurance contracts.

Consumer affairs Ministers from the Commonwealth, states and territories will vote on the proposals at meeting of the Legislative Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs (also known as CAF), held in Melbourne on 31 August 2017.