

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
WITHOUT NOTICE**

3 May to 11 May 2017

(Extract from book 8)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 13 September 2017)

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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
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Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
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Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

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The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

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The ministry

(to 12 September 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
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Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
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Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence (until 23 August 2017)	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Sullivan, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

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

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Fire Services Bill Select Committee — Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Joint committees

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

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Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmarr and Mr Melhem. (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Ms Garrett and Ms Ryall.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath, Ms Patten and Mr Somyurek. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon and Ms Spence.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Mr Gepp and Ms Patten. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

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The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

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The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
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Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁷	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
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Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁸ Appointed 12 October 2016

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;

LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;

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

CONTENTS

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

3 MAY TO 11 MAY 2017

<i>Wyndham youth justice facility</i>	2131
<i>Prison capacity</i>	2131
<i>Portland aluminium smelter</i>	2132
<i>Child sexual abuse</i>	2132
<i>Naloxone supply</i>	2133
<i>Prison capacity</i>	2133
<i>TAFE funding</i>	2133
<i>The Bubble student support centre</i>	2134
<i>Ararat correctional facility</i>	2135
<i>Bendigo Kangan Institute</i>	2135
<i>Firearm regulation</i>	2136
<i>Hyde Street, Yarraville</i>	2136
<i>Wyndham youth justice facility</i>	2137
<i>Youth justice system</i>	2137
<i>Duck season</i>	2138
<i>Vocational education and training</i>	2138
<i>Melbourne Polytechnic</i>	2139
<i>Residential care facilities</i>	2139

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Responses have been incorporated in the form provided to Hansard and received in the period shown.

3 May to 11 May 2017

Wyndham youth justice facility

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 23 March 2017

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I am advised that for the site at Cherry Creek an Environmental Impact Assessment will be completed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999.

Dependent on the outcomes of this assessment, an Environmental Effects Statement may also be required under the Environmental Effects Act 1978.

This is a similar process that has been used by the department for the construction of other projects such as Ravenhall and Barwon.

Wyndham youth justice facility

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 23 March 2017

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As part of the due diligence assessments for the Cherry Creek site, it was identified that the land has cultural sensitivities. The department will, in conjunction with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (Wathaurong Aboriginal Corporation), develop a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) and will contain results of the assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed activity on Aboriginal cultural heritage. It will outline measures to be taken before, during and after works to be carried out on site including the installation of electricity, gas, water, sewerage, drainage and telecommunications services. This is a similar process that has been used by the department for the construction of prison projects such as at Ravenhall and Barwon.

Prison capacity

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 2 May 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Of the five maximum-security prisons in Victoria, three — the Melbourne Assessment Prison, Port Phillip Prison and Dame Phyllis Frost Centre — currently have the same number or more beds than when the Andrews Government was elected on 29 November 2014. Barwon Prison currently has 13 fewer beds than in November 2014, owing to the temporary use of Grevillea Unit as a Youth Justice Centre. The 40-bed high-security Olearia unit opened at Barwon Prison in August 2016 and significantly enhanced the capacity of Corrections Victoria to effectively manage prisoners who pose the greatest security and safety risk.

The Walshe Review into the riot at the Metropolitan Remand Centre on 30 June 2015 found that the previous Coalition Government's policy overcrowding, through the inappropriate levels of double-bunking, was a significant contributory factor. This Government accepted the recommendations of the Walshe Review and has reduced the use of double bunks at the MRC. Work is continuing to replace and strengthen infrastructure following

the riot, with the beds scheduled to reopen being progressively returned to operation this year. The Andrews Government will not be revisiting the failed policies regarding prisoner numbers at the MRC.

Portland aluminium smelter

Question asked by: Mr Barber
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 2 May 2017

RESPONSE:

I am advised that the funding agreement referred to by Mr Barber is a commercial agreement between the State Government and the Alcoa Portland Smelter (Alcoa), and therefore I am unable to provide detail regarding specific conditions.

As Mr Barber may be aware, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), has powers to ensure the security of the energy system, and works with market participants in gas and electricity markets. As the market operator, AEMO is best-placed to determine whether specific action is required of Alcoa (or other market participants) to maintain system security.

Child sexual abuse

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 2 May 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Crimes Amendment (Sexual Offences) Act 2016 (Vic), which received Royal Assent on 6 September 2016 repeals the defence of reasonable belief in marriage that applies to sexual offences against a child under the age of 16. This reflects the fact that a child under the age of 16 cannot be married in Australia. The Act commences on 1 July 2017.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The Office of Public Prosecutions advises that there is no known instance of the Director of Public Prosecutions withdrawing a charge for a sexual offence based on the defence of reasonable belief in marriage contained in sections 45(4)(c) and 47(2)(c) of the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic).

The forced marriage case that is the subject of recent media reports was referred to the CDPP to prosecute relevant Commonwealth offences under the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth) and/or the Marriage Act 1961 (Cth).

Further information

Under the Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995 it is illegal to cause a person to enter a forced marriage, and to be a party to a forced marriage. A marriage is forced where one party enters without freely and fully consenting. A lack of consent can arise because the party is incapable of understanding the nature and effect of the marriage ceremony. The forced marriage offences contain a rebuttable presumption that a person under the age of 16 years of age is incapable of understanding the nature and effect of a marriage ceremony.

Naloxone supply

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 2 May 2017

RESPONSE:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing the harms associated with the use of both licit and illicit drugs across Victoria.

In response to feedback from sector partners and others whose families have been impacted by drug overdoses, the government announced a package of additional harm reduction investments earlier this year.

This includes subsidies for Naloxone to improve the accessibility and use of this lifesaving medication. Like many medications, the forms of Naloxone available at any one time can vary due to commercial and regulatory factors. In Australia, Naloxone is currently available in ampoule form.

The Government has also provided funding to deliver additional training to peers, families and frontline workers, which includes advice on how to safely administer Naloxone in the forms available at the time of the training.

Prison capacity

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 9 May 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Department of Justice and Regulation is currently undertaking modelling on the impacts of the Coghlan Review recommendations on the justice system to support their implementation. Corrections Victoria will be able to manage the increase in demand through both additional beds coming on across the system in coming months, including the completion of capital works at the Metropolitan Remand Centre and the new Ravenhall Prison, for example. Careful planning, funded in the 2017-18 State Budget, will also enable the Government to manage growth over the intermediate and longer term.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The second Coghlan report was provided to government on 1 May 2017.

The 2017-18 State Budget included \$140 million to provide the essential services required for growth in the prison population, while also planning for the future requirements of the prison system.

TAFE funding

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 9 May 2017

RESPONSE:

I thank the honourable Member for her question.

In 2012, the former Government removed supplementary funding from TAFE institutes which led to the deterioration of our TAFEs.

This funding was previously used to support vital services and facilities for students in accordance with community and industry expectations.

Subsequently, the former Government changed eligibility and subsidy rates twice which caused a further decline in enrolments. TAFEs were then forced to discontinue the delivery of unprofitable courses and close campuses. This compounded the deterioration of TAFE financial positions

From 2015, ahead of the implementation of Skills First, this year, this Government has restored funding to TAFEs. This funding has enabled the stabilisation of TAFEs and the strengthening of the TAFE Network. In addition a further \$10 million was provided to Box Hill TAFE to reopen the Lilydale campus and \$10 million to Melbourne Polytechnic to reopen the Greensborough campus. The Gordon has also received significant additional funding to redevelop the Geelong campus and establish a state of the art Tech School in the precinct.

These support grants and capital funding will enable the TAFE Network to restore services and facilities to deliver quality training that responds to industry needs.

The Bubble student support centre

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 9 May 2017

RESPONSE:

I thank the honourable Member for her question.

I would also like to refer the honourable member to her adjournment of the 8 December 2016 in response to the inquiry of an constituent and my subsequent response, on the same day, where the question was answered.

The Victorian Government provided one off funding to establish a student support model through the Bubble project as part of the TAFE Rescue Fund.

Federation Training has reviewed the effectiveness of the Bubble, and has made the decision to move towards an integrated support service with help in every class at every campus for all students as opposed to standalone centres.

This decision will help address student retention rates, and is an important step in achieving better student outcomes. Student Services Advisors continue to provide services across all campuses and will be supported by up to 15 Learner Support Assistants.

Furthermore, Skills and Job Centres are not affected in any way. Federation Training will deploy additional staff to further strengthen their capacity to provide support in the Jobs and Skills Centres to meet demand. These centres provide a valuable service in connecting local students into training and then into employment.

The new CEO of Federation Training continues to work closely with the Government to provide Gippsland a TAFE that is fit-for-purpose as an agile, modern and sustainable provider of choice.

The immediate operational challenges of improving business practices, addressing deteriorating facilities and declining revenue, are significant.

However, I have been encouraged to see some of the positive changes starting to take shape in my recent visits to Gippsland. I have had 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. In fact, to date a total of 336 people have engaged with the Skills and Jobs Centre, this includes 28 who are enrolled in the RPL process and 195 who are engaging with the Centre for career guidance and transition support. This demonstrates just how important it is to have a local TAFE to support the community and industry.

Ararat correctional facility

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 9 May 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Work is underway to identify the eligible cohort to support planning for the expansion of the scheme and a range of accommodation options for serious violent offenders. The eligibility is yet to go before cabinet.

Consistent with the Harper Review recommendations, this includes step up/step down accommodation options, such as the new 20-bed facility, community accommodation options and the new 10-bed detention unit within a prison for serious violent offenders on detention orders.

The Harper review will be implemented in full, and continues Labor's work on sensible, effective policy on serious offenders, an area of policy that was completely ignored by the Coalition.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

It is intended that the new facility will provide secure accommodation for serious sex offenders and serious violent offenders who are subject to post-sentence orders under an expanded scheme.

Consistent with the existing arrangements under the Serious Sex Offenders (Detention and Supervision) Act 2009, it is intended that decisions about the placement of offenders within the facility will be made by the courts to protect the community from an unacceptable risk of harm.

Bendigo Kangan Institute

Question asked by: Mr O'Sullivan
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 9 May 2017

RESPONSE:

I thank the honourable Member for his question.

This Government has not slashed funding to Bendigo Kangan Institute. Bendigo Kangan Institute has reported a decline in contestable training revenue, which is consistent with the decline in training across the country. This training revenue is dependent on student enrolments.

Particularly relevant to this decline in Victoria are the changes to subsidy rates and eligibility criteria under the former government allowing students to access Government subsidised training.

Since 2015, ahead of the implementation of Skills First, this year, this Government has provided support and capital grants to ensure our public TAFEs are here for the long haul and able to deliver on their distinct role supporting local communities, industry and learners.

Under legislation enacted by the former government TAFE institutes are autonomous, commercial entities. They are not required to report on student numbers, enrolments and contact hours in their Annual Reports, but some have chosen to do so to varying degrees. Accordingly, I will not compel TAFEs to provide commercially sensitive information as part of the Annual Reporting process.

The Department publishes the Victorian Training Market Report based on reports published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). This provides Government-subsidised training, by training provider type, such as private Registered Training Organisations, Learn Local organisations and the TAFE sector. The NCVER report on full year 2016 data is anticipated to be available in July this year.

The most recent report available, for the first six months of 2016, highlights that TAFE and university VET provision stabilised, compared to the same period in 2015.

Firearm regulation

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 9 May 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I am advised by Victoria Police that all members of the Classification Review Committee have appropriate expertise in firearms to serve on that committee. The Victoria Police Classification Review Committee consists of the following representatives:

- A representative with knowledge relating to firearms legislation and regulations;
- A police member of Senior Sergeant rank or above, generally the firearms portfolio holder from Licensing & Regulation Division;
- A representative from industry with substantial experience in firearms;
- A representative from a law enforcement agency external to Victoria Police with extensive firearms technical expertise; and
- A representative from Licensing & Regulation Division with comprehensive knowledge of the firearm importation process.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I am advised by Victoria Police that the Licensing and Regulation Division invites individuals to participate in the Classification Review Committee based on their skills and knowledge relating to the above identified representative groups. Those representatives with extensive technical expertise are assessed in regard to suitability for this role based upon their time within the firearms industry or relevant law enforcement agency and general knowledge and experience relating to firearms.

Each member of the Classification Review Committee is required to complete a confidentiality agreement and they are consulted individually to ensure that opinions are not influenced by others.

Hyde Street, Yarraville

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 9 May 2017

RESPONSE:

VicRoads advises me that it has undertaken initial discussions with some residents and will promptly arrange meetings. I understand that VicRoads will contact residents by the end of May 2017.

Wyndham youth justice facility

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 10 May 2017

RESPONSE:

Young offenders incarcerated in Victoria are often detained for violent offences against the person that require a high security standard.

The most recent review considered was a review by Neil Comrie OAM, who was engaged to conduct a review of the riots at the Parkville Youth Justice Precinct between 12 and 14 November 2016. Mr Comrie concluded that the precinct is inadequate for its current purpose, with significant shortcomings in design and construction.

We are still in the early stages of the project and there is significant work to be done on the detailed design within the facility and operating models of the new youth justice centre.

The operating model will be informed by the outcomes and recommendations from the review into the youth justice by Penny Armytage and Professor James Ogloff AM and key stakeholders who work with youth offenders.

While the most critical requirement for the final design of the new youth justice precinct is to provide a robust and highly secure custodial facility to contain young offenders and to protect our staff, the design will also provide an environment that supports rehabilitation and a reduction in reoffending.

If the Greens Party supports opening multiple additional youth justice facilities in our state, they should announce where these facilities would be built.

Youth justice system

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 10 May 2017

RESPONSE:

As the Member would be aware, Victoria has strong independent oversight of its youth justice system including by the Commissioner for Children and Young People and the Ombudsman.

I can further advise the Member that youth justice performance measures are set out in the budget that relate to both community and custodial youth justice.

Age appropriate education is provided by the Department of Education through a registered multi campus specialist school Parkville College. Parkville College operates at all youth justice centres and provides educational programs to all young people.

The school offers a variety of pathways for young people to complete their secondary school education and tailors learning to each individual's needs.

Education of young people in custody is seen as a critical component of successful reintegration into the community and the increased potential to positively contribute to society.

Accommodation unit staff work closely with young people to develop positive relationships to assist with rehabilitation.

A comprehensive set of procedures provide staff with instructions for their work with young people. Any non-compliance with procedures is managed through departmental disciplinary and performance management processes.

Duck season

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 10 May 2017

RESPONSE:

The Government has no intention of keeping some wetlands closed to duck hunting for any longer than is necessary.

Staff from relevant government agencies continue to monitor wetlands such as Lake Cooper throughout the open season.

If the reason for the closure or further regulation of a wetland no longer exists, I expect the GMA to provide me with advice and make any relevant recommendations to reopen or change the regulation of a wetland.

I am advised that the most recent survey of Lake Cooper on 3 May 2017 detected at least 80 Freckled Duck. This number of Freckled Duck is above the threshold that triggers the GMA's consideration of management options, including closure, of any wetland available for duck hunting.

Lake Cooper is scheduled to be surveyed again on 14 May 2017.

While the Government will continue to monitor wetlands throughout the season, reports from the public of the presence or otherwise of threatened species at hunting wetlands are welcome. Reports will be forwarded to the appropriate government agencies for consideration and action.

Vocational education and training

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 10 May 2017

RESPONSE:

I am delighted to advise that approximately 47 000 students are undertaking VET as part of their Victorian Certificate of Education or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning.

Following recent reviews, which have identified a range of quality and funding issues, the Victorian Government is investing \$5.4 million in a package of initiatives aimed at strengthening the provision of VET to school students.

One of these initiatives is to review the funding model for sourcing VET in government schools. To inform this work, advisory firm Grant Thornton Australia is undertaking a study of current VET delivery arrangements. This study is also examining how to strengthen and support the TAFE network's provision of VET programs to government schools.

Grant Thornton is seeking the views of schools and stakeholder groups, including the Australian Council of Private Education and Training and several large RTOs providing training to government schools.

The Government has no plans to exclude private Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), that are currently delivering high quality training to school students. In particular, I acknowledge the important role played by many private RTOs, and those government schools that are RTOs, including Trade Training Centres and former Australian Technical Colleges.

I look forward to the final Grant Thornton Australia report which will provide a strong evidence base from which a more stable and sustainable funding model for sourcing VET in schools can be developed.

Melbourne Polytechnic

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 10 May 2017

RESPONSE:

In 2012, the former Government removed supplementary funding from TAFE institutes which led to the financial deterioration of our TAFEs.

This funding was previously used to support vital services and facilities for students in accordance with community and industry expectations.

Subsequently, the former Government changed eligibility and subsidy rates twice which caused a further decline in enrolments. TAFEs were then forced to discontinue the delivery of unprofitable courses and close campuses. This compounded the deterioration of TAFE financial positions.

Melbourne Polytechnic was hit hard by the former Government's cuts. The Greensborough campus was closed, with no students, since 2013.

This Government is proud of the support we have provided to Melbourne Polytechnic to reopen the Greensborough campus. I'm pleased to have been advised by the institute that they have well over 100 students studying there already in 2017.

The rebuilding of our TAFEs will take time. The new Board has been in place for under a year however I am confident that under Skills First, the institute will be here for the long haul.

From 1 January 2017, Skills First is providing a stable funding model with subsidy rates that reflect the real cost of training that will make TAFEs sustainable into the future. Every single dollar expended will support our communities and industries.

The Department publishes the Victorian Training Market Report based on reports published by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER). The most recent report available, for the first six months of 2016, highlights that TAFE and university VET provision stabilised, compared to the same period in 2015.

Residential care facilities

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 10 May 2017

RESPONSE:

The member's questions did not reference any specific individuals circumstances. It is not possible to estimate the cost of arrangements for any particular individual without reference to the details of their specific circumstances.

In a case where a child or young person has particular needs such as accommodation in a specialist therapeutic unit or specific staffing ratios, or needs to live alone in accommodation, costs will be negotiated on a case by case basis with a community sector agency.

The department is obligated to meet the educational needs of children and young people in out-of-home care, and works closely with the Department of Education and Training in making educational arrangements for children and young people with complex needs.

The educational arrangements for a particular individual, including in terms of managing any limitations on their interactions with others, will be developed in consultation with the Department of Education and Training, and will vary on a case by case basis.