

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
WITHOUT NOTICE**

20 October to 3 November 2017

(Extract from book 18)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

(from 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

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The ministry

(from 13 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
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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, #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.

23 October to 3 November 2017

Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement

Question asked by: Mr Morris
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 19 September 2017

RESPONSE:

In accordance with Department of Justice and Regulation (DJR) and Victorian Government Purchasing Board requirements, select tender processes were undertaken for each of the Partnership and Place-based evaluations of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement 3 (AJA3). All other AJA3 evaluation work was undertaken in-house by DJR.

Requests for Quotation for each of the evaluation projects were developed in partnership with the Koori Caucus of the Aboriginal Justice Forum — the key government-Aboriginal community partnership structure that oversees all work under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

For the Partnership Evaluation, expressions of interest were sought from ten organisations with recent, relevant evaluation experience. The Request for Quotation was subsequently sent to 10 organisations.

For the Place-based Evaluation, expressions of interest were sought from 18 organisations with recent, relevant experience evaluating place-based justice programs in Aboriginal communities. The Request for Quotation was subsequently sent to 11 organisations.

An Evaluation Selection Committee was established to evaluate all proposals and comprised equal numbers of DM representatives and Koori Caucus members, in line with the principles of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement that ensures everything is done in true partnership.

Separate selection processes were conducted for each of the Partnership and Place-based evaluations, including interviews with short-listed organisations.

The Evaluation Selection Committee determined that Clear Horizon Consulting offered the team with the most relevant experience, and overall the best proposal and best value for money for each of the evaluation projects.

Clear Horizon Consulting specialises in evaluation and is a Melbourne-based company with offices in Perth and Canberra.

The consulting team includes a Project Manager who is Perth-based and has previous experience working on and evaluating the Western Australian Aboriginal Justice Agreement. Two Victorian consultants with previous experience evaluating Aboriginal justice programs (including one who worked on the evaluation of the first phase of the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement), and one NSW based consultant with experience working in the justice sector and evaluating Aboriginal programs, are undertaking the work.

Mr Eideh

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 18 October 2017

RESPONSE:

Mr Eideh has stood aside from his role providing advice and guidance regarding potential trade and business opportunities in the Middle East.

Great forest national park

Question asked by: Mr O'Sullivan
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 19 October 2017

RESPONSE:

Information on the economic contribution of the forestry industry, including that which informs my department's advice to government, is publicly available.

For example, the government-commissioned study of the socio-economic characteristics of Victoria's forestry industries, led by Dr Jacki Schirmer of the University of Canberra, is available on the Agriculture Victoria website.

In 2015, Deloitte Access Economics conducted a similar study of the Central Highlands Regional Forest Agreement Area (RFA). That report is available on VicForests' website.

Victoria Police sex industry coordination unit

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 19 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I would like to assure you that Victoria Police take such violations of privacy seriously and therefore it is important that these women report any such incidents immediately to their local police station.

From 2 November 2014 under the Summary Offences Act 1966, it is an offence to send, or threaten to send intimate images of an adult without their consent, including within the confines of a legal brothel. I strongly encourage any woman who is subject to this behaviour to report these incidents to Victoria Police on 000.

If the Member requires further information I will organise a briefing for the Member with Victoria Police to discuss this matter further.

Parole reform

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 20 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

A review was completed by Justice Assurance Review Office (JARO). JARO reviews are for the use of an internal audience only, with the exception of death review reports, which are provided to the Coroner to assist in the coronial inquest process.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

A review was completed by Justice Assurance Review Office (JARO). JARO reviews are for the use of an internal audience only, with the exception of death review reports, which are provided to the Coroner to assist in the coronial inquest process.

Parole reform

Question asked by: Mr Ramsay
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 20 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

In developing a response to the behavioural aspect of Measure 13 of the Callinan Report, the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science assisted to develop guidelines for prison staff to use in assessing a prisoner's 'satisfactory behaviour'. These guidelines were accepted by Corrections Victoria in 2014. These guidelines were implemented in line with the commencement of the parole application process on 1 March 2015.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The guidelines were implemented in line with the commencement of the parole application process on 1 March 2015.

Swinburne University reviewed the use of the Satisfactory Behaviour Rating Guide in 2016 and found that, broadly, the ratings are reliably associated with behaviour in custody.

Members for Tarneit and Melton

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

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Victoria Police have confirmed that investigations are ongoing.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Victoria Police have confirmed as investigations are ongoing, they will not provide any further comment.

Australian Paper Maryvale mill

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

RESPONSE:

As announced in early July 2017, the Andrews Labor Government has committed \$2.5 million towards a feasibility study for a waste-to-energy facility at Australian Paper's Maryvale mill.

Regarding the original question, the government understands that Australian Paper is considering municipal solid waste (MSW) as a feedstock for the waste-to-energy plant, which has the potential to reduce demand for timber supply required to generate energy to run the mill in the future.

The Australian Energy Statistics Guide 2017 (published by the Commonwealth Department of the Environmental and Energy) defines the biomass component of municipal solid waste MSW as a renewable energy resource. The feasibility study will need to outline the methodology Australian Paper intends to use to quantify the biomass fraction.

Beyond this, the government is currently preparing Victoria's first ever whole of government waste-to-energy policy. The Minister was pleased to announce release of the public consultation paper during a visit to Shepparton on 26 October 2017. The consultation paper can be accessed via the Engage Victoria website <https://engage.vic.gov.au/waste>. Upon completion of the public consultation process and subsequent release of the

policy, the government will be able to provide further practical detail on how the biomass fraction of MSW contributes to meeting the Victorian Renewable Energy Targets.

Regarding the supplementary question, Australian Paper has kept the government informed of the feasibility study progress. The government has not made any commitments to Australian Paper beyond providing support for the feasibility study and awaits the results of the study.

Animal Welfare Victoria

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuik
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 20 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Animal welfare is a high priority for the Andrews Labor Government. The Victorian community expects we do the right thing by animals — whether in industries, communities, or homes.

On 19 October 2017, the Government announced it will establish a dedicated public sector body called Animal Welfare Victoria to deliver more support for animal welfare. Animal Welfare Victoria is expected to be operating by February 2018.

The Ambassador for Animal Welfare, Lizzie Blandthorn MP, will lead stakeholder engagement in the development of Victoria's first Animal Welfare Action Plan (Action Plan), which is scheduled for release later this year. Significant consultation has occurred with key stakeholders and the Victorian public to develop the Action Plan. It will set the priority actions and provide a mechanism for improving animal welfare across a range of animal sectors and activities, but will not provide definitive policy positions on specific issues.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Legislative reform will be a priority in the Action Plan and government will take a genuine and consultative approach to reviewing Victoria's animal welfare legislative framework. It will work with Victoria's animal industries, animal welfare groups and the community to develop legislation that supports evidence-based animal welfare practices and reflects community expectations.

Upfield rail line duplication

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 20 October 2017

RESPONSE:

The duplication of the railway from Gowrie to Upfield is not included in the scope of the Camp Road level crossing removal project.

At this time, the service benefits arising from the addition of a second track to Upfield are limited. This is because the capacity of the Upfield line is constrained in the Northern Loop tunnel of the City Loop, which is shared across the Upfield, Craigieburn and Sunbury lines.

In the long term, the opening of Melbourne Metro will provide significant additional inner city capacity to the Upfield and Craigieburn lines. The Government is planning for the future duplication of the line to Upfield, and the potential to reinstate the former Somerton link between the Upfield and Craigieburn lines, both of which will allow for additional Upfield and V/Line trains post Melbourne Metro.

Victoria Police sex industry coordination unit

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 20 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I thank the member for her subsequent question on the future of Victoria Polices' Sex Industry Coordination Unit (SICU). SICU plays a pivotal role with law enforcement partners in both the illegal and legal brothel industries. I acknowledge the concerns of Councils, including the City of Kingston, in relation to the operation of illegal brothels.

Victoria's sex industry, including the licencing of brothels, is regulated under the Sex Work Act 1994 (the Act) and the Sex Work Regulations 2016. Consumer Affairs, Victoria Police and local Councils enforce the licensing, criminal and planning requirements of the Act, respectively.

I am advised by Victoria Police that they are working with staff at the City of Kingston on a communication strategy where any evidence of criminal related issues around the operation of illegal brothels are reported directly to the Local Area Commander. These requests will then be assessed and assigned to investigators as part of a centralised approach to policing brothels and the sex work industry.

In relation to the members question about resourcing, as previously advised, the resourcing of the SICU will be determined following the conclusion of the review.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As previously advised, the purpose of the review is only to determine SICU's best fit within the organisation and whether it should remain within the Transit and Public Safety Command or move into a new area. The SICU continues to be a critical unit within Victoria Police, and remains fully operational during the review period. I am not in a position to comment on the expected conclusion date as this is an operational matter for Victoria Police.

Lake Boort

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 20 October 2017

RESPONSE:

The Draft Management Plan for Lake Boort did not seek to ban hunting at Lake Boort as this area is a State Game Reserve. The Draft Management Plan was published and released for public comment in June 2016 for 60 days. Various community members and stakeholders either through face to face meetings or written letters provided submissions to the plan. Stakeholders submissions included those from Game Management Authority and Field and Game Australia.

The community feedback is currently being considered by Parks Victoria. Parks Victoria will continue to engage the community for future management of the Lake Boort Reserve.

Community correction orders

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I am advised that aggregate reports held by Corrections Victoria do not provide the level of detail required for this response, which involves extracting information for hundreds of individual offences. This requires information from both courts and police.

I would be happy to provide the data to the member at a later date in writing if possible.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I am advised that aggregate reports held by Corrections Victoria do not provide the level of detail required for this response, which involves extracting information for hundreds of individual offences. This requires information from both courts and police.

I would be happy to provide the data to the member at a later date in writing if possible.

Adult Parole Board of Victoria

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The project is being delivered in stages with Phase 1 completed in December 2015. Phase 2 provides an integrated electronic document store which went live as scheduled, on 31 October 2017.

The role of Project Manager for delivery of Phase 3 (final phase) of the Case Workflow System has been filled. Phase 3 commenced on schedule and is on target for completion in 2018.

Metropolitan Remand Centre

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Currently there are 11 staff on WorkCover and on leave from work as a result of the riot at the Metropolitan Remand Centre.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The welfare and safety of staff are of the highest priority. Counselling and other support services are available to all prison staff.

Following the riot the department engaged an external organisation, specialising in emergency management response, to facilitate structured counselling sessions for staff.

The structured sessions provided staff with a range of advice and support to help them overcome any hardships they may be dealing with as a result of the incident.

MRC management, assisted by a wellbeing specialist, continue to offer support and advice to those staff affected by the riot.

Staff are encouraged to access the Employment Assistance Program, which provides free personal and confidential counselling to staff.

An important aspect to assisting staff that were affected by the 2015 riot is to ensure that the MRC is a safe place to work again.

That is why we have invested, not just in repairs, but to further fortify the MRC, strengthen its operating model and provide further training to staff.

It is also why Labor has reduced the double bunking and overcrowding that was a hallmark of the former Coalition's management of the corrections system, and was found to be a major contributor to the leadup to the riot.

Youth justice centres

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE:

I am informed that:

I strongly refute the assumption in the question. I am advised there is no evidence of stockpiling of medication in Victorian youth justice centres.

Youth justice staff who discover contraband material in youth justice centres must immediately secure the item and record the details into the relevant seizure register.

The FOI documents to which you refer contain copies of seizure registers that include descriptions of items seized in youth justice centres. I am advised the FOI documents contain no reference to the drugs methadone or ice.

These registers are a description of what is confiscated and is not confirmation that the item is in fact an illicit or illegal item or substance, or whether it is prescribed medication. The information released under FOI does not confirm where the item was seized, such as the entrance to the facility.

Any suspected illegal items or substances are provided to Victoria Police.

Our hardworking staff do a fantastic jobs in seizing contraband material each year, which ensures Victorian youth justice facilities are safe for staff, visitors and young offenders.

Youth justice staff work closely with health services to minimise the risk of young people diverting medication. Strategies in place include specific processes for the administration of medication to reduce the risk of diversion, and taking reasonable steps to observe that the medication has been taken. Two youth justice staff are required to be present at all times during medication administration.

Freedom of information

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE:

FOI decisions are made by departments' authorised officer under the FOI Act.

Ministers do not make FOI decisions. Ministers do not amend or interfere with FOI decisions.

Briefings on FOI decisions are provided for Ministers' offices for noting only, not for determinations, pursuant to the Attorney General's Guidelines.

In the case referred to, the Department of Education and Training has recently reviewed the material referred to by Ms Fitzherbert. The Department has determined that it erred in excluding one briefing note in considering Ms Fitzherbert's request.

I understand that Ms Fitzherbert's FOI application is currently listed as a matter at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). The Department of Education and Training will work to resolve the matter directly with Ms Fitzherbert or in the course of the VCAT matter.

Public sector code of conduct

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE:

Since 1 January 2017, eleven Department of Health and Human Services employees have been terminated as a result of Disciplinary Outcomes. The Department does not differentiate between bullying and inappropriate behaviour and other misconduct for termination purposes.

The Department of Health and Human Services is committed to addressing bullying and inappropriate behaviour in the workplace and an Action Plan is in place to provide a safe workplace for everyone.

The department's Action Plan to Prevent Bullying and Inappropriate Behaviour aims to build management capability, improve access to support and information and training to increase awareness and understanding of expectations around unacceptable behaviours.

Through the Action Plan the Department of Health and Human Services has:

- appointed a Workplace Facilitator in January 2017, to support staff and managers in discussing and resolving workplace concerns.
- established a state-wide peer support program to assist staff experiencing inappropriate behaviour.
- implemented training for staff to raise awareness about what constitutes bullying and the importance of reporting unacceptable behaviours.

Cervical cancer testing

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE:

It is important that all women aged 18-69; including those with disabilities have access to services to have regular cervical screening tests. Services need to provide facilities that support women with disabilities to access Pap tests.

PapScreen Victoria, funded by the Andrews Labor Government, has a long history of working with the disability sector. Women with disabilities are more likely to be under-screened and for this reason, PapScreen regularly provides education workshops for health service providers, carers and support staff to assist clients to access cancer screening.

PapScreen Victoria's website has a directory to look up Pap test providers that have height adjustable beds, disabled parking, wide doorways and disabled toilets. There are currently 1108 services in Victoria, including publically funded facilities, such as the Mercy Well Women's Clinic and Family Planning Victoria, which provide accessible services to women with disabilities.

Waste management

Question asked by: Ms Springle
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE:

SKM Recycling continues to accept recyclable material in accordance with its contracts with Victorian local governments. It is responding to the impacts of the fire at its Coolaroo facility by diverting material to their other Victorian facilities. These facilities have increased the number of shifts to cope with the increase in volume.

While the fire at Coolaroo has impacted SKM's operations in the short term, the strategies used by recyclers such as SKM in responding to the impacts of the fire mean that recyclable materials collected through municipal kerbside arrangements are not being sent to landfill.

Materials burnt in the fire at Coolaroo were sent to landfill. The volume of this material was approximately 30 000 tonnes.

SKM state that they process over 450 000 tonnes per annum from 25 councils in Victoria and over 50 councils nationally, as well as businesses, schools and regional groups.

Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation

Question asked by: Ms Hartland
Directed to: Minister for Trade and Investment
Asked on: 31 October 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation is established under the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation Act 2011 and has responsibility for the regulation of the liquor and gambling industries in Victoria. They are the most appropriate body with the expertise to investigate the allegations against Crown Melbourne Limited.

I am advised that the same Auditor-General's report from earlier this year notes that the "VCGLR's recent focused attention to improving the way it manages, develops and deploys its regulatory staff, particularly compliance inspectors, is encouraging". In addition, the audit found that the "VCGLR's plans and actions to further develop its risk-based approaches to licensing and compliance are largely sound".

This improvement will be further supported by our \$11.3 million funding boost to enhance the Commission's compliance activities, as announced in the 2017/18 State Budget.

The Government takes the allegations against Crown Limited Melbourne extremely seriously. This is why the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation has asked the Commission to conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations and report back to her as soon as possible. The Minister has called for any member of the public who has information that could assist the Commission in its investigation to come forward immediately.

Electricity supply

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 1 November 2017

RESPONSE:

I am advised that:

It should be noted that the Do Not Disconnect register falls under the responsibilities for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change rather than the Minister for Health.

However, I have been advised that, there are protections currently in place for those with life support equipment.

In accordance with section 5.6 of the Electrical Distribution Code, where a customer or a retailer provides a distributor with confirmation (from a registered medical practitioner or hospital) that a person residing at the customer's supply address requires Life Support Equipment, the distributor must:

- register the supply address as a Life Support Equipment supply address;
- not disconnect supply to the customer's supply address
- give the customer: (i) at least 4 business days written notice of any planned interruption to supply at the supply address; (ii) advice to assist the customer to prepare a plan of action in case an unplanned interruption should occur; and (iv) an emergency telephone contact number.

Under section 5.7 of the Electrical Distribution Code, in the event of a widespread supply event a distributor must inform the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) of the street address of these customers where it is likely that electricity supply will be disrupted for a period greater than 24 hours. Once DHHS has received this reporting, it will decide on the appropriate actions to be undertaken to protect the welfare of vulnerable customers.

In addition, the Minister for Ageing is a strong advocate for older Victorians and the Andrews Labor Government is committed to celebrating the remarkable contribution senior Victorians make across the state.

Kuark forest timber harvesting

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 1 November 2017

RESPONSE:

VicForests can only harvest in areas of State forest where timber harvesting is a permitted forest use. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) defines these areas through the forest management zoning scheme. Timber harvesting is a permitted forest use in the proposed coupes on the VicForests' Timber Release Plan.

All timber harvesting operators in State forests must conduct operations in accordance with a strict regulatory framework that minimises impacts on environmental values. Ensuring compliance with this framework is an important function of DELWP. In previous independent audits, VicForests has demonstrated a good record of compliance with the regulatory framework.

VicForests

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 1 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The Government continues to implement recommendations of the independent Leadbeater's Possum Advisory Group, and has introduced additional recovery measures.

The Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning (DELWP) is the lead agency responsible for the implementation of recovery actions. Other Government agencies involved in co-ordinating recovery actions include Parks Victoria, Zoos Victoria, and VicForests.

VicForests delivers certain recovery actions on behalf of the Government and has received payments from the Leadbeater's Possum Recovery Fund. Some recovery actions undertaken by VicForests are absorbed through its operational budget.

Auslan training

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 1 November 2017

RESPONSE:

There is no basis for statements that Auslan training will not be funded by the Victorian Government in 2018 and the statement in the members question displays either an unbecoming level of ignorance, or an inappropriate level of mischief making that is focused on ensighting fear in a vulnerable community.

The government continues to subsidise AUSLAN training through subsidies and additional wrap-around support to ensure that every Victorian can get access to courses that will allow them to communicate with their deaf friends and family members or to pursue an AUSLAN interpreting career.

The current qualifications are being reviewed for reaccreditation for 2018, a normal process that is well under way and which has included consultation with Deaf and hard of hearing stakeholders and community. This is a standard practice to ensure the currency and relevance of the courses and to ensure the training outcomes meet the needs of the Deaf and hard of hearing community and the AUSLAN interpreter workforce. The newly accredited course will be funded in 2018.

In 2017, funding for Auslan courses has been increased, with additional funding and support also provided through the Regional and Specialised Training Fund under Skills First.

In 2017, the Government also cleared the way for Victorians to access government subsidises for people undertaking both the Diploma of Auslan and the Diploma of Interpreting (LOTE) Auslan. The usual eligibility barriers for accessing subsidises for undertaking more than one course at the same level were removed in order to provide more support for those aspiring to undertake the critical work of Auslan interpreting.

It's particularly pleasing that enrolments in Auslan courses have reached historical highs in recent years. This is testament to the collaborative work of the Victorian Auslan Training Consortium led by Melbourne Polytechnic with key partners the Victorian Deaf Society (Vicdeaf) and La Trobe University.

Support for the deaf and hard of hearing community has been provided by the continued funding of the deafConnectEd organisation to assist Deaf and hard of hearing learners in vocational education and training settings, as well as the training organisations that work with them.

I would remind the member that it was the Liberal National Coalition in 2012 that cut funding to Auslan courses, including at the cutting of courses at Kangan Institute. This decision caused a lot of pain in the deaf and hard of hearing community and Labor stood up against these cuts.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to support the deaf and hard of hearing community, even in the face of the unfounded and untrue claims of those opposite.

Prisoner drug and alcohol testing

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 1 November 2017

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

In relation to drug tests, the member is wrong in his claim that there has been a decrease in the number of drug and alcohol tests conducted in 2016/17.

The fact is that there was an increase in the number of tests completed in the 2016-17 financial year (34 776 drug tests) compared to the 2015-16 financial year (29 828 drug tests).

I also add that the rate of positive results from random general drug tests in the 2016–17 financial year (4.97%) was lower than in the 2015-16 financial year (5.71%). This decrease in positive results from random general drug tests suggests that there were fewer drugs in the prison system in the 2016-17 financial year.

These figures are publicly available in the Department of Justice's annual report as well as the monthly public reporting of drug and contraband data.

Labor introduced the public reporting of drug and contraband data — because we are ensuring our prisons and the operation of them are transparent.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I am advised that the number of recorded breath tests conducted in the 2016-17 financial year was 11 046.

I am also advised that the decrease in reported breath tests in 2016/17 is due to reporting of only positive breath test results at one prison, as opposed to recording all breath tests administered. In previous years, all tests were recorded, regardless of their outcome. This practice has resumed for future reporting periods.

Despite the change in reporting, I am advised that the number of actual breath tests administered would be similar to previous years.

A breakdown of these figures by prison is not currently available within the timeline.

The Bubble student support centre

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 1 November 2017

RESPONSE:

I would reiterate to the member that it was not my decision to make changes to this delivery model at Federation Training, but I do support TAFEs when they work with students and their communities to ensure that they are providing the best service that supports students.

I am advised that the decision was made to replace the Bubble with a new student services model based on the following:

- The Bubble Centres were not heavily utilised — largely as a result of students feeling a degree of hesitation and reluctance in using them and engaging with someone that they had no day to day engagement with. The Bubble model was built on a referral basis and required a degree of self-motivation from the student to engage with the support officers.
- The new model is more student centric, ensuring students are providing with learning support in the classroom. This adopts a similar model of in-class student support to that of secondary schools, where an initial assessment is used to identify those students who are needing additional support.

I am also advised that the student services model put in place to replace the Bubble is far more student oriented because it provides in-class support and removes a barrier for students who may have hesitated to go to one of the Bubble centres in either Yallourn, Warragul or Bairnsdale.

The new model employed 15 dedicated Learning Support Officers who now work with the students in the classroom, providing a more personalised and localised service. The Learning Support Officers also provide individual and small group support to students identified as needing additional support. The feedback around this program has been very positive.

Additionally, Federation Training have appointed 3 full-time Student Services Advisors who are responsible for East, Central and West Gippsland respectively, who provide advice and guidance to students on a range of matters such as careers and pathways, course advice, financial support and study support.

This type of program is only possible because of the support the Andrews Labor Government has provided to Federation Training.

Unlike the former government who slashed and burned the funding of TAFEs, sacked teachers and closed campuses, we are building TAFEs back up. We are putting TAFEs at the centre of the training system so that students can get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

Jasvinder Sidhu

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

RESPONSE:

I can confirm that Mr Sidhu was previously employed as a ministerial staffer, leaving that position in 2015.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the investigation currently being conducted by Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Timber industry

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

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Mr Brunt was asked to stand down his operations in Princess coupe by VicForests. I am very aware that this is not the first time Mr Brunt's harvesting operations have been disrupted. Neither I or my office issued a direction to Mr Brunt to cease operations in Princess coupe.

Timac Agro

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

RESPONSE:

Facilitation support for this business was provided by Invest Victoria within the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. This is a matter for the Minister for Industry and Employment.

VicForests

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

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Ms Dunn is incorrect in her assertion and I am happy to clear up her confusion.

VicForests revalues its biological assets each year. Prior to 2016-17, VicForests used pre-tax cashflows discounted by a pre-tax discount rate. On advice from the Victoria Auditor General's Office, VicForests refined its valuation technique for 2016-17, changing to post-tax cashflows discounted by a post-tax discount rate. The real, post-tax discount rate for 2016-17 was 4.99%. The equivalent rate for 2015-16 was 4.77%. The change in methodology did not have a material impact on the valuation, The reduction on the value of the biological assets reported by VicForests in 2016-17 reflects the reduction in timber available for harvest.