

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
WITHOUT NOTICE**

1 December to 15 December 2017

(Extract from book 22)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

The ministry

(from 16 October 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer and Minister for Resources	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment	The Hon. B. A. Carroll, MP
Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D' Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 15 October 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
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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

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(to 12 September 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. L. D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence (until 23 August 2017)	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

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

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

Legislative Council standing committees

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

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heads of parliamentary departments

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

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

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

President:

The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Purcell, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁷	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	Western Metropolitan	AC	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O'Sullivan, Luke Bartholomew ⁸	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Elasmarr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ⁹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁶	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁸ Appointed 12 October 2016

⁹ Appointed 18 October 2017

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

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WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

1 December to 15 December 2017

Department of Health and Human Services

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 28 November 2017

RESPONSE:

I am advised that:

Our Service Providers website has a list of disability, health, youth, housing and other community service providers registered under the appropriate state legislation. It was updated in August 2017. See: <http://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/registration-requirements-disability-service-providers>.

For consumers, our Services site has comprehensive information about how to access these providers through the intake and response service: <http://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/>.

Disability services in Victoria are currently transitioning to the NDIS. Under the NDIS model, organisations register with the NDIS (Commonwealth agency) to become a disability provider so they would hold the 'list'. Information about the NDIS in Victoria is on this website — we link to this from our providers site and our services site, and we have summary information about the NDIS on these sites too. <https://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites/VIC.html>.

Health Direct manages services directories at national level. Service providers maintain their own entries, including updating contact details, website addresses and services provided. The Health Direct national directory is available here: <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services>.

We incorporate the national directory, including a search feature with drop-downs for service categories and individual provider pages with maps, website, contacts and services information on our Health.Vic (<http://health.vic.gov.au>) and Better Health Channel Websites (<http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au>). The sites record strong traffic with over 50 million page views annually. Links to the directory are given prominence across the majority of content pages and at the footer on the home page of each site.

Work is currently underway to update the department's corporate website. This work will focus in providing improved search and navigation across our primary services for health and human services consumer and sector audiences.

Poker machines

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Trade and Investment
Asked on: 29 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Victorian Government takes the allegations against Crown Melbourne Limited extremely seriously.

This is why the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, the Hon Marlene Kairouz MP, has asked the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (Commission) to conduct a thorough and proper investigation and report back to her as soon as possible.

The Victorian Government is not unaware of any evidence that the Commission is not the most appropriate body with the expertise to conduct this investigation.

Mr Andrew Wilkie MP, who tabled the allegations against Crown Melbourne Limited in the Federal Parliament, has himself confirmed that he received a good response from the Commission after meeting with its most senior members. Mr Wilkie expressed his confidence that the Commission is looking at the allegations and that progress will be made.

The Commission is the appropriate body to investigate the allegations.

Firearm regulation

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 29 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Categorisation of firearms is part of the regulatory regime that the Commonwealth, the States and Territories have all agreed to in order to ensure the peace and safety of the community. The National Firearms Agreement underpins this regulatory regime. Given law enforcement and public safety concerns about the presence of military-style firearms in the community, categorisation based on a firearm designed or adapted for military purposes, or one that substantially duplicates a firearm of that type in design, function or appearance was introduced to limit these firearms for appropriate and limited professional, commercial or prescribed purposes.

The Government will always take the advice of the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police on these matters.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The Government will always take the advice of the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police on these matters.

Justice system

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 30 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

In 2018 the government will bring the final piece of legislation to parliament that will acquit the balance of the Harper Review's recommendations.

The bill will repeal and replace the Serious Sex Offender (Detention and Supervision) Scheme Act 2009 with a new piece of legislation that will capture both serious sex and serious violent offenders. The new act will set out the parameters for a serious violent offender to be considered for the scheme.

The bill has yet to be finalised by the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, has yet to be approved by cabinet, and is yet to be subject to debate in parliament.

Until then, the set of offences that will make an offender eligible hasn't been determined and no number for such a cohort can be provided.

Justice system

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 30 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Bail is a matter for the Attorney General, not the minister for Corrections.

As noted in my response in the House, if you can provide me with details of the incident I am happy to pursue it if it is a matter for the corrections portfolio, however you have not provided me with that detail to date.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As stated in my response in the House to this question, bail is a matter for the Attorney General, not the minister for Corrections.

Northcote by-election

Question asked by: Mr Rich-Phillips
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 30 November 2017

RESPONSE:

The assertion regarding funding and policy changes is incorrect.

No.

Northcote by-election

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 30 November 2017

RESPONSE:

As I indicated in my answers to the Member's questions on 30 November, the appropriate bodies to consider these matters are the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) and Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC).

The VEC and IBAC operate independently of the Government and it is for those bodies to take whatever action they consider appropriate in the circumstances. Given their independence, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on how the VEC or IBAC might consider or respond to these matters.

Victoria Police media policy

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 30 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Victoria Police regularly provides the community with relevant information on arrests, charges and a brief summary of the circumstances of an offence for a wide range of matters. In cases of major harm or potential harm to the community such as terrorism related offences public reassurance is essential. If Victoria Police were not to

engage with the community, there would be a greater likelihood of misinformation, confusion and public concern. This form of public disclosure is consistently applied worldwide.

Sub judice contempt occurs where published material has a tendency to interfere with the administration of justice. Information provided in terrorism related offence media briefings consists only of the facts known to arresting police and these would be the same facts supplied to the court during a hearing.

Victoria Police are custodians of the justice system and are always cautious in balancing the community's need to be informed about major incidents and not supplying material which may lead to a matter being pre judged. In criminal proceedings material which prejudices the guilt or innocence of the accused, prior convictions, criminal history or interviews with witnesses would never be supplied when informing the community of an arrest.

The courts permit reporting of matters based on a Public Interest Principle and freedom of communication and have acknowledged it is not prejudicial to publish the 'bare facts' of a case when reporting on matters of extreme public importance.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I thank the member for her supplementary question. Management of Victoria Police media is a matter for the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police. I am confident that Victoria Police will continue to engage appropriately with the community on important matters of public safety.

Animal welfare

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 30 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

A video provided on 2 March 2017 alerted PrimeSafe to animal welfare concerns at a Victorian poultry processor and an investigation was initiated. From the video and subsequent investigation, non-compliance with Australian Standards for animal welfare was identified, associated with the handling of poultry and requirements for back up slaughter.

PrimeSafe instigated enforcement action to ensure that appropriate animal welfare practices were achieved immediately. This involved staffing changes and changes to back up slaughter arrangements. Enforcement action also involved providing staff training, supporting improvements in animal handling (including backup slaughter) and applying increased regulatory oversight, until the improvements were implemented consistently. This was achieved at the end of April 2017.

As a part of the investigation, alleged animal welfare matters under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 (POCTAA) were referred to Agriculture Victoria by PrimeSafe.

Agriculture Victoria Inspectors, appointed under POCTAA, have a range of powers relating to the investigation and enforcement of alleged cruelty to animals. Agriculture Victoria investigated the allegations and assessed all available evidence. As some critical witnesses were not willing to participate in the investigation or any proposed future prosecution, no further action was taken.

Agriculture Victoria's investigation involved multiple visits to the poultry processor and established that all animal welfare issues identified by PrimeSafe had been rectified through the remedial action undertaken by the company.

Each year, Victorian poultry processing facilities regulated by PrimeSafe are subject to two announced audits conducted by PrimeSafe third party auditors, and an additional two unannounced inspections conducted by PrimeSafe Authorised Officers.

Anyone with information about non-compliance with Australian Food Safety or Animal Welfare Standards at Victorian meat or poultry processing facilities, should provide it immediately to PrimeSafe.

Serious sex offenders

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 12 December 2017

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Mr O'Donohue's concerns are based on an article that appeared on the front page of the Herald Sun on 4 December 2017. I am limited in the details I will provide, however it is important to note that the information in that article and subsequent commentary is not factually accurate, as well as missing pertinent facts.

The Serious Sex Offenders (Detention and Supervision) Act 2009 (SSODSA) is a civil scheme, whereby individuals who have completed their sentence are subject to ongoing supervision or detention. Without this scheme they would otherwise be in the community under no supervision. The Supreme or County Court determines where the offender is to reside and the conditions placed on their order, including electronic monitoring.

It is an offence for an offender to fail to comply with a condition of their order, with the maximum penalty that the court can impose being five years imprisonment. It is noted that all conditions must be reasonably related to their risk of re-offending.

Dhurringile Prison

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 12 December 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I am advised that, while some local landowners, particularly those adjacent to the prison, were notified of the escape, the agreed protocol for notifying the broader Community Advisory Group was not followed. Prison management has addressed this matter as an urgent priority and has held several meetings with the Community Advisory Group to review the protocol and test the notification system.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The escapes at Dhurringile are under investigation and it is not appropriate to provide any information on the outcome of any investigations into the incident that might compromise the security of the prison.

Victoria Police cost recovery

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 12 December 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Victoria Police serve an important role in ensuring public order at various types of organised public events. Effective policing at these events requires the careful exercise of judgement and the application of appropriate discretion, ensuring that police adapt their response to suit the circumstances of the day. In Victoria there is a longstanding practice of police recovering costs from commercial and for profit events which require a police presence to go ahead. This practice is detailed in the Victoria Police (Fees and Charges) Regulations 2014. This is an approach that is regularly applied to sporting and entertainment events that are profit motivated.

Victoria Police has advised that it is not possible to list all organisations which may have been billed for more than the agreed amount. However I am assured by Victoria Police that event organisers are only charged for services on the day and do not incur any additional planning or administration costs.

The reality is that the event Mr O'Donohue has referred to was a commercial venture with ticket prices ranging from \$49 to \$995 each.

Under current regulations Victoria Police can and does recover costs from commercial ventures that have required police to attend. The commercial event that night was no different to other sporting and entertainment events like the AFL where police apply a cost recovery model.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I refer the member to my response to the substantive question.

Caulfield–Dandenong line elevated rail

Question asked by: Mr Davis
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 12 December 2017

RESPONSE:

The Andrews Government is removing nine of the most congested and dangerous level crossings in Victoria between Caulfield and Dandenong.

Ensuring the safety of the community is of paramount importance to the Andrews Government and one of the primary reasons we are removing these potential death traps as quickly as possible.

Ensuring safety during construction of the elevated rail tracks is of equal importance and the project has undergone significant risk assessment and safety assurance processes by a number of regulatory organisations including the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator.

The project has a clearly defined construction zone that protects nearby residents. To date more than 460 beams, eighty four percent of the total, have been laid without a major safety incident.

Straddle Carriers used in this project are used around the world as they are specifically designed for use in narrow construction corridors.

The straddle carrier uses a number of different engineering controls to move. Two operators, located in the front and rear of the straddle carrier, are needed to operate the system and they both must use the controls simultaneously for the straddle carrier to move.

The straddle carrier uses an automated guidance system, it is not driven. Rather, it is guided by a steel cable that is linked to controls in the operator cabins.

The precision cable guidance system makes sure that the straddle carrier only travels along the pre-determined route and doesn't deviate from the elevated rail deck. There are additional spotters at ground level as well as CCTV cameras to monitor the straddle carrier when it is operating.

The straddle carrier operates beside, not above, the existing rail track and does not encroach on any residential property boundaries.

Detailed information on the operation of the straddle carrier and safety procedures are available in a fact sheet located at www.levelcrossings.vic.gov.au as part of the more than fifty documents that have been released in relation to this project.

Firearm regulation

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 12 December 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

As advised in my response to your previous question without notice dated 28 November 2017, section 104 of the Firearms Act 1996 requires the Chief Commissioner to be satisfied that the applicant for a permit to acquire a firearm has demonstrated a genuine need to possess, carry or use the firearm. The Chief Commissioner must not issue a permit unless he or she is satisfied of these grounds. For Category B firearms, section 104(2) of Act also requires the Chief Commissioner to have regard to the number, category and type of firearms already possessed by the applicant.

As previously advised in my response, an alternative genuine need letter is being trialled and as with previous versions of the letter, it requests further information to support an applicant's genuine need to acquire a firearm. Victoria Police advised that the alternative letter was the outcome of an internal review into current processes and is intended to better reflect the requirements of the Act and the conditions set out in section 104 of the Act. I am advised that since my response to the question without notice dated 28 November 2017, there have now been 3 refusals.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As advised in my response to your previous question without notice dated 28 November 2017, a sample of the firearms register was investigated and in order to ascertain a sufficient sample to trial and evaluate and assess its merits, Victoria Police determined that 10 or more firearms was an appropriate number to prompt a request for further information to support the application.

Regional and rural roads

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 12 December 2017

RESPONSE:

I am advised that the Minister for Roads and Road Safety commends the member for his ongoing advocacy for his local community and notes his long interest in the state of Victoria's rural and regional road network.

While the Government currently believes that VicRoads, as a single entity responsible for the road network, is the most efficient use of tax payers money, it also recognises that building a more resilient and reliable country road network is fundamental to Victoria's future growth and prosperity.

That's why more than 850 kilometres of deteriorating roads in regional Victoria are now benefitting from the Andrews Labor Government's \$260 million maintenance boost for repair and resurfacing this year alone — that's double the effort going into rebuilding Victoria's country roads.

When Victoria experienced once-in-100 year rainfall in 2016 after a decade-long drought, many roads were affected. Areas of high rainfall and high freight volumes — such as south-western Victoria — were the hardest hit.

There is an enormous amount of work happening across the south-west of Victoria: from major upgrades including the \$363m Princes Highway duplication to the \$100 million Great Ocean Road upgrade, to \$95 million of road maintenance and repair, and a further \$18 million in bridge strengthening.

Making sure every dollar is invested wisely on Victorians' behalf is critical. To this end, VicRoads is developing the first State of the Road Network that will allow everyone to see where the needs and opportunities are greatest,

to support better decision-making. A digital dashboard is already up on the VicRoads website, sharing data on truck volumes, pot-holes and road safety statistics.

VicRoads is engaging with Victorians and giving communities a much clearer line of sight to decisions being made on their behalf.

The senior leadership team at VicRoads has reached out to more than 11 000 people from rural and regional Victoria this year, and reported back through the Country Roads: Your insights, our actions plan, which I commend to the Parliament.

It commits VicRoads to improving the quality of road construction, and continuing to involve communities in the decisions that most affect them.

CityLink tolls

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 12 December 2017

RESPONSE:

The State of Victoria contracted with Transurban to deliver and operate the CityLink Project in 1995.

At that time the State and Transurban agreed a mechanism to protect against the CityLink Project generating super profits for Transurban over the life of the Concession Period. This mechanism provides a range of graduated measures which are applicable in the event that Transurban's returns from CityLink significantly exceed the original forecasts. These measures include the right for the State to end the Concession Deed earlier than its scheduled.

In conducting negotiations for the West Gate Tunnel Project, the State sought comprehensive advice from its legal and financial advisers about how these provisions in the original CityLink contract apply. The details of this advice are commercially sensitive, however in general the 'super profits' measures referred to by the member do take account of variations from the original 1995 agreement, including capital investments made by Transurban.

Further advice received by Government indicates that criteria for early termination of the existing CityLink concession deed are very unlikely to be met. Despite this, the State has retained its rights to trigger an early end to the existing concession period as part of the West Gate Tunnel negotiations.

The State will continue to monitor CityLink's performance over time to determine if the requirements of this clause are met.

Western Metropolitan Region crime

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 13 December 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that all Victorians feel safe in their community.

I am pleased to advise that the latest Crime Statistics show that in the twelve months to 30 September 2017, recorded offences decreased by almost five per cent.

The victimisation rate decreased by 8.6 per cent compared to the same period last year, making the rate 5013.0 per 100 000 population in the year to September 2017.

In the North West Metro area, the number of recorded offences fell 7.6 per cent.

These statistics are testament to the tireless work and dedication of Victoria Police, who have been working around-the-clock to detect, investigate and disrupt crime to keep Victorians safe.

This is an encouraging start to the Government's historic investment in Victoria Police, including 3135 new police that will give the Victoria Police the resources it needs to keep Victorians safe.

However, incidents such as those you have outlined highlight that our work is far from done.

The extra frontline police funded by the Government are critical in dealing with the challenges of repeat offenders, increasing aggravated burglaries and high volume crimes such as car theft and family violence.

The Government is taking action to respond to the unacceptable increase in young recidivist offenders committing serious violent crimes. This includes longer maximum sentences in the Children's Court and stronger and more intensive measures to supervise and monitor young people in the community.

The Government has also committed \$19.4 million over two years for the Community Crime Prevention Program to tackle crime at the local level. This includes a number of grant programs designed to assist evidence-based, community-led crime prevention initiatives. The grants aim to encourage collaboration across all levels of government, community agencies and the local community. Priority will be given to initiatives that focus on young people and other vulnerable groups, such as Koori and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

In relation to policing initiatives in the west, Victoria Police advises that every division has a Tasking and Coordination Local Area Commanders, whose role is to monitor crime trends including carjackings and home invasions and ensure appropriate response and community follow-up. Victoria Police also has Safer Communities Tasking Units which target high risk community locations with a strong community prevention focus. These units focus on high visibility police presence and joint operations with Local Council Government and welfare and service agencies.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Victoria Police expects the highest standards from its officers. The oath undertaken by police officers requires them to discharge their duties legally, faithfully and according to the law. The delivery of community safety and the safety of all Victorians is a priority for Victoria Police.

The Government and the Executive Command of Victoria Police have the highest expectations of the behaviour of police officers who serve our community. Should your constituents wish to make a complaint about their experience with Victoria Police during what I know would have been a traumatic incident, they may do so by writing a letter to the Station Commander in charge of the police station in your area or to the Chief Commissioner of Police.

Alternatively, they may complete an online complaint form by visiting http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=11933.

Child abuse national redress scheme

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 13 December 2017

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Victoria is confident in the estimates prepared by Finity Consulting (an actuarial consulting firm) for the Royal Commission, which it published on its website. Finity Consulting estimated that there are 60 000 survivors in Australia and around 15 255 in Victoria, including 5290 survivors where the Victorian Government would be responsible for paying redress.

VicForests

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 13 December 2017

RESPONSE:

VicForests timber supply obligations to individual mills are outlined in legally binding commercial contracts. VicForests and its customers are bound by these contractual arrangements.

Early childhood education

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 13 December 2017

RESPONSE:

It is unsurprising that you and your colleagues think you can see cuts everywhere you look because that is exactly what you plan to do if elected.

You have a history of slash and burn policies, of dismantling our TAFE system and ripping apart the work of Labor Governments to strengthen and modernise Victoria's training system.

Matthew Guy's threatened Commission of Audit will no doubt see funding stripped out of TAFEs and training and educational support services, repeating the shameful history of the former Coalition Government.

For the record, an extensive process has been undertaken with training providers in finalising the Skills First VET Funding Contracts for 2018.

As part of the Expression of Interest process, providers were required to submit Program Delivery Plans (PDPs) for 2018 for each course they sought to deliver with government funding which included information on the anticipated number of commencements and intended delivery location. Similar information was also provided by TAFE institutes and dual sector universities. This data provided an overall picture of anticipated skills and training delivery throughout Victoria in 2018.

The information generated through this process was analysed in conjunction with data on the skills needed by industry as outlined in the 2018 Regional Jobs and Training Needs Reports. These reports outline skills and training needs by region and industry across Victoria.

In keeping with the core objectives of Skills First, the Department allocated Skills First VET Funding Contracts for 2018 to align training provision with where skills are needed on an industry and regional basis. Priority was given to funding reliable, quality training providers that are adapting to the changing needs of communities, industry and government.

This government will not shy away from allocating training funding to meet the skills requirements of industry and employers across Victoria. Jobs, economic prosperity and community wellbeing — especially in regional areas — depends on it.

Israel and Greece trade mission

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Trade and Investment
Asked on: 14 December 2017

RESPONSE:

As stated previously, the original date for the Israel and Greece Trade Mission was pushed back when Minister Richardson passed away in August. As such, I had already accepted a range of important commitments that prevented me from travelling.

These included the opening of CSL's new \$230 million facility in Broadmeadows, which will create 200 new full time local jobs. I also joined the Minister for Training and Skills to announce that the Box Hill Institute is driving the development of the Cyber Security National Program as it prepares to roll out Australia's first dedicated vocational qualifications in cyber security.

I also opened the Pivot Summit in Geelong and announced at Runway Geelong that the next round of LaunchVic initiatives will assist local councils, particularly those in regional and rural areas, to have the tools they need to support local start-ups and entrepreneurs.