

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

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

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 5 March 2019

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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

Joint committees

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

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FIFTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT—FIRST SESSION

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Deputy President

The Hon. WA LOVELL

Acting Presidents

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

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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
Elasmr, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Quilty, Mr Timothy	Northern Victoria	LDP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Garrett, Ms Jane Furneaux	Eastern Victoria	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Grimley, Mr Stuart James	Western Victoria	DHJP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hayes, Mr Clifford	Southern Metropolitan	SA	Stitt, Ms Ingrid	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Kieu, Dr Tien Dung	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Taylor, Ms Nina	Southern Metropolitan	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Terpstra, Ms Sonja	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Limbrick, Mr David	South Eastern Metropolitan	LDP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Vaghela, Ms Kaushaliya Virjibhai	Western Metropolitan	ALP
McArthur, Mrs Beverley	Western Victoria	LP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP

Party abbreviations

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

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

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

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

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Questions on notice

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown. Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council. Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers. Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 5 March 2019

YOUTH

5. **MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Youth): In what financial year will the \$300,000 grant promised to the Montmorency Scout Group to improve facilities at Petrie Park, Montmorency, be funded and when will the project be completed.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government will contribute \$300,000 towards an upgrade of the Montmorency Scout Hall.

This is in addition to our \$5.5 million commitment to building new Scout Halls in growing areas and upgrading existing Scouting facilities across Victoria.

Our government will work with Scouts Victoria to determine the full scope of works to be undertaken as part of this initiative, and the timeline for completion of this work.

I thank the Member for her question.

YOUTH

6. **MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health (for the Minister for Youth): In what financial year will the \$100,000 grant promised to the first Ivanhoe Sea Scouts to upgrade the Nash-Sherry-Lea Hall be funded and when will the project be completed.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government has committed \$100,000 towards an upgrade of the 1st Ivanhoe Sea Scout Hall as part of our \$5.5 million commitment to building new Scout Halls in growing areas and upgrading existing Scouting facilities across Victoria.

Our government will work with Scouts Victoria to determine the full scope of works to be undertaken as part of this initiative, and the timeline for completion of this work.

I thank the Member for her question.

HEALTH

12. **MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health: In what financial year will the Government build its promised new community hospital for the Eltham electorate and when will it be completed.

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. Our government has delivered the most elective surgeries ever, introduced nurse to patient ratios, delivered world-class facilities and increased childhood vaccination rates.

Our vision is for a world-leading health system. We're investing in our hospitals and health workforce, because every Victorian should have quality public healthcare, wherever they live.

As part of the 2018 Labor Financial Statement, the Andrews Labor Government has committed almost \$3.8 billion in health infrastructure investment, including building bigger and better hospitals around Victoria.

Consideration is being given to the implementation of election commitments, including a community hospital in the Eltham area. As was outlined during the campaign, the Government expects that construction will commence in 2022 and be completed in 2024.

HEALTH

13. **MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health: When will the promised children's emergency department at Maroondah Hospital be operational.

ANSWER:

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. Our government has delivered the most elective surgeries ever, introduced nurse to patient ratios, delivered world-class facilities and increased childhood vaccination rates.

Our vision is for a world-leading health system. We’re investing in our hospitals and health workforce, because every Victorian should have quality public healthcare, wherever they live.

As part of the 2018 Labor Financial Statement, the Andrews Labor Government has committed almost \$3.8 billion in health infrastructure investment, including building bigger and better hospitals around Victoria.

Work to plan and design dedicated flagship kids’ emergency departments at Maroondah, Frankston, Casey, Barwon Health and the Northern hospitals is underway.

Only Labor will build the health system and hospitals families can trust when they need it most. Eastern Health received \$867.9 million in funding from the Andrews Labor Government last year—\$86.5 million more than provided the previous financial year, and a massive \$202.3 million more than the Liberals’ last budget.

HEALTH

- 14. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Health: When will the Government deliver its promised 25 more beds at the Angliss Hospital.

ANSWER:

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. Our government has delivered the most elective surgeries ever, introduced nurse to patient ratios, delivered world-class facilities and increased childhood vaccination rates.

Our vision is for a world-leading health system. We’re investing in our hospitals and health workforce, because every Victorian should have quality public healthcare, wherever they live.

As part of the 2018 Labor Financial Statement, the Andrews Labor Government has committed almost \$3.8 billion in health infrastructure investment, including building bigger and better hospitals around Victoria.

Construction of the Angliss Hospital expansion will be complete by 2025. Construction at the Angliss will follow the completion of the aged care facility at Wantirna Health in 2022.

It should be noted that Jeff Kennett and the Liberals tried to close the Angliss, leaving locals with no choice but to travel into the city for surgery and making an already stressful experience even more difficult.

Only Labor will build the health system and hospitals families can trust when they need it most. Eastern Health received \$867.9 million in funding from the Andrews Labor Government last year—\$86.5 million more than provided the previous financial year, and a massive \$202.3 million more than the Liberals’ last budget.

POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 37. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police and Emergency Services): When will the promised \$3 million for the new SES headquarters for the Banyule, Darebin and Yarra Councils on Waterdale Road be funded and when will the project be completed.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government greatly values the work of the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) Northcote Unit members, who selflessly volunteer their time and skills to keep their community safe.

The Emergency Services Infrastructure Authority (ESIA), in collaboration with VICSES, is pursuing all avenues to ensure the delivery of a fit-for-purpose facility for the VICSES Northcote Unit.

The new facility will support the commitment and dedication of local VICSES volunteers, enable an expansion of local services and support the retention and recruitment of new volunteers from the community.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

- 40. MR DAVIS**—To ask the Minister for Roads (for the Minister for Transport Infrastructure): In relation to the level crossing removal program:

- (1) Of the 29 level crossing removals completed, what was the total cost of each level crossing removal.

- (2) How much had been expended between November 2014 and 24 November 2018.
- (3) What has been received in value capture and what is anticipated to be received, in all its mechanisms, for each of the 29 completed level crossing removals.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Southern Metropolitan for his continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's hugely successful Level Crossing Removal Program.

In 2014, Labor was elected with a clear mandate to remove level crossings. The Liberals, such as yourself, never accepted it and spent four years opposing them. We have again been elected with a mandate to remove level crossings—75 of them. It remains to be seen whether the Liberals accept this mandate or they will continue their assault on the will of the Victorian people.

In our first term, we got rid of 29 dangerous level crossings. We have 21 to go from the 50 we originally committed to, and we have added another 25 to make it 75 to be removed by 2025.

The program remains on budget and all figures are outlined in Budget Papers.

We have been very upfront about where we see opportunities for mixed use developments as part of our projects—and will continue to be. We consult with the community on all the projects and follow all the appropriate planning processes. To date, two developments have been approved at Burke Road in Glen Eira and North Road in Ormond.

TREASURER

42. MR DAVIS—To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to payments made to the State of Victoria by the Commonwealth of Australia: For each financial year from 2007–08 to 2017–18, in tabular form:

- (1) What were the total payments made.
- (2) What were the programs and purposes for which payments were received and the amount received for each.

ANSWER:

The financial support received by Victoria from the Commonwealth comprises payments for specific purposes and general revenue assistance (GRA)—including GST entitlements. These payments are published in the Commonwealth's Final Budget Outcome each year. This can be found publicly at <https://budget.gov.au/>.

See table page 19.

JOBS, INNOVATION AND TRADE

68. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade): In relation to the Government's appointment of a new Defence Industry Advocate:

- (1) Has the Government found a successor to Mr Greg Combet AM.
- (2) If the Government has found a successor to Mr Combet AM, who will it be, and, if not, when does the Government expect to appoint his successor.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government announced the appointment of Mr John O'Callaghan as the Victorian Defence Industry Advocate on 13 February 2019.

SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

69. MS WOOLDRIDGE—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Suburban Development): Will the Government consider enhancing safety lighting and CCTV coverage around Eltham, particularly at—

- (a) Eltham Montmorency and Greensborough train station car parks;
- (b) Eltham/Montmorency RSL and Petrie Park;
- (c) Lower Plenty football ground;
- (d) Eltham Bowls Club;
- (e) First Lower Plenty Scouts;
- (f) Montmorency football ground; and
- (g) Were St, Montmorency toilets and car park.

ANSWER:

The question you raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Your question will need to be re-directed to the Hon Lisa Neville for response.

SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

- 70. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Suburban Development): Will the Government commit funds to delivering a masterplan for Box Hill.

ANSWER:

The question you raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Planning. Your question will need to be re-directed to the Hon Richard Wynne for response.

SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

- 71. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Local Government (for the Minister for Suburban Development): Will the Government consider enhancing CCTV and public lighting in Box Hill, Box Hill North, Blackburn, Blackburn North and Mont Albert North, particularly at—

- (a) Springfield Park pavilion; and
- (b) Box Hill shopping complex.

ANSWER:

The question you raised falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Your question will need to be re-directed to the Hon Lisa Neville for response.

EDUCATION

- 79. MS WOOLDRIDGE**—To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): Will the Government commit funding to upgrade the following schools—

- (a) Koonung Secondary College;
- (b) Box Hill High School;
- (c) Glen Waverley Primary School; and
- (d) Brentwood Secondary College.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to growing educational opportunities for all Victorians. We have invested more than \$3.8 billion in the past four State Budgets to improve classrooms, upgrade facilities and build new schools. This school building boom has provided investment for 70 new schools and more than 1,300 upgrade projects. As part of this building boom, the Government has invested in school upgrade projects in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, demonstrating our commitment to the educational needs of its students.

Koonung Secondary College was allocated \$100,000 to resurface its hockey field under the 2018–19 School Pride and Sports Fund.

Box Hill High School was allocated \$500,000 to upgrade its facilities under the 2018–19 State Budget. This upgrade project is in the design development phase.

Glen Waverley Primary School was allocated \$2.65 million for a new sports hall. The sports hall was completed in June 2018.

Brentwood Secondary College was allocated \$137,000 for maintenance works to Blocks C and G of the college under the 2016–17 Planned Maintenance Program. These works were completed in August 2017.

The Government is aware that schools in the Eastern Metropolitan Region may have additional capital or maintenance requests. Our ongoing challenge is to responsibly balance and prioritise the needs of over 1,500 government schools, all in varying condition.

I can assure you that the needs of all schools, including those in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, will be given equitable consideration when determining priorities for the state-wide capital works program. We will continue to use all available data, including condition assessments and pre-existing project plans, when allocating resources in future State Budgets.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Commonwealth payments to Victoria by sector and category from 2007-08 to 2017-18 ^(a)												
\$million	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
Total payments	16,319	18,813	21,711	21,247	21,397	21,172	24,011	23,180	23,864	26,336	27,744	245,795
- Total general revenue assistance - including GST entitlements	9,259	9,318	9,997	10,745	10,365	11,020	11,633	12,013	12,899	13,970	15,200	126,230
Total payments for specific purposes	7,060	9,495	11,713	10,502	11,032	10,152	12,478	11,167	10,965	12,366	12,543	119,565
Payments for specific purposes												
<i>Health</i>												
National Health Reform funding / National Healthcare specific purpose payment (SPP)	2,424	2,546	2,711	2,911	3,090	3,263	3,493	3,661	4,180	4,724	5,022	38,154
National Partnerships	326	628	160	353	672	344	477	302	229	85	63	3,641
Total health payments	2,750	3,174	2,870	3,263	3,762	3,607	3,940	4,153	4,409	4,809	5,085	41,795
<i>Education</i>												
Quality Schools Funding/Students First/National Schools SPP	2,176	2,246	2,425	2,634	2,814	2,964	3,252	3,674	3,828	4,387	4,557	35,057
National Partnerships	8	599	2,435	1,375	519	330	231	144	147	127	127	6,040
Total education payments	2,182	2,845	4,860	4,009	3,333	3,294	3,483	3,818	4,075	4,514	4,684	41,097
<i>Skills and workforce development</i>												
National Skills and Workforce Development SPP	306	327	308	332	338	344	350	358	365	378	399	3,808
National Partnerships	18	2	110	23	44	91	88	102	99	129	52	756
Total skills and workforce development payments	324	329	408	354	381	435	437	460	464	507	439	4,565
<i>Community services</i>												
National Disability SPP	164	199	208	247	284	308	331	347	360	382	399	3,228
National Partnerships	320	345	399	395	416	428	472	442	460	75	170	3,908
Total community services payments	484	543	597	642	700	732	803	789	820	456	569	7,136
<i>Affordable housing</i>												
National Affordable Housing SPP	167	260	266	277	288	300	312	325	332	344	351	3,220
National Partnerships	86	370	1,316	318	115	43	35	26	23	23	23	2,378
Total affordable housing payments	253	630	1,582	595	403	343	346	351	355	367	374	5,598
<i>Infrastructure</i>												
National Partnerships	442	895	776	732	1,442	920	2,947	473	490	606	537	10,248
<i>Environment</i>												
National Partnerships	69	97	59	39	224	82	198	283	48	198	207	1,496
<i>Contingent payments</i>												
National Partnerships	134	374	68	324	44	49	5	3	3	13	3	1,020
<i>Other^(b)</i>												
National Partnerships	423	618	525	545	772	679	319	867	332	896	648	6,612

Source: Commonwealth Fiscal Outlook Publications (2007-08 to 2017-18). Notes:
 (a) Actual payments may vary due to the allocation of Commonwealth funding retroactively adjusted by the Commonwealth Government and the timing of funds received.
 (b) Includes financial assistance to local governments - comprising more than 85% of payments within this category over the period shown.