

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

30 April to 2 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: Mr Davis, 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: Mr Davis and Ms Crozier.

Legal and Social Issues Standing Committee

Ms Garrett, Dr Kieu, Ms Lovell, Ms Maxwell, Mr Ondarchie, Ms Patten and Ms Vaghela.
Participating members: Ms Bath, Ms Crozier and Mr O'Donohue.

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.

House Committee

Council: Mr Bourman, Mr Davis, Ms Lovell, Ms Pulford and Ms Stitt.
Assembly: 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: Mr Dalidakis and Ms Stitt.
Assembly: Mr Hibbins, Mr Maas, Mr D O'Brien, Ms Richards, Mr Richardson, Mr Riordan and Ms Vallence.

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 Elasmarr, 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 | Southern Metropolitan | ALP | Patten, Ms Fiona Heather | Northern Metropolitan | FPRP |
| Davis, Mr David McLean | Southern Metropolitan | LP | Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee | Western Victoria | ALP |
| Elasmarr, 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 |

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

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, 30 April 2019

DISABILITY, AGING AND CARERS

- 38. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers): In what financial year will the Government deliver on its promise of a 120 bed aged care facility in Wantirna and when will the project be completed:

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government will deliver on election commitments, including the Wantirna Public Sector Residential Aged Care Service project.

This is the next stage of the modernisation of metropolitan Melbourne public sector residential aged care, a stark contrast to the policy of the former Liberal-National Government to sell off Victoria's public aged care beds. The first stage is the new 90-bed public aged care residential facility at St George's Health Service in Kew, which is currently under construction.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 81. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Will the Government commit to rebuilding Glen Waverley police station:

ANSWER:

As the member will be aware, the operational need for new and upgraded police stations is determined by Victoria Police. The Government works closely with the Chief Commissioner to ensure Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to tackle law and order issues facing the Victorian community.

The Glen Waverley Police Station is currently undergoing an upgrade of the custody area, however it is not considered, by Victoria Police, in need of replacement in the short or medium term.

As part of the Andrews Labor Government's record investment in police recruitment 60 new police officers have been deployed to the Eastern Region Division 1 which services Glen Waverly.

This increase in resources police has helped to drive down the crime rate in the Monash Police Service Area (PSA) by 7.2 per cent in the year to September 2018.

EDUCATION

- 82. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to the free TAFE training at Greensborough TAFE:

- (1) How many students have commenced training this year.
- (2) How many students undertook training in the courses now made free in 2018.

ANSWER:

Issues regarding Free TAFE are a matter for the Minister for Training and Skills.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 91. Mr HAYES**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Auditor-General's Report on Managing the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy, July 2018, which found that the Sustainability Fund levy balance had ballooned from \$29 million in 2009-10 to \$513 million in 2018:

- (1) What action has the Government taken since July 2018 to reduce the Sustainability Fund balance.
- (2) What is the current balance of the Sustainability Fund.

ANSWER:

The government over the past four years has spent a record \$261 million from the Sustainability Fund.

This government has recorded the largest expenditure in the Fund's history, spending \$155.2 million in 2017-18 alone.

The Fund has provided funding to 421 organisations over 2017-18 to have a meaningful impact on Victoria's ability to transition to a sustainable future.

There has been a record investment of over \$100 million in waste and resource recovery over the past four years, including the recent \$37 million Recycling Industry Strategic Plan. In comparison, the former Coalition Government spent less than \$15 million over four years.

To date, over the forward estimates, a further \$519.5 million has been committed to be spent from the Sustainability Fund, including \$215.3 million in the current 2018-19 financial year.

The balance of the fund as reported by VAGO in June 2018 was \$511.3 million. With ongoing commitments, the balance of the fund has reduced to \$446.8 million as of 31 December 2018.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

92. **Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: Are there any 'ghost schools' in the Vocational Education and Training sector where attendance by students is minimal.

ANSWER:

Government funded Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) deliver relevant and important training throughout Victoria, sometimes in specific and niche areas to small numbers of students. While these RTOs may only deliver to a small number of students, they are providing practical training that will lead to positive employment, social and economic outcomes.

To determine which RTOs will be offered a Skills First Contract, the Department conducts a rigorous Provider Selection Process (PSP). The PSP includes consideration of student interview results, which are garnered to provide the Department with a level of confidence that real students are being provided with real training.

Many RTOs deliver training in flexible or blended models (for example: workplace or online learning) depending on the nature of the course, the subjects, and field of study, intensity of study, prior skills, or the ability of the student. The Skills First Contract requires Government funded RTOs to provide evidence of participation in the program to which the student has enrolled.

Monitoring of data trends occurs for Government funded RTOs, which may lead to audits and/or reviews being conducted to verify compliance with selected areas of the Contract, including but not limited to assessing that RTOs are delivering quality training and teaching, and students are participating in that training.

Based on current information, the Department's audit team has not been made aware of any 'ghost schools'.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

93. **Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: Is the Minister aware of the numerous reports of international students applying for and receiving an Education VISA to come to Australia to work rather than study.

ANSWER:

Issues relating to Education VISAs are a matter for the Federal Minister for Immigration in the Commonwealth Government.

In terms of the Victorian State Government, the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade has responsibility for international students. The Member may wish to refer this question to the relevant Federal or State Minister.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

94. **Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the 20 hours per week working restrictions placed on students on education visas: Is the Minister aware of union and academic concerns that—

- (a) the 20 hours per week limit is seldom policed; and
- (b) employers are requiring their employees on education visas to work more than the 20 hours per week maximum, but only paying them for 20 hours of work.

ANSWER:

Issues relating to Education VISAs are a matter for the Federal Minister for Immigration in the Commonwealth Government.

In terms of the Victorian State Government, the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade has responsibility for international students. The Member may wish to refer this question to the relevant Federal or State Minister.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

95. **Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to courses offered by Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers: Is the Minister aware that certain VET providers advertise night or one week only classes so that students can attend employment rather than study.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) are regulated by either the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), or the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA), which ensures minimum standards within the VET sector. Many providers deliver training in flexible or blended models (for example, workplace or online learning), depending on the nature of the course, the subjects field of study, intensity of study, prior knowledge and skills, or the ability of the student.

Given that the VET sector is a competency based system, there are no mandated course durations. However, the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) provides a guide to the volume of learning which describes how long a learner, who does not hold any of the competencies identified in the qualification, would take to be assessed competent.

Not all Victorian VET providers provide Government-funded training; however, those that do are required to undergo a rigorous entry to market process, where course delivery and duration is one factor taken into consideration. The Standards for RTOs reference the AQF, which Victorian Government-funded training providers are required to comply with under their VET Funding Contract requirements.

Under the Contract, the Department undertakes a rigorous audit program to ensure providers are delivering quality training. This includes ensuring that training providers are delivering quality training services, including appropriate course duration for the needs of the students.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

96. **Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to reporting by Vocational Education and Training (VET) providers:

- (1) Since 2007, have all VET providers been required to report attendance rates of their students.
- (2) Will mandatory attendances reporting requirements be re-introduced.

ANSWER:

Registered Training Providers delivering government-funded training under a VET Funding Contract are required to maintain evidence of participation of all individuals undertaking government-subsidised training.

This evidence is required to be in line with reported training activity reported to the Department against the Victorian VET student statistical collection guidelines. This is subject to specific audit activity undertaken under a VET Funding Contract, and sanctions may be imposed by the Department if training providers do not maintain evidence of participation in line with the Contract.

This ensures that the government is paying for real training that leads to real jobs.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

97. **Mr HAYES**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Western Grasslands Reserve:

- (1) Did the Government agree, at the time it expanded Melbourne’s Urban Growth Boundary, pursuant to the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, to “The creation of large (at least 15,000 hectares) consolidated areas of permanently protected native grasslands outside the Urban Growth Boundary in Melbourne’s west” as outlined in the Delivering Melbourne’s Newest Sustainable Communities Program Report.
- (2) Are the grasslands going to be established in 2020 or has the establishment of the grasslands been delayed.

- (3) Has the Government only purchased 1,200 hectares for the grasslands and, if not, how much land has been purchased.
- (4) Has the Government received approval from the Federal Government to delay the establishment of the grassland until after 2020.
- (5) Did the Federal Government reply to the Government's July 2012 correspondence proposing to "continue to work together to develop clear and transparent options to extend the acquisition timeframe for the Reserve" and has this further work been undertaken.
- (6) What action has been taken since 2012 to permanently protect native grasslands in Melbourne's west.

ANSWER:

- (1) Yes. The then government's 2009 Delivering Melbourne's Newest Sustainable Communities Program Report represents a range of commitments to offset and mitigate the biodiversity impacts of urban development in Melbourne's growth corridors.

The most significant commitment is the establishment of a 15,000 hectare reserve to Melbourne's west, protecting critically endangered native grasslands.

This commitment was given effect in 2010 with the creation of a public acquisition overlay over the area which is to become the reserve, and numerous properties within the reserve area have been acquired since that date.

- (2) The acquisition of the properties which make up the grassland reserve is incremental. The government has been acquiring land only through voluntary sales, at a time when the owner is ready to sell.

The government remains committed to the acquisition of the full extent of the grassland reserve at the earliest possible opportunity.

- (3) To date, the Victorian Government has purchased 1,275 hectares of land covered by the Western Grassland Reserve Public Acquisition Overlay.

In addition, the Victorian Government has reached a purchase agreement for a further 143 hectares of land and is undertaking negotiations for the purchase of another approximately 3000 hectares.

- (4)&(5) The Department of Environment Land Water and Planning wrote to the Commonwealth Department of the Environment in 2012 to inform it that urban development in Melbourne's growth areas would occur over a longer term than initially forecast. The federal government also replied in 2012.

- (6) In June 2013, the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for Melbourne's Growth Corridors (BCS) was published. The BCS identifies 36 conservation areas within the growth corridors that will be protected and managed for conservation in perpetuity.

The protection and management of these conservation areas is a condition of the Commonwealth Government's approval for urban development in Melbourne's growth corridors.

In addition to the Western Grassland Reserve, BCS conservation areas will protect and secure in perpetuity 1,270 hectares of native grasslands across the Northern, North Western and Western growth corridors. Under the Melbourne Strategic Assessment program, significant funds will be directed to enhancing and increasing the extent of these grasslands.

As Precinct Structure Plans through Melbourne's growth corridors are approved and gazetted, the requirement to protect and secure these conservation areas under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 is also incorporated into the Victorian planning system. This has now occurred in more than half of the precincts that have conservation areas across the growth corridors.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

99. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the Government's \$1.5 million grant to LiveTiles:

- (1) From what funding program was the \$1.5 million allocated.
- (2) Has further funding been promised to LiveTiles in addition to the \$1.5 million, and if so, how much.
- (3) When does the Government expect LiveTiles' to deliver on their commitment of 500 new jobs.

ANSWER:

LiveTiles is establishing its new global innovation centre and Asia-Pacific headquarters in Geelong.

LiveTiles will partner with local universities, TAFEs and secondary schools to create opportunities for tech graduates and drive research projects.

The Government's support is conditional on the achievement of project milestones.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

- 101. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): Which businesses have received grants to attract their business to Victoria in the 2017-18 financial year and in the current financial year to date.

ANSWER:

Information relating to 'grants and related assistance' is available in the Department's Annual Report.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

- 103. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): in relation to Heyfield ASH Holding Pty Ltd:

- (1) How many individuals are currently employed at the mill and what is the full-time equivalent for that staff.
- (2) How many individuals were employed at the mill prior to the Government's acquisition of a 49 per cent stake in the business.
- (3) Did the Government receive any income from its 49 per cent stake in the mill during the 201718 financial year, and if so, how much, and if not, what was the value of the loss.
- (4) Does the Government expect the mill to turn a profit during the 2018-19 financial year

ANSWER:

The Australian Sustainable Hardwood (ASH) timber mill in Heyfield continues to be a major employer in the Gippsland region, employing 151 local people (permanent positions as at January 2019).

Details regarding dividends payable to the state are recorded in the State Budget Papers.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

- 104. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade); In relation to the Government's commitment to establish a Victorian Wine Showcase announced on 22 November 2018:

- (1) When will the Victorian Wine Showcase be held.
- (2) What is the breakdown of the \$5 million into budget line items, including separate identification of the cost of the marketing campaigns to boost the profile of Victoria's wines.
- (3) What process did the Government use to select the wines which would be advertised during this campaign.
- (4) When will the trade missions to key markets in the USA and Asia occur and what is the expected cost of each mission.

ANSWER:

To support Victorian producers, the government is investing \$5 million to take our wine to the world, helping boost exports to new markets and cement relationships with existing partners through an annual wine export symposium.

This commitment will build on existing support to the wine industry by targeting key overseas markets in the USA and Asia.

Further details regarding this initiative will be confirmed after the 2019-20 Budget.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

105. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to the bus lanes on Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe:

- (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, 11 infringement notices were issued for driving in a bus lane on Fitzsimons Lane, Templestowe.

The total revenue for the 11 infringement notices issued for driving in a bus lane is \$1,769.00.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

107. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

108. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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 TAFE under the program.
- (2) What are the respective number of students currently enrolled in each course.

ANSWER:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

109. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

110. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

111. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

112. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

113. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

114. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

115. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

116. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

117. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

118. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

119. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

120. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

121. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—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:

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

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

122. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program: Have any TAFEs had to cancel or not commence Free TAFE courses offered under the program due to low student enrolment, and if so, which course or courses.

ANSWER:

TAFE institutes regularly change the scope of their course offerings to respond to fluctuations in student demand.

In response to the strong promotion of Free TAFE by TAFE institutes, student demand is continuing to grow. TAFEs are continuing to offer Free TAFE courses to meet this expanded student demand.

Where there is limited student demand for a Free TAFE course, prospective students are being referred to another provider within the TAFE network. This is assisting in promoting a positive student experience for all current and prospective Free TAFE students.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

123. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program:

- (1) What is the maximum number of student enrolments funded by the \$44.7 million that was budgeted for the Free TAFE program for the financial year 2019-20.
- (2) What method did the Government use to determine the proposed maximum number of students enrolments for the year.

ANSWER:

Around 13,500 Victorians have begun working towards a Free qualification, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Commencement data shows that there has already been a 60 percent increase in student numbers in Free TAFE courses across Victoria compared to February last year.

Around 1,600 of those were in pre-apprenticeship classes.

The top five courses for January Free TAFE commencements were:

- Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping
- Diploma of Nursing
- Diploma of Community Services
- Certificate IV in Education Support
- Certificate IV in Cyber Security.

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.

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRAINING AND SKILLS

124. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Government’s Free TAFE program:

- (1) What student attrition rate per semester has the Government accounted for when budgeting for the program.
- (2) What course or courses offered under the program has the Government estimated to have the highest rates of attrition and what is the estimated attrition rate.

ANSWER:

To ensure students have the best chance of completing their intended training, the Department requires that a Pre-Training Review (PTR) is conducted with each funded student prior to the commencement of training. The PTR determines that the student is enrolling in a suitable training option based on their aspirations and interests with due consideration of the likely job outcomes from the development of new competencies and skills. Further, the PTR considers the student’s existing skills and competencies, including literacy and numeracy skills, and ascertains the appropriateness of the proposed learning strategies and materials for the individual student.

Where particular support requirements are identified through the PTR, the training provider is expected to make reasonable adjustments to the learning strategies and materials used during training and assessment, or direct the student to appropriate gap training.

The Andrews Labor Government also provides Community Service funding to support the delivery of a range of vital student services across the TAFE network. These services promote student access and engagement, and provide support to students in the form of key services such as counselling, literacy and numeracy support, career services and tailored pathways support.

Community Service funding also ensures that Skills and Jobs Centres can offer training and careers advice to prospective students, which helps them make informed decisions. This boosts training and employment outcomes by ensuring students are well matched to courses and industries.

This is in stark contrast to the previous Liberal National Coalition Government who cut Community Service Funding across the TAFE network. This was a part of the previous Liberal National Government’s \$1 billion cuts to Victoria’s TAFE system that resulted in 2,400 TAFE teachers and staff being sacked and a number of TAFE campus closures. One of the campuses that closed due to the Liberal National Government’s cuts was Melbourne Polytechnic’s Greensborough campus in Ms Wooldridge’s electorate.

Since coming to office the Andrews Labor Government has invested heavily in Victoria’s TAFE and Training system so Victorians can get the skills they need for a good, sustainable job.

Around 13,500 Victorians have begun working towards a Free TAFE qualification, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government. Commencement data shows that there has already been a 60 per cent increase in student numbers in Free TAFE courses across Victoria compared to February last year. Around 1,600 of those were in pre-apprenticeship classes.

The top five courses for January Free TAFE commencements were:

- Certificate IV in Accounting and Bookkeeping
- Diploma of Nursing
- Diploma of Community Services
- Certificate IV in Education Support
- Certificate IV in Cyber Security.

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.

I look forward to making further public statements regarding the roll-out of the Free TAFE initiative.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

125. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): In relation to the difference between the Government budget of \$530 million for the upgrade of the Hurstbridge train line and the Parliamentary Budget Office’s costing of \$698.8 million for total capital investment:

- (1) Has the Minister sought an explanation as to why there is a \$160 million difference between the Government’s costing and that of the Parliamentary Budget Office.
- (2) What is the difference in budgeted costs attributable to.
- (3) Does the Government still commit to a 2022 completion date for the Hurstbridge train line duplication and upgrade of Greensborough station.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for her continued interest in the recently re-elected Andrews Labor Government's investments along the Hurstbridge line and throughout Melbourne's northeast.

The people of Victoria—including those living and working along the Hurstbridge line—sent a loud and clear message they endorsed the Andrews Labor Government's transport plans and rejected the Liberal-Nationals.

Commuters on the Hurstbridge line will have more trains, more seats and fewer delays as the re-elected Andrews Labor Government will continue our massive upgrade of the Hurstbridge line.

The \$530 million Hurstbridge Line Upgrade—Stage 2 project includes a new train station at Greensborough and the duplication of three kilometres of track between Greensborough and Montmorency, and 1.5 kilometres of track between Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen to allow more train services during the morning peak.

This will allow trains to run every six and a half minutes at Greensborough, every 10 minutes at Eltham and Montmorency, and every 20 minutes at Hurstbridge, Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen—as well as two extra Hurstbridge express services.

Locals on the new Mernda line will also get five extra train services during the morning peak, with a major upgrade of the Clifton Hill junction where the Mernda and Hurstbridge lines connect.

Stage two of the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade will create more than 950 jobs, with construction to start in 2020 and finish by 2022.

The Liberal-Nationals claimed they had a plan for the Hurstbridge line, but the people along the Hurstbridge line rejected this half-baked plan. They understood that they were being short-changed by the Liberal-Nationals once again, with \$307 million well short of what is needed to improve services on the Hurstbridge line.

We stand by our Hurstbridge Line Upgrade—Stage 2 budget and note that the Parliamentary Budget Office estimates do not cover the same scope and included ongoing maintenance costs that are covered elsewhere.

The passengers of the Hurstbridge line knew that Labor delivered Stage 1 of the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade and, at the last election, they endorsed our plan for the Hurstbridge line.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

126. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): In relation to Stage Two of the upgrade to the Hurstbridge train line:

- (1) Will the promised duplication works between Greensborough and Montmorency include an upgrade to the Montmorency train station to make it a two-platform station.
- (2) If Montmorency Station is to be upgraded to make it a two-platform station, what is the expected cost of the Montmorency train station upgrade.
- (3) What plans has the Government developed to limit the disruption to commuters during the upgrade.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for her continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's investments along the Hurstbridge line and throughout Melbourne's northeast.

The people of Victoria—including those and working along the Hurstbridge Line—sent a loud and clear message when they endorsed the Andrews Labor Government's transport plans and completely rejected the Liberal-Nationals in their area.

Commuters on the Hurstbridge line will have more trains, more seats and fewer delays as the re-elected Andrews Labor Government will continue our massive upgrade of the Hurstbridge line. The \$530 million Hurstbridge Line Upgrade—Stage 2 project includes a new train station at Greensborough and the duplication of three kilometres of track between the suburbs of Greensborough and Montmorency, and 1.5 kilometres of track between Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen to allow more train services during the morning peak.

Following the re-election of the Andrews Labor Government, the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) is further refining the design and conducting planning on the next stage of the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade.

Stage 2 of the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade will create more than 950 jobs, with construction scheduled to start in 2020 and finish by 2022.

During the planning phase of the project, LXRP will develop a plan to manage and minimise disruptions to commuters and local communities in conjunction with Public Transport Victoria, VicRoads, and Metro Trains Melbourne. This will draw on the extensive experience of these agencies in managing disruptions across the transport network as part of major rail infrastructure projects.

The Liberal-Nationals claimed they had a plan for the Hurstbridge line, but the people along the Hurstbridge line rejected this half-baked plan. They understood that they were being short-changed by the Liberal-Nationals once again, with \$307 million well short of what is needed to improve services on the Hurstbridge line.

The passengers of the Hurstbridge line knew that Labor delivered Stage 1 of the Hurstbridge Line Upgrade and, at the last election, they endorsed our plan for the next upgrade of the Hurstbridge line.

ROADS

147. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: What is VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for ‘Victorian road fatality rate per 100,000 population’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

Under its “Towards Zero” road safety strategy, the first Andrews Labor Government set an objective of fewer than 200 road deaths by 2020. Statistical variability in year-to-year road fatality numbers precludes the use of an annual objective indicator target, with long-term trends being a better measure of improvements in road safety.

ROADS

148. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: What is VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for ‘Victorian road serious injury rate per 100,000 population’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

Under its “Towards Zero” road safety strategy the first Andrews Labor Government set an objective of a 15% reduction in road serious injuries by 2020. Statistical variability in year-to-year serious injury numbers precludes the use of an annual objective indicator target, with long-term trends being a better measure of improvements in road safety.

ROADS

149. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: What is VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for ‘percentage length meeting cracking standard - metropolitan’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

I am advised that VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for percentage length meeting cracking standard for:

- Metropolitan is 84.4 per cent for 2018-19 financial year; and
- Regional is 99.3 per cent for 2018-19 financial year.

ROADS

150. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: What is VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for ‘percentage length meeting rutting standard - metropolitan’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

I am advised that VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for percentage length meeting rutting standard for:

- Metropolitan is 96.5 per cent for 2018-19 financial year; and
- Regional is 97.8 per cent for 2018-19 financial year.

ROADS

151. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: What is VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for ‘percentage length meeting roughness standard’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

I am advised that VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for percentage length meeting roughness standard for:

- Metropolitan is 92.6 per cent for 2018-19 financial year; and
- Regional is 95.5 per cent for 2018-19 financial year.

ROADS

- 152. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Minister for Roads: What was VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for ‘percentage projects completed within agreed scope, timeframes and budget’ for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

The following departmental objective indicators and 2018-19 targets relate to percentage projects completed within agreed scope and standards:

| Performance measure | 2018-19 Target |
|--|-----------------------|
| Road-based freight accessibility and reliability projects completed within specified scope and standards | 100% |
| Road projects completed within agreed scope and standards: metropolitan | 100% |
| Road projects completed within agreed scope and standards: regional | 100% |

The following departmental objective indicators and 2018-19 targets relate to percentage projects completed within agreed timeframes:

| Performance measure | 2018-19 Target |
|--|-----------------------|
| Road-based freight accessibility and reliability projects completed within agreed timeframes | 100% |
| Programmed works completed within agreed timeframes: metropolitan | 95% |
| Programmed works completed within agreed timeframes: regional | 95% |
| Road safety programmed works completed within agreed timeframes | 100% |

There are no 2018-19 departmental objective indicators that relate to percentage projects completed within agreed budget.

ROADS

- 153. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS**—To ask the Minister for Roads: What was VicRoads’ Departmental objective indicator target for ‘percentage projects completed within agreed scope, timeframes and budget’ for 2017-18.

ANSWER:

The following departmental objective indicators and 2017-18 targets relate to percentage projects completed within agreed scope and standards:

| Performance measure | 2017-18 Target |
|--|-----------------------|
| Road-based freight accessibility and reliability projects completed within specified scope and standards | 100% |
| Road projects completed within agreed scope and standards: metropolitan | 98% |
| Road projects completed within agreed scope and standards: regional | 98% |

The following departmental objective indicators and 2017-18 targets relate to percentage projects completed within agreed timeframes:

| Performance measure | 2017-18 Target |
|--|-----------------------|
| Road-based freight accessibility and reliability projects completed within agreed timeframes | 100% |
| Programmed works completed within agreed timeframes: metropolitan | 95% |
| Programmed works completed within agreed timeframes: regional | 95% |
| Road safety programmed works completed within agreed timeframes | 100% |

There are no 2017-18 departmental objective indicators that relate to percentage projects completed within agreed budget.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

190. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): In relation to the Government’s commitment published in Labor’s Financial Statement 2018 for ‘Congestion Busting Upgrade for Local Roads, Western Port Highway’—

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

ANSWER:

- (1)(a-e) The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$54.3 million to replace two roundabouts with traffic signals along Western Port Highway, at the Ballarto Road and Cranbourne-Frankston Road intersections. Funding allocations will be subject to the normal budgetary process.
- (2) The project is due for completion in 2022.
- (3) The project does not rely on a specific commitment of funding by the Commonwealth Government.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

191. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): in relation to the Government’s commitment published in Labor’s Financial Statement 2018 for ‘Congestion Busting Upgrade for Local Roads, Hall Road’—

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

ANSWER:

- (1)(a-e) The Victorian State Government has committed \$169 million to duplicate 5.2km of Hall Road between McCormicks Road and Cranbourne-Frankston Road in Skye. Funding allocations will be subject to the normal budgetary process.
- (2) The project will be completed in 2023.
- (3) This project does not rely on a specific commitment of funding by the Commonwealth Government.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

194. Mr HAYES—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Has the Minister investigated the claim in the report by the Australian Federation of Air Pilots that the DFO Essendon complex was built closer to the runway than provided by international and Australian safety guidelines and is a “significant safety compliance anomaly”.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question. The question raised falls outside my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 195. Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to Essendon Airport and the DFO Essendon complex: is it correct that—
- (a) the international Civil Aviation Organization recommends a minimum 300 metre runway strip width, so that there is a 150 metre buffer zone either side of the runway’s centre line; and
 - (b) DFO sits 128 metres from the centre of the runway.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question. The question raised falls outside my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 196. Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): In relation to Essendon Airport and the DFO Essendon complex: is it correct that—
- (a) the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) requires that a detailed safety case be prepared and all relevant stakeholders are consulted before a runway strip width can be less than 300 metres, and if so, did this happen in the case of Essendon Airport and the DFO buildings;
 - (b) the Federal Government approved the DFO development on condition that the airport consult with CASA about its plans and comply with its safety requirements; and
 - (c) CASA advised the Airport that “gathering the information required for the authority’s assessment of whether every item in a Draft Master Plan will be compliant with civil aviation safety requirements would be time-consuming and expensive”.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question. The question raised falls outside my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 197. Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Was the Victorian Government consulted at the time the former Federal Transport Minister approved the DFO Essendon building on the condition that it did not adversely impact on “navigation aids or operational activities” at Essendon Airport.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question. The question raised falls outside my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 198. Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Is there a potential safety risk if buildings are built too close to runways, particularly in the light of the February 2017 crash of a Beechcraft King Air tight aircraft shortly after take-off into the southern end of the DFO Essendon complex, which killed all five people on board.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question. The question raised falls outside my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 199. Mr HAYES**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Given that Essendon Airport is home to Victoria’s emergency services air wings, has the Minister been consulted concerning any proposal to further narrow the runway strip, and if so, what response has the Government provided to either Essendon Airport or the Civil Aviation Safety Authority concerning this proposal.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for his question. The question raised falls outside my portfolio responsibilities and should be redirected to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

226. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Where does the Government intend to develop the promised two new pocket parks in the Eltham electorate and in what year will they be completed.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government has announced a total of \$50 million over four years to deliver up to 25 new pocket parks, upgrade existing suburban parks and build up to 16 off-leash dog parks across Melbourne.

Funding of \$35 million has been announced to establish pocket parks through a mix of existing public land and acquisition of private land by local councils. Broad areas for eighteen parks have already been announced, including two parks in the electoral district of Eltham.

Increased open space for community use is a priority across all Metropolitan Partnerships. The Victorian Government will work closely with local councils to identify areas that would most benefit from upgrades to their open space networks.

Timing for completion of the pocket parks will vary according to the site and readiness of detailed planning.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

227. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): Where does the Government intend to develop the promised new pocket park in the Ivanhoe electorate and in what year will it be completed.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government has announced a total of \$50 million over four years to deliver up to 25 new pocket parks, upgrade existing suburban parks and build up to 16 off-leash dog parks across Melbourne.

Funding of \$35 million has been announced to establish pocket parks through a mix of existing public land and acquisition of private land by local councils. Broad areas for eighteen parks have already been announced, including one park in the electoral district of Ivanhoe.

Increased open space for community use is a priority across all Metropolitan Partnerships. The Victorian Government will work closely with local councils to identify areas that would most benefit from upgrades to their open space networks.

Timing for completion of the pocket parks will vary according to the site and readiness of detailed planning.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

228. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): When will the promised dog park in the Eltham electorate be funded, how much is it expected to cost and when will it be completed.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government has announced a total of \$50 million over four years to deliver 25 new pocket parks, upgrade existing suburban parks, and build up to 16 off-leash dog parks across Melbourne.

Funding of \$5 million has been announced to repurpose local council land and convert existing public land to establish dedicated off-leash dog parks, including one in the Shire of Nillumbik.

The government will work closely with local councils to identify specific sites for off-leash dog parks. The timing and cost for each park will vary according to the site and readiness of detailed planning.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

229. **Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): When will the promised dog park in the Ringwood electorate be funded, how much is it expected to cost and when will it be completed.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government has announced a total of \$50 million over four years to deliver 25 new pocket parks, upgrade existing suburban parks, and build up to 16 off-leash dog parks across Melbourne.

Funding of \$5 million has been announced to repurpose local council land and convert existing public land to establish dedicated off-leash dog parks, including one in the City of Maroondah.

The government will work closely with local councils to identify specific sites for off-leash dog parks. The timing and cost for each park will vary according to the site and readiness of detailed planning.

DISABILITY, AGEING AND CARERS

- 230. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers): When will the promised \$625,000 to assist towards repurposing Laveter House into a dedicated respite service be funded.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring that older Victorians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who need residential aged care services can access culturally appropriate services.

The Andrews Labor Government committed \$625,000 to Assisi Aged Care, a not for profit provider of aged care and community services in Rosanna that predominately serves the Italian community, towards the re-purposing of Laveter House into a dedicated respite service.

The funding will be provided as per the Governments spending priorities in the State Budget. The timing of the funding will be determined through the usual State Budget process

Thank you for your interest in this initiative.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, GAMING AND LIQUOR REGULATION

- 233. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): in relation to the Department of Justice and Community Safety's review into the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998*:

- (a) has the review been concluded, and if not, when will it conclude; and
- (b) will the final report of the review be published.

ANSWER:

The review of the *Liquor Control Reform Act 1998* (LCRA) is well underway. The first phase of the review concluded with the passage through Parliament of the *Liquor and Gambling Legislation Amendment Act 2018*, which amended the LCRA to reduce regulatory burden and improve the protection of minors.

The second and final phase of the review is considering a range of more complex issues, including the extent to which the LCRA can play a part in reducing family violence.

The government will ensure that the outcomes of this phase continue to support the ongoing development of a strong, diverse and responsible industry while minimising harm arising from the misuse and abuse of alcohol.

It is anticipated that this phase of the review will result in a bill to amend the LCRA for consideration by Parliament.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- 234. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): Is the Government planning to conduct a network review for Tram Route 75, and if so, when.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for her question.

A trial of new traffic light technology to make tram rides faster and more reliable for passengers has commenced on Route 75. This aims to better balance the needs of trams, pedestrians, cyclists and motorists at busy intersections.

Under the trial, trams will be given priority over other road users when trams are delayed or running behind schedule. The signalling system trial began in March 2019 and uses GPS technology to track the position of trams, considering current road conditions to determine traffic light sequencing.

Cooperative Intelligent Transport System (C-ITS) technology has been fitted to 25 trams on Route 75, which runs along Toorak Road and the Burwood Highway.

The Department of Transport (DoT) also constantly reviews the metropolitan tram network to identify possible service improvements.

When reviewing existing tram routes or planning for new ones, several factors are considered. These include the likely number of users, suitability of the road network for tram operations, development of a direct and easily understood network, connectivity with other public transport services and the costs of providing those services.

HEALTH

- 245. Ms CROZIER**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Alfred Hospital pharmacy service charged with delivering voluntary assisted dying medications to those patients too sick to travel—
- (1) How much time is permitted for the service to collect any unused medication.
 - (2) Will the service include a translator to those people who may not have English as a first language.
 - (3) How many personnel will be required to transport the medication.
 - (4) On delivering the medication to a patient’s address, will the patient’s doctor be required to be in attendance, and if not, will any other supporting person be required to be in attendance.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) The Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017 requires that a person who has made a final request for access to voluntary assisted dying must appoint a contact person. The contact person is responsible for returning any unused or remaining medication to the statewide pharmacy service within 15 days of the person’s death, or if the person decides not to use the medication. In cases where the statewide pharmacy service collects any unused or remaining medication, because the person or their contact person cannot reasonably travel to return the medication, the statewide pharmacy service will collect the medication within a maximum of 15 days of the person’s death, to support the contact person to fulfil their obligation under the Act. If a person changes their mind about taking the medication and requests that it be collected the statewide pharmacy service will collect the medication as soon as is practicable.
- (2) If a person requires a translator to understand the information required to be provided to them by the pharmacist at the time the medication is dispensed, a translator will be engaged.
- (3) The number of personnel required to transport the medication will be determined by the statewide pharmacy service.
- (4) The patient’s doctor is not required to be in attendance when the medication is delivered. Patients will be advised to have their contact person present, where possible, to ensure that the patient and the contact person understand how to manage return of the medication. The patient can also have anyone else they choose in attendance when they receive the medication.

HEALTH

- 246. Ms WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Department of Health and Human Services, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit: How many calls related to the Buruli Ulcer 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:

Buruli ulcer is a notifiable condition requiring written notification from medical practitioners and pathology services within five days of initial diagnosis. The following number of notifications for Buruli ulcer were received during those respective time periods. Individual calls relating to Buruli ulcer are not recorded. Most calls received by the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Unit are regarding these notifications.

| Period | Number of Notifications |
|--------|-------------------------|
| 2011 | 80 |
| 2012 | 77 |
| 2013 | 65 |
| 2014 | 89 |
| 2015 | 107 |
| 2016 | 182 |
| 2017 | 277 |
| 2018 | 340 |

Buruli Ulcer was first recognised in the Bairnsdale area of East Gippsland in the 1930s. It has been a notifiable condition in Victoria since 2004 and there's been ongoing surveillance of the condition. But in recent years, there has been a steady increase in notifications in Mornington and Bellarine Peninsulas.

As well as the coastal regions of Victoria, Buruli ulcer is also present in tropical Queensland and like Victoria, considerable effort is underway to investigate how it gets from the environment and into humans.

A \$3 million National Health and Medical Research Council Partnership Grant has been awarded to the University of Melbourne and research partners including the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, the Doherty Institute, Austin Health, Barwon Health, CSIRO, the Mornington Peninsula Shire, and Agriculture Victoria.

In 2018, the Andrews Labor Government is proud to have contributed \$250,000 of funding as well as in-kind support for this research.

Further, this year the Andrews Labor Government has contributed \$300,000 for the *Beating Buruli: the mosquito control study* which is part of the larger Buruli ulcer research.

HEALTH

249. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many complaints were made to the Victorian Health Commissioner in relation to cosmetic surgery in:

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

ANSWER:

Given the Health Complaints Commissioner was established on 1 February 2017, there is no recorded data to this body preceding that date.

Data related to the number of complaints received by the Health Complaints Commissioner is published in the Health Complaints Commissioner Annual Report.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

270. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to Melbourne's North Food Group:

- (1) What is the value of the Government's contribution to this initiative, and what is the phasing of that funding.
- (2) What is the value of private contributions to this initiative.

ANSWER:

Information relating to 'grants and related assistance' is available in the Department's Annual Report.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

271. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the Government's \$20 million Future Industries Sector Growth Program: Which businesses have received funding under this program and how much did each business receive.

ANSWER:

Information relating to 'grants and related assistance' is available in the Department's Annual Report.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

272. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the Government’s Investment Assistance and Attraction Program:

- (1) What is the value of funding granted under this program in the 2018-19 financial year to date and which businesses have received funding.
- (2) What is the value of funding granted under this program in the 2017-18 financial year and which businesses received funding.
- (3) What is the value of funding granted under this program in the 2016-17 financial year and which businesses received funding.

ANSWER:

Information relating to ‘grants and related assistance’ is available in the Department’s Annual Report.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

273. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the Australian International Airshow and Aerospace and Defence Exposition 2019:

- (1) How many trade visitations were there during the industry only trade days.
- (2) What was the total attendance across the event.

ANSWER:

Aerospace Australia Limited, the event organiser, released the attendance figures for the 2019 Australian International Airshow and Aerospace and Defence Exposition on 19 March 2019.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

274. Mr HAYES—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): When will the Final State of the Environment Report for 2018, which was due to be released in early 2019, be released.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government Is scheduled to table the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability’s State of the Environment Report 2018, along with the State of the Yarra and its Parklands Report 2018, in Parliament on 19 March 2019.

The Government will submit a formal response to the State of the Environment 2018 and the State of the Yarra and its Parklands 2018 reports within 12 months of the reports being tabled in Parliament.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

302. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the Government’s support for the Advanced Fibre Cluster Geelong: From what funding program was the \$300,000 allocated.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government’s \$300,000 grant to support the growth of the Advanced Fibre Cluster Geelong was allocated from the Future Industries Fund.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

303. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the media release titled ‘Ampacet Joins the Manufacturing Hub of Victoria’: Was there any inducement for Ampacet Australia to locate to Melbourne’s south-east, and if so, what was the nature of the inducement.

ANSWER:

Ampacet Australia received no financial inducements from the Victorian Government to establish a new global Centre of Excellence facility in Melbourne’s South East.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

305. Ms WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): in relation to the media release titled ‘A New Future For Jobseekers In Aged And Disability Care’, of the 150 migrants and refugees placed in sustainable employment:

- (1) How many remain employed 12 months after commencing their placement.
- (2) How many were migrants.
- (3) How many were refugees.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has allocated over \$90 million for Jobs Victoria, reflecting the commitment that all Victorians should have the opportunity to share in the social and economic benefits that come from employment.

Jobs Victoria funding is linked to achievement of sustained employment, which is measured at 26 weeks.

I am pleased to advise that to date (March 2019) VICSEG New Futures has supported 233 jobseekers into sustained employment, including 222 migrants of whom 17 are refugees.

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, 1 May 2019

TRAINING AND SKILLS

193. Mr HAYES—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): Is the Minister aware of the 16 January 2019 article by Mr Patrick Hatch in *The Age* titled *Essendon Airport DFO plans call safety planning into question*.

ANSWER:

The question raised falls outside the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and should be redirected to the Minister for Transport Infrastructure, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP.

HEALTH

200. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to smoking rates in Victoria—

- (1) How many Victorians smoke daily.
- (2) Of the smokers outlined in paragraph (1), as a total number and as a percentage, how many are:
 - (a) male;
 - (b) female;
 - (c) metropolitan;
 - (d) semi-rural;
 - (e) rural;
 - (f) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander;
 - (g) English as a second language;
 - (h) under 18 years of age;
 - (i) aged 18-25 years;
 - (j) aged 26-45 years;
 - (k) aged 46-60 years; and
 - (l) over 60 years of age.
- (3) What is the breakdown of the smokers outlined in paragraph (2) by Local Government Area.

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 multiple surveys which collect data on smoking rates in Victoria, including:

- Department of Health and Human Services' Victorian Population Health Survey (VPHS)
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS)
- Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer Annual Smoking and Health Survey (SHS)

There is no one survey that collects all the information requested.

In 2016, both the VPHS and the NDSHS found 12.3 per cent of Victorian adults aged 18 and over were daily smokers. The 2016 NDSHS found this equated to 530,000 people.

| Identifier | Percentage of Victorians | Source |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Male | 14.4% | 2016 VPHS |
| Female | 10.3% | 2016 VPHS |
| Metropolitan | 11.9% | 2016 VPHS |
| Rural | 13.7% | 2016 VPHS |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander | 27.4% | 2016 NDSHS |

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

The 2016 VPHS identified current smoking prevalence among people with English as second language. Current smoking is daily plus occasional smoking.

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Male | 21.6% |
| Female | 10.7% |

The 2016 VPHS identified current smoking prevalence among the following age groups. Current smoking is daily plus occasional smoking.

| | |
|-------|-------|
| 18–24 | 9.6% |
| 25–34 | 13.0% |
| 35–44 | 15.4% |
| 45–54 | 16.8% |
| 55–64 | 12.3% |
| 65–74 | 8.0% |
| 75+ | 5.2% |

While the VPHS is conducted annually, the sample size is increased every three years to allow publication of data at the Local Government Area level. The last published data at the Local Government Area level is from 2015. Current smoking is daily plus occasional smoking.

| LGA Name (2016) | People aged 18 and over who are current smokers (2014) | Rank, smokers (2014) |
|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Alpine (S) | 12.7% | 49 |
| Ararat (RC) | 22.1% | 7 |
| Ballarat (C) | 15.0% | 32 |
| Banyule (C) | 8.6% | 73 |
| Bass Coast (S) | 16.3% | 24 |
| Baw Baw (S) | 29.7% | 1 |
| Bayside (C) | 9.5% | 69 |
| Benalla (RC) | 14.6% | 36 |
| Boroondara (C) | 7.2% | 78 |
| Brimbank (C) | 17.5% | 18 |
| Buloke (S) | 18.5% | 14 |
| Campaspe (S) | 21.9% | 8 |
| Cardinia (S) | 18.4% | 15 |
| Casey (C) | 16.3% | 23 |
| Central Goldfields (S) | 20.8% | 9 |
| Colac-Otway (S) | 13.6% | 41 |
| Corangamite (S) | 10.9% | 60 |
| Darebin (C) | 12.1% | 55 |
| East Gippsland (S) | 11.8% | 58 |
| Frankston (C) | 17.2% | 20 |
| Gannawarra (S) | 12.0% | 56 |
| Glen Eira (C) | 18.2% | 17 |
| Glenelg (S) | 16.0% | 25 |
| Golden Plains (S) | 18.7% | 13 |
| Greater Bendigo (C) | 13.0% | 47 |
| Greater Dandenong (C) | 14.5% | 37 |
| Greater Geelong (C) | 12.2% | 53 |
| Greater Shepparton (C) | 12.9% | 48 |
| Hepburn (S) | 19.8% | 10 |
| Hindmarsh (S) | 17.2% | 19 |
| Hobsons Bay (C) | 11.8% | 57 |
| Horsham (RC) | 9.2% | 70 |
| Hume (C) | 15.5% | 28 |
| Indigo (S) | 10.8% | 62 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|----|
| Kingston (C) | 13.9% | 39 |
| Knox (C) | 13.3% | 44 |
| Latrobe (C) | 24.4% | 4 |
| Loddon (S) | 23.0% | 5 |
| Macedon Ranges (S) | 8.0% | 75 |
| Manningham (C) | 8.8% | 72 |
| Mansfield (S) | 29.2% | 2 |
| Maribymong (C) | 15.7% | 26 |
| Maroondah (C) | 13.4% | 43 |
| Melbourne (C) | 8.0% | 74 |
| Melton (C) | 11.8% | 59 |
| Mildura (RC) | 18.7% | 12 |
| Mitchell (S) | 12.2% | 52 |
| Moira (S) | 22.2% | 6 |
| Monash (C) | 10.8% | 61 |
| Moonee Valley (C) | 12.6% | 50 |
| Moorabool (S) | 15.6% | 27 |
| Moreland (C) | 15.1% | 29 |
| Mornington Peninsula (S) | 13.1% | 46 |
| Mount Alexander (S) | 10.6% | 64 |
| Moyne (S) | 12.6% | 51 |
| Murrindindi (S) | 24.4% | 3 |
| Nillumbik (S) | 10.7% | 63 |
| Northern Grampians (S) | 16.6% | 22 |
| Port Phillip (C) | 7.4% | 77 |
| Pyrenees (S) | 16.8% | 21 |
| Queenscliffe (B) | 14.6% | 35 |
| South Gippsland (S) | 10.4% | 65 |
| Southern Grampians (S) | 9.7% | 67 |
| Stonnington (C) | 7.9% | 76 |
| Strathbogie (S) | 13.6% | 40 |
| Surf Coast (S) | 10.0% | 66 |
| Swan Hill (RC) | 15.1% | 30 |
| Towong (S) | 13.5% | 42 |
| Wangaratta (RC) | 18.9% | 11 |
| Warrnambool (C) | 9.7% | 68 |
| Wellington (S) | 14.8% | 33 |
| West Wimmera (S) | 14.6% | 34 |
| Whitehorse (C) | 5.2% | 79 |
| Whittlesea (C) | 15.1% | 31 |
| Wodonga (RC) | 18.3% | 16 |
| Wyndham (C) | 13.1% | 45 |
| Yarra (C) | 14.3% | 38 |
| Yarra Ranges (S) | 8.9% | 71 |
| Yarriambiack (S) | 12.1% | 54 |
| Victoria | 13.1% | |

HEALTH

202. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to correspondence received by the Department of Health and Human Services for each year over the past four year—

- (1) How many pieces of correspondence has the Department received relating to—
 - (a) vaping;
 - (b) e-cigarettes;

- (c) tobacco;
 - (d) smoking cessation; and
 - (e) any other relevant areas.
- (2) How many pieces of correspondence relating to any of the topics mentioned in paragraph have been received by the Department from—
- (a) individuals;
 - (b) anti-tobacco campaigners;
 - (c) pro-vaping campaigners;
 - (d) charities;
 - (e) advocacy groups;
 - (f) other Governments or Opposition Parties;
 - (g) other Members of Parliament;
 - (h) pharmaceutical companies; and
 - (i) any other relevant organisations.
- (3) On what date was each piece of correspondence outlined in paragraph (2) received.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

In relation to correspondence received by the Department of Health and Human Services for each year over the past four years—

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.

A total of 675 pieces of correspondence have been received from 1 January 2016 to 15 March 2019. Questions on Notice are not the appropriate mechanism for the Member to pursue the details she has requested.

HEALTH

203. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to tobacco advertising—

- (1) How much has the Victorian Government spent statewide on anti-smoking advertising in each year for the past four years, according to Local Government Area.
- (2) How much of the funding outlined in paragraph (1) was contracted out to third parties, including—
 - (a) which parties received the contract;
 - (b) the value of the contract;
 - (c) whether the contract went to a competitive tender; and
 - (d) for contracts that went to a competitive tender, how was the tender decided and how many people tendered for the contract.

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.

Social marketing, or anti-smoking campaigns (integrated across television, radio, print and social media) are highly effective in motivating smokers to make a quit attempt and in discouraging young people from taking up smoking.

Continuous, sustained campaigns are necessary to retain downward pressure on smoking rates.

Quit Victoria receive funding from the Department of Health and Human Services and from VicHealth for social-marketing campaigns. The department only funds the media buy of the social marketing campaign. This funding is for population level social marketing campaigns (state level), rather than local area campaigns.

Campaigns that relate to education about Victorian tobacco control laws, such as smoke-free area campaigns, are not included in media spend.

HEALTH

207. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to nicotine research—

- (1) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent on or granted to organisations for nicotine research.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a copy of all nicotine research paid for by the Victorian Government.
- (3) For each piece of nicotine 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 contractor 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 nicotine research is undertaken.
- (5) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent internally on nicotine research.
- (6) Can the Minister provide a copy of all internally undertaken research.
- (7) Is there any pending nicotine 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 nicotine.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to nicotine 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.

Whilst the Victorian Government does not directly commission nicotine 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.

As such we know that, nicotine is a dangerous poison and if ingested can cause serious illness, or even death. Children and pets are particularly vulnerable.

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’ from e-cigarettes to combustible cigarettes. 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 any perceived benefits and the potential risks for the Victorian community as a whole.

HEALTH

208. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to tobacco harm reduction research—

- (1) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent on or granted to other organisations for tobacco harm reduction research.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a copy of all for tobacco harm reduction research paid for by Victorian Government
- (3) For each piece of tobacco harm reduction research awarded in the past ten years, please provide a breakdown including:
 - (a) what organisation undertook the research;
 - (b) how the organisation was awarded the contract or grant;
 - (c) whether the contractor 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 harm reduction research is undertaken.
- (5) For each year for the past ten years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent internally on tobacco harm reduction research.
- (6) Is there any pending harm reduction 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.

- (8) How do organisations apply for funding or grants for research into tobacco harm reduction.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to tobacco harm reduction 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.

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

Living Positive Victoria promote a QUIT Smoking Cessation Group which is a short course for all people living with HIV who wish to stop smoking. Living Positive Victoria offers this course in partnership with Quit Victoria. Quit Victoria provides the funding for this initiative.

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

HEALTH

- 209. Ms PATTEN**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to quit-smoking research—

- (1) For each year for the past four years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent on or granted to other organisations for quit-smoking research.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a copy of all quit-smoking research paid for by the Victorian Government.
- (3) For each piece of for quit-smoking awarded in the past ten 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 competitive tender process, and if not, why not; and
 - (d) what the nominal price value of the research undertaken was.
- (4) Who decides what quit-smoking research is undertaken.
- (5) For each year for the past ten years, how much funding has the Victorian Government spent internally on quit-smoking research.
- (6) Can the Minister provide a copy of all internally undertaken research.
- (7) Is there any pending quit-smoking 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 quit-smoking.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: In relation to quit-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.

Living Positive Victoria promote a QUIT Smoking Cessation Group which is a short course for all people living with HIV who wish to stop smoking. Living Positive Victoria offers this course in partnership with Quit Victoria. Quit Victoria provides the funding for this initiative.

Whilst the Victorian Government does not directly commission quit-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

- 214. Ms PATTEN**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to Smoke-Free Victoria—

- (1) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Smoke Free Victoria each year for the past four years.
- (2) According to Local Government Area, how much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Smoke-Free Victoria each year to engage with healthcare services to promote effective approaches for tobacco management.

- (3) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Smoke Free Victoria each year for the past four years for tobacco-related research.

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 Victorian Government does not fund any organisation known as Smoke-Free Victoria.

I am advised that the Victorian Network of Smoke-Free Health Services has a web address that uses this name.

The government does not fund the Victorian Network of Smoke-Free Health Services, however, is aware of their work and consults with them where appropriate.

HEALTH

215. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to Living Positive Victoria—

- (1) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Living Positive Victoria each year for the past four years,
- (2) According to Local Government Area, how much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to Living Positive Victoria for the purpose of smoking cessation program delivery.
- (3) According to Local Government Area, what has been the success rate of the quit-smoking programs run by Living Positive Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: in relation to Living Positive Victoria—

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.

Over the past four years Living Positive Victoria has received \$6,315,356 in funding.

Living Positive Victoria receives Victorian Government funding to provide statewide support services for Victorians living with HIV, regardless of where people contacting the service live. Information cannot therefore be provided at Local Government Area level.

Living Positive Victoria promote a QUIT Smoking Cessation Group which is a short course for all people living with HIV who wish to stop smoking. Living Positive Victoria offers this course in partnership with Quit Victoria. Quit Victoria provides the funding for this initiative.

HEALTH

216. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Australian Tobacco Harm Reduction Association (ATHRA)—

- (1) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to ATHRA each year for the past four years.
- (2) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to ATHRA each year for the past four years for quit-smoking research.
- (3) How much funding has been provided by the Victorian Government to ATHRA 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 ATHRA 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 ATHRA.

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 Victorian Government does not provide funding to ATHRA.

HEALTH

217. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: What have been the average hospital waiting times for elective surgery, emergency surgery and emergency wards, for each hospital for each year for the past four years.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There are no recorded waiting times for emergency surgery and no waiting times broken down by hospital campus.

Waiting times for elective surgery and emergency departments are published quarterly and are available on the Department of Health and Human Services' website.

HEALTH

220. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to correspondence received by the Minister's office for each year over the past four years—

- (1) How many pieces of correspondence has the Minister's office received relating to—
 - (a) vaping;
 - (b) e-cigarettes;
 - (c) tobacco;
 - (d) smoking cessation; and
 - (e) any other relevant areas.
- (2) How many pieces of correspondence relating to any of the topics mentioned in paragraph (1), have been received by the Minister's office from—
 - (a) individuals;
 - (b) anti-tobacco campaigners;
 - (c) pro-vaping campaigners;
 - (d) charities;
 - (e) advocacy groups;
 - (f) other Governments or Oppositions;
 - (g) other Members of Parliament;
 - (h) pharmaceutical companies; and
 - (i) any other relevant organisations.
- (3) On what date was each piece of correspondence outlined in paragraph (2) received.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a summary of the position taken within the correspondence, outlined in paragraph (2).
- (5) Can the Minister provide a copy of all correspondence outlined.

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.

A total of 214 pieces of correspondence have been received from 1 January 2016 to 15 March 2019. The majority of which was about legislative compliance. Questions on Notice are not the appropriate mechanism for the Member to pursue the details she has requested.

HEALTH

221. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to advice on vaping and e cigarettes—

- (1) What advice has the Minister received from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the health impacts on the use of vaping and e-cigarettes as a cessation tool, and can the Minister provide a copy of the advice provided,
- (2) What advice has the Minister has received from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the health impacts on the use of vaping and e-cigarettes, and can the Minister provide a copy of the advice provided.

- (3) Has the Minister received a briefing on e-cigarettes from the Department of Health and Human Services, and if so, when did the Minister receive this briefing and what information was provided to the Minister during this briefing.
- (4) What advice has the Minister received from any other third party or organisation.
- (5) Has the Minister received a briefing on smoke-free products.
- (6) Has the Minister received a briefing on the 2015 expert independent evidence review published by Public Health England which found that the current best estimates is that e-cigarettes are approximately 95 per cent less harmful than smoking, and there is no evidence that e-cigarettes act as a route into smoking for children or non-smokers.

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. 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 vaping and e-cigarettes.

I request advice and information from the department as required.

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

223. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the National Tobacco Strategy—

- (1) What input has the Minister had on the planning for the next National Tobacco Strategy.
- (2) What direction has the Minister provided to the Department of Health and Human Services on how to engage with federal and interstate counterparts regarding planning for the next National Tobacco strategy.
- (3) What information has the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services provided to the Federal Government and other states to help create the next National Tobacco Strategy and can the Minister provide a copy.
- (4) What information has the Victorian Government received from the Federal Government and other states to assist in the creation of the next National Tobacco Strategy, and can the Minister provide a copy.

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. 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 the next National Tobacco Strategy.

Cross-jurisdictional consultation and collaboration is a routine part of National Tobacco Strategy development.

HEALTH

225. Ms PATTEN—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to charges of nicotine possession—

- (1) For each year for the past four years, how many people or companies have been charged with possession of nicotine without a prescription in Victoria.

- (2) What is the breakdown of how much has been raised by the Victorian Government from fines for nicotine possession for each year for the past ten years.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Court data relating to revenue from nicotine possession offences is not readily extractable.

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.

Thursday, 2 May 2019

ROADS

145. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: What is VicRoads' Departmental objective indicator target for 'travel time punctuality on metropolitan roads' for 2018-19.

ANSWER:

No targets have ever been set for this measure.

ROADS

146. Mr RICH-PHILLIPS—To ask the Minister for Roads: What is VicRoads' Departmental objective indicator target for 'travel time punctuality on metropolitan roads' for 2017-18.

ANSWER:

No targets have ever been set for this measure.

HEALTH

240. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the seven new parenting centres: Which centres will include day stays and which centres will include longer residential stays.

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.

As part of this, we have committed to building seven new early parenting centres in the growth areas of Frankston, Casey, Wyndham and Whittlesea, as well as the regional centres of Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong.

This investment will deliver a range of critical services, including day stays, longer residential stays and more support at home.

These centres will play a critical role in making sure new parents are getting the advice they need, including support with sleeping, feeding and extra care for babies with additional needs.

HEALTH

247. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Health Practitioner Regulation Agency: How many "confidential investigations" did the agency conduct in:

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) is a Federal agency, therefore you should refer your question to them.

HEALTH

250. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many MICA units attended the following music festivals in 2015:

- (a) Trough XXX;
- (b) Above and Beyond;

- (c) Shadows of Wonderland;
- (d) Inner Varnika;
- (e) Paradigm at HiSense;
- (f) Pitch;
- (g) Road to Ultra;
- (h) Babylon;
- (i) Gaytimes;
- (j) Rainbow Serpent;
- (k) UNIFY-Hard; and
- (l) Let Them Eat Cake.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I am advised 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.

I am advised that MICA units responded to 6 cases at the above-mentioned music festivals in 2015.

HEALTH

251. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many MICA units attended the following music festivals in 2016:

- (a) Trough XXX;
- (b) Above and Beyond;
- (c) Shadows of Wonderland;
- (d) Inner Varnika;
- (e) Paradigm at HiSense;
- (f) Pitch;
- (g) Road to Ultra;
- (h) Babylon;
- (i) Gaytimes;
- (j) Rainbow Serpent;
- (k) UNIFY-Hard; and
- (l) Let Them Eat Cake.

ANSWER:

I am advised 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.

I am advised that MICA units responded to 3 cases at the above-mentioned music festivals in 2016.

HEALTH

252. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many MICA units attended the following music festivals in 2017:

- (a) Trough XXX;
- (b) Above and Beyond;
- (c) Shadows of Wonderland;
- (d) Inner Varnika;
- (e) Paradigm at HiSense;
- (f) Pitch;
- (g) Road to Ultra;
- (h) Babylon;
- (i) Gaytimes;
- (j) Rainbow Serpent;
- (k) UNIFY-Hard; and
- (l) Let Them Eat Cake.

ANSWER:

I am advised 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.

I am advised that MICA units responded to 8 cases at the above-mentioned music festivals in 2017.

HEALTH

253. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to emergency department presentations: What data does the Government have, of numbers of patients affected by methamphetamine at:

- (a) The Alfred;
- (b) Royal Melbourne Hospital;
- (c) South West Healthcare;
- (d) Geelong Public Hospital;
- (e) Latrobe Regional Hospital;
- (f) Gippsland Hospital; and
- (g) Sale Hospital.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services does not hold data of patients “affected” by methamphetamines.

HEALTH

254. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many ambulance attendances have occurred for drug related incidents, including overdoses and assaults, in each of the 79 Local Government Areas.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information is publicly available at *Ambo-AODstats*.

While data on occupational violence is reported in Ambulance Victoria's annual report, the number of assaults at drug-related incidents is not routinely collected.

HEALTH

255. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: Can the Minister list and provide information on the current dental programs that are provided to school-aged children in the public dental setting.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information is available on the Department of Health and Human Services' website.

HEALTH

256. MS CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many young offenders in Malmsbury Youth Justice centre received dental treatment in:

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This is a matter for the Minister for Youth Justice.

HEALTH

257. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many young offenders in Parkville Youth Justice centre received dental treatment in:

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This is a matter for the Minister for Youth Justice.

HEALTH

258. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How children in out of home care received dental treatment in:

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This is a matter for the Minister for Child Protection.

HEALTH

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

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

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

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

HEALTH

263. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Free Dental for Government School Students initiative —

- (1) How many screening vans will be required to undertake dental screening.
- (2) How many treatment vans will be required to undertake dental treatment.
- (3) How will each screening van be staffed and what will the required FTE be.
- (4) How will each treatment van be staffed and what will the required FTE be.
- (5) What is the cost of a screening van.
- (6) What is the cost of a treatment van.
- (7) What is the expected time it will take to perform an oral health check on a child.
- (8) What is the expected time for oral radiography to be performed on a child.
- (9) What is the expected time it will take to perform teeth cleaning on a child.
- (10) What is the expected time it will take to perform an application of a mouth guard.
- (11) What is the process for referral to an oral surgeon.
- (12) What is the process for referral to an orthodontist.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$395.8 million over four years for the School Dental Program which will provide free dental care at all government primary and secondary schools.

This funding will purchase 250 dental vans, to be staffed by 500 dentists, oral health therapists and dental assistants who would be deployed across Victoria over the next four years.

Infrastructure procurement arrangements and the model of care, including referral processes, to deliver this initiative are currently being developed.

HEALTH

264. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: What percentage of Victorian children attend public dental services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

It is unclear from the member's question what time period the data request relates to.

HEALTH

265. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: What percentage of Victorian children attend private dental services.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information is not held by the Department of Health and Human Services.

HEALTH

266. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many dentists are situated in:

- (a) Geelong;
- (b) Ballarat;
- (c) Bendigo;
- (d) Warrnambool;
- (e) Shepparton;
- (f) Mildura; and
- (g) Morwell.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information is held by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

HEALTH

267. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many oral health therapists are situated in:

- (a) Geelong;
- (b) Ballarat;
- (c) Bendigo;
- (d) Warrnambool;
- (e) Shepparton;
- (f) Mildura; and
- (g) Morwell.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information is available through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

HEALTH

269. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many public dental chairs are in each of the 79 Local Government Areas.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Public dental services are provided in community health services and local hospitals. A breakdown of these chairs by Local Government Area is provided below.

Public dental chairs by Local Government Area

| LGA name | Public dental chairs |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Ararat (RC) | 4 |
| Ballarat (C) | 22 |
| Banyule (C) | 9 |
| Bass Coast (S) | 5 |
| Baw Baw (S) | 4 |
| Benalla (RC) | 6 |
| Boroondara(C) | 4 |
| Brimbank (C) | 10 |
| Campaspe (S) | 4 |
| Cardinia (S) | 2 |
| Casey (C) | 10 |
| Central Goldfields (S) | 4 |
| Colac-Otway (S) | 5 |
| Darebin (C) | 15 |
| East Gippsland (S) | 12 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Frankston (C) | 13 |
| Glen Eira (C) | 7 |
| Glenelg (S) | 2 |
| Greater Bendigo (C) | 31 |
| Greater Dandenong(C) | 17 |
| Greater Geelong (C) | 19 |
| Greater Shepparton (C) | 16 |
| Hepburn (S) | 2 |
| Hindmarsh (S) | 4 |
| Hobsons Bay (C) | 2 |
| Horsham (RC) | 4 |
| Hume (C) | 15 |
| Kingston (C) | 9 |
| Knox (C) | 13 |
| Latrobe (C) | 19 |
| Loddon (S) | 1 |
| Maribyrnong (C) | 12 |
| Maroondah (C) | 3 |
| Melbourne (C) | 164 |
| Melton (S) | 12 |
| Mildura (RC) | 10 |
| Mitchell (S) | 3 |
| Moira (S) | 2 |
| Monash (C) | 12 |
| Moonee Valley (C) | 7 |
| Moreland (C) | 4 |
| Mornington Peninsula (S) | 10 |
| Moyne (S) | 2 |
| Nillumbik (S) | 6 |
| Port Phillip (C) | 4 |
| Queenscliffe (B) | 3 |
| Southern Grampians (S) | 3 |
| Stonnington (C) | 4 |
| Swan Hill (RC) | 5 |
| Wangaratta (RC) | 2 |
| Warrambool (C) | 7 |
| Wellington (S) | 5 |
| West Wimmera (S) | 3 |
| Whitehorse (C) | 10 |
| Whittlesea (C) | 15 |
| Wodonga (RC) | 11 |
| Wyndham (C) | 8 |
| Yarra (C) | 9 |
| Yarra Ranges (S) | 6 |

HEALTH

278. **Ms MAXWELL**—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia: What are the formal responsibilities, if any, of the Government, and in particular the Minister for Health, in the administration and operation of each of these agencies respectively.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Both the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia are Federal agencies, therefore you should refer your question to them.

HEALTH

284. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many paramedics in Victoria are employed as—

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

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 workforce information, including full-time equivalent staff, is provided in their annual report. I am advised there is no unit of measurement that details “part-time equivalent staff”.

HEALTH

292. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many nurses are currently employed in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Every Victorian deserves the best standard of health care no matter where they live.

The Andrews Labor Government’s increased investment in our health system has led to hundreds of jobs being created right across Victoria and an overall increase of more than 4,000 nurses and midwives in Victoria.

The number of registered nurses in Victoria is available through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Additionally, the number of full-time equivalent nursing staff employed by Victorian public hospitals and health services is published in their respective annual reports each year.

HEALTH

293. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many midwives are currently employed in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Every Victorian deserves the best standard of health care no matter where they live.

The Andrews Labor Government’s increased investment in our health system has led to hundreds of jobs being created right across Victoria and an overall increase of more than 4,000 nurses and midwives in Victoria.

The number of registered midwives in Victoria is available through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Additionally, workforce data is published by Victorian public health services in their annual reports.

HEALTH

294. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many neonatal specialist nurses are currently employed in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Every Victorian deserves the best standard of health care no matter where they live.

The Andrews Labor Government's increased investment in our health system has led to hundreds of jobs being created right across Victoria and an overall increase of more than 4,000 nurses and midwives in Victoria.

The number of registered nurses in Victoria is available through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Additionally, workforce data is published by Victorian public health services in their annual reports.

HEALTH

295. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many obstetrics nurses are currently employed in Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Every Victorian deserves the best standard of health care no matter where they live.

The Andrews Labor Government's increased investment in our health system has led to hundreds of jobs being created right across Victoria and an overall increase of more than 4,000 nurses and midwives in Victoria.

The title 'obstetric nurse' is not a recognised title under the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia registration standards. However, enrolled and registered nurses are utilised as part of the wider maternity workforce in addition to registered midwives.

The number of registered nurses in Victoria is available through the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Additionally, workforce data is published by Victorian public health services in their annual reports.

HEALTH

297. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many cases of fatal anaphylaxis in Victoria have been reported since November 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There have been no fatal cases of anaphylaxis notified to the department under the new notification system, which captures anaphylaxis presentations to hospital emergency departments.

HEALTH

298. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many matters has the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority opened in each of the 79 Local Government Areas in relation to—

- (a) reported stillbirths; and
- (b) reported neonatal death.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This is a matter for the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority which is a federal agency.

HEALTH

299. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: How many public hospitals in Victoria bulk bill patients who are on a healthcare card or pension card for—

- (a) mammograms;
- (b) angiograms;
- (c) the Nuchal Translucency scan;
- (d) CT scans; and
- (e) X-rays.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The department does not routinely collect information on Health Care Card and Pensioner Concession Card for services provided in public hospitals.

HEALTH

300. Ms CROZIER—To ask the Minister for Health: In relation to the 500,000 specialist appointments to be made as part of the Regional Health infrastructure Fund (RHIF):

- (1) How many different specialist categories have been identified that be will funded from the RHIF.
- (2) In each of the 79 Local Government Areas, what type of specialist appointments will be made.
- (3) In each of the 79 Local Government Areas, how many specialist appointments have been made.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The initiative to provide 500,000 specialist appointments is separate from the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF).