

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

**Tuesday, 2 May 2017**

**(Extract from book 7)**

Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer



## **The Governor**

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

## **The Lieutenant-Governor**

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

## **The ministry**

(from 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 Elasmr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

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

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

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

### Joint committees

**Accountability and Oversight Committee** — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge. (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh.

**Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr 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* — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

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

*Parliamentary Services* — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;  
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;  
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;  
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs



# CONTENTS

---

## WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES

### TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2017

<i>Bellarine Peninsula community safety</i> .....	1809
<i>Bangerang Cultural Centre</i> .....	1809
<i>Campaspe crime</i> .....	1810
<i>Heyfield timber mill</i> .....	1810, 1811, 1812
<i>Land 400 project</i> .....	1811, 1818
<i>Energy supply</i> .....	1812
<i>West Gippsland Hospital</i> .....	1813, 1814
<i>Homeschooling</i> .....	1814
<i>Belfast Coastal Reserve</i> .....	1815
<i>Ambulance services</i> .....	1815
<i>Kilmore-Wallan bypass</i> .....	1815
<i>Shepparton bypass</i> .....	1816
<i>Moonee Valley planning permit</i> .....	1816
<i>Victoria Polytechnic skills development hub</i> .....	1816
<i>Thompsons Road duplication</i> .....	1817, 1818
<i>Essendon Airport</i> .....	1817
<i>Emerald Secondary College</i> .....	1818
<i>Buckley Street, Essendon, level crossing</i> .....	1819
<i>Syndal–Heatherdale pipe reserve trail</i> .....	1819
<i>Monbulk sewerage project</i> .....	1820
<i>Port Phillip Bay bait fishing</i> .....	1820
<i>Richmond railway station</i> .....	1820
<i>Rushworth police numbers</i> .....	1821
<i>Goulburn Valley Highway</i> .....	1822
<i>Ridesharing regulation</i> .....	1822
<i>Point Cook–Sneydes roads, Point Cook</i> .....	1823
<i>Cancer medication</i> .....	1823
<i>Family violence emergency relief</i> .....	1823
<i>Burnet Park camp site</i> .....	1824
<i>Shepparton freight airport</i> .....	1824
<i>Federation Training</i> .....	1824
<i>Deep Creek boat ramp</i> .....	1825
<i>Sunbury Road duplication</i> .....	1825
<i>Ballarat rail line incident</i> .....	1826
<i>Australian Pain Management Association</i> .....	1826
<i>Officer Primary School</i> .....	1827
<i>Northern Metropolitan Region road infrastructure</i> .....	1827
<i>CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway widening</i> .....	1827
<i>Eastern Ranges School</i> .....	1828
<i>Adolescent family violence</i> .....	1828
<i>Foster care</i> .....	1829
<i>Benalla railway station precinct</i> .....	1829
<i>School racial discrimination</i> .....	1830
<i>Port of Melbourne lease</i> .....	1830
<i>Melbourne Metro rail project</i> .....	1831
<i>Goulburn Valley Health</i> .....	1831
<i>Furlong Road, St Albans, level crossing</i> .....	1831
<i>Summary Offences Act 1966</i> .....	1832
<i>Child protection</i> .....	1832
<i>Mouse control</i> .....	1833
<i>William Angliss Institute</i> .....	1833
<i>Southern Migrant &amp; Refugee Centre</i> .....	1834
<i>Tatura V/Line services</i> .....	1834
<i>Gippsland bus services</i> .....	1835
<i>Mental health services</i> .....	1835
<i>Public Transport Access Committee</i> .....	1835
<i>Black Rock Primary School</i> .....	1836
<i>Shepparton rail services</i> .....	1836
<i>Assisted Suicide: The Musical</i> .....	1836
<i>Mildura passenger rail service</i> .....	1837
<i>Sunbury–Broadmeadows bus service</i> .....	1838
<i>Coburg High School</i> .....	1838
<i>Casey community crime forum</i> .....	1839
<i>Western Highway road safety</i> .....	1839
<i>Plan Melbourne: Refresh</i> .....	1840
<i>Sheep and goat electronic identification</i> .....	1840



**WRITTEN ADJOURNMENT RESPONSES**

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

**Tuesday, 2 May 2017**

**Bellarine Peninsula community safety**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 23 November 2016

**REPLY:**

The Public Safety Infrastructure Fund, part of the Government's Community Crime Prevention Program, provides grants of up to \$250 000 to support local councils to improve safety and security infrastructure in public places, including funding to install CCTV systems.

The department has advised me that a single application for funding to support the installation of CCTV in Drysdale was submitted by City of Greater Geelong in 2015, as part of a larger funding application. Following a robust, multi-stage assessment process, including review by an expert panel that includes a senior representative of Victoria Police, the department assessed this application as unsuitable for funding. The department provided detailed feedback to the City of Greater Geelong to assist it to strengthen future applications.

Applications for the 2016–17 round of grants closed on 2 September 2016. No application was received seeking funding for CCTV in Drysdale. But would encourage the community to work with council and local police on a future application.

I am pleased that funding under the government's Community Crime Prevention Program has supported other crime prevention and community safety initiatives across the Bellarine.

This includes funding to the City of Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Community Safety Committee to deliver a local campaign to help prevent theft of and from motor vehicles. The Bellarine Community Safety Committee also recently utilised funding from the Community Crime Prevention Program to develop and deliver the bSafe website, a community safety resource hub for those living and working on the Bellarine.

The Community Safety Statement, released in December 2016, is a \$2 billion investment to prevent harm and hold perpetrators to account. We are investing in 2729 additional police, on top of 406 already being recruited, and 100 new Protective Services Officers. The first of the new police will be deployed early this year to respond to local issues and the increased demand for police in growth areas.

This major investment is on top of the \$7.8 million in the 2015-2016 State Budget, which provided extra police in the Geelong and Bellarine area. This has meant more patrols and re-opening of the stations at Drysdale, Portarlington and Queenscliff. A 24 hour police response is always available to local residents.

**Bangerang Cultural Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 7 December 2016

**REPLY:**

I thank the honourable member for Northern Victoria for raising this matter.

The Bangerang Cultural Centre (the Centre) is a significant part of local cultural assets in the Shepparton region.

The member is right to highlight the importance of maintaining and celebrating the culture of the various Traditional Owners in Victoria, which is why this government reformed the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and is working towards a treaty.

As my department currently does not have a funding stream that aligns to the Centre's request, I will pass on the member's request to the Minister for Creative Industries.

### **Campaspe crime**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 7 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Premier and I have both spent time speaking with police officers, and listening to the concerns of victims of crime and members of the community. We know there is pressure on our police, as well as concern and harm in our communities. It is a challenge, and one I have acknowledged from the start.

This is why the Andrews Government is investing an additional \$2 billion to keep Victorians safe, prevent harm in our communities and make criminals accountable. This funding will deliver new frontline and specialist police, protective services officers, more police stations and give police the latest crime fighting capabilities.

This is the largest single investment in police and the biggest recruitment of additional police in Victoria's history. Another 2729 police and 100 PSOs, will be recruited over four years, including 415 specialist family violence officers to transform the way Victoria Police responds to crime and community safety.

I can confirm that the Tongala Police Station is a non 24 hour, single member police station that is managed through a cluster of police stations known as the Kyabram cluster. The people of Tongala receive services from other police stations within the Kyabram cluster.

Victoria Police has been focused on providing a proactive intelligence led policing by targeting and disrupting recidivist offenders. Victoria Police have advised me that all police stations within the Kyabram cluster are fitted with an external telephone system that allows callers to be connected to the Echuca Police Station if the station they are attending is not staffed.

I further understand that Victoria Police have implemented innovative rostering practices within the last six months to provide capacity for an additional night shift police unit within the Campaspe Police Service Area. These additional resources have been specifically allocated for patrol duties within the communities comprising the Kyabram cluster, including Tongala.

This new service provides intelligence led proactive patrolling every night of the week. I can confirm that there has been positive results due to this change providing an improved response time to 000 calls on night shift, drug and weapon seizures and charging of offenders for various crime, drug, anti-social and traffic offending.

### **Heyfield timber mill**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 7 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Our Government recognises the uncertainty and challenges workers at the Australian Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH) mill in Heyfield have faced. That's why the Government acted to provide certainty by offering a supply contract and a \$5 million support package, including support for a business case for retooling.

VicForests' most recent modelling predicts a reduction in the available timber resource. This is due to various factors, for example ongoing protection of new Leadbeater's Possum colonies and the continued effects of the 2009 bushfires.

Any future timber supplies need to be aligned with contemporary forecasts of available timber resources.

The Government remains committed to the Heyfield mill remaining operational — it plays a vital role in the local community and the timber industry.

We have requested the company to work with government to facilitate the sale of the mill. In the event that a new operator cannot be found, the Government does not rule out assuming operations at Heyfield at fair and reasonable value.

### **Heyfield timber mill**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 7 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Our Government recognises the uncertainty and challenges facing the workers at the Australian Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH) mill.

VicForests' most recent modelling predicts a reduction in the available timber resource. This is due to various factors, for example ongoing protection of new Leadbeater's Possum colonies and the continued effects of the 2009 bushfires.

Any future timber supplies need to be aligned with current forecasts of available timber resources. VicForests is adjusting its operations to this new supply level and planning how best to meet its contractual obligations with contractors and customers.

### **Land 400 project**

**Raised with:** Minister for Industry and Employment  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 8 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Western Victoria for this Adjournment Debate matter.

The Victorian Government is working diligently to secure LAND 400 Phase 2 to Victoria. The government continues to work very closely with BAE Systems Australia and Rheinmetall Defence Australia, to ascertain each company's needs and to provide the most competitive proposal to secure the project for Victoria.

Competition for the project is very strong and the Victorian Government is doing all that it can to put its most competitive offer forward.

There is no doubt that Land 400 presents opportunities for defence manufacturing across Victoria.

As you would be aware, the Commonwealth Government are the sole decision makers for the Land 400 project. I look forward to working with you as an advocate for Victoria.

### Energy supply

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Raised by:** Mr Purcell  
**Raised on:** 9 February 2017

#### REPLY:

The electricity supply industry in Victoria is owned and operated by the private sector. Decisions about investment in new power stations are made by private investors, based on the commercial prospects for new generation. Similarly, the location of any new power station is a matter for private investors based on the availability of fuel, access to the grid and demand for energy.

Even without the Hazelwood power station, Victoria will continue to have a secure and reliable supply of electricity and will continue to be a net exporter of electricity to other states. Victoria is supplied by other large electricity generators and has significant interconnectors with other states, including New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia.

In June 2016, the Andrews Labor Government set ambitious but achievable renewable energy generation targets which aim to generate 25 per cent of all Victoria's electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025. These targets are anticipated to support investment in up to 5400 megawatts of new large-scale renewable energy capacity by 2025.

This scheme is estimated to deliver capital expenditure of around \$9 billion invested in renewable energy projects, which would result in about \$2.5 billion of direct economic activity in Victoria, including the creation of up to 11 000 construction jobs.

Western Victoria has the best wind and solar resources in the State. There are currently up to 2400 megawatts of approved wind farms in the region, and some of which are expected to bid into the Victorian Renewable Energy Target auction scheme (to deliver the 2020 and 2025 targets).

Energy storage will play a vital role in better integrating renewable energy generation into the Victorian network. The Andrews Labor Government will bring forward the integration of energy storage to help strengthen the security, resilience and reliability of the electricity grid, and ensure a modern energy system.

We will provide \$5 million to support deployment of up to 20 megawatts of battery storage in Victoria's north-west (including Horsham and Bendigo) and the south-west (including Terang) as priority locations for storage. In addition, we recently announced a further \$20 million to support large scale energy storage across Victoria.

Victoria is part of an interstate gas market, with most of our gas produced from areas under the Australian Government's jurisdiction in Bass Strait (outside three nautical miles from Victoria's coastline). There are currently no plans to implement a gas reservation policy within the remaining offshore area under Victoria's jurisdiction.

### Heyfield timber mill

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 9 February 2017

#### REPLY:

I recently visited the Australian Sustainable Hardwoods (ASH) sawmill in Heyfield. I have a strong appreciation of the mill's socioeconomic importance to the region and other value-adding operations such as Jigsaw Industries.

That is why the Government is working with the company and the union on options for the future of the timber mill in Heyfield.

All involved are focussed on the need to identify viable arrangements for the mill which protect local jobs, given reduced timber availability.

### **West Gippsland Hospital**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health

**Raised by:** Ms Wooldridge

**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Thanks to the strong advocacy of the Member for Eastern Victoria, Harriet Shing, I'm pleased to advise that the Andrews Labor Government's 2016–17 Budget committed \$1 million to undertake both service and capital planning for the West Gippsland Healthcare Group. Significant progress has since occurred in planning for the current and future health service demands of the residents of West Gippsland.

Development of the West Gippsland Baw Baw Strategic Service Plan involved the West Gippsland Health Care Group, Latrobe Regional Hospital and the Casey campus of Monash Health. The key findings confirmed that the West Gippsland Healthcare Group has demand pressures now, and will face increasing pressure as the population grows.

The Strategic Service Plan highlighted the need for additional short stay, critical care beds and an expansion of operating theatre capacity at Warragul Hospital.

On 24 February, I was pleased to join Ms Shing at the Warragul Hospital to announce the West Gippsland Healthcare Group would receive \$9.3 million for two projects through the first round of the Labor Government's Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, being:

- \$3.3 million to build a new eight bed short stay unit in the emergency department so more patients can be treated, more quickly. This unit will expand capacity, improve efficiency and reduce waiting times for treatment by creating a dedicated area for patients who will stay in hospital for less than 24-hours.
- \$6 million to build a third operating theatre at Warragul Hospital. The extra theatre will meet increasing demand for elective and emergency surgery from the growing Gippsland population, and enable more patients to access care at their local hospital, closer to home and loved ones.

Unlike some light on detail and therefore hollow commitments, we're making the important investments to deliver better services for locals now, while doing the hard work backed by \$1 million funding for the hospital's future development.

Based on the service plan projections, masterplanning is underway for the existing Warragul Hospital site, and a new, greenfield site at Lardners Track in Drouin East. A Feasibility Study for each site exploring in greater detail development requirements will then be undertaken.

A Steering Committee has been established with key stakeholders to oversee this next phase.

## Homeschooling

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Dr Carling-Jenkins  
**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

### REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

In May 2016 the Department of Education and Training called for submissions on the 2007 Regulations. The Department received a number of submissions, many of which concerned home schooling regulation. Stakeholder feedback has been considered in preparing the proposed Regulations and the Regulatory Impact Statement.

The Department has also met with a number of stakeholders to discuss the proposed Regulations, including representatives of the Home Education Network. In addition, the public consultation period for the Regulations was extended from the required 28-day period to a period of more than 60 days. The extended consultation period allowed the public to have greater opportunity to make submissions on the proposed Regulations.

Unlike other Australian jurisdictions, the current regulations do not provide for oversight of the educational outcomes of home school students. This has resulted in a lack of data and understanding of how home school students are progressing. While it is expected that most home schooling families are providing their children with a good education, I have a responsibility to ensure that this is the case. The proposed regulations are intended to improve data collection and provide confidence in the quality of educational outcomes for home school students.

The proposed regulations include a requirement that a learning plan be submitted at the time of initial registration for home schooling. The assessment of learning plans is designed to provide a level of assurance that families seeking initial registration are well equipped to provide home school students with a good education. The information in the learning plan would also allow the Department to better understand types of home school education occurring in Victoria, and support more targeted engagement and policy development for home schooling students.

The Department has knowledge and expertise in all forms of educational practice and approaches, and is able to assess the particular approach or methodology that a home school family uses to 'substantially address' the eight key learning areas. It is also anticipated that families will have flexibility in how they prepare the learning plan to reflect their child's specific circumstances.

## West Gippsland Hospital

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Ms Shing  
**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

### REPLY:

I visited Warragul Hospital on Friday 24 February and announced West Gippsland Healthcare Group would receive \$9.3 million for two projects through the first round of the Andrews Labor Government's new Regional Health Infrastructure Fund. You have long been an advocate for Gippsland, but I would like to especially acknowledge your hard work, on behalf of your community, to improve Warragul Hospital.

The \$200 million fund — the largest of its kind in Victorian history — will rebuild rural and regional hospitals to ensure all Victorians can access the high quality care and facilities they need, no matter where they live.

At Warragul Hospital, we're investing \$3.3 million to build a new eight-bed short-stay unit in the emergency department, so more patients can be treated, more quickly. This unit will expand capacity, improve efficiency and reduce waiting times for treatment by creating a dedicated area for patients who will stay in hospital for less than 24 hours.

We are also investing \$6 million to build a third operating theatre at Warragul Hospital. The extra theatre will meet increasing demand for elective and emergency surgery from the growing Gippsland population, and enable more patients to access care at their local hospital, closer to home and loved ones.

These two investments come on top of the \$1 million already provided to plan for the future redevelopment of Warragul Hospital.

### **Belfast Coastal Reserve**

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change  
**Raised by:** Mr Barber  
**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government has introduced a Ministerial Order permitting the issuing of licences to train horses on the beach which came into effect on 10 March 2017.

### **Ambulance services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Mr Melhem  
**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I acknowledge Mr Melhem's interest and strong advocacy on behalf of the Western suburbs for improved local ambulance services.

The \$500 million plan to improve ambulance response times includes a strong investment in Melbourne's western suburbs. The Andrews Labor Government is building new and upgraded branches, investing in additional paramedics and vehicles in Wyndham Vale, Taylors Lakes, Melton and Maribyrnong and a new super response centre for the Western suburbs.

The recruitment of the 450 additional paramedics has already begun. In addition to the 48 new paramedics that commenced in January, another intake occurred on 13 March 2017 with 96 new paramedics and graduates commencing their induction training. These paramedics have already hit the road and are already responding to emergency cases, with the support of experienced paramedics.

### **Kilmore-Wallan bypass**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 21 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

As you may be aware, the Minister for Planning in his assessment of the independent panel report for the Kilmore-Wallan Bypass Environment Effect Statement recommended that VicRoads work with Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) to determine a whole of government solution for the Western Option in the vicinity of the Kilmore Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Following discussion between VicRoads and GVW, a preliminary alternative alignment for the Western option was developed in the vicinity of the Wastewater Management Facility, subject to further investigation and discussion with affected landowners.

It is this government's intention that any changes to the Western option alignment will be openly and thoroughly discussed with the affected landowners before any decision on the final location is made. I understand that VicRoads has met with the affected landowners and will continue to keep them informed.

### **Shepparton bypass**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 22 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I appreciate the impact that timely decisions on funding for major projects can have on communities such as Shepparton and the surrounding area. VicRoads has provided me with comprehensive information on this project and I have met with representatives from the Greater Shepparton City Council, the Committee for Greater Shepparton, and the Shepparton Bypass Action Group. The points raised during these discussions provided me with an extra level of understanding of the road transport issues faced by the Shepparton community.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to delivering the projects that regional Victoria requires; the projects that we were elected to provide; projects that will deliver real economic development to our regional centres and drive efficiency improvements for our industries. The Goulburn Valley Highway–Shepparton Bypass will be considered for funding against the many other needs in the state.

### **Moonee Valley planning permit**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Davis  
**Raised on:** 22 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I have asked the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) to review the issues raised in relation to Mr Wahr's property at 2 Clarence Street Flemington, and the neighbouring property at 4 Clarence Street.

The VBA inspected the building works at 4 Clarence Street, arranging for the property owner to expose the wall cavity in question by lifting the roof sheeting and flashing. The VBA was able to confirm to Mr Wahr that the wall, as constructed, complies with the fire safety regulations in place at the time of construction.

### **Victoria Polytechnic skills development hub**

**Raised with:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 22 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

*Skills First*, launched on 1 January 2017, is the Victorian Government's vision for a high quality, stable and trusted training and TAFE system. *Skills First* realigns the system to focus on high quality training that will lead to real jobs and better outcomes for learners and industry, through subsidy rates that reflect the costs of delivery, courses aligned with current and future industry needs, and programmatic funding to support innovative skills design and regional delivery.

*Skills First* maintains a contestable, but more managed market to ensure a high benchmark for quality is set, and places Victoria's public TAFE network at the centre of the new system with a distinct role to lead in excellence, quality and innovation, with funding to support this role. Victoria Polytechnic forms part of this network.

Under *Skills First*, Victorians in Melbourne's Western Metropolitan region can be assured that they will have access to high quality training that leads to real skills and real jobs.

The Sunshine Skills Hub at Victoria Polytechnic will provide students and locals in Melbourne's west with access to the best training facilities and equipment thanks to a \$10 million investment from the Victorian Government's TAFE Rescue Fund. The \$35 million facility is jointly funded by the Victorian Government, Victoria University, who are providing \$20 million, and the Ian Potter Foundation which is contributing \$5 million.

The hub will feature a health and community services centre of excellence, an innovation and incubation hub, as well as a cafe, gymnasium and bookshop. The facility will support the development of industry partnerships, increase vocational education opportunities and reinvigorate the local community.

At this stage in the project planning phase, the Sunshine Skills Hub is expected to be completed by October 2019, and available for students to access in 2020.

The Andrews Labor Government is standing by its commitment to save TAFE and restore Victoria's training system ensuring access to high quality, industry relevant training for all Victorians.

### **Thompsons Road duplication**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 22 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I am pleased to confirm that the Andrews Labor Government is committed to completing the duplication of Thompsons Road between EastLink in Carrum Downs and Berwick-Cranbourne Road in Clyde North, including the removal of the rail level crossing at Lyndhurst. This commitment by the Andrews Labor Government is clearly demonstrated in its 2016 Budget commitment of \$154.5 million, which together with previous commitments of \$20.5 million, total some \$175 million for this important project.

Significant progress is evidenced by the commencement on site in December 2016 of the first stage of the project, which will see Thompsons Road duplicated between the South Gippsland Highway and Marriott Boulevard with bridges constructed over the Cranbourne rail line to remove the existing level crossing. The tender for construction of the second stage has also commenced and it is expected that work will commence later this year.

The land for the link road identified by Mr Lennie was reserved in the planning scheme for when Western Port Highway is upgraded to a freeway and direct access to Western Port Highway would no longer be available. However, it is acknowledged that construction of this link road in conjunction with the Thompsons Road upgrade would improve access for eastbound traffic to and from the Lyndhurst Service Centre. Initial investigations and design work for the link road are already underway by VicRoads.

### **Essendon Airport**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 22 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Essendon Airport is an important piece of transport infrastructure for Victoria, supporting over 50 000 aircraft movements each year, as well as being a hub for emergency services such as Air Ambulance and the Police Air Wing. The crash at the airport in February this year was a terrible tragedy, but it is important not to lose sight of the airport's strong safety record, as well as the many benefits that it provides to our state.

The Victorian Government awaits the outcome of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigation which is currently underway, including any recommendations for improving safety. We are ready to act on lessons from this investigation to make this important airport even safer and ensure it continues as a vital enabler of aviation, emergency services, and Victorian jobs.

**Land 400 project**

**Raised with:** Minister for Industry and Employment  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Western Victoria for this Adjournment Debate matter.

The Victorian Government is working diligently to secure LAND 400 Phase 2 to Victoria. The government continues to work very closely with BAE Systems Australia and Rheinmetall Defence Australia, to ascertain each company's needs and to provide the most competitive proposal to secure the project for Victoria.

Competition for the project is very strong and the Victorian Government is doing all that it can to put its most competitive offer forward.

There is no doubt that Land 400 presents opportunities for defence manufacturing across Victoria.

As you would be aware, the Commonwealth Government are the sole decision makers for the Land 400 project. I look forward to working with you as an advocate for Victoria.

**Emerald Secondary College**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Mulino  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

I thank the Member for Eastern Victoria and I acknowledge his strong and continued advocacy for the people of Eastern Victoria, including for Emerald Secondary College.

I am pleased to advise that a contract was accepted for the Emerald Secondary College upgrade project on 22 February 2017 and works commenced on 1 March 2017. This exciting building project will provide the college with an outstanding inclusive centre, a reconfigured library, and enlarged and re-equipped canteen and a new reconfigured technology facility. Some excess space will also be demolished and surplus relocatable teaching facilities will be removed; thus providing more useable outdoor space for the students.

It is anticipated that all works will be completed later this year.

**Thompsons Road duplication**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Rich-Phillips  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

**REPLY:**

I am pleased to confirm that the Andrews Labor Government is committed to completing the duplication of Thompsons Road between EastLink in Carrum Downs and Berwick-Cranbourne Road in Clyde North, including the removal of the rail level crossing at Lyndhurst. This commitment by the Andrews Labor Government is clearly demonstrated in its 2016 Budget commitment of \$154.5 million, which together with previous commitments of \$20.5 million which is a total sum of \$175 million for this important project.

Significant progress is evidenced by the commencement on site in December 2016 of the first stage of the project, which will see Thompsons Road duplicated between the South Gippsland Highway and Marriott Boulevard with bridges constructed over the Cranbourne rail line to remove the existing level crossing. The tender for the second stage has also commenced and it is expected that work will commence later this year.

The land for the link road between the Lyndhurst Service Centre and Lyndhurst Boulevard was reserved in the planning scheme for when Western Port Highway is upgraded to a freeway, and direct access to Western Port Highway would no longer be available. It is acknowledged that construction of this link road in conjunction with the Thompsons Road Upgrade would improve access for eastbound traffic to and from the Lyndhurst Service Centre. VicRoads will continue to consult with the Lyndhurst Service Centre owners and operators on options to allow for the construction of this road.

### **Buckley Street, Essendon, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

With regards to deferring the project, I advise that a deferment of the removal of the Buckley Street level crossing is not an option. It remains an election commitment of the Andrews Labor Government to the people of Essendon as part of 50 level crossing removals across the network.

When this dangerous and congested level crossing is gone, it will return 78 minutes of traffic flow during peak travel times to road users, improve reliability for rail users and safety for pedestrians and cyclists in the area.

### **Syndal–Heatherdale pipe reserve trail**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Ms Dunn

**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

VicRoads advises me that the Syndal to Heatherdale Pipeline Trail forms part of the Chirside Park to Mordialloc Strategic Cycling Corridor. This corridor has been identified as a priority for VicRoads' metropolitan south east region.

I understand that the Whitehorse City Council has completed detailed designs for a shared use path along this trail, between Highbury Road in East Burwood and Rooks Road in Mitcham.

VicRoads has also developed a number of proposals along this corridor between the Syndal Train Station and Monash University (Clayton Campus).

VicRoads advises me that it is currently collaborating with the relevant stakeholders such as the Transport Accident Commission, Active Transport for Victoria, Bicycle Victoria, Whitehorse City Council, Monash University (Clayton Campus) and Monash City Council.

### **Monbulk sewerage project**

**Raised with:** Minister for Water  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Yarra Valley Water and Yarra Ranges Council are working closely with the Monbulk community to deliver a sewerage solution that meets the needs of the community and the local environment.

Joint consultation with Yarra Valley Water, council and the Monbulk Community Reference Group, which was formed for the structure plan process, has now taken place. The proposed Monbulk Structure Plan and sewerage options were presented to the reference group with broader exhibition of structure plan and sewerage options to occur during March-April 2017.

Yarra Valley Water will commence the final phase of community consultations about the sewerage solution in April 2017. Once completed, a final approach will be decided which will allow a timetable for engineering design works and construction to be developed.

### **Port Phillip Bay bait fishing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Ms Patten  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Hon. Fiona Patten, Member for Northern Metropolitan for her Adjournment Debate Question.

There remains strong bait supplies for Victorian fishers to enjoy, including a large commercial bait fishery in coastal waters adjacent to Victoria.

The Victorian bait market has also historically received product from New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia and this will continue to occur.

The buy out of commercial netting has provided great opportunity for over 800 000 Victorians to enjoy fantastic fishing in Port Phillip Bay.

### **Richmond railway station**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is carrying out improvements across Melbourne and Victoria's rail network to make it easier and safer for passengers to catch the train. Over the next 12 months, Public Transport Victoria (PTV) will improve the PTV website and app, providing relevant and timely information to passengers when they need it most.

A recent update of the PTV app introduced platform information across the metro train network.

PTV is delivering Passenger Information Display (PID) technology across the network and considering which priority locations to roll out PIDs. I have requested that Richmond station is considered as part of this review.

Other initiatives to help improve information to passengers at stations across the network include providing more announcements and more customer service staff to assist passengers.

### **Rushworth police numbers**

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 23 February 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The location and deployment of police officers is determined by the Chief Commissioner who has indicated that resource placement will be determined by the new evidence-based Staff Allocation Model, which assesses delivery needs and service demand to maximise efficiency of police resourcing. This model assesses a range of factors in determining allocation, including crime rates, calls for police assistance, and the time requirements when responding to different types of crime.

All residents of the Rushworth community continue to receive a 24-hour policing response across the Campaspe PSA. Any member of the community who has immediate concerns about their safety must contact Victoria Police via the emergency number '000'. Calls to '000' are processed and responded to by the nearest available personnel.

Victoria Police advises that the deployment of police officers within the Campaspe Police Service Area (PSA), which services Rushworth, is responsive to demand and anticipated events. Police resourcing in the area has recently increased, as the Campaspe PSA is now staffed by an additional night shift patrol vehicle that commenced operation approximately eight months ago. Before this time, Rushworth had no night patrols, and all calls for police assistance during the night were responded to reactively.

In relation to specific comments regarding the drug methamphetamine, or 'ice', the Government is seeking to tackle the root causes of crime and the illegal drug ice is affecting communities across the State. That is why in March 2015, the Government released the Ice Action Plan (the Plan). The Plan was developed on the advice of the Premier's Ice Action Taskforce.

As part of the Plan's initial release, the Government committed \$45.5 million to focus on things that cannot wait to reduce the supply, demand and harm of a drug that is mining lives. Under the Plan, the Government will spend \$18 million over four years to expand drug and rehabilitation services so that more users can get the assistance they need to get off the drug.

The Government has invested a further \$57.6 million in stage two of the Ice Action Plan. The centre piece of the package is a \$32 million new Drug Court to be based at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court.

The *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 2016* strengthens the laws against the production and distribution of illicit drugs in Victoria. New offences target people who deal ice to school children or around school premises. The new offences will also deal with the publication of instructions for how to make ice, allowing premises to be used as a clandestine drug lab, and using violence or threats to force another person to deal ice. These laws will provide courts with the capacity to enforce additional jail time for those convicted of these offences.

The Andrews Government is also investing an additional \$2 billion to keep Victorians safe, prevent harm in our communities and make criminals accountable. This funding will deliver new frontline and specialist police, protective services officers, more police stations and give police the latest crime fighting capabilities.

This is the largest single investment in police and the biggest recruitment of additional police in Victoria's history. Another 2729 police and 100 PSOs, will be recruited over four years, including 415 specialist family violence officers to transform the way Victoria Police responds to crime and community safety.

### Goulburn Valley Highway

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 7 March 2017

**REPLY:**

Victoria has experienced a wetter than average winter, spring and early summer in 2016. This has resulted in a backlog and delay of maintenance activities due to the amount of work required to re-establish the network to the pre winter state.

Significant work has been completed in the Shepparton area with a number of urgent works being completed on the Goulburn Valley Highway in the Murchison area prior to Christmas.

Further works are planned in the next few months to improve the roads in the Shepparton area. These include pavement rehabilitation on Murchison-Tatura Road, pavement patching works on Lancaster–Mooroopna Road, Katamatite–Shepparton Road and the Goulburn Valley Highway.

It is also planned that the grass will be mowed on these roads prior to winter to ensure improved delineation for users of the road network.

The Andrews Labor Government recently announced a Safer System Road Infrastructure Project to upgrade the Midland Highway between Shepparton and Stanhope. This project is one of the top 20 high-risk rural roads identified in the *Towards Zero Safety Strategy and Action Plan*.

### Ridesharing regulation

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Melhem  
**Raised on:** 7 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank the Member for his adjournment and for the ongoing work he is doing consulting with the taxi industry, explaining the Government reforms and keeping me informed of their concerns.

Every jurisdiction in Australia is moving towards regulating ridesharing and the \$494 million that the Andrews Government is providing in financial assistance to the existing industry is the most generous in the nation.

The Liberal Opposition has supported the Government changes to licensing and to provide for ridesharing but has opposed financial assistance for the existing industry.

The Liberal Shadow Minister for Public Transport has described the Government's financial assistance as a "slush fund to buy the votes of licence holders".

The Government's legislation is currently before the Parliament. The Government has rejected amendments from the Liberal Opposition that attempted to remove the capacity to provide the \$494 million in financial assistance.

**Point Cook–Sneydes roads, Point Cook**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 7 March 2017

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is making an unprecedented investment to upgrade roads in the inner-west in the order of \$1.8 billion. These upgrades will improve safety and increase capacity to meet the growing needs in the community so drivers can get home sooner to the family and friends.

**Cancer medication**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 7 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I thank Mr Eideh for raising the circumstances of his constituent, Ms Wu and the important issues affecting her life and access to the medication she needs. I am very sorry to hear of your constituent's illness.

As you'd be aware, the Commonwealth Government has responsibility for pharmaceuticals, the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and associated programs. The Commonwealth also has responsibility for assuring the safety of therapeutic agents through review and registration by the Therapeutic Goods Authority (TGA).

Crizotinib was TGA-registered on 27 September 2013 for the treatment of patients with anaplastic lymphoma kinase (*ALK*)-positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer. The manufacturer of Crizotinib then made application through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme for subsidy. Crizotinib was recommended for listing on the PBS in November 2014 for patients with *ALK*-positive non-small cell lung cancer under a managed entry scheme to address the uncertainty related to the magnitude of clinical benefit.

Unfortunately, Ms Wu has another rare variation of non-small cell lung cancer that is called *ROS1*-positive. To date, Crizotinib is not registered by the TGA for use in the treatment of *ROS1*-positive non-small cell lung cancer. Crizotinib was only registered for this specific type of lung cancer by the US Food and Drug Administration in March 2016.

I hope that the manufacturer of Crizotinib will rapidly progress the clinical studies and the necessary applications so that this drug can be registered by the TGA for the treatment of *ROS1*-positive non-small cell lung cancer. Once it has been registered by the TGA, the manufacturer can then apply for subsidy under the PBS program for this specific disease.

I am very conscious of the significant burden both emotional and financial which delays in this process can cause although I also appreciate that due process needs to be followed. I wish Ms Wu all the very best for her treatment.

**Family violence emergency relief**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Crozier  
**Raised on:** 7 March 2017

**REPLY:**

Further to the advice I provided the member in the House, I can advise further that following the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, the Andrews Labor Government allocated \$17 million in 2016-17 for flexible support packages to provide individualised responses to women and their children experiencing family violence.

The funding boost provided a 480 per cent increase in Flexible Support Packages for victims of family violence. Flexible support packages of up to \$7000 deliver a personalised and holistic response to women and children experiencing family violence to assist with rental or relocation costs, furnishings, clothing and books for children or security measures to improve safety at home.

I can advise that Women's Health West has been provided with substantial funding for family violence case management and provision of Flexible Support Packages. This funding has enabled Women's Health West to create nine new positions critical to meeting increased demand for services. A component of the funding is dedicated towards the employment of an administration officer to assist with meeting increased demands for assistance. Women's Health West has advised my department that a new administrative position will begin in late March 2017 and is expected to improve timeliness in processing applications for assistance.

I am also advised that staff from the Department of Health and Human Services met with Women's Health West to ensure financial processes are streamlined to enable a more timely release of funds in circumstances such as this.

### **Burnet Park camp site**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Ms Bath

**Raised on:** 7 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

VicRoads has investigated the request from Ms Melina Bath to negotiate a long-term, peppercorn lease for the Girl Guides to utilise the Burnet Park campsite in Gippsland.

VicRoads advises that they do not own, manage or control the Burnet Park campsite or the surrounding area. Accordingly, they are unable to negotiate or enter a lease for this land.

Burnet Park is surrounded by private land, local road and Crown land, managed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

### **Shepparton freight airport**

**Raised with:** Minister for Ports

**Raised by:** Ms Lovell

**Raised on:** 8 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

In response to developing an airfreight port in Greater Shepparton, unfortunately this matter does not fall within my portfolio of responsibilities. Please redirect your question to the Minister for Regional Development, the Hon Jaala Pulford MP.

Victoria is home to Australia's largest container and general cargo port, as well as two curfew-free airports, supported by an extensive rail and road transport network. The State Government along with both Melbourne Airport and Avalon Airport are providing for capacity to efficiently service continued growth in this freight mode.

### **Federation Training**

**Raised with:** Minister for Training and Skills

**Raised by:** Ms Shing

**Raised on:** 8 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Thank you for your request to visit and meet with Federation Training to discuss skills and training in the Gippsland region.

As you are aware, I was pleased to visit Federation Training's campuses on 15 and 16 March to better understand the current state of the Institute's facilities and I thank you for accompanying me as the Member for Eastern Victoria.

I have spoken with Federation Training's new Managing Director, Jonathan Davis, several times since my appointment as Minister for Training and Skills and am confident in the Institute's ability to transform into a modern, agile and sustainable provider of choice delivering the training Gippsland's communities need.

The Board and Managing Director have a clear vision for Federation Training that will ensure the Institute is a future-focused TAFE institute that can step up to the challenges facing Gippsland. Federation Training executive and staff are already working hard for communities across Gippsland, providing essential support to workers affected by the Hazelwood power plant closure.

In particular, I have received very positive feedback about the vital work Federation Training's Skills and Jobs Centre staff are doing to support workers and their families affected by the closure of Hazelwood. These staff are very well regarded in the Latrobe Valley and this positive feedback demonstrates just how important it is to have a local TAFE to support the community and industry.

As you know, the Andrews Labor Government has already supported Federation Training with over \$11.7 million in funding to enable Federation Training to continue delivering training and services for students, without job losses for ongoing staff.

The cumulative effect of two poorly performing TAFEs being brought together combined with a lack of focus at upper management level, reduced middle management, lack of investment in deteriorating assets and declining enrolments sector-wide has weakened Federation Training's capacity to meet community needs.

My Department is working intensively with Federation Training to develop and implement a high-level transformation strategy that will revitalise and realign the Institute so it can better meet the needs of its communities in Gippsland as the local TAFE.

### **Deep Creek boat ramp**

**Raised with:** Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change

**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan

**Raised on:** 8 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Parks Victoria will also continue to discuss the future land and boat ramp access issues in the Deep Creek Lower Moira area with local residents, the Nathalia Angling Club and other interested stakeholders.

### **Sunbury Road duplication**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety

**Raised by:** Mr Finn

**Raised on:** 8 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

VicRoads recently completed a detailed planning investigation for a link between Melbourne Airport and the future Outer Metropolitan Ring Road transport corridor, which included a bypass of Bulla.

The Minister for Planning, the Hon Richard Wynne MLA, has asked me to consider further options that address safety and congestion and future traffic demands for the Sunbury and Bulla communities.

VicRoads is currently undertaking that work.

**Ballarat rail line incident**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 8 March 2017

**REPLY:**

*The Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) (Conduct on Public Transport) Regulations 2015* outlines that it is an offence to open a locked train door unless the person has a reasonable excuse for doing so.

A reasonable excuse may include a distressed passenger forcing the door open of a stationary train with malfunctioning air-conditioning.

Given that the train was stationed at a platform, V/Line will not be taking any further action.

**Australian Pain Management Association**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Dr Carling-Jenkins  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

**REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government acknowledges the significant impact of chronic pain on the community, and the importance of providing evidence-based options for alleviating and managing pain. The Government invests in pain services in its public hospital system, including assessment and treatment outpatient clinics and education programs. Work to strengthen engagement between primary and acute services for the management of back pain has also recently been piloted.

Victoria's Better Health Channel, which receives around 60 million hits per annum, is a widely accepted source of credible and safe health information. It now features a comprehensive pain hub <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/conditionsandtreatment/pain>.

Additionally, in 2016 the Government provided \$100 000 to *MOVE muscle, bone & joint health* for the development of a consumer tool and resources for pain management, which will be made available in 2017.

Victoria has an exceptionally diverse and productive network of peer-led support groups which focus on a range of chronic conditions, many of which can cause chronic pain.

The Victorian Health Condition Support Grants program, which aims to support this community of peer-led groups, is unique in Australia in providing financial support to peer-led, community-based groups. The grants assist these groups to meet to offer mutual support for their members; encourage self-management of their health condition; and foster a proactive and health-literate membership.

In 2017, the Health Condition Support Grants funding round will focus on peer-led support groups that target 12 key chronic conditions that contribute substantially to the overall burden of disease in Victoria. These conditions include cancers, musculoskeletal conditions, cardiovascular conditions and diabetes. A total of \$180 000 will be made available to eligible Victorian groups.

I understand that the grants program will be advertised in May 2017, and that priority will be given to those peer-led support groups with limited access to funding to support approved activities. I would encourage all Victorian peer-led health condition support groups, including those that may have a focus on pain management, to look for information on the forthcoming round at the Department's website.

**Officer Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Mulino  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Andrews Labor Government, and we have allocated \$1.8 billion overall through the 2015-16 and 2016-17 State Budgets to build, upgrade and maintain school infrastructure across the state. As part of our record-breaking investment, the Victorian Government has introduced the \$16 million School Pride and Sports Fund to upgrade and refurbish various school facilities. I am pleased to confirm that Officer Primary School will receive over \$230 000 in School Pride and Sports funding to rejuvenate its Centenary Garden.

Officer Primary School has a long and rich history. It had been brought to my attention that its Centenary Garden — a reminder of the significant role that this school has played in the area — had become marred by broken concrete and sagging fences and walls. The funding we are providing will be used to improve footpaths, fences, paved areas, and effect other landscaping enhancements. We believe that this funding will make the garden an ongoing symbol of school pride and a place for the extended community to value.

**Northern Metropolitan Region road infrastructure**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

**REPLY:**

The Victorian Government acknowledges the impacts of population growth on the transport network, and through VicRoads and Public Transport Victoria, is working closely with the City of Hume on various transport priorities within the municipality.

VicRoads has recently completed the Mickleham Road Corridor Study from Somerton Road to Donnybrook Road. This study outlines VicRoads' medium to long-term plans for the corridor, including future duplication and associated intersections.

In preparation for the 2016 school year, VicRoads reprogrammed the traffic signals at Dellamore Boulevard, north of Aitken College, to allow for more gaps in Mickleham Road traffic and to assist with access to the college. VicRoads is continuing with further investigations to identify additional short-term improvements at and near the college.

**CityLink-Tullamarine Freeway widening**

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

**REPLY:**

The English Street Bridge is located approximately 250 metres from the Earl Street and Vaughan Street pedestrian bridges. Full pedestrian access, including disability access, will be provided at the upgraded English Street Bridge, including new, level footpaths, tactile ground surface indicators and pedestrian crossings.

This access is compliant with the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (DDA), allowing people with a disability to safely cross over the freeway 'at grade' or on a level surface, removing the need to travel up or down hill on a ramp.

The gradient required under the DDA would mean that the length of the ramps on the Earl Street and Vaughan Street pedestrian bridge would be the same distance as using English Street, where disabled access is already provided.

### **Eastern Ranges School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I am advised a meeting has been arranged in March with the Principal of Eastern Ranges School and the Department of Education and Training, including the Outer East Area Executive Director and the Director, Inclusive Education Professional Practice. The meeting will enable Mr Cotching to discuss his ideas and inform future policy and program development.

### **Adolescent family violence**

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Adolescent Family Violence program aims to reduce adolescent family violence in the 12-17-year-old age group, and increase the safety of all impacted family members. The program model comprises three components: intensive family case management, a group work program and a specialist response to Aboriginal families.

An evaluation of the program found that it delivered an effective specialised response to the specific needs and issues affecting adolescents and their families. Findings included:

- young people's understanding of their violent behaviour, including identifying and managing triggers for violent or aggressive behaviour improved
- parents had increased confidence in managing the young person's behaviour
- the nature and frequency of violence and aggression reduced
- there were improved education, work and health outcomes for young people.

In recognition of the positive findings of the evaluation, additional funding was allocated to the program in 2016-17. Child and Family Services Ballarat, Barwon Child and Youth and Family and Peninsula Health each received an additional \$233 000 in 2016-17 to support close to 100 more families. This additional funding has enabled agencies to deliver a more intensive response to young people using violence in the home, and to strengthen responses based on an assessment of individual risk factors.

The evaluation has been released to key stakeholders and is being used to inform the further development of the program.

### Foster care

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Bath  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### REPLY:

Placement and care decisions are made by child protection on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the individual circumstances and needs of the child and their family. It is disappointing that the member has sought to raise the sensitive matter of a child's placement in this manner rather than to write to me to enable identifying information to be provided.

Although I cannot comment on the individual case that was referred to, I can confirm that there are current child protection policies and procedures in place to review significant decisions for a child, including care arrangements.

At the heart of all decision-making is the child's best interests. The relocation of a child from one placement to another is a significant decision based on assessment of the child's current and future needs, including their health, developmental, educational and cultural needs. The views of carers are considered alongside the many other sources that inform the assessment of the child's needs.

When making such decisions, Child Protection is required to consider a wide range of elements to determine what will be in the best interests of the child. These are set out as the best interests principles in the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*. They include the need to strengthen, preserve and promote positive relationships between the child and the child's parents, family members and persons significant to the child, and the desirability of sibling being placed together in out-of-home care, as well as the desirability of continuity and permanency in a child's care. These are weighed up and balanced in the course of reaching each decision.

Movement of children interstate is typically only undertaken when suitable family or kinship carers have been identified. The identification and assessment of such carers can sometimes take some time after placement in out-of-home care.

Foster carers are rigorously assessed and trained in the role they play and they understand that the caring role they play is an important but usually temporary role in a child's life. They agree to undertake care with full understanding that if a family placement is later found this will likely be prioritised over the care they are providing. Kinship care placements are prioritised in the Act.

Foster carers who are directly affected by a child protection decision may access the established internal review process while the child is residing with them. The foster care agency provides the carers with information and support with this process. Prior to a formal request for internal review, the departmental case planner makes every reasonable effort to achieve resolution regarding the decision with which they disagree, without compromising the best interests of the child. Where satisfactory resolution cannot be achieved, the case planner will arrange assistance for the person to request an internal review.

### Benalla railway station precinct

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Symes  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### REPLY:

I thank the Member for her question and for her ongoing interest and support for community groups in her electorate.

As the Member would be aware, VicTrack manage rail assets and land across Victoria and work to promote beneficial community outcomes by enabling access to railway buildings for community uses where possible, as highlighted by its community leasing scheme.

In the case of the Benalla Railway project, VicTrack continues to liaise with the potential leaseholders for the Benalla goods shed with a view to entering into a head lease with the Benalla Rural City Council.

It is intended that the Council will then be a party to two subleases, one for the goods shed and one for surrounding land. VicTrack is working with the Council and expects finalisation of the head lease and for the sub leases to be completed in the near future.

VicTrack has committed to refurbishing the goods shed building and revitalising the surrounding vacant land. As part of this, VicTrack recently completed \$13 000 worth of works for clean-up and maintenance works around the precinct, and a further \$20 000 committed to structural works to the goods shed building being completed in April.

I look forward to seeing this important community-led initiative advance and demonstrate a practical use of how rail assets can deliver great community outcomes.

### **School racial discrimination**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

Diversity is one of Victoria's greatest strengths and discriminating against people on account of race is completely unacceptable, and against the law. The Department of Education and Training (the Department) is in discussions with New Change about this matter.

The Andrews Labor Government recently released its multicultural policy statement, *Victorian. And proud of it*. At the heart of the policy is the Victorian Values Statement, which sets out the core values that unify us as a peaceful and prosperous society with a shared sense of belonging, respect, acceptance and contribution. It affirms what we expect of ourselves, of each other, of our community and our State and details the policies, programs and services that will extend this work.

As part of the Education State reforms, there is a strong focus on supporting and empowering all young people who experience disadvantage and face social, community and economic barriers. Providing safe and respectful school environments, building resilience, responding to student health and wellbeing and ensuring students are engaged with school and their learning is critical.

The Department is working with schools to build the capacity of teachers in inclusive practice in Victorian schools, and will seek input from New Change in addressing this issue.

### **Port of Melbourne lease**

**Raised with:** Treasurer  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The charges referred to by DP World (DPW) are not imposed by the Port of Melbourne (recently acquired by the Lonsdale consortium). These are charges determined by DPW.

The Port of Melbourne is a landlord port, with many tenants each determining their own pricing for their services.

The strengthened economic regulatory (price) framework, overseen by the Essential Services Commission, applies to the regulated services provided by the Port of Melbourne.

The framework does not, and has never, applied to stevedores. Stevedores are able to determine their own charges, as is the case at all major Australian container ports.

### **Melbourne Metro rail project**

**Raised with:** Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 9 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The adjournment from the Member for Southern Metropolitan provides an insight into why the previous Liberal Government were unable to deliver a single major public transport infrastructure project.

The Member for Southern Metropolitan has been consistent in her calls to block and delay the delivery of this project that will benefit all Victorians.

The community is very aware of the Liberal party's continued opposition to the removal of level crossings and the construction of the Metro Tunnel project.

The Andrews Government is getting on with delivering on our election commitments. The removal of Victorian 50 worst level crossings and the construction of the Metro Tunnel project will bring enormous benefits to small business.

The Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (MMRA) is developing *Business Support Guidelines for Construction* which will outline the support initiatives for business during construction of this important project. Given the MMRA reports to the Minister for Public Transport, the Hon. Jacinta Allan MP, I suggest the Member direct this and all future questions on the delivery of the project to the relevant and appropriate Minister.

### **Goulburn Valley Health**

**Raised with:** Minister for Health  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I refer to your Adjournment Debate question raised in the Legislative Council on 21 March 2017, regarding the progress of your freedom of information requests about Goulburn Valley Health.

I can confirm that the two requests, to the Department of Health and Human Services and to my office, were finalised by the department on 21 March 2017 and the decisions were sent via registered post on that day.

### **Furlong Road, St Albans, level crossing**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Eideh  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Member for Western Metropolitan for his ongoing advocacy for better public transport services in his community.

The level crossings at Main Road and Furlong Road in St Albans were removed in late 2016, reducing congestion and improving safety in the area. The project team are currently completing the retail area and bus interchange at St Albans Station and have begun landscaping at Ginifer Station. The project is on track for completion in the middle of this year.

For further information on all level crossing removal projects, constituents can visit [www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](http://www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au) or alternatively telephone the Level Crossing Removal Authority on 1800 762 667 and email [contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au).

### Summary Offences Act 1966

**Raised with:** Minister for Police  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

#### REPLY:

I appreciate your concerns about the World Naked Bike Ride. I am advised that this is an annual event held in Melbourne, and many cities throughout the world, to highlight the vulnerability of cyclists on our roads.

I am informed that Victoria Police reached an agreement with event organisers. It was agreed that the event would be treated like any other public demonstration on the condition that the bike ride is conducted in a safe and orderly manner, and that there were no overt displays of sexuality. Victoria Police monitored the event to ensure that no breaches of the peace took place.

### Child protection

**Raised with:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Raised by:** Ms Springle  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

#### REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

The vast majority of school principals recognise the importance of giving the implementation of the Child Safe Standards the highest priority.

I appreciate the cooperation and support of principals in ensuring the Child Safe Standards are implemented and that good practice can be disseminated across the government, Catholic and independent school sectors.

The child safe standards were introduced as a response to the bipartisan betrayal of trust inquiry. For the Greens Party to follow the Coalition in opposing the implementation of the standards is political game playing.

It is of the highest priority for the Andrews Labor Government that we protect children from all forms of abuse and that we build a culture of child safety in our society, so that the mistakes and failures of the past are not repeated. Vital work is underway to ensure schools are equipped to keep children and young people safe from all forms of abuse.

As part of meeting the Child Safe Standards the principal and school council president of all schools — government, Catholic and independent — are required to sign a statutory declaration. The statutory declaration provides assurance that they intend to implement the Child Safe Standards and that the information provided in relation to the school's compliance is true and correct. Statutory declarations are widely used by regulators to ensure that organisations understand their obligations.

The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) — the body responsible for registering schools and monitoring compliance against the Standards — will continue to work with the Department of Education and Training to educate and monitor schools to support their compliance with these important new Standards that will increase the safety of our children. No schools have been threatened with deregistration by the VRQA.

The decision to use a statutory declaration as one mechanism for monitoring school compliance was endorsed by the VRQA Board in June 2016. The VRQA is now directly monitoring schools for their compliance and will work with the Department if any government school fails to meet the child safe standards.

### Mouse control

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

#### REPLY:

DEDJTR has a role with mouse plagues, as outlined in Emergency Management Manual Victoria, and has already updated the Mouse Plague Action Plan 2017.

The responsibilities of DEDJTR in mouse control and damage reduction are to convene the DEDJTR Mouse Plague Advisory Committee, liaise with relevant stakeholder groups including producer organisations, provide a representative to the National Mouse Management Working Group, provide advice on mouse populations, trends in mouse numbers and consequence management issues, and provide verbal and written advice on mouse control methods when requested.

The DEDJTR Mouse Plague Advisory Committee has met and is delivering on the responsibilities outlined above. DEDJTR is also working closely with DHHS to ensure relevant authorities are kept aware of the current status of mouse populations and are able to respond to any applications for regionally based bait mixing stations.

Potential manufacturers of mouse bait including product manufactured at regionally based mixing stations must first obtain a Licence to Manufacture and Sell or Supply by Wholesale from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

A licence from DHHS is required to minimise any public health risks as the active product for mouse control is a Schedule 7 poison.

### William Angliss Institute

**Raised with:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Raised by:** Mr Elasmarr  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

#### REPLY:

I am informed as follows:

I thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for his question and his invitation to visit the William Angliss Institute in his electorate.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting William Angliss Institute including the Angliss International Hotel School, which was funded as part of the Government's \$4.5 million TAFE Back to Work fund.

I also had the opportunity to tour the Institute's world-class food trades facilities and see the difference that Government funding is making in training the next generation of chefs and hospitality leaders. Thanks to \$960 000 from the Victorian Government's Specialised Teaching Equipment, William Angliss Institute was able to invest nearly \$650 000 for the latest bakery and patisserie equipment and over \$310 000 for sustainable cooking equipment and induction cook tops.

I also visited the Institute's Skills and Job Centre, which provides valuable support to individuals interested in a career in food trades, tourism, hospitality and events.

During my visit, I had the pleasure of announcing a \$5 million contribution to the Institute from the Government's *Skills First* Stronger TAFE Fund, which recognises the unique costs faced by TAFEs in their role as public providers.

*Skills First* puts TAFE at the centre of the government funded training system, setting the quality benchmark, fostering the skills students need to be job ready, and driving productivity improvements across the state. Our record investment in training and TAFE is changing the lives of everyday Victorians — while also making sure industry has the skills it needs for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

### **Southern Migrant & Refugee Centre**

**Raised with:** Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 21 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I thank the Honourable Member for raising this issue.

I note your concerns about the proceedings at the Southern Migrant and Refugee Centre (SMRC).

The multicultural affairs portfolio has an ongoing programmatic relationship with SMRC and does not have concerns about the organisation's ability to deliver services to target communities. If this were to change, there would be a contractual reason to intervene.

However, the multicultural affairs portfolio has no oversight role of the internal operations or management of SMRC, or any other service provider it has a programmatic relationship with. If you have such concerns, the relevant body for oversight of incorporated associations is Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV).

For any ongoing issues pertaining to the governance structure of the organisation, a dispute resolution service such as CAV's Information and Dispute Services Centre (IDSC) may be an appropriate organisation to contact. The IDSC can be reached by phoning 1300 558 181, or by visiting [www.consumer.vic.gov.au](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au).

### **Tatura V/Line services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

As of 29 January 2017, the Andrews Labor Government recently introduced a new extended weekday service from Seymour to Shepparton via Murchison East station however, additional train stops and connecting coach services at Murchison East station will be considered in future timetable reviews.

This additional service was a result of the strong advocacy from the Member for Shepparton, Suzanna Sheed and the local Shepparton community.

A secondary travel option for your constituent is the *Barmah Coach Service* departing Southern Cross station at 3.54pm and arriving at Tatura at 7:45pm. The journey time is slightly longer however, it is a more direct service to Tatura without a need to transfer.

Unfortunately, in this instance, the advice provided to the customer regarding V/Line's policy on *Seniors Free Travel Voucher* redemptions was incorrect.

Both V/Line and the PTV Call Centre have been made aware of this inaccuracy.

### **Gippsland bus services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Shing  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Any changes to bus or train timetables undergo consultation with the local community and key stakeholders.

I am pleased to announce that new bus networks are underway in the LaTrobe Valley and Warragul-Drouin to provide better bus services to the local community.

I have asked PTV that bus services and train timetables are reviewed to ensure that they are meeting the needs of locals. The bus networks in the LaTrobe Valley and Warragul Drouin will be reviewed to identify what improvements can be made to get people where they need to go.

I would like to thank the Member for Eastern Victoria for her advocacy for better public transport services on behalf of her community and commend her hard work on this matter.

### **Mental health services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Mental Health  
**Raised by:** Ms Patten  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I note the successful operation of the Maroondah Psychiatric Assessment and Planning Unit since its launch in 2016 and am pleased to advise that a similar four (4) bed unit at Austin Health and a six (6) bed unit at Peninsula Health will open during 2017.

Effective triage and patient flow in our emergency departments is critical because delays in care can compromise quality and patient outcomes. All services need a whole-of-health-service approach to achieve sustainable improvements in access to timely treatment through emergency departments.

That is why Better Care Victoria, together with health services and the Department of Health and Human Services, has recently established the 'Improving Emergency Access Collaborative 2016-17 (the Collaborative).

The Collaborative is working to develop and build on local and system level improvements through expert support from industry coaches. Outcomes will be shared widely with all health services.

### **Public Transport Access Committee**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Leane  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Thank you for the positive feedback.

I agree that the Public Transport Access Committee has been an exceptional forum for the Andrews Labor Government to hear issues and receive advice for representatives across the accessibility sector. Our aim is to create a public transport system that is inclusive and accessible to all Victorians.

I thank my colleagues the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure Shaun Leane and Parliamentary Secretary for Public Transport Ros Spence along with the members of the Committee for their hard work and dedication to improving our public transport system.

I will take this positive feedback into account as I consider the future of this committee in the coming year.

### **Black Rock Primary School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Raised on:** 22 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

An application has been submitted to the Andrews Government's Shared Facilities Fund concerning Black Rock Primary School.

The Andrews Labor Government's \$50 million fund will deliver integrated community facilities on school sites across Victoria. It will support a mix of projects with direct benefits to communities across the broad infrastructure categories of community health, wellbeing and social interaction; early education; sport, recreation and leisure; and arts, culture and community education.

Applications are still being assessed, and no decisions have been made regarding funding.

Successful projects will be announced later this year.

### **Shepparton rail services**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Ms Lovell  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

The Member for Shepparton, Suzanna Sheed has been a strong advocate for better rail services for her community and her efforts are to be commended.

The previous Liberal National Government abandoned Shepparton and regional Victoria.

The Andrews Labor Government has added five new services to Shepparton with more to come later this year.

All budget requests will be considered through the normal budget cycle process.

### **Assisted Suicide: The Musical**

**Raised with:** Premier  
**Raised by:** Dr Carling-Jenkins  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

#### **REPLY:**

Firstly, I would like to thank the Member for her passionate advocacy on matters important to her and her constituency. I understand during Ms Carr's recent visit to Parliament she meet with Members of Parliament, including the Minister for Health, and her panel event was well attended, including by the Minister for Housing, Disability & Ageing. This is a testament to your tireless advocacy.

Over the past two years, our Government has undertaken significant reform in improving end of life choices for Victorians. We have released *Victoria's end of life and palliative care framework*, to guide improvements in end of life and palliative care services over the next decade. At the end of last year, the *Medical Treatment Planning and Decisions Act* was passed by the Parliament which provides statutory recognition of advance care directives.

For the vast majority of people, palliative care and advance care planning will ensure they receive appropriate pain relief and have genuine choice. Victoria has high-quality palliative care services, and we are committed to continuing to improve these services.

The Parliamentary Committee found that there were a small number of circumstances in which palliative care cannot provide the relief needed to address the pain and suffering at the end of life. To that end, it has recommended that in these very limited cases, medical practitioners should be allowed to assist people to die.

Consistent with the proposed voluntary assisted dying framework recommended in the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into end of life choices final report, the Government will introduce legislation into Parliament in 2017 to legalise voluntary assisted dying for terminally ill people in Victoria.

The Committee has provided a clear framework for assisted dying legislation, however, further work needs to be undertaken to design a workable scheme with strong safeguards and protections for the vulnerable. To support this work, an Expert Ministerial Advisory Panel has been established and is made up of clinical, legal and consumer experts.

The Panel, which is chaired by Professor Brian Owler will build on the findings and recommendations of the Committee by seeking considered and expert advice on the details associated with developing and implementing a legislative framework for voluntary assisted dying.

The Panel has released a discussion paper and the closing date for feedback is Monday 10 April 2017. The discussion paper and framework response details can be found at:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/health-strategies/government-response-to-inquiry-into-end-of-life-choices-final-report>.

### **Mildura passenger rail service**

**Raised with: Minister for Public Transport**

**Raised by: Ms Dunn**

**Raised on: 23 March 2017**

#### **REPLY:**

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to the development and timely delivery of various public transport projects, and took an ambitious public transport infrastructure agenda to the election. Projects include the removal of 50 of Melbourne's most dangerous and congested level crossings, the extension of the rail line to Mernda, and the Melbourne Metro Tunnel.

In regional Victoria, the Government is delivering the Murray Basin Rail project and announced more than \$1.3 billion in regional public transport investment in last year's State Budget.

In light of this substantial agenda, the Government's current priority is to focus on delivering on these commitments.

**Sunbury–Broadmeadows bus service**

**Raised with:** Minister for Public Transport  
**Raised by:** Mr Finn  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

**REPLY:**

Passengers between Sunbury and Broadmeadows can currently travel via route 479 between Sunbury and Melbourne Airport. In addition, the Smartbus 901 route also travels between Melbourne Airport and Broadmeadows.

I have requested PTV to consider any improvements to local routes in the area as part of any future plans for bus networks.

The Andrews Labor Government has rolled out a number of new bus routes and bus networks across Victoria as part of the \$100 million Better Bus Network package. The service improvements include improved frequency and new routes to growing communities.

These new and improved services were badly needed after bus services in the area were neglected by the previous Liberal Government.

**Coburg High School**

**Raised with:** Minister for Education  
**Raised by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

**REPLY:**

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of \$1.8 billion to school facilities in the last two State Budgets.

The Andrews Government is aware that schools such as Coburg High may have maintenance or capital needs, and I appreciate the challenges this presents for the school community. However, it is our ongoing responsibility to balance and prioritise the needs of over 1500 government schools, all of which are in varying condition.

I am advised that there are sufficient classrooms to accommodate the school's current enrolment of 544 students. In accordance with facility entitlements, relocatable classrooms will be provided if enrolments exceed the school's present accommodation capacity of 900 students.

When schools receive capital funding, the Department works with them to determine the direction and priorities that will deliver the best educational outcomes for students. I am advised that provisions were made on the master plan for a library; however, the school instead decided to use this allocation as a teaching space.

Lizzie Blandthorn, Member for Pascoe Vale, has been advocating on behalf of Coburg High School and the community for more funding for Coburg High. I assure you that Coburg High School will continue to receive fair and equitable consideration when determining future priorities for the capital works program. The Government will use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when assessing the needs of individual schools ahead of the 2017-18 State Budget.

### Casey community crime forum

**Raised with:** Minister for Mental Health  
**Raised by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

#### REPLY:

This year alone, the Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$192.5 million to reduce alcohol and other drug related harm, including through expanding access to treatment in Victoria.

Since coming into office, the Government has funded an increase to the number of residential rehabilitation beds by more than 25 per cent. An additional 32 residential rehabilitations beds across the state in 2015 are already operational. This means that now over 1000 Victorians a year access state-funded residential rehabilitation services.

In addition, \$6 million was committed in the 2016-17 State Budget to develop an 18 to 20 bed residential rehabilitation facility in the Grampians region.

Residential rehabilitation doesn't always suit everyone. Some people want to stay close to home and their families or loved ones. The Government, through its Ice Action Plan, has introduced a new kind of structured therapeutic day rehabilitation service to give people more options. This new service is now giving up to 500 extra Victorians access to rehabilitation services at nine locations across Victoria, including at a new therapeutic day rehabilitation service for the City of Casey.

Overall, the Government's Ice Action Plan has delivered more than \$100 million in new investment to reduce the availability of and harm caused by ice and other drugs.

This includes funding for Community Ice Action Groups, which is used to identify specific issues related to ice impacting on a local community, and assist grassroots community groups in those communities to work together on locally-driven solutions.

The Government welcomes the interest of the City of Casey community in addressing these issues and encourages local organisations to apply for the next round of grants to be launched in May 2017.

The Government is committed to reducing the impact of alcohol and other drugs on individuals and families across Victoria, and will continue to work with the community and the alcohol and drug treatment sector to identify future priorities for investment.

### Western Highway road safety

**Raised with:** Minister for Roads and Road Safety  
**Raised by:** Mr Morris  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

#### REPLY:

VicRoads has advised that records of casualty crashes show there has been a decrease in the number of truck rollovers. In the 5 year period between 2006 and 2011 there were 10 truck rollover casualty crashes and in the five year period between 2012 and 2017, there were 5 truck rollover casualty crashes.

In the State Government's "*Towards Zero 2016–2020 Victoria's Road Safety Strategy & Action Plan*", the Western Highway between Melbourne and Ballarat has been identified as one of the State's 20 highest risk road segments.

As part of the State Government's \$340 million safety improvements on rural and regional roads, safety barriers on both sides of each carriageway, tactile edge line marking and other safety improvements will be installed on Western Highway between Melbourne and Ballarat.

**Plan Melbourne: Refresh**

**Raised with:** Minister for Planning  
**Raised by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

**REPLY:**

Amendment VC110 was gazetted on 27 March 2017 bringing into effect the Government's reforms to the suite of residential zones across all Victorian planning schemes. The new zones protect the character and liveability that people love about Geelong's suburbs and support growth in the right areas.

Of all the existing residential zoned land in the City of Greater Geelong, 88.1% is zoned General Residential; 9.3% is zoned Residential Growth; and 2.6% is zoned Neighbourhood Residential, which applies to parts of Newtown, Geelong West, Rippleside, Belmont and Highton.

The Government has chosen to strengthen the residential zones in a number of ways. The approved reforms enable neighbourhood character objectives to be included and also introduce new mandatory building height limits and garden area requirements to protect the low scale and open character of our suburbs. For Geelong, these new provisions will better protect the valued garden character of neighbourhoods and allow for more housing diversity.

The reforms have been informed by consultation with local government and also the findings of the independent Advisory Committee appointed in 2015 to report on the effectiveness of the new residential zones introduced in 2014 by the former Government.

As part of the reforms, the Neighbourhood Residential Zone default limit of two dwellings on a lot has been removed and replaced with the new mandatory minimum garden area requirement, and the maximum building height is now 9 metres (and 2-storey maximum) rather than the previous 8 metres (and no storey limit). The General Residential Zone maximum building height is now 11 metres (and 3-storey maximum) rather than the previous 9 metres (and no storey limit).

New developments in both the Neighbourhood Residential Zone and General Residential Zone will need to comply with the new garden area requirement. It is mandatory, and cannot be varied. The garden area requirement increases the amount of garden space that must be provided for new residential developments and subdivision. Lots between 400-500 square metres will require a 25% minimum garden area, lots between 501-600 metres need 30%, and lots larger than 650 square metres must provide at least 35% of the site as garden area.

The new zones deliver equity and provide certainty in the suburbs, regardless of your postcode.

Full details of the reforms are now available online at:

<http://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/planning-reform/reformed-zones-for-victoria/reformed-residential-zones>

**Sheep and goat electronic identification**

**Raised with:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Raised by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Raised on:** 23 March 2017

**REPLY:**

The introduction of electronic identification of sheep and goats in Victoria is an important reform to protect our valuable livestock industries. On 11 November 2016, the Andrews Government announced a \$17.06 million transition package, which was developed in consultation with industry. The transition package provides funding to support all parts of the supply chain, including up to \$7.7 million to provide cost neutral tags for the first 12 months for 2017 lambs and kids.

It's quite funny that Mr O'Sullivan seeks to lecture our government about an important biosecurity reform, when he almost has as little credibility as the leader of the Nationals — who oversaw dramatic cuts to biosecurity funding; placing our entire agriculture sector at risk.

It's also quite apparent that Mr O'Sullivan has not familiarised himself with the details of this reform or the funding package. He thinks that he can explain a complicated reform by pulling a calculator out of his back pocket. But government doesn't work like that. Sometimes you have to be across the detail. In the detail of the transition package it clearly states that sheep farmers are not required to do anything other than tag their sheep. Any other equipment or infrastructure is optional. Reading, scanning and uploading of information will be done at sale yards and abattoirs — who will receive additional funding. Mr O'Sullivan doesn't understand this. But farmers do. That's why we've had a modest number apply for co-funding, and why there's still funds available. Grants of up to \$3000 are available to early adopters of optional technology and infrastructure, and we welcome further applications.

It is also important to note that Agriculture Victoria continues to deliver extension and education programs to assist producers understand their obligations and, for those that are interested, to explore the potential commercial opportunities and productivity improvements associated with EID. We've had 1000's of farmers attend these sessions. It seems that everyone is getting on with introducing this important reform, that is — except for Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Walsh.