

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS  
WITHOUT NOTICE**

**30 March to 1 May 2018**

**(Extract from book 5)**

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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
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 <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>8</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>9</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona <sup>10</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	RV
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	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 <sup>11</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 <sup>7</sup>	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	Truong, Ms Huong <sup>12</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			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 9 February 2018

<sup>8</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>9</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

<sup>10</sup> ASP until 16 January 2018

<sup>11</sup> Appointed 18 October 2017

<sup>12</sup> 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



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## WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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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.*

**30 March to 1 May 2018**

**Flemington public housing jobs program**

**Question asked by:** Ms Truong  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 8 March 2018

**RESPONSE:**

I thank the Member for her question and her interest in the government's employment programs through Jobs Victoria.

I note that the Ms Truong's Parliamentary colleague, the Member for Melbourne, Ms Sandell has also asked the same question regarding performance measures and indicators on the Jobs Victoria Flemington project to the Minister for Industry and Employment, the Hon Ben Carroll. Accordingly, I provide Minister Carroll's response to this question here in full:

*What performance measures or indicators will be implemented to measure the success of the Flemington Public Housing Estate jobs program.*

Key objectives and measures of the project include increasing employment amongst the local working-age population; increasing local labour market demand (number of jobs); improving the systems which match labour market supply and demand and improving education participation and outcomes.

The project aims to place 150 estate residents in sustainable employment, 50 students in school-based traineeships with Victoria Police and the health sector, and to establish at least 20 new resident-owned and operated businesses.

The project will support culturally and linguistically diverse residents, the long term unemployed and women with pre-school age children by providing access to long-term, secure employment, high quality training, including English language classes, TAFE and university courses, mentoring and study support through Jobs Victoria partners.

It will also leverage job opportunities provided through the Major Projects Skills Guarantee and the government's major pipeline of infrastructure projects, including the \$11 billion Melbourne Metro Rail Tunnel project and through partnerships with large and local businesses and sporting clubs. Since the project's launch in late January, six residents have already been placed into employment by the project and the recruitment process has commenced to identify school-aged young people with an interest in careers in Victoria Police and VicHealth. A new volunteering initiative has also commenced — with the skills gained such as leadership, entrepreneurship and community participation to be matched with job opportunities for residents.

I would also like to make reference to an African-Australian enterprise owned by Ms Haida Komba, her mother and sister — all residents of estate, when the project is supporting, through business capacity building, to find secure and meaningful employment. As featured recently on ABC Melbourne news, it's a relevant case study for the project and the 150 residents we aim to support.

This is what this project is all about — a strengths-based approach to create economic prosperity and inclusive growth. A key indication of the project's success will be the extent to which the residents are engaged and empowered through microfinance and social enterprise initiatives, the number of industry and employment partnerships leveraged and a more sustainable model developed to deliver lasting change.

With regards to Ms Truong's supplementary question regarding extending the Jobs Victoria program to other public housing estates:

The government is delivering a range of place-based approaches across the state through Jobs Victoria, including projects in Dandenong, Broadmeadows, Moe and Norlane. A Shepparton-based Jobs Victoria project, the Algabonyah Employment Partnerships program is addressing challenges around Aboriginal employment and prosperity in the region by placing 75 Aboriginal jobseekers into work, working closely with employers and industry, and with strong support from the Goulburn Regional Partnership as a regional priority.

The government is supporting many place-based initiatives to address complex social and economic challenges through Regional Partnerships which identify regional priorities through regular community consultation. We are supporting inclusive jobs and business growth through initiatives such as the G21 Region Opportunities for Work (GROW) project, which has leveraged 72 jobs and employment pathways for people from the areas of Corio, Norlane, Whittington and Colac. At the end 2017, the GROW project's 9 percent growth in local procurement equated to \$23.8 million in economic output for the region.

The government welcomes discussion around new opportunities and innovative approaches to support jobs, business development and local procurement to improve social and economic outcomes for those most unrepresented in the economy.

Our approach is to drive sustainable employment and economic outcomes for those who are experiencing the highest levels of social and economic disadvantage in the state — including public housing estate residents — and for the government, community and business sector to work in partnership as part of a joined-up approach.

I thank Ms Troung for her question and the opportunity to report on the government's important work in this area.

### **Fire services property levy**

**Question asked by:** Ms Patten  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 28 March 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

The forgone revenue relates to the \$50 Fire Services Property Levy concession available to property owners who currently receive council rates concessions in respect of their principal places of residence. It does not relate to the assets of the Catholic Church.

### **Kangaroo pet food trial**

**Question asked by:** Mr Young  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 28 March 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

On Friday 30 March 2018, I announced that Victoria's Kangaroo Pet Food Trial has been extended for a further 12 months. A further extension of the trial will allow time to better understand how sustainable Victoria's kangaroo management activities are under the trial and to see whether changes to monitoring, regulation and compliance will address the issues that were identified during the trial evaluation.

The Kangaroo Pet Food Trial will continue until 31 March 2019 in a total of 16 local government areas.

Professional shooters and pet food processors can continue to harvest and process kangaroo carcasses as per the conditions of the trial until the trial ends in 2019.

### Federation Square

**Question asked by:** Dr Ratnam  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business  
**Asked on:** 28 March 2018

#### RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The development of Australia's first ever Apple Global Flagship Store at Federation Square will support Federation Square in delivering its Civic and Cultural Charter. The creation of more public space, extensive landscaping and better access to the river will enable more people to enjoy this renowned civic and cultural hub.

#### RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The Victorian Government will continue to collaborate with Fed Square Pty Ltd to review and provide input to its activities in line with the Civic and Cultural Charter.

### North Richmond playgroups

**Question asked by:** Ms Crozier  
**Directed to:** Minister for Early Childhood Education  
**Asked on:** 28 March 2018

#### RESPONSE:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing the harm associated with alcohol and drug use and in particular reduce the incidents of public injecting in North Richmond. This is why we have committed to trial a Medically Supervised Injecting Room in the North Richmond area.

I am advised that following consultation, the quickest way to do this was to refurbish an internal area of the existing North Richmond Community Health building. This transitional facility is expected to be operational at this location until mid-2019 when operations will move to a purpose built facility in the area.

I am advised that this transitional facility will have a separate entrance and exit to the other services being delivered from the North Richmond Community Health Centre, including the playgroups.

As part of the Government's record \$202.1 million Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan: Ready for kinder, Reading for School, Ready for Life, we have invested \$22.3 million to expand supported playgroups across the State.

I am advised that Yarra Council has established a supported playgroup at North Richmond Community Health and this playgroup will continue to operate from within the Health Centre in a new area and new room.

The playgroup run by the Vietnamese Women's Association will also continue to operate from within the North Richmond Community Health Centre, in a new area and new room.

Further, I am advised that a playgroup operated by Save the Children will continue to operate within close proximity to the health service at a suitable location. I understand that the North Richmond Community Health Centre has worked with Save the Children to find a suitable location.

The legislation is clear that the Medically Supervised Injecting Room trial must be at the North Richmond Community Health Centre site at 23 Lennox Street, North Richmond.

The location of the purpose built facility on the site was chosen to have the least impact on neighbouring residents, businesses, families and service users.

It is anticipated that by mid-2019 all community groups who used rooms in the Health Centre will be able to return to the Health Centre.

**Electorate office staff**

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 29 March 2018

**RESPONSE:**

I did not direct Mr Hitchcock to make calls and organise volunteers in Carrum and as I understand it he was engaging people within my electorate of South Eastern Metropolitan Region about issues that they cared about.

I understand that Mr Hitchcock worked from various offices and locations in my electorate of South Eastern Metropolitan Region.

**Electorate office budgets**

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 29 March 2018

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

The Victorian Ombudsman has tabled her report into matters concerning the 2014 election campaign.

In her observations, the Ombudsman notes that the Members of Parliament involved in the staff pooling arrangements acted in good faith and derived little or no personal benefit from the use of parliamentary funds in this way.

She makes no recommendations that action be taken against anyone involved in these arrangements.

In the interests of public confidence, the Premier requested that the State Secretary of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Labor Party reimburse, in full, funds expended through the staff pooling arrangements.

We support all of the Ombudsman's recommendations and will ensure the Parliament is provided with all the support required to implement them.

**Container deposit scheme**

**Question asked by:** Ms Springle  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 29 March 2018

**RESPONSE:**

The Andrews Labor Government is working closely with local government and industry to respond to global market changes from China's new trade restrictions. This includes a \$13 million short-term assistance package for councils and industry to support kerbside household recycling services.

We are also developing a strategic plan that will focus on what we can do to ensure we have a resilient recycling industry in Victoria in the medium to long-term. We are consulting closely with stakeholders on this and will consider all information and proposals available.

South Australia and New South Wales both have container deposit schemes and are still experiencing the impacts of China's trade restrictions. Furthermore, New South Wales has received significant criticism in implementation of its container deposit scheme for delays, cost blow outs, lack of access and litter around collection points.

We will continue to monitor those container deposit schemes to understand the benefits and costs of their models, including how they might translate to Victoria.

In the meantime, our government has been investing at record levels in programs to develop markets for recovered resources, facilitate private investment in resource recovery infrastructure, and educate households and businesses about how to better manage waste. The 2016-17 and 2017-18 state budgets provided \$53.4 million over five years to improve waste and resource recovery management. This brings the government's total Sustainability Fund expenditure to over \$600 million over the forward estimates. In comparison, the previous Coalition Government approved less than \$15 million in new Sustainability Fund spending over their four years in government.

Recently, we asked all Victorians for their views on how we can manage plastic pollution in Victoria. We received over 8000 submissions. We are working through them and expect to publish the consultation report soon.