

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

28 and 29 May 2019

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

Premier	The Hon. DM Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. JA Merlino, MP
Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. TH Pallas, MP
Minister for Transport Infrastructure	The Hon. JM Allan, MP
Minister for Crime Prevention, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice and Minister for Victim Support	The Hon. BA Carroll, MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Solar Homes	The Hon. L D'Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Child Protection and Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers	The Hon. LA Donnellan, MP
Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. MP Foley, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Workplace Safety	The Hon. J Hennessy, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Ports and Freight	The Hon. MM Horne, MP
Special Minister of State, Minister for Priority Precincts and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	The Hon. GW Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Suburban Development	The Hon. M Kairouz, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Water and Minister for Police and Emergency Services	The Hon. LM Neville, MP
Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, and Minister for Racing	The Hon. MP Pakula, MP
Minister for Roads, Minister for Road Safety and the TAC, and Minister for Fishing and Boating	The Hon. JL Pulford, MLC
Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. RD Scott, MP
Minister for Local Government and Minister for Small Business	The Hon. A Somyurek, MLC
Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Resources	The Hon. J Symes, MLC
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Higher Education	The Hon. GA Tierney, MLC
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Women and Minister for Youth	The Hon. G Williams, MP
Minister for Planning, Minister for Housing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. RW Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Economy and Infrastructure Standing Committee

Mr Barton, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Mrs McArthur, Mr Quilty and Ms Terpstra.

Participating members: Ms Bath, Dr Cumming, Mr Davis, Mr Limbrick, Mr Meddick, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Environment and Planning Standing Committee

Mr Atkinson, Ms Bath, Mr Bourman, Mr Hayes, Mr Limbrick, Mr Meddick, Mr Melhem, Dr Ratnam, Ms Taylor and Ms Terpstra.

Participating members: Ms Crozier, Dr Cumming, Mr Davis and Mr Quilty.

Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee

Ms Garrett, Dr Kieu, Ms Lovell, Ms Maxwell, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Patten, Dr Ratnam and Ms Vaghela.

Participating members: Ms Bath, Ms Crozier, Dr Cumming, Mr Grimley, Mr Limbrick, Mr O'Donohue and Mr Quilty.

Privileges Committee

Mr Atkinson, Mr Bourman, Ms Crozier, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Grimley, Mr Jennings, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Procedure Committee

The President, the Deputy President, Ms Crozier, Mr Davis, Mr Grimley, Dr Kieu, Ms Patten, Ms Pulford and Ms Symes.

Joint committees

Dispute Resolution Committee

Council: Mr Bourman, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Symes and Ms Wooldridge.

Assembly: Ms Allan, Ms Hennessy, Mr Merlino, Mr Pakula, Mr R Smith, Mr Walsh and Mr Wells.

Electoral Matters Committee

Council: Mr Atkinson, Mrs McArthur, Mr Meddick, Mr Melhem, Ms Lovell and Mr Quilty.

Assembly: Ms Blandthorn, Ms Hall, Dr Read and Ms Spence.

House Committee

Council: The President (*ex officio*), Mr Bourman, Mr Davis, Ms Lovell, Ms Pulford and Ms Stitt.

Assembly: The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr T Bull, Ms Crugnale, Ms Edwards, Mr Fregon, Ms Sandell and Ms Staley.

Integrity and Oversight Committee

Council: Mr Grimley and Ms Shing.

Assembly: Mr Halse, Mr McGhie, Mr Rowswell, Mr Taylor and Mr Wells.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Council: Ms Stitt.

Assembly: Ms Blandthorn, Mr Hibbins, Mr Maas, Mr D O'Brien, Ms Richards, Mr Richardson, Mr Riordan and Ms Vallenge.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee

Council: Mr Gepp, Mrs McArthur, Ms Patten and Ms Taylor.

Assembly: Mr Burgess, Ms Connolly and Ms Kilkenny.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly: Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms B Noonan

Council: 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-NINTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION

President

The Hon. SL LEANE

Deputy President

The Hon. WA LOVELL

Acting Presidents

Mr Bourman, Mr Elasmr, Mr Gepp, Mr Melhem, Ms Patten

Leader of the Government

The Hon. GW JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government

The Hon. J SYMES

Leader of the Opposition

The Hon. DM DAVIS

Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Ms G CROZIER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Maxwell, Ms Tania Maree	Northern Victoria	DHJP
Barton, Mr Rodney Brian	Eastern Metropolitan	TMP	Meddick, Mr Andy	Western Victoria	AJP
Bath, Ms Melina Gaye	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Cumming, Dr Catherine Rebecca	Western Metropolitan	Ind	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip ¹	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona Heather	Northern Metropolitan	FPRP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Quilty, Mr Timothy	Northern Victoria	LDP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Garrett, Ms Jane Furneaux	Eastern Victoria	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Grimley, Mr Stuart James	Western Victoria	DHJP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hayes, Mr Clifford	Southern Metropolitan	SA	Stitt, Ms Ingrid	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Kieu, Dr Tien Dung	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Taylor, Ms Nina	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Terpstra, Ms Sonja	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Limbrick, Mr David	South Eastern Metropolitan	LDP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Vaghela, Ms Kaushaliya Virjibhai	Western Metropolitan	ALP
McArthur, Mrs Beverley	Western Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP

¹ Resigned 17 June 2019

Party abbreviations

AJP—Animal Justice Party; ALP—Labor Party; DHJP—Derryn Hinch's Justice Party;

FPRP—Fiona Patten's Reason Party; Greens—Australian Greens; Ind—Independent;

LDP—Liberal Democratic Party; LP—Liberal Party; Nats—The Nationals; SA—Sustainable Australia;

SFFP—Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; TMP—Transport Matters Party

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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, 28 May 2019

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1. **MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to Montmorency Railway Station:
 - (1) Why is work on upgrading the car park now waiting for environmental permits from the Federal Government.
 - (2) What is the estimated cost of the station upgrade and when is it now due to be completed.

ANSWER:

The proposed upgrade of the car park at Montmorency Station has required an environmental assessment. During the course of this assessment, native vegetation protected under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 was identified.

VicTrack and the Department of Transport are currently assessing options to deliver the car park upgrade at Montmorency Station.

[Question 1, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 20 March 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 February 2019, page 9.]

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

2. **MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Public Transport): What is the estimated cost of the promised Ringwood East Railway Station car park upgrade and when is it due to be completed.

ANSWER:

The Government will make it easier for commuters to find a car park, building over 11,000 new spaces at stations across the state.

The \$150 million *Car Parks for Commuters Fund* will see new carparks being built at some of our busiest metropolitan and regional train stations.

This commitment is on top of the \$60 million that was provided in the 2018-19 State Budget for over 2,000 new and upgraded car parking spaces to be built at key stations across the network.

Planning is underway for our governments current carparking commitments, including for Ringwood East Railway Station. Works will commence once the necessary approvals are in place. Further commitments will be made in due course.

[Question 2 reinstated by Order of President on 20 March 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 February 2019, page 9.]

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

3. **MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Public Transport): What is the estimated cost of the promised 40 new and upgraded car parks at Jordanville Railway Station and when are they due to be delivered.

ANSWER:

The Government will make it easier for commuters to find a car park, building over 11,000 new spaces at stations across the state.

The \$150 million *Car Parks for Commuters Fund* will see new carparks being built at some of our busiest metropolitan and regional train stations.

This commitment is on top of the \$60 million that was provided in the 2018-19 State Budget for over 2,000 new and upgraded car parking spaces to be built at key stations across the network.

Planning is underway for our government's current carparking commitments. Works will commence once the necessary approvals are in place. Further commitments will be made in due course

[*Question 3 reinstated by Order of President on 20 March 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 February 2019, page 9.*]

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

41. MR DAVIS—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): How much had been expended up until 30 September 2018 on preparatory planning and construction work on the Metro Tunnel.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

Since 2015, extensive works have been undertaken to progress the Metro Tunnel Project, including

- detailed design and development works
- EES planning processes
- procurement of the four major work package contracts
- property acquisitions
- geotechnical investigations
- site preparations, including building demolitions and tree removals
- relocation of underground services make way for the five new stations
- excavation of 11-storey deep shafts in the CBD
- construction of acoustic sheds to contain noise and dust
- shifting of tram lines on St Kilda Road
- construction of tram lines and stops on Toorak and St Kilda roads
- extensive community and stakeholder consultation, and
- business support activities.

In 2018 alone, the Metro Tunnel Project achieved several significant milestones, including:

- more than 3,000 people working almost six million hours on the project
- more than 800 piles were driven into the ground
- use of more than 10,000 tonnes of steel
- a total of 28,900 cubic metres of rock and soil was excavated
- archaeologists uncovered approximately 1.1 million artefacts dating back 180 years
- the first of four huge Tunnel Boring Machines travelling to Melbourne from overseas, and
- start of digging works in the A' Beckett St shaft to excavate the cavern for State Library station.

The 2018-19 Victorian State Budget contains information relating to expenditure on the Metro Tunnel Project, and project updates can be found online at <<https://metrotunnel.vic.gov.au/>>.

[*Question 41 reinstated by Order of President on 30 April 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 19 February 2019, page 12.*]

ROADS

45. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: In relation to the Government's commitment published in Labor's Financial Statement 2018 for 'Active Transport Stage 2':

- (1) How much capital funding will the Government allocate to the project in—
 - (a) 2019-20;
 - (b) 2020-21;
 - (c) 2021-22;
 - (d) 2022-23; and
 - (e) beyond 2022-23.
- (2) Does this project rely on a specific commitment of funding by the Commonwealth Government, and if so, how much.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to Active Transport. That's why we created the \$100 million Safer Cyclists and Pedestrians fund, which is delivering projects for cyclist and pedestrians across the state.

We have also committed \$15 million for Active Transport—Stage 2. Further details of funding allocations will be subject to the normal budgetary process with advice on project implementation timeframes thereafter.

[*Question 45, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 21 February 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2019, page 3.*]

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

106. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the bus lanes on Williamsons Road, Templestowe, between Porter and Foote Streets:

- (1) How many traffic infringements have been issued to drivers illegally using these bus lanes since May 2018.
- (2) What is the total revenue accumulated by the infringements issued to drivers for illegally using these bus lanes since May 2018.

ANSWER:

From 1 May 2018 to 26 February 2019, 213 infringement notices were issued for driving in a bus lane on Williamsons Road, Templestowe.

The total revenue for the 213 infringement notices issued for driving in a bus lane is \$34,209.00.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

107. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Bendigo TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 107, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 50.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

108. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Box Hill Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

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This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 108, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 50.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

109. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Chisholm Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 109, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 50.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

110. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Federation University – TAFE Division under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 110, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 50.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

111. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Federation Training under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 111, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 51.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

112. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Gordon Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 112, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 51.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

113. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government’s *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria’s TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge’s own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 113, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 51.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

114. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Holmesglen Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government’s *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria’s TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge’s own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 114, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 51.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

115. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Kangan Institute under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government’s *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria’s TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge’s own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 115, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 51.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

116. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at RMIT University – TAFE Division under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government’s *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria’s TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge’s own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 116, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 52.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

117. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at South West Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 117, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 52.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

118. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 118, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 52.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

119. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Victoria University Polytechnic under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 119, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 52.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

120. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at William Angliss Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 120, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 52.*]

TRAINING AND SKILLS

121. MS WOOLDRIGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government's Free TAFE program:

- (1) What courses are offered at Wodonga Institute of TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

Information on Free TAFE Courses offered at TAFE Institutes can be found by visiting www.FreeTAFE.vic.gov.au

TAFE Institutes are not required to publicise enrolment numbers for individual courses as this information is commercial in confidence.

[*Question 121, part (2), reinstated by Order of President on 2 May 2019. Hansard reference to original answer: 30 April 2019, page 53.*]

ASSISTANT TREASURER

127. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What was the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2016-17.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

128. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What was the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2017-18.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

129. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What proportion of the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2016-17 was paid to Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

130. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What proportion of the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2017-18 was paid to Maurice Blackburn Lawyers.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

131. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What proportion of the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2016-17 was paid to Slater and Gordon Lawyers.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

132. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What proportion of the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2017-18 was paid to Slater and Gordon Lawyers.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

133. MR RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What proportion of the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2016-17 was paid to Zapparas Lawyers.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- 134. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What proportion of the total value of common law legal professional, disbursement and counsel fees paid by the Transport Accident Commission in 2017-18 was paid to Zparas Lawyers.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- 135. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What was the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘total claim lodgements’ for 2017-18.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- 136. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What is the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘total claim lodgements’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- 137. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What was the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘Victorian common law resolutions’ for 2017-18.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- 138. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What is the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘Victorian common law resolutions’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- 139. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What was the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘client outcomes score’ for 2017-18.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

- 140. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What is the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘client outcomes score’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

141. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What was the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘client experience score’ for 2017-18.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

142. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What is the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘client experience score’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

143. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What was the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘total benefits paid’ for 2017-18.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

144. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Assistant Treasurer): What is the Transport Accident Commission’s annual performance target for ‘total benefits paid’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

The Minister for Road Safety and the TAC is best placed to answer these questions.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

187. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Parks Victoria aerial deer culling trial in October 2018, what was the total cost incurred by Parks Victoria.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria has been assessing different methods of deer control in the Alpine National Park to determine the relative effectiveness of different management approaches to reduce the impacts deer are having on alpine peatlands.

Control techniques are selected based on a number of factors including target species, terrain, target species distribution, cost, the overall effort needed to achieve a planned outcome. Aerial shooting is the most appropriate tool in inaccessible terrain and over large areas.

The total cost incurred by Parks Victoria to deliver the aerial deer control trial in October was \$78,600.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

188. **MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Parks Victoria aerial deer culling trial in October 2018, what was the total internal departmental cost incurred by Parks Victoria.

ANSWER:

The total internal departmental costs incurred by Parks Victoria in delivering the aerial deer culling trial in October 2018 is estimated to be \$20,500.

Key activities included staff costs and incidentals for operational planning, community and stakeholder engagement, media and communications and on-site operations.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 189. MR RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Parks Victoria aerial deer culling trial in October 2018, what was the total external contractor cost incurred by Parks Victoria.

ANSWER:

Parks Victoria engaged an external aircraft operator who supplied an aircraft, pilot, shooter, firearms, ground crew, fuel and accommodation to undertake the aerial deer shooting trial in October 2018. An independent vet was also engaged to monitor animal welfare outcomes and compliance with procedures.

The total external costs incurred by Parks Victoria for these services was \$58,100.

HEALTH

- 204. MS PATTEN**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to funding for anti-smoking organisations:

- (1) How much funding has the Victorian Government provided to anti-smoking organisations each year for the past four years.
- (2) For each of the past four years, can the Minister provide a breakdown of—
 - (a) which organisations received funding;
 - (b) how much funding was provided to each organisation;
 - (c) what the funding was provided for;
 - (d) any conditions or KPIs attached to the funding;
 - (e) what outcomes were achieved by the funding; and
 - (f) where, by Local Government Area, the funding was spent.
- (3) How is funding for anti-smoking organisations decided, and is this a tender process.
- (4) How do organisations apply for funding or grants to provide research into smoking cessation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

The Department of Health and Human Services funds Cancer Council Victoria for a range of services. Over the last four years, the Cancer Council Victoria has received more than \$36,000,000 in funding from the Government. This includes more than \$10.2 million over four years which is dedicated to Quit Victoria, which is an entity connected to Cancer Council Victoria.

In addition, VicHealth provide Quit Victoria with funding for tobacco control initiatives, including quit smoking programs. The current funding agreement is \$18.8 million over four years (2016 - 2019).

Quit Victoria also partners with the Gippsland Primary Health Network who is delivering a departmental funded project that provides the Latrobe Valley residents with expert quitting advice and support when they visit their GP and other health professionals.

A key partner is Alfred Health who makes support available to all Victorian health services to embed best practice smoking cessation support as routine care. Advice is available to support health services to assist patients to manage nicotine addiction or make a quit attempt.

In addition, the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) receive funding for state-wide Aboriginal tobacco control coordination. This work is focused on sector and workforce development in relation to provision of smoking cessation support for Aboriginal Victorians.

A further \$1.38 million is invested each year through the MAV in supporting Local Government Areas with tobacco control measures to reduce smoking prevalence and the harm caused by smoking in the Victorian community. Performance monitoring occurs with standard contract management processes.

HEALTH

- 205. MS PATTEN**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to anti-smoking research:
- (1) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent on or granted to organisations for anti-smoking research.
 - (2) Can the Minister provide a copy of all anti-smoking research paid for by the Victorian Government.
 - (3) For each piece of anti-smoking research awarded in the past four years, can the Minister provide a breakdown of:
 - (a) what organisation undertook the research;
 - (b) how the organisation was awarded the contract or grant;
 - (c) whether the contract or grant was awarded under a comparative tender process, and if not, why not; and
 - (d) what the nominal price value of the research undertaken was.
 - (4) Who decides what anti-smoking research is undertaken.
 - (5) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent internally on anti-smoking research.
 - (6) Is there any pending anti-smoking research or research projects in this field due to commence within the next six months.
 - (7) Can the Minister provide a copy of all internally undertaken research.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to anti-smoking research—

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government, through both the Department of Health and Human Services and VicHealth invests \$9 million in tobacco control each year in comprehensive tobacco control measures. This funding supports smoking cessation programs such as the Quitline, anti-smoking advertising campaigns, and education and enforcement under the *Tobacco Act 1987* (Tobacco Act).

Whilst the Victorian Government does not directly commission anti-smoking research, examining the full research evidence base and expert opinion forms part of usual processes to inform policy directions.

The Government commissions and undertakes population level surveys to understand the health and wellbeing of Victorians, including changing smoking prevalence.

HEALTH

- 206. MS PATTEN**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to tobacco research:
- (1) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spend on or granted to organisations for tobacco research.
 - (2) Can the Minister provide a copy of all tobacco research paid for by the Victorian Government.
 - (3) For each piece of tobacco research awarded in the past four years, can the Minister provide a breakdown of:
 - (a) what organisation undertook the research;
 - (b) how the organisation was awarded the contract or grant;
 - (c) whether the contract or grant was awarded under a comparative tender process, and if not, why not; and
 - (d) what the nominal price value of the research undertaken was.
 - (4) Who decides what tobacco research is undertaken.
 - (5) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent internally on tobacco research.
 - (6) Can the Minister provide a copy of all internally undertaken research.

- (7) Is there any pending tobacco research or research projects in this field due to commence within the next six months.
- (8) How do organisations apply for funding or grants for research into tobacco.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to tobacco research—

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

The Victorian Government, through both the Department of Health and Human Services and VicHealth invests, in comprehensive tobacco control measures. This funding supports smoking cessation programs such as the Quitline, anti-smoking advertising campaigns, and education and enforcement under the *Tobacco Act 1987* (Tobacco Act).

Whilst the Victorian Government does not directly commission tobacco research, examining the full research evidence base and expert opinion forms part of usual processes to inform policy directions.

The Government commissions and undertakes population level surveys to understand the health and wellbeing of Victorians, including changing smoking prevalence.

HEALTH

210. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to drug harm reduction research:

- (1) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent on or granted to organisations for drug harm reduction research.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a copy of all drug harm reduction research paid for by the Victorian Government.
- (3) For each piece of drug harm reduction research awarded in the past four years, can the Minister provide a breakdown of:
 - (a) what organisation undertook the research;
 - (b) how the organisations were awarded the contract or grant;
 - (c) was this awarded under a comparative tender process; and
 - (d) what was the nominal price value of the research undertaken.
- (4) Who decides what drug harm reduction research is undertaken.
- (5) Is there any pending drug harm research or research projects in this field due to commence within the next six months.
- (6) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent internally on drug harm reduction research.

ANSWER:

The matter you have raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Mental Health.

HEALTH

211. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to quit-smoking programs:

- (1) For each year for the last four years how much has the Victorian Government spent on quit-smoking programs.
- (2) What is the breakdown, by Local Government Area, of each quit-smoking program paid for by the Victorian Government over the last four years by:
 - (a) cost;
 - (b) organisation;
 - (c) participants;
 - (d) period the program ran for;
 - (e) success rate;
 - (f) any KPIs attached to the program; and
 - (g) whether the program met their KPIs.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to quit-smoking programs—

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

Quit Victoria receive the majority of Victorian Government funding for quit smoking programs.

The Quitline is Victoria's core clinical smoking cessation service, and is a state-wide service that provides support regardless of where people contacting the service live. Information cannot therefore be provided at Local Government Area level.

Quit Victoria also partners with the Gippsland Primary Health Network who is delivering a departmental funded project that provides the Latrobe Valley residents with expert quitting advice and support when they visit their GP and other health professionals.

This initiative forms part of broader work by the Gippsland PHN to increase rates of participation in population-based cancer screening and improved opportunistic screening in the Latrobe Valley, with a budget of \$610,000 in 2018-19.

HEALTH

213. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to Cancer Council Victoria:

- (1) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Cancer Council Victoria each year for the past four years.
- (2) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Cancer Council Victoria each year for the past four years for quit-smoking research.
- (3) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Cancer Council Victoria each year for the past four years for tobacco-related research.
- (4) According to Local Government Area, how much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Cancer Council Victoria each year for the past four years for quit-smoking program delivery.
- (5) According to Local Government Area, for each year for the past four years, what has been the success rate of the quit-smoking programs run by Cancer Council Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

The Department of Health and Human Services funds Cancer Council Victoria for a range of services. Over the last four years, the Cancer Council Victoria has received more than \$36,000,000 in funding from the Government. This includes more than \$10.2 million over four years which is dedicated to Quit Victoria, which is an entity connected to Cancer Council Victoria.

This funding is not determined based on Local Government Areas.

HEALTH

218. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to smoking-related illness and disease hospital waiting times, according to each Victorian hospital:

- (1) How many people have been treated for smoking-related illness or disease, for each year for the past four years.
- (2) How many people have required emergency surgery because of smoking-related illness or disease, for each year for the past four years.
- (3) What has been the average waiting period for emergency surgery caused by smoking-related illness or disease, for each year for the past four years.
- (4) How many people have required elective surgery as a result of smoking-related illness or disease, for each year for the past four years.
- (5) What has been the average waiting period for elective surgery caused by smoking related illness or disease, for each year for the past ten years.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

There is no measure of 'emergency surgery'. The department publishes quarterly data for elective surgery on its website.

HEALTH

219. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to smoking cessation services:

- (1) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government for medical specialist services for smoking cessation each year for the past four years.
- (2) For each Local Government Area—
 - (a) what medical specialist services for smoking cessation are funded;
 - (b) how much is the provided medical specialist services for smoking cessation funding worth per year;
 - (c) how many patients have interacted with the smoking cessation services;
 - (d) what is the success rate of people quitting after accessing the smoking cessation services;
 - (e) how many patients have been placed on Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) as a result of accessing medical specialist services;
 - (f) what is the successful quit rate of those who have been placed on NRT; and
 - (g) what is the successful quit rate of those who have not been placed on NRT.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

Quit Victoria receive the majority of Victorian Government funding for smoking cessation services.

The Quitline is Victoria's core clinical smoking cessation service and is a state-wide service that provides support regardless of where people contacting the service live. Information cannot therefore be provided at Local Government Area level.

Other funded services are focused on sector and workforce development in relation to provision of smoking cessation support for clients.

Alfred Health receive funding to make support available to all Victorian health services to embed best practice smoking cessation support as routine care. Advice is available to support health services to assist patients to manage nicotine addiction or make a quit attempt.

Performance monitoring occurs with standard contract management processes.

HEALTH

222. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Minister's actions on e-cigarettes:

- (1) What action has the Minister taken to make herself aware of the positions of—
 - (a) Public Health UK regarding e-cigarettes;
 - (b) UK Royal College of Physicians regarding e-cigarettes;
 - (c) the UK Government regarding e-cigarettes as a cessation tool;
 - (d) the NZ Government regarding e-cigarettes as a cessation tool;
 - (e) the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists regarding e-cigarettes as a cessation tool for those with mental illnesses; and
 - (f) the Drug and Alcohol Nurses of Australasia regarding e-cigarettes as a cessation tool.

- (2) What action has the Minister taken to make herself aware of the research into the use of e-cigarettes as a cessation tool.
- (3) Has the Minister had any conversations with:
 - (a) any other state or territory Ministers or Governments regarding e-cigarettes, and if so who, and what was the outcome of the conversation;
 - (b) any other state or territory Shadow Ministers or oppositions regarding e cigarettes, and if so who, and what was the outcome of the conversation;
 - (c) the Federal Government or Federal Minister regarding e-cigarettes, and if so who, and what was the outcome of the conversation; and
 - (d) the Federal Opposition or the Federal Shadow Minister regarding e cigarettes, and if so who, and what was the outcome of the conversation.
- (4) What conversations has the Minister had regarding the ANU independent inquiry into the health impacts of nicotine e-cigarettes.
- (5) Has the Minister directed the Department to make a submission to the ANU Independent inquiry into the health impacts of nicotine e-cigarettes, and if not, does the government intend to make a submission, and if not, why not.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to the Minister's actions on e- cigarettes—

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease as well as cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease on the Victorian community attributed to smoking.

The Department of Health and Human Services continue to monitor the full research evidence base and expert opinion to inform policy directions in relation to e-cigarettes.

I request advice and information from the department as required. Unlike the member I do not rely on reports funded by the tobacco industry.

I am advised that independent scientific evidence regarding e-cigarettes and related products continues to rapidly accumulate but remains far from authoritative on many issues. Reviews of the evidence are regularly published and can vary in emphasis and conclusions.

The regulation of e-cigarettes is particularly important for young people. Emerging evidence in the US and Europe suggests there may be a gateway effect. We do not want to risk re-normalisation of smoking behaviours and nicotine addiction.

We know that there is increasing concern about the chemicals used in e-cigarettes and their liquids, with or without nicotine. Our approach strikes the right balance between the perceived benefits and the potential risks for the Victorian community as a whole.

HEALTH

224. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to vaping and e-cigarette shops:

- (1) How many registered e-cigarette or vaping shops are there in Victoria.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a list of all registered e-cigarette or vaping shops in Victoria.
- (3) How many inspections on e-cigarette or vaping shops have been undertaken by any Victorian department each year for the past four years.
- (4) For each inspection on e-cigarette or vaping shops undertaken in Victoria, what was the:
 - (a) company inspected;
 - (b) department undertaking the inspection;
 - (c) reason for inspection;
 - (d) outcome of inspection; and
 - (e) disciplinary action that was taken as an outcome of the inspection, if applicable.
- (5) How much money has been raised by the Victorian Government as a result of fines on vaping and e-cigarette shops in each year for the past four years.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease as well as cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease on the Victorian community attributed to smoking.

There are currently 11 certified specialist e-cigarette retail premises under the *Tobacco Act 1987* (Tobacco Act) in Victoria. A number of other businesses in Victoria sell e-cigarette products but there is no registration system in place for tracking these businesses.

The Department of Health and Human Services (the department) does not routinely undertake inspections of e-cigarette retailers. Local councils are funded via the Municipal Association of Victoria to undertake education and enforcement under the Tobacco Act.

As part of the assessment of each application for certification as a specialist e-cigarette retail premises, local council inspectors have undertaken at least one inspection of each of the currently certified business at the request of the department. These inspections were to determine whether the business complied with the criteria for certification under the Tobacco Act.

Since 1 August 2017, when the Tobacco Act began regulating e-cigarettes in the same way as tobacco products, local councils have been funded to undertake inspections of e-cigarette retailers to monitor with compliance.

The department is not aware of any enforcement action that have been undertaken against any e-cigarette retailers to date.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

232. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: Have any TAFEs that offer courses under the Free TAFE program had to cancel or reduce the size of courses that are not free due to lack of enrolments.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

At the same time, there remains hundreds of additional courses that students can undertake at TAFEs that are Victorian Government-subsidised.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

TAFE institutes regularly change the scope of their course offerings, or the scale at which they run particular courses, to respond to fluctuations in student demand.

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

235. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): Has the Minister had any representation from the Member for Bayswater, prior to 28 February 2019, regarding extending Tram Route 75.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

The former Member for Bayswater did not make representations in relation to extending tram Route 75.

In contrast, the current Member for Bayswater has made a number of representations in relation to numerous transport opportunities and improvements in his electorate, including trams.

The current Member for Bayswater advised me that the removal of two dangerous and congested level crossings in his electorate was extremely well received by the community.

The opposition to this project from the former Member for Bayswater was well understood in the community.

As Minister for Transport Infrastructure, I will continue to work closely with the current Member for Bayswater as he continues to progress matters that are important to his community.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

- 236. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program, exactly how many:
- (a) Free TAFE students started their training in January 2019;
 - (b) commenced training in the same courses in January 2018;
 - (c) Free TAFE students started their training in February 2019; and
 - (d) commenced training in the same courses in February 2018.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government’s *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

Free TAFE reduces the financial barrier for eligible students wanting to train in the courses that lead to the jobs that are most in demand from Victorian employers.

Free TAFE will mean more Victorians get the skills they need for jobs working on major road and rail projects, building schools and hospitals and caring for our loved ones.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria’s TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge’s own electorate.

13,500 students have commenced in Free TAFE courses across the 16 institutes as at the end of February. This is 60 per cent higher than commencements in the same courses at the end of February 2018.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

- 237. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the 20 apprenticeship pathway courses offered under the Government’s Free TAFE program: How many commencements have there been across Victoria for each course in 2019, to date.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government’s *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

Free TAFE reduces the financial barrier for eligible students wanting to train in the courses that lead to the jobs that are most in demand from Victorian employers.

Free TAFE will mean more Victorians get the skills they need for jobs working on major road and rail projects, building schools and hospitals and caring for our loved ones.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria’s TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge’s own electorate.

13,500 students have commenced in *Free TAFE* courses across the 16 institutes as at the end of February. This is 60 per cent higher than commencements in the same courses at the end of February 2018.

Of the total students who commenced by the end of February, 1,600 students are in pre-apprenticeships courses.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

- 238. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the 30 non-apprenticeship pathway courses offered under the Government’s Free TAFE program: How many commencements have there been across Victoria for each course, in 2019, to date.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government’s *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

Free TAFE reduces the financial barrier for eligible students wanting to train in the courses that lead to the jobs that are most in demand from Victorian employers.

Free TAFE will mean more Victorians get the skills they need for jobs working on major road and rail projects, building schools and hospitals and caring for our loved ones.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

13,500 students have commenced in Free TAFE courses across the 16 institutes as at the end of February. This is 60 per cent higher than commencements in the same courses at the end of February 2018.

Of the total students who commenced by the end of February 11,900 are in non-apprenticeship pathway Free TAFE courses.

HEALTH

239. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Maternal and Child Health phone service, how many phone calls were received between:

- (a) 1 July to 30 September 2015;
- (b) 1 October to 31 December 2015;
- (c) 1 January to 31 March 2016;
- (d) 1 April to 30 June 2016;
- (e) 1 July to 30 September 2016;
- (f) 1 October to 31 December 2016;
- (g) 1 January to 31 March 2017;
- (h) 1 April to 30 June 2017;
- (i) 1 July to 30 September 2017;
- (j) 1 October to 31 December 2017;
- (k) 1 January to 31 March 2018;
- (l) 1 April to 30 June 2018;
- (m) 1 July to 30 September 2018; and
- (n) 1 October to 31 December 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The MCH Line is a free telephone support service funded by the Victorian Government for parents to seek advice from a Maternal and Child Health nurse, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In 2017-18, the Andrews Labor Government invested \$202.1 million through the Early Childhood Reform Plan to ensure every Victorian child receives the best start to life. This included \$81.1 million for more help for parents to handle the challenges of parenting and for more time with skilled Maternal and Child Health nurses. This included \$4.9 million to answer an additional 20,000 calls to the MCH Line each year, improving parents' access to reliable, evidence-based information and advice. This includes information and advice on topics such as child health, nutrition, breastfeeding, maternal and family health and parenting.

The Andrews Labor Government understands the importance of providing parents access to the information, support and care they and their baby needs.

This is why we committed a further \$232 million towards the most comprehensive package of new parenting and early childhood supports in Victoria's history. This includes additional specialist capacity through the Maternal and Child Health Line to provide parents with more support on sleep & settling issues.

The number of phone calls received by the MCH Line in relation to the specified periods are below:

- 1 July to 30 September 2015 we received 41,429 calls to the Line.
- 1 October to 31 December 2015 we received 39,628 calls to the Line.
- 1 January to 31 March 2016 we received 41,415 calls to the Line.
- 1 April to 30 June 2016 we received 44,007 calls to the Line.
- 1 July to 30 September 2016 we received 42,632 calls to the Line.
- 1 October to 31 December 2016 we received 39,880 calls to the Line.
- 1 January to 31 March 2017 we received 41,199 calls to the Line.

- 1 April to 30 June 2017 we received 41,079 calls to the Line.
- 1 July to 30 September 2017 we received 42,222 calls to the Line.
- 1 October to 31 December 2017 we received 40,426 calls to the Line.
- 1 January to 31 March 2018 we received 39,794 calls to the Line.
- 1 April to 30 June 2018 we received 42,153 calls to the Line.
- 1 July to 30 September 2018 we received 47,318 calls to the Line.
- 1 October to 31 December 2018 we received 42,452 calls to the Line.

HEALTH

- 241. MS CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the existing early parenting centres: When will refurbishment commence.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$232 million towards the most comprehensive package of parenting and early childhood supports in Victoria's history. This includes a commitment to build seven new Early Parenting Centres across the state and refurbish the existing Tweddle Child and Family Health Service and Queen Elizabeth Centre.

The two existing early parenting centres in Footscray and Noble Park will be refurbished, providing fit-for-purpose facilities that support flexible service delivery and the needs of families.

Capital planning for these refurbishments will commence later this year.

HEALTH

- 242. MS CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Mercy Health O'Connell early parenting centre: How many nurses are FTE, how many social workers are FTE and how many psychologists are FTE.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Mercy Health is a public health service which receives funds to operate the O'Connell early parenting centre. The Centre provides clinical, specialist and intensive early parenting services to vulnerable children aged birth to four years, and families experiencing complex parenting concerns.

The Department of Health and Human Services set service requirements with Mercy Health which is then responsible for determining its individual workforce profile to best meet these requirements, taking into account relevant skills, training, accreditation standards and legislative frameworks.

Mercy Health O'Connell Family Centre's workforce data is reflected in the Mercy Health 2017-18 Annual Report.

HEALTH

- 243. MS CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Queen Elizabeth early parenting centre: How many nurses are FTE, how many social workers are FTE and how many psychologists are FTE.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$232 million towards the most comprehensive package of parenting and early childhood supports in Victoria's history.

The Queen Elizabeth Centre is a public hospital funded to provide clinical, specialist and intensive early parenting services to vulnerable children aged birth to four years, and families experiencing complex parenting concerns.

The Department of Health and Human Services set service requirements with the Queen Elizabeth early parenting centre which is then responsible for determining its individual workforce profile to best meet these requirements, taking into account relevant skills, training, accreditation standards and legislative frameworks.

Workforce data is available in the Queen Elizabeth Centre 2017-18 Annual Report.

HEALTH

- 244. MS CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Tweddle Child and Family Health early parenting centre, how many nurses are FTE, how many social workers are FTE and how many psychologists are FTE.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is investing \$232 million towards the most comprehensive package of parenting and early childhood supports in Victoria's history.

The Tweddle Child and Family Health service is a public hospital funded to provide clinical, specialist and intensive early parenting services to vulnerable children aged birth to four years, and families experiencing complex parenting concerns.

The Department of Health and Human Services set service requirements with the Tweddle Child and Family health service which is then responsible for determining its individual workforce profile to best meet these requirements, taking into account relevant skills, training, accreditation standards and legislative frameworks.

Workforce data is available in the Tweddle Child and Family Health Service 2017-18 Annual Report.

HEALTH

- 248. MS CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Chiropractic Board: How many "confidential investigations" did the agency conduct in:

- (a) 2015;
- (b) 2016;
- (c) 2017; and
- (d) 2018

ANSWER:

I refer to my answer to Question on Notice 247.

HEALTH

- 259. MS CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: How many asylum seekers received dental treatment in:

- (a) 2015;
- (b) 2016;
- (c) 2017; and
- (d) 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total number of asylum seekers who have received dental treatment is not available.

HEALTH

- 261. MS CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: How many refugees received dental treatment in:

- (a) 2015;
- (b) 2016;
- (c) 2017; and
- (d) 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total number of homeless persons who have received dental treatment is not available.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

275. MR DAVIS—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to medium to advanced levels of rail safety training offered by Metro Academy and other colleges, to enable students to be hired by Metro Trains as rail safety workers for upgrades and repairs, during the period of the Andrews Labor Government:

- (1) How many students have received training from Metro Academy, and of those students, how many have subsequently been employed by Metro Trains.
- (2) How many students have received training by John Holland’s college, and of those students, how many have subsequently been employed by Metro Trains.
- (3) What other colleges offer medium to advanced levels of training in rail safety.
- (4) For each college listed in paragraph (3)—
 - (a) how many students have been trained; and
 - (b) how many students have been employed by Metro Trains.

ANSWER:

Metro Academy, part of Metro Trains, and John Holland are both Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) and must adhere to the Standards for RTOs (2015) administered by ASQA,

Metro Academy or John Holland do not hold, and have not held, a Contract with the Department to deliver government-subsidised training under *Skills First*, therefore they do not receive funding directly from the Department for their training services. The Department does not have oversight of these students and training services as they are not directly government-funded.

There is not a specific qualification in rail safety that is government-funded in Victoria. However, there are qualifications funded that include rail safety related subjects or units of competency.

HEALTH

276. MS MAXWELL—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to nurses and midwives:

- (1) How many new nurses and midwives would need to be employed across the entire Victorian health system to meet the new ratios enshrined in the Safe Patient Care (Nurses to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Amendment Act 2019.
- (2) Are all Victorian nurses and midwives registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, and if not, what percentage are registered with the board.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Implementation of the *Safe Patient Care (Nurses to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Amendment Act 2019* will require an additional 600 nurses and midwives in public health services over the next five years to meet the new staffing arrangements.

The Andrews Labor Government will also deliver on its commitment to create a \$50 million Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund, which will expand the existing Registered Nurse and Midwife Graduate Program and establish a graduate program for Enrolled Nurses for the first time.

This will employ 400 Enrolled Nurses over the next four years, with 100 of these positions to be available to TAFE graduates from next year, meaning Victorians will be able to study a Diploma of Nursing for free at TAFE, as one of the Labor Government’s free priority TAFE courses, then start work as an enrolled nurse once they graduate.

The Fund will also provide up to 400 postgraduate scholarships for current nurses and midwives to upgrade their skills, 400 places in programs such as the Postgraduate Midwifery Employment Program, as well as refresher programs for 800 nurses and midwives currently registered but not practicing so they can re-enter the workforce.

It will also include \$10 million for grants, scholarships, graduate jobs and refreshers for regional students and current nurses and midwives.

All nurses and midwives must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to practice in Australia.

HEALTH

277. MS MAXWELL—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Premier’s 19 December 2018 media release stating that “nurses and midwives (are) often carrying a workload up to 50 per cent higher than the prescribed ratio”: What were the specific figures as to how often this had occurred and in how many hospitals.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Nursing and midwifery workloads and practice have evolved over time due to various factors such as changing community needs and expectations, advancing technologies, improving service models and increasing patient acuity and complexity. This led to a number of existing ratios set out in the Act that did not reflect contemporary workload levels.

The Andrews Labor Government amendments to the *Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Act* removes the unfair rounding methodology from priority shifts that meant nurses and midwives were often carrying a workload up to 50 per cent higher than the prescribed ratio. This means the number of nurses and midwives on a variety of shifts will now be rounded up - instead of down.

This methodology may have been utilised by health services when establishing base staffing levels to match a specific ward configuration or on an ad hoc basis.

These amendments will reduce potential risks associated with excessive patient load, ensure minimum staffing levels reflect modern service models and establish better working environments for nurses and midwives.

HEALTH

279. MS MAXWELL—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to new health professionals registering with a relevant board:

- (1) Does the Government have any specific role in advising or encouraging registration, and if so, how does the Government typically do this.
- (2) Will the Government take any specific action to alert new nurses and midwives employed as a result of the *Safe Patient Care (Nurses to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Amendment Act 2019* to the need to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, and if so, what will that action be.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Nurses and midwives must be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to practice in Australia.

The *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009* provides the overarching legislative framework for the protection of the public by ensuring that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practice in a competent and ethical manner are registered with the respective health professional board.

Employers have a responsibility to ensure all new nurses and midwives are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia prior to employment. The need to be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia will typically be outlined in the employee’s position description and employment contract.

Any nurses and midwives employed as a result of the *Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Amendment Act 2019* will be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

The Department of Health and Human Services works with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), students, national health professional boards, employers and universities to ensure that new health professionals are aware of their responsibilities of registering with a relevant board.

For example, the Department publishes the *Nurse and Midwife Graduate Handbook* annually that outlines the requirement to be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, prior to commencing employment as a nurse or midwife.

The Department continues to work with the relevant stakeholders to ensure health professionals are aware of their responsibilities.

TREASURER

280. MR HAYES—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to the Builders Warranty Insurance Scheme:

- (1) What amount was paid in premiums under the scheme in 2017-18.
- (2) How many Victorians paid a premium under the scheme in 2017-18.
- (2) How many successful claims were made against builders pursuant to the scheme, and of those successful claims, what was the total paid to each claimant.

ANSWER:

The Essential Services Commission (ESC) conducted an annual performance report of Victoria's domestic building insurance (DBI) scheme. The 2017-18 report provides the requested information although the information is provided in calendar year rather than financial years.

In the 2017 calendar year, \$76,061,000 was paid in premiums. In January—June 2018, \$34,967,000 was paid in premiums. These premiums provide cover against claims made for relevant properties until at least 2024.

In the 2017 calendar year, 80,034 project certificates were taken out. In January—June 2018, 42,313 project certificates were taken out.

Since the scheme first began in 2002, there have been 11,164 finalised claims, with 7,948 (71 per cent) successful and 3,216 (29 per cent) denied. The average amount paid to each successful claimant was \$40,845, with payments ranging from a few thousand to the current cap of \$300,000.

The ESC's annual performance report for 2017-18 can be accessed at

<https://www.esc.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/RPT%20-%20DBI%20Performance%20Report%202017-18%20-%2020181130%20.pdf>.

TREASURER

281. MR HAYES—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority:

- (1) How much money did the Authority receive in premiums in 2017-18.
- (2) How much money received by the Authority went towards brokerage commissions and administration charges.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) earned \$385,454,000 in gross premiums in 2017-18.

Gross commissions paid for the VMIA in 2017-18 was \$8,274,000. VMIA's administration expenses were \$38,502,000 in 2017-18.

The VMIA's financial performance is reported in its annual report, which can be accessed at www.vmia.vic.gov.au/about-vmia/annual-report.

TREASURER

282. MR HAYES—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many Victorians took cases against builders to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and of those cases:

- (a) how many were disputes between owners and builders; and
- (b) how many were appeals against the decision of insurers.

ANSWER:

In 2017/18, 593 cases were lodged against builders to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Of these, 423 were disputes between owners and builders (71 per cent of total lodgements against builders). There were 81 appeals against the decision of insurers (9 per cent of total cases lodged by owners).

In 2018/19 (as at February 28), there had been 538 cases lodged against builders to VCAT. Of these, 402 were disputes between owners and builders (74 per cent of total lodgement against builders). There were 33 appeals against the decision of insurers (4 per cent of total cases lodged by owners).

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

283. MR DAVIS—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to employment at Yarra Trams, including tram drivers, Authorised Officers, and employees engaged in customer service, management, rolling stock, infrastructure, administration and in technical and professional areas and operations:

- (1) What schemes or programs received Government subsidies, and what was the amount per individual and in total, for the following—
 - (a) 2015-16;
 - (b) 2016-17; and
 - (c) 2017-18.
- (2) What is expected to be paid per individual and in total in 2018-19 for the schemes and programs listed in paragraph (1).
- (3) What is the proportion of each figure given above in (1) and (2) according to male and female employees.

ANSWER:

Yarra Trams is an equal opportunity employer, valuing diversity across all teams.

In 2013, Yarra Trams began the Driven Women program. This saw a 76% increase in the number of female tram driver roles over a two-year period, and a 45% increase in female employees across the business.

In 2017-18, four individuals were supported through the provision of \$12,250 by means of Apprenticeship Support Australia, administered by Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

In 2018-19, 11 individuals are being supported through the provision of \$37,000 by means of Apprenticeship Support Australia, administered by Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

HEALTH

285. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many paramedics in Victoria are employed, in total, in each of the 79 Local Government Areas.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: The Andrews Labor Government has invested more funding in Victoria's healthcare system than ever before, fixing the ambulance crisis and delivering the fastest ever ambulance response times Victoria has seen.

In our first term we invested nearly three quarters of a billion dollars, delivering 450 paramedics, new vehicles and new ambulance branches. The Government has also committed to invest a further \$109 million to recruit even more paramedics, more MICA officers, convert 15 single-crew stations to dual crew stations, build new stations and get 23 new vehicles on the road.

The Government's investment has helped rebuild Victoria's ambulance system after the former Liberal National government went to war with paramedics, causing ambulance response times to become the worst on the Australian mainland.

The latest quarterly performance data showed paramedics reached 83.9 per cent of Code 1 patients within 15 minutes—an improvement of 2.5 percentage points on the same quarter a year earlier. This is despite the record number of Code 1 emergencies paramedics responded to during the quarter.

Ambulance Victoria is committed to providing a service that maximises coverage in areas of need and at times of peak demand. To deliver this service, Ambulance Victoria uses the latest technology to match available ambulance resources to patient need, regardless of location, and are well placed to move resources around the wider community to ensure they can respond to the next 000 call. As a result of strategically deploying ambulances in this way, Ambulance Victoria are better placed to provide the best possible emergency coverage across the state, particularly in rural and regional Victoria.

HEALTH

286. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many locum doctors in Victoria are employed as:

- (a) part-time equivalent staff; and
- (b) full-time equivalent staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

As locum services are an arrangement between individual health services and locum agencies or individual locums, this data is not available.

HEALTH

287. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many locum doctors in Victoria are employed, in total, in each of the 79 Local Government Areas.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the Member to my response to Question on Notice No. 286.

HEALTH

288. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many Triple Zero operators are:

- (a) employed in Victoria; and
- (b) employed as full-time equivalent staff in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) holds the statutory accountability for handling 000 calls in Victoria, and providing and managing emergency operational communications for the dispatch of police, fire, ambulance and the State Emergency Service.

ESTA falls under the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Community Safety and reports to the Minister for Police and the Minister for Emergency Services. Your question should be referred to them.

HEALTH

289. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: What is the current turnover rate of Triple Zero staff.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) holds the statutory accountability for handling 000 calls in Victoria and providing and managing emergency operational communications for the dispatch of police, fire, ambulance and the State Emergency Service.

ESTA falls under the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Community Safety and reports to the Minister for Police and the Minister for Emergency Services. Your question should be referred to them.

HEALTH

290. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Triple Zero emergency phone service, how many calls were received between:

- (a) 1 July to 30 September 2015;
- (b) 1 October to 31 December 2015;
- (c) 1 January to 31 March 2016;
- (d) 1 April to 30 June 2016;
- (e) 1 July to 30 September 2016;
- (f) 1 October to 31 December 2016;
- (g) 1 January to 31 March 2017;
- (h) 1 April to 30 June 2017;
- (i) 1 July to 30 September 2017;
- (j) 1 October to 31 December 2017;
- (k) 1 January to 31 March 2018;
- (l) 1 April to 30 June 2018;
- (m) 1 July to 30 September 2018; and
- (n) 1 October to 31 December 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) holds the statutory accountability for handling 000 calls in Victoria, and providing and managing emergency operational communications for the dispatch of police, fire, ambulance and the State Emergency Service.

ESTA falls under the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Community Safety and reports to the Minister for Police and the Minister for Emergency Services. Your question should be referred to them.

HEALTH

291. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to Triple Zero phone calls: On average:

- (a) how many calls does a Triple Zero operator take per day; and
- (b) how long does a Triple Zero call last.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) holds the statutory accountability for handling 000 calls in Victoria, and providing and managing emergency operational communications for the dispatch of police, fire, ambulance and the State Emergency Service.

ESTA falls under the responsibility of the Department of Justice and Community Safety and reports to the Minister for Police and the Minister for Emergency Services. Your question should be referred to them.

HEALTH

296. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many babies have been delivered in Victoria since September 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Between 1 September 2018 and 31 March 2019, 42,075 babies were delivered in Victoria.

This includes reported births regardless of location or whether the baby was born alive. Given reporting requirements, some babies born in March 2019 may yet be reported and therefore may not be included in this data.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

306. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the BioPathways Partnerships Project:

- (1) How many workers have commenced training since the project began, and of these, how many workers were transitioning from the Hazelwood Coal Mine.
- (2) Over what period of time is the Government's \$3.8 million funding for the project allocated.

ANSWER:

The BioPathways Partnerships Project is proceeding in two phases, as planned.

During the first phase, Australian Paper has conducted research into what types of products it should manufacture in the future, and thus what its workforce needs will be. In doing this, it has identified the core skills its workforce will need. The Victorian Skills Commissioner is working with Australian Paper to develop new training pathways in bio-manufacturing, which will be submitted for accreditation to the VRQA. This course will enable current and new workers to develop the skills required for new roles in bio-manufacturing.

The second phase is due to commence in the latter part of 2019. This will see Australian Paper start to train current and new workers, including any workers that transition from the Hazelwood Plant.

The funding period with Australian Paper is for twenty-four months, from 1 June 2018 to 30 June 2020.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

307. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the \$50 million announced for TAFE Community Service Funding:

- (1) How much is allocated for—
 - (a) 2018-19
 - (b) 2019-20
 - (c) 2020-21; and
 - (d) 2021-22.
- (2) For 2018-19, how much of the funding was allocated to, and received by, each TAFE.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$200 million of TAFE Community Service Funding over four years since 2015-16. There is also an allocation of \$50 million per annum of ongoing funding.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

13,500 students have commenced in Free TAFE courses across the 16 institutes as at the end of February. This is 60 per cent higher than commencements in the same courses at the end of February 2018.

Allocations and payments have not been finalised by the Department of Education and Training to individual TAFEs for 2018-19. Announcements regarding these allocations will be made in due course.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

308. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the 47 Free TAFE courses offered at GOTAFE:

- (a) what are the courses being offered; and
- (b) can the Minister detail which courses are being offered at each campus.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's *Free TAFE* program is making 30 priority TAFE courses and 20 pre-apprenticeship courses tuition fee free from this year.

The anticipated growth in these areas is reflected with an increase in commencements in *Free TAFE* courses across the state.

Free TAFE reduces the financial barrier for eligible students wanting to train in the courses that lead to the jobs that are most in demand from Victorian employers.

Free TAFE will mean more Victorians get the skills they need for jobs working on major road and rail projects, building schools and hospitals and caring for our loved ones.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

A list of Free TAFE courses and details on the location of delivery of courses is available at: www.freetafe.vic.gov.au

TRAINING AND SKILLS

309. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the LS Precast Facility in Benalla:

- (1) Is the Government providing support to LS Precast for their pre-employment program, and if so, in what form.
- (2) How many LS Precast pre-employment places and free Certificate III in Concreting places are there on offer for GOTAFE students.

- (3) What is the cost to the student, both tuition and other non-tuition charges, of the LS Precast pre-employment course at GOTAFE.
- (4) What is the cost of non-tuition charges for the Certificate III in Concreting course at GOTAFE.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government facilitates connections between TAFE and industry through multiple initiatives including Skills and Jobs Centres and Principal Regional Advisors. Our initiatives ensure that the Victorian training market meets local business needs. In this case LS Precast worked with GOTAFE, its Skills and Jobs Centre and the City of Benalla to develop the pre-employment program.

The two week pilot-program was delivered in November 2018 and is an example of a successful collaboration between TAFE and local industry to help deliver training and pathways into jobs. These collaborations have been made possible by the record investment the Andrews Labor Government has made in Victoria's TAFE and Training sector.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Government which cut \$1 billion out of Victoria's TAFE and training system.

This resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures—including the Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge's own electorate.

There were nine participants in the 2018 LS Precast pre-employment program, all of whom are now employed at the site at LS Precast.

GOTAFE offers the Certificate III in Concreting as a Free TAFE course. The indicative course materials fees for the Certificate III in Concreting at GOTAFE is \$456.

There were no costs to students who participated in the LS Precast pre-employment program.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

310. MR HAYES—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): In relation to the proposed removal of the Toorak Road level crossing:

- (1) What arrangements has the Government put in place to ensure timely and adequate community consultation concerning this project.
- (2) When will the Environmental Management Study concerning the project be conducted and completed.
- (3) Will the community consultation include a Stakeholder Liaison Group, such as that established for the Caulfield to Dandenong Level Crossing Removal Project, and, if so, when will that group be established.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question.

In February 2019, the Premier of Victoria announced that the Toorak Road level crossing in Kooyong will be removed by building a rail bridge to ease one of Melbourne's major bottle necks. The Toorak Road level crossing is used by approximately 37,000 vehicles each day, with the boom gates down for 35 per cent of the time in the morning peak.

Since February 2019, the Level Crossing Removal Project has consulted extensively with the community on elements of the project's design. More than 1,200 pieces of feedback were received from over 350 people.

As a result of this feedback, a new pedestrian and cycling crossing will be established on the western side of the rail bridge, making the area safer for all road users.

Community feedback has also been sought on how the landscaping, any newly created open spaces and the rail bridge should look.

As part of the planning approval process, an Environmental Management Strategy for the project will be completed and approved by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

The project will establish a Community Reference Group (CRG) made of up representatives from the community, local councils and interest groups such as Bicycle User Groups and local sporting clubs. Expressions of interest will be sought in June and July 2019, with the scope of the CRG to focus on construction issues, ensuring that those affected by the project have an opportunity to raise issues and concerns during the construction process.

HOUSING

321. MR DAVIS—To ask the Minister for Regional Development (for the Minister for Housing): In relation to the contracts between the Government of Victoria and GJK Facility Services:

- (1) What is the name and address of each public housing facility for which GJK Facility Services is contracted to provide cleaning or other services and how many public housing residences are located at each facility.
- (2) On what date were current contracts between the Government of Victoria and GJK Facility Services signed and for what period will the contracts be in place.
- (3) Will the procedure to procure services currently provided by GJK Facility Services be renewal or open tender after the current contract expires.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) There are three contract areas managed by GJK Facility Services: North, West and South Divisions. There are approximately 745 unique property address contained in the three contract areas. This includes 42 high rise towers, and several low rise and medium density properties. It is estimated that there are 12,700 residences contained within the 745 unique property addresses.
- (2) The Estate Amenity (Cleaning and Gardening) Services contracts for the North, West and South Divisions were publicly tendered in 2016 and the contracts were signed on 2 June 2016. These contracts were for an initial period of two years, with three options to extend for a further two years.
- (3) When the current contract expires, the procurement process will be by public tender.

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.

Wednesday, 29 May 2019

HEALTH

212. MS PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to Quitline:

- (1) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Quitline each year for the past four years.
- (2) How much funding has VicHealth provided to Quitline each year for the past four years.
- (3) How many phone calls has Quitline received each year for the past four years.
- (4) What is the breakdown of the phone calls noted in paragraph (3), including—
 - (a) calls from within Victoria, by Local Government Area;
 - (b) interstate calls, by state;
 - (c) repeat callers;
 - (d) first-time callers;
 - (e) the average time of calls;
 - (f) the average time of calls for first-time callers; and
 - (g) the average time of calls for repeat callers.
- (5) What is the breakdown, by Local Government Area, of the success rate of smoking cessation from Quitline.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Each year, smoking claims 4,400 Victorian lives and costs \$3.7 billion in tangible costs, including \$602 million in health care costs. Despite considerable progress, smoking remains the leading risk factor for chronic disease including cancer, heart and lung disease and stroke. The Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing smoking and the burden of disease attributed to smoking on the Victorian community.

The Department of Health and Human Services funds Cancer Council Victoria for a range of services. Over the last four years, the Cancer Council Victoria has received more than \$36,000,000 in funding from the Government. This includes more than \$10.2 million over four years which is dedicated to Quit Victoria, which is an entity connected to Cancer Council Victoria. Since 2016, \$1 million per financial year of this is dedicated to Quitline.

In addition, VicHealth provide Quit Victoria with funding for tobacco control initiatives, including quit smoking programs. The current funding agreement is \$18.8 million over four years (2016-2019).

The Quitline has received the following phone calls each year for the past four years:

Reporting items	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan-Feb)
Total number of calls	12,522	11,954	12,061	1,940

In relation to the additional information requested regarding interstate callers, repeat callers and first-time callers, Quit Victoria has provided information outlined in the table below:

Reporting items	2016	2017	2018	2019 (Jan-Feb)
First time callers	5,200	4,504	4,302	765
Repeat callers (Total)	3,318	3,823	3,564	593
Total number of calls from Victoria	5,728	4,984	3,351	620
Calls from Interstate	27	32	105	139
Calls with unclassified regions	6,767	6,938	8,605	1,181

In relation to the average time of calls, Quit Victoria has provided information outlined in the table below:

Reporting items	2016
Average time of calls	24 Minutes
Average time of calls for first time callers	28 Minutes
Average time of calls for repeat callers	20 Minutes

Quitline does not calculate cessation rates by Local Government Area (LGA).

The success rate of the Quitline is 9.5 per cent for callers not using pharmacotherapy, 23.3 per cent for callers using Quitline plus pharmacotherapy and 11.4% for callers who disclose they have been diagnosed with a mental illness.

HEALTH

260. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many homeless persons received dental treatment in:

- (a) 2015;
- (b) 2016;
- (c) 2017; and
- (d) 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total number of homeless persons who have received dental treatment is not available.