

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

22 and 25 May 2018

(Extract from book 7)

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 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

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Dalidakis, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle, Ms Symes 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, #Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, 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, Mr Melhem, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, 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 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 Noonan 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 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 Elasmr, 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 ⁸	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 ⁹	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona ¹⁰	Northern Metropolitan	RV
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	VILJ
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ¹¹	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 ⁷	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	Truong, Ms Huong ¹²	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			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 9 February 2018

⁸ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁹ Appointed 12 October 2016

¹⁰ ASP until 16 January 2018

¹¹ Appointed 18 October 2017

¹² Appointed 21 February 2018

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

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018

11 171.	Ambulance services	2315
11 474.	Roads and road safety	2315
11 483.	Water	2315
11 485.	Planning	2316
11 496.	Roads and road safety	2316
11 506.	Water	2316
11 508.	Planning	2316
11 519.	Roads and road safety	2316
11 528.	Water	2317
11 530.	Planning	2317
11 541.	Roads and road safety	2317
11 550.	Water	2317
11 552.	Planning	2318
11 563.	Roads and road safety	2318
11 572.	Water	2318
11 574.	Planning	2318
11 577.	Families and children.....	2318
11 860.	Attorney-General.....	2319
11 861.	Attorney-General.....	2319
12 480.	Youth affairs.....	2320
12 481.	Youth affairs.....	2320
12 540.	Public transport	2320
12 541.	Public transport	2321
12 542.	Public transport	2321
12 575.	Tourism and major events.....	2321
12 583.	Agriculture	2322
12 602.	Families and children.....	2322
12 608.	Families and children.....	2323
12 620.	Roads and road safety	2323
12 643.	Public transport	2323
12 665.	Public transport	2324

FRIDAY, 25 MAY 2018

11 490.	Mental health	2325
11 513.	Mental health	2325
11 535.	Mental health	2325
11 557.	Mental health	2326
11 579.	Mental health	2326
11 768.	Prevention of family violence.....	2326

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

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

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 22 May 2018

Ambulance services

11 171. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): In the 2017-18 Budget Paper No. 3 page 78, \$26.5 million has been allocated for ‘Meeting Demand for Ambulance Services’ —

- (1) a Government media release on 27 November 2016 announced a \$500 million plan to improve ambulance response times, is the \$26.5 million of additional funding part of the \$500 million plan;
- (2) why has ‘Meeting Demand for Ambulance Services’ only been funded for two years; and
- (3) the combination of \$343.3 million in output initiatives for ‘Improving Ambulance Response Times’ (2016-17 Budget Update page 117) and \$66.9 million in asset initiatives for ‘Meeting ambulance response targets’ (2016-17 Budget Update page 119) totals \$410.2 million, where is the remaining \$89.8 million of the \$500 million commitment.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The \$26.5 million shown in the 2017-18 Budget papers as ‘Meeting Demand for Ambulance Services’ is in addition to the funding announced in November 2016.

The \$26.5 million is a critical component of the ‘Improving ambulance response times’ and has been funded over two years to coincide with key timeframes of that initiative.

The total cost of the ‘Improving ambulance response times’ initiative is \$526 million. This amount includes the allocation of annual ongoing funding in the order of \$116 million.

Roads and road safety

11 474. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

[Question 11 474 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 315.]

Water

11 483. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

[Question 11 483 reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 March 2018, page 968.]

Planning

11 485. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

[Question 11 485 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 317.]

Roads and road safety

11 496. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

[Question 11 496 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 319.]

Water

11 506. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

[Question 11 506 reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 March 2018, page 968.]

Planning

11 508. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

[Question 11 508 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 321.]

Roads and road safety

11 519. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 519 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 322.]

Water

11 528. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 528 reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 March 2018, page 969.]

Planning

11 530. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 530 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 324.]

Roads and road safety

11 541. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 541 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 326.]

Water

11 550. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 550 reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 March 2018, page 969.]

Planning

11 552. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 552 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 328.]

Roads and road safety

11 563. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 563 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 329.]

Water

11 572. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 572 reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 March 2018, page 969.]

Planning

11 574. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 574 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 331.]

Families and children

11 577. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 577 reinstated by order of President on 1 November 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 31 October 2017, page 5791.]

Attorney-General

11 860. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): What was the number of children admitted to child protection who received legal assistance through Victoria Legal Aid, broken down by local government area.

ANSWER:

Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) is an independent statutory authority established under the Legal Aid Act 1987 (Vic). VLA is responsible for determining the types of legal aid services that will be made available to the community, how these services should be provided, and the priority clients and matters in respect of those services.

VLA makes decisions on whether individuals, including children, can access funding assistance in order to obtain advice and representation in legal matters. These decisions are made in accordance with VLA's eligibility guidelines which take a range of factors into account, including the age and maturity of the child and their ability to provide instructions. Through its guidelines, VLA seeks to promote the best interests of children by ensuring that people affected by decisions or actions of the child protection system, particularly children, are informed and supported to participate, have a voice in decisions that affect them, and have their rights protected and upheld.

Almost every party who is legally represented in Children's Court Family Division (Child Protection) proceedings in Victoria is legally aided through a grant of legal assistance. Under VLA's guidelines, VLA may make a grant of legal assistance to a child or another party such as a parent, guardian or other interested person. VLA reported that it provided 8206 child protection grants of legal assistance in 2016-17, an increase of six per cent on the previous year (7718 in 2015-16).

As an independent statutory authority, VLA operates independently of government and has complete discretion in respect of individual applications for funding assistance. My department does not hold the data you have requested.

Attorney-General

11 861. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): Of the number of children admitted to child protection who requested legal assistance through Victoria Legal Aid, how many cases were not granted support, broken down by local government area.

ANSWER:

Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) is an independent statutory authority established under the Legal Aid Act 1987 (Vic). VLA is responsible for determining the types of legal aid services that will be made available to the community, how these services should be provided, and the priority clients and matters in respect of those services.

VLA makes decisions on whether individuals, including children, can access funding assistance in order to obtain advice and representation in legal matters. These decisions are made in accordance with VLA's eligibility guidelines which take a range of factors into account, including the age and maturity of the child and their ability to provide instructions. Through its guidelines, VLA seeks to promote the best interests of children by ensuring that people affected by decisions or actions of the child protection system, particularly children, are informed and supported to participate, have a voice in decisions that affect them, and have their rights protected and upheld.

Almost every party who is legally represented in Children's Court Family Division (Child Protection) proceedings in Victoria is legally aided through a grant of legal assistance. Under VLA's guidelines, VLA may make a grant of

legal assistance to a child or another party such as a parent, guardian or other interested person. VLA reported that it provided 8206 child protection grants of legal assistance in 2016-17, an increase of six per cent on the previous year (7718 in 2015-16).

As an independent statutory authority, VLA operates independently of government and has complete discretion in respect of individual applications for funding assistance. My department does not hold the data you have requested.

Youth affairs

12 480. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Youth Affairs: What funding will be provided to the Nillumbik Shire Council under the Government’s Engage! funding to support projects helping young people actively participate in and connect with their local community.

ANSWER:

The Engage! 2018-20 grants provide funding for local government and community organisations through a competitive grants round, enabling young people across Victoria to actively participate in civic, skill building and economic pathway projects in their communities.

Following an extensive assessment process of the applications, 107 local government and community organisations across Victoria have been funded in this grant round.

Nillumbik Shire Council was unsuccessful in receiving Engage! funding in the 2018-2020 grant round.

Council has received funding through the 2016-2018 FreeZA program to support young people deliver drug and alcohol-free events.

Nillumbik Shire Council also received a 2018 Victorian Youth Week Grant to organise an event celebrating the positive contributions of young people as part of Victoria’s first Youth Week which the Andrews Labor Government fully funded after the Turnbull Liberal Government scrapped all funding for what was previously National Youth Week.

Youth affairs

12 481. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Youth Affairs: What funding will be provided to the Banyule City Council under the Government’s Engage! funding to support projects helping young people actively participate in and connect with their local community.

ANSWER:

The Engage! 2018-20 grants provide three-year funding for local government and community organisations through a competitive grants round, enabling young people across Victoria to actively participate in civic, skill building and economic pathway projects in their communities.

Following an extensive assessment process of the applications, 107 local government and community organisations across Victoria have been funded in this grant round, including the Banyule City Council which received an increase in funding to \$130 000 supporting the delivery of the ‘Banyule Voice’ project.

Public transport

12 540. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What are the average patronage figures of the new 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge for November 2017 on —

- (1) weekdays; and
- (2) weekends.

ANSWER:

Patronage for the new route 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge was an average 235 boardings each weekday in November 2017.

[Question 12 540 reinstated by order of President on 8 May 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 27 March 2018, page 1447.]

Public transport

12 541. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What are the average patronage figures of the new 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge for December 2017 on —

- (1) weekdays; and
- (2) weekends.

ANSWER:

Patronage for the new route 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge was an average 195 boardings each weekday in December 2017.

[Question 12 541 reinstated by order of President on 8 May 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 27 March 2018, page 1447.]

Public transport

12 542. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What are the average patronage figures of the new 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge for January 2018 on —

- (1) weekdays; and
- (2) weekends.

ANSWER:

Patronage for the new route 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge was an average 175 boardings each weekday in January 2018.

[Question 12 542 reinstated by order of President on 8 May 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 27 March 2018, page 1447.]

Tourism and major events

12 575. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): In relation to signing the development agreement with Apple Corporation for the proposed flagship retail store at Federation Square —

- (1) what is the anticipated revenue stream back to the Government from the Apple store; and
- (2) what contribution, monetary or otherwise, is the Government or any authority of the Government making to Apple in relation to the proposed store.

ANSWER:

As the landlord for Federation Square, Federation Square Pty. Ltd. would receive the revenue stream agreed between it and Apple Corporation.

The Government has not made and will not make a monetary contribution to Apple in relation to its proposed Global Flagship Store. Apple Corporation is undertaking significant public realm works for Federation Square Pty. Ltd. in addition to development of its store.

Agriculture

12 583. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to logging in the Strathbogie Ranges, will 100 per cent of the logs extracted from coupes currently being logged in the Strathbogie Ranges be processed and sold for firewood, and, if not, what percentage will be processed as firewood.

ANSWER:

VicForests advises that in the last month there were no firewood sales from the one coupe currently being logged in the Strathbogie Ranges.

Families and children

12 602. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Government's announcement on the crackdown of 60 childcare providers in 2017 —

- (1) what proportion of Victoria's state-funded childcare providers have been visited and inspected in 2017;
- (2) how many Department of Education and Training employees were employed in conducting these visits; and
- (3) from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017, how many complaints has the Government received about substandard childcare providers.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The State Government does not fund long day care in Victoria. This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.

Despite this, there exists a National Partnership on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education, under which States and Territories conduct inspections and assess the compliance of all early years services against national quality standards.

I am appalled that the Turnbull Liberal Government has chosen to cut funding to regular national quality standards at childcare centres in Victoria, walking away from a long-standing agreement that was first introduced by Labor in 2009. Removing this funding risks letting unscrupulous operators back in the door.

The Department of Education and Training is responsible for regulating more than 4000 Victorian education and care services under the National Quality Framework and approximately 400 services operating under the Children's Services Act 1996, to ensure that these services protect children's safety, health and wellbeing and deliver quality education and care to support children's health, learning and development.

Complaints in regards to education and care services are received by the Quality and Regulation Division of the Department of Education and Training.

The Department assesses all complaints and considers the risk to the health and wellbeing of children, the circumstances of each incident, the compliance history of the service and the action the provider or service has taken since the incident when determining whether further action is required. In all circumstances where there is a risk to the child, the service is subject to a compliance visit.

Not all complaints are substantiated. Where they are and as appropriate, the Department takes further action. The Department publishes its compliance activity and its enforcement actions on its website.

Families and children

12 608. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Government’s LOOKOUT program, as at 1 March 2018 —

- (1) how many children in state care have been involved in the program since its launch;
- (2) how many children in state care were not enrolled in school for the 2015 16 school year;
- (3) how many children in state care were not enrolled in school for the 2016 17 school year; and
- (4) what were the number of expulsions.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The LOOKOUT Education Support Centres were established in 2016 to build the capacity of schools, child protection case workers and carers to improve the educational outcomes of children and young people in the out of home care system.

The first LOOKOUT Centre was piloted in the South Western Victoria Region in 2016, with the three other regions establishing their teams by April 2017.

LOOKOUT works with the people closest to these students to build their capacity to support their educational needs more effectively. They do this by delivering training to school staff, collecting data to monitor the progress of these students, and advocating for enrolments and educational supports when needed.

To this effect, LOOKOUT supports all school-aged children and young people in out of home care, which is driving improvements to the way data is collected, shared and analysed to better monitor the outcomes of students in out of home care.

This involves checking enrolment data with the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) to confirm the enrolment type for students identified by DHHS as being in out of home care.

Data on expulsions from the government school system of children in out of home care was published in the Victorian Ombudsman’s review into expulsions.

Roads and road safety

12 620. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What representations have been made to VicRoads in the last three years about the condition of Wattletree Road, Eltham.

ANSWER:

VicRoads advises me that it has worked with the community to improve the condition of Wattletree Road.

VicRoads has an inspection program for Wattletree Road and regularly undertakes rectification works.

Public transport

12 643. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What were the patronage figures of the special buses from Eltham Station to Parliament Station during the first week of the Hurstbridge rail line upgrade blitz.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is upgrading the Hurstbridge line to provide improved services to passengers in Melbourne’s north-east. Up to 2000 passengers used the special bus service on all weekdays in the first week of the Hurstbridge rail line shut.

During disruptions every effort is made to provide comfortable journeys for passengers, while we get on with delivering major upgrades to Melbourne’s public transport network.

Public transport

12 665. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport):
When will the bus service improvements for St Helena and Greensborough, referenced in the 2018-19 State Budget, be introduced.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$200 million improving bus routes, adding more bus services and extending routes into growing suburbs. This includes improvements to the Plenty Valley network and the introduction of route 343 linking Hurstbridge to Greensborough.

I am pleased to see the Member for Eastern Metro welcome the new bus services in the Andrews Labor Government 2018/19 budget and, so soon following the announcement, is eagerly anticipating the delivery of these new services. Transport for Victoria is currently undertaking planning work to deliver all bus services in the \$55 million bus package as part of the 2018/19 budget and further information will be available to local communities shortly.

My office will continue to work with local members for Eltham and Yan Yean to deliver these eagerly anticipated services.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

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

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Friday, 25 May 2018

Mental health

11 490. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 490 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 318.]

Mental health

11 513. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 513 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 321.]

Mental health

11 535. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 535 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 325.]

Mental health

11 557. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

No ministerial staff are employed by myself but rather employed by the Premier.

I refer you to his answer to Question on Notice 11543.

Please note that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office or the Premier's office but their own relevant agency.

Mental health

11 579. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

[Question 11 579 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 331.]

Prevention of family violence

11 768. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence): In relation to hospital staff who have received training to identify and support victims of family violence —

- (1) which hospitals are the staff connected to;
- (2) how many are based in metropolitan Victoria; and
- (3) how many are based in regional and remote Victoria.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Health has portfolio responsibility for this matter, however I am informed that:

(1) The staff who have received training are from the following health services:

- Alfred Health
- Benalla Health
- Bendigo Health
- Castlemaine Health
- Cohuna District Hospital
- Eastern Health

-
- Echuca Regional Health
 - Goulburn Valley Health
 - Heathcote Health
 - Inglewood & District Health Service
 - Kyabram & District Health Services
 - Kyneton District Health Service
 - Maryborough District Health Service
 - Melbourne Health
 - Mildura Base Hospital
 - Monash Health
 - Northeast Health Wangaratta
 - Northern Health
 - Peninsula Health
 - Rochester & District Health Services
 - St Vincent’s Hospital Melbourne
 - Swan Hill District Health Service
 - The Royal Women’s Hospital
 - Western Health
- (2) Over 2600 staff are based in health services in metropolitan Victoria.
- (3) Over 800 staff are based in health services in regional and remote Victoria.