

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS  
WITHOUT NOTICE**

**6 November to 16 November 2017**

**(Extract from book 19)**

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## **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
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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
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 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, 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
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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, #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 Elasmar, 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 <sup>1</sup>	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>7</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>8</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>4</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
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini <sup>9</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>5</sup>	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 <sup>6</sup>	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

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 28 September 2017

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

<sup>3</sup> DLP until 26 June 2017

<sup>4</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>5</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

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

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>8</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

<sup>9</sup> 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.*

**6 November to 16 November 2017**

**Upfield rail line duplication**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 20 October 2017

**RESPONSE:**

I would like to thank the Member for Northern Metropolitan for her interest in the Andrews Labor Government's Level Crossing Removal Program and our further investments in the public transport system.

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with delivering our election commitments, projects worth in excess of \$30 billion dollars — projects that will increase capacity, reduce congestion and benefit people in every corner of Melbourne and throughout regional Victoria.

Planning work is currently underway looking at future track, signalling and other infrastructure upgrades for the Upfield line.

The Metro Tunnel will enable a more than 70 per cent passenger increase on the Upfield line in the peak, and pave the way for the future duplication of the line.

**Jasvinder Sidhu**

**Question asked by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 1 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

Mr Sidhu resigned as a Ministerial adviser in September 2015.

I do not propose to comment on any aspect of Consumer Affairs Victoria's investigation into Mr Sidhu.

It is important that Consumer Affairs Victoria be able to conduct its investigation impartially and that the Executive Government not comment while it is ongoing.

**Timber industry**

**Question asked by:** Ms Bath  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 2 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

Under Part 7A of the Sustainable Forest (Timber) Act 2004, the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources have responsibility for initiating prosecutions against offences relating to timber harvesting safety zones.

DELWP is responsible for monitoring timber harvesting operations conducted on public land to ensure they are compliant with regulatory requirements. This includes investigating reports of the presence of threatened species in timber harvesting areas, and investigating allegations of non-compliance by VicForests. The letters referred to in Mrs Bath's question are standard responses to members of the public from DELWP, acknowledging that reports have been made.

**Timac Agro**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 2 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

I am advised by the Minister for Industry and Employment that the decision to close the Timac Agro operations in Australia by its parent company, Groupe Roullier, was a business decision. The company stated it decided to withdraw from the Australian market as it wanted to focus on the consolidation of existing markets. Timac Agro imported all products sold in Australia.

Further, I am advised that the Victorian Government did work to facilitate Timac Agro expansion into Victoria rather than interstate. The non-financial support provided by the government over a three year period included sector information, introductions to the farming industry and site location identification.

Worker transition support was offered to the company, however this assistance was not taken up.

**School maintenance**

**Question asked by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Directed to:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Asked on:** 2 November 2017

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

Thank you for your question regarding the Andrews Labor Government's continued commitment to education in Northcote.

Every year the Victorian Government produces a mid-cycle review of the annual State budget. The Budget update provides revised estimated financial statements relative to the previous Budget, including the projected outcome for the end of the current financial year and revised estimates for the forward years. The funding announcements for Bell Primary School, Northcote Primary School and Thornbury High School will be published in the 2017-18 Budget Update.

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

Minister Merlino was pleased to announce in early November this year that a new Rolling Facilities Evaluation will begin at Victorian government schools from 2018. The assessment will continue on a rolling basis, meaning that after the first five years no school will go for more than five years without a condition assessment.

The last condition assessment of Victorian schools was completed in 2012, however this information was at a point-in-time. The information gathered in the new Rolling Facilities Evaluation, which will begin next year, will be used to prioritise which school facilities need maintenance and upgrades.

**Male teachers**

**Question asked by:** Mr Young  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 2 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

Thank you for your question regarding male teachers in Victorian Schools.

In relation to your view about the falling rate of male teachers in Victorian Schools, I have been advised by the Department of Education and Training that the data shows the male teacher ratio in Victorian Government Schools

has remained relatively stable, with a less than one percent decrease of males in the teaching profession, over the past ten years, from 30.3% in 2007 to 29.5% in 2016.

Further, the Department has advised me they do not apply targets in relation to gender of teaching service employees.

The primary objective of gender equality is to advance the position of women in work and in their lives, and setting targets for gender balance is critical to seeing change in respect and equal treatment of women more broadly in society.

The Government has set gender balance targets in a number of critical areas across the public sector, courts and encourage it in the private sector. These targets can be found in Safe and Strong: A Victorian Gender Equality Strategy released in December 2016.

These targets will contribute to adjusting the perception of women in the workforce.

### **Jasvinder Sidhu**

**Question asked by:** Mrs Peulich  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 3 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE:**

In 2014-15 the Victorian Government funded Our Watch \$550 000 for two years (2014-15 to 2015-16) to work with culturally and linguistically diverse communities to prevent violence against women and children.

Our Watch worked with two community agencies targeting an established community and a newly- arrived emerging community. Our Watch selected the partner agencies via an expression of interest process. The successful providers were:

- cohealth, in partnership with the Jagriti Forum
- Whittlesea Community Connections, in partnership with The Salvation Army Crossroads and Women's Health in the North

The Department of Health and Human Services did not then, and does not now, have a contractual agreement with Jagriti Forum. Our Watch has advised that it too did not then and does not now have a direct contractual relationship with Jagriti Forum.

I have been advised that the Department of Health and Human Services were satisfied with the acquittal of the project funding, which included an independent evaluation report undertaken by Swinburne University's Centre for Social Impact, and the development by OurWatch of a practitioner toolkit.

### **Youth justice system**

**Question asked by:** Ms Crozier  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 3 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE:**

I am informed that:

I refute the assumption that the participation rate of community reintegration programs has resulted in an increase in category 1 incidents. Community reintegration participation rates in 2015-16 and 2016-17 have remained at a similar level.

Community reintegration relates to temporary leave. When determining if a young person is eligible for the leave program, consideration is given to a range of factors, including their behaviour in custody, length of sentence, and the purpose of leave.

The member's continued line of questioning in this area suggests a lack of understanding as to how community integration works or that the member would instead prefer to see more young offenders on the streets.

As to the reasons for the increase in Category 1 incident reports more broadly, I refer the member to my response to the substantive question.

### **Freedom of information**

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 3 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE:**

Ministers in this Government do not interfere in decisions about the release of documents by department or agencies.

Pursuant to the Attorney-General Guidelines, which were issued in 2009, agencies are required to provide a brief to the Minister for what is known as a five-day noting period. This brief is 'not a request for permission to disclose documents that the agency's FOI officer has already decided, in properly exercising his or her statutory decision-making power under the FOI Act, should be disclosed.'

Departments and agencies strive to respond to FOY requests balancing the desire to respond fulsomely to what is often a broad, wide-ranging request which diverts significant resources, with the desire to respond within the statutory timeframe.

The Government and its departments and agencies have experienced a significant increase in the number of FOI requests over recent years, resulting in some delays being experienced by some applicants. In 2016-17, 7152 requests were received across government departments. Of those, 78 per cent of requests were processed within the timeframe. This compares to only 46 per cent in 2012.

For instance, DPC has experienced a significant increase in FOI requests. In 2016-17, 347 requests were received from the Opposition. In 2015-16 there were 584 requests from the Opposition, and in 2014-15 there were 122 requests from the Opposition.

To meet this increased workload DPC has employed additional FOI officers. The additional resources will assist with strengthening public access to information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

### **Adult Parole Board of Victoria**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 3 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

The initial cost estimates approved by the Coalition grossly underestimated the work required to deliver the case workflow system. A procurement process is currently underway and for commercial reasons no further information on estimated costs of the system can be made available at this time. Full costs cannot be confirmed until delivery is complete.

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

The issues impacting the ability for the APB to access relevant information have already been overwhelmingly addressed. The first component of the Case Workflow System, referred to by Mr Callinan as the Case Management System, was delivered as committed in December 2015. In 2016 it was identified that information technology infrastructure must be upgraded before further work on the workflow system. This upgrade work has been completed on schedule and the final phase is underway for the full delivery of Callinan Measure 1 in late 2018.

**Ravenhall Correctional Centre**

**Question asked by:** Ms Pennicuik  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 3 November 2017

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

I was pleased to recently open the Ravenhall Correctional Centre, Victoria's newest prison. Initially it will securely hold 1000 prisoners but has built capacity for 1300 prisoners should this be required in the future.

There are no double bunks at Ravenhall Correctional Centre. However, prisoners can be accommodated in dual-occupancy cells. The dual occupancy cells at Ravenhall have a larger floor plan than single cells and have, with the exception of the toilet and shower, two of everything: single beds on the floor, desks, storage/cupboard space and TVs.

To distinguish dual-occupancy cells from a cell with double bunks, a dual-occupancy cell will at the point of construction, have been designed to accommodate two prisoners.

**Gambling regulation**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business  
**Asked on:** 3 November 2017

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

The Andrews Government has an unquestionable commitment to the prevention of suicide, evident by our nation's first Suicide Prevention Framework released last year. This \$27 million investment, together with our 10 Year Mental Health Plan, will support our endeavour to halve the suicide rate by 2025.

The allocation of gaming machine entitlements well in advance of their expiration in 2022 will not have an impact on our Government's commitment to reducing suicide. In addition, there is no reason to suspect that suicide rates will be impacted by the timing of entitlement allocation.

The reason for an early allocation of entitlements is to provide gaming businesses with the certainty required to make decisions about long-term investments. As 2022 draws nearer, investment in venues will continue to slow and venue operators will face difficulty borrowing to finance refurbishments or renovations. An early allocation will alleviate the commercial challenges for gaming businesses and will strengthen their ability to plan and invest for the future.

This is particularly important for regional and rural community clubs that are not-for-profit entities who provide important social and economic support and facilities for their communities.

An early allocation of gaming machine entitlements also allows the Andrews Government to continue Labor's strong record of enforcing harm minimisation measures. These include capping the number of machines across the state over the next 25 years, introducing a \$500 daily limit on in-venue EFTPOS withdrawals, imposing regulatory measures that apply to cashless gaming products, and prohibiting venue operators from cashing personal cheques or promoting cheque cashing services.

The Andrew's Government is providing increased certainty to gaming venue operators, many of whom are vibrant community clubs, while also taking action to minimise gambling-related harm.

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

The introduction of a \$500 daily EFTPOS limit will significantly improve the current situation where there is no daily limit on cash withdrawals using EFTPOS. This limit will further reduce the ability for patrons to access cash at gaming venues.

A \$500 daily EFTPOS limit continues Labor's proud record of restricting access to cash at gaming venues. Prior to 2003, there were no restrictions on in-venue ATM or EFTPOS withdrawals. Following the passage of the Gambling Regulation Amendment Bill 2017, and in addition to being the only mainland jurisdiction without ATMs at gaming venues, Victoria will become the only mainland jurisdiction with a daily EFTPOS limit.

The \$500 limit is roughly equivalent to the old \$400 daily limit that applied to ATM withdrawals, when adjusted for inflation.

The Victorian Government is not aware of any independent evaluation that shows the \$200 daily EFTPOS limit introduced in Tasmania has had a significant reduction on gambling harm. It is not possible therefore to conclude anything definitive about the impact on expenditure or harm of a \$200 limit.

Furthermore, Victoria has a number of harm minimisation measures that do not exist in Tasmania. These include YourPlay, Australia's only state-wide networked pre-commitment scheme that was introduced by the Andrews Government in 2015. Victoria has also imposed municipal and regional caps which limit the density of gaming machines in all Victorian municipalities.

**Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner**

**Question asked by:** Mr Purcell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 3 November 2017

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

The Victorian Government has no intention of disbanding the Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner.

The David Moodie v. Racing Integrity Commissioner proceeding is currently before the courts and as such it is inappropriate for the Minister for Racing to comment.

**Public Record Office Victoria documents**

**Question asked by:** Mr Rich-Phillips  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 14 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

The documents raised by the member were the subject of a closure notice pursuant to Section 10AA of the Public Records Act 1973 (the Act). I can assure the Member that the notice complied with the requirement of Section 10AA of the Act based on the advice of the responsible Minister. These records have been closed for 10 years. At the end of this period their ongoing sensitivity and risk profile will be assessed to determine whether further closure is warranted.

The records which were subject to the closure notice raised in the member's question were created between 1930 and 2000, and identify critical infrastructure relating to Victoria's brown coal industry and electricity generation.



I am advised that the documents specifically relate to the clearance of the original Yallourn power station site during 1995 to 1998. The records subject to the closure notice document key infrastructure that was not demolished and still operates today.

The Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) maintains a comprehensive control and management system to manage access to records according to whether they are open or closed. Closed records are not available to the public via PROV, although they may be accessible through other legislation. Closure of records under the Act does not preclude access under the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

### **Melbourne Assessment Prison**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 14 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

The assertion made by the member is again incorrect.

Security systems have recently gone through a planned upgrade and integration at the Melbourne Assessment Prison. This has been a complex process due to the need to integrate several systems. Providers of these systems have worked tirelessly to resolve matters resulting from the integration.

At no time was the security of the prison compromised or the safety of the Victorian community placed at risk, with key security systems remaining active during this time.

All prisoners received some time out of their cells while the issues were being rectified on 6, 7 and 8 November.

As of 9 November 2017, almost all work had been completed and the prison returned to normal operations, following consultation with health and safety representatives.

Section 58 of the Corrections Act 1986 provides the Secretary with the power to reduce sentences through the use of Emergency Management Days (EMDs). This power is in turn delegated to the Commissioner for Corrections and the Deputy Commissioner, Operations.

EMDs are not granted automatically, but on a case by case basis.

In accordance with the legislation, the application of EMDs in the matter of the 'lockdown' of prisoners at the Melbourne Assessment Prison during the week commencing on 6 November 2017, is a matter for the Commissioner and not the Minister for Corrections.

### **Metropolitan Remand Centre**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 14 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

The department has agreed to enter a plea of guilty to an amended single charge under section 21(2)(a) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004. As the matter is still before the court it would be inappropriate for the government to comment further.

#### **RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

This question was asked at the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee earlier this year and the figure for the ongoing Worksafe court case was \$87 096 to 14 June, 2017.

As the matter is still ongoing in the court I will not be providing a running commentary on the issue.

**West Gate tunnel project**

**Question asked by:** Ms Hartland  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 14 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

Construction on the West Gate Tunnel Project will start next year after all appropriate approvals. This question would be best directed to the Minister for Planning who is the responsible Minister.

The State is still in negotiations with Transurban under the market led proposal framework. When that process is concluded, the Government will be in a position to confirm the next steps. The State will meet all its legal obligations.

**Westgarth Primary School**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Asked on:** 14 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

Thank you for your question relating to the roof condition at Westgarth Primary School. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to investing in education and school infrastructure, and this has been demonstrated through the allocation of more than \$2.5 billion to school facilities in the last three State Budgets.

Ensuring school premises are safe, secure and well-maintained is a shared responsibility between schools and the Department of Education and Training. The Emergency Maintenance Program is targeted at unforeseen maintenance matters which may pose a risk to safety. If Westgarth Primary School has urgent maintenance or repair issues that are beyond its budget capacity and directly impact on student or staff safety, an application for funding can be made under the Emergency Maintenance Program.

I'm advised that the Department is not aware of any requests from Westgarth Primary School through this program and encourages the school to contact the Department's North- Western Victoria Regional office for further assistance and advice on this matter.

I trust this information is of assistance.

**Department of Justice and Regulation legal costs**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 15 November 2017

**RESPONSE:**

I am informed that:

The cost of litigation has not yet been finalised. It is usual for the amount of legal costs between parties to be finalised sometime after the conclusion of the proceedings. It would not be appropriate to comment on total legal costs until these matters are settled.

The final costs will not include the work of the Office of the Victorian Solicitor-General. The Office of the Victorian Solicitor-General provided advice in relation to this matter. The role of the Solicitor-General is as Senior-Counsel, and as such to provide advice to the Victorian Government on matters of law. The Victorian Solicitor-General is a GIC appointee and is therefore paid a salary, and his staff similarly are paid a salary as employees of the Department of Justice and Regulation. Accordingly, they do not record billable hours in the same way as other legal practices.

### **Youth justice system**

**Question asked by:** Ms Crozier  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 15 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

As indicated in my substantive response, it is not appropriate to discuss the management plans for individual young people in custody, as it could compromise safety and security for young people and staff.

What I can say is that making decisions about the placement of young people in Victoria's Youth Justice Centres is complex and requires careful consideration of a number of factors. This includes consideration of a young person's individual security risk, developmental needs, peer relationships, age, physical and intellectual vulnerability, access to community based support networks and the fundamental right for young people to be safe whilst in custody.

Placement decisions must also be balanced by the need for community safety and the safety and good order of the centres.

### **Sunbury youth advisory council**

**Question asked by:** Mr Finn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Youth Affairs  
**Asked on:** 15 November 2017

#### **RESPONSE:**

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government's Youth Policy is strengthening our engagement with young people across Victoria and is introducing a number of mechanisms which enable young people to shape government reforms, including services, policies and programs that benefit young people.

It is disappointing that the Federal Liberal Government has cut funding to the National Youth Week Program which highlighted Australia's young people.

To support young people and celebrate the vital role they play in our community we are almost doubling our investment for an inaugural Victorian Youth Week in 2018 which acknowledges and celebrates the inspiring and motivated young people across Victoria.

The Andrews Labor Government is investing-in a range of programs that support young people living in the Sunbury electorate.

We are also supporting the delivery of the Advance program in Gladstone Park Secondary College and at the Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Specialist School, providing young people with an opportunity to develop practical teamwork, communication and project management skills. The Hume City Council has also benefited from funding over three years (2016-2018) to support its FReeZa — INK Entertainment project.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Sunbury Youth Advisory Council on their Parliamentary tour in late 2015. The Sunbury YAC is an informal advisory group established in 2015 by the Member for Sunbury, Mr Josh Bull to provide a youth voice on issues that are important to them in the member's electorate. The Sunbury Youth Advisory Council consists of young people in years 10, 11 and 12 from four government schools in the Sunbury electorate. I am very pleased with the work undertaken.

Unlike Mr Finn who is clearly out of touch with young people and the issues that they care about such as marriage equality and climate change, Mr Bull has been and will continue to be a great advocate for young people in his electorate.