

Question on Notice

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Danny O'Brien
Page/s of transcript:	7

Relevant text:

Danny O'BRIEN: Thank you. Ms Jones, what is the total number of employees in RDV this year?

Beth JONES: In the portfolio, Mr O'Brien, there are just over 200.

Danny O'BRIEN: Two hundred in RDV?

Beth JONES: That is positions, yes.

Danny O'BRIEN: Yes, okay. Could I ask what the breakdown of those in offices is, in physical locations?

Beth JONES: I would need to give you a breakdown of exactly how many numbers in physical locations. What I would say, Mr O'Brien, is we have a number of positions in recruitment at the moment, following some organisational change, so it is in flux.

Danny O'BRIEN: How many?

Beth JONES: There are about 50 of those roles in an active recruitment process at the moment.

Danny O'BRIEN: So we will end up with 250?

Beth JONES: No, Mr O'Brien. Of the 200-odd positions, 50 of those are in a recruitment process.

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. Could you perhaps take it on notice as to the regional locations – where they are?

Beth JONES: I can, Mr O'Brien, but can I just clarify the question I am answering there?

Danny O'BRIEN: Of the 200, where are they?

Beth JONES: Yes. Certainly.

Answer:

The Regional Development portfolio as at 30 April 2024 has 203 positions, inclusive of the Latrobe Valley Authority. A breakdown showing the locations of these positions is as follows:

Position Location	Positions	% of total positions
Barwon South West Region	31	15%
Gippsland Region	51	25%
Grampians Region	28	14%
Hume Region	20	10%
Loddon Mallee Region	20	10%
Metropolitan	38	19%
Positions advertised as location flexible	15	7%
Total	203	100%

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Page/s of transcript:	6

Relevant text:

Danny O'BRIEN: Thank you, Chair. Ms Jones, can I just clarify: you said \$5.1 million for staff at the LVA, and that there are 33 staff there currently. That is about \$155,000 per staff. Is that correct?

Beth JONES: Yes, I said that amount is for staffing and operations. It is essentially to run the LVA, Mr O'Brien, so a combination of everything – overheads.

Danny O'BRIEN: Okay. What proportion is just staff, then?

Beth JONES: I would need to get a breakdown of exactly the staffing component for you, Mr O'Brien. I would say that for this year it will also depend on the transition arrangements that we work through in terms of what the staff components look like.

Danny O'BRIEN: Right. Would it be fair to say, based on that, then, that over 2024–25 the numbers will decrease at the LVA?

Beth JONES: Well, the LVA will move into RDV, Mr O'Brien. But in terms of commenting on numbers or what form it will take, I am really not in a position to comment on that, Mr O'Brien, until we do the transition planning. There is provision for staffing and operations in the budget. As to what that looks like, I would be speculating.

Answer:

We are working through a process with staff and stakeholders to determine specifically how the LVA will integrate into RDV from 1 January 2025. As such, we cannot yet advise the specific 2024-25 proportion of staffing for the \$5.1 million allocation.

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Page/s of transcript:	11

Relevant text:

Danny O'BRIEN: Can I throw a quick one in, Secretary? The presentation said the Tiny Towns program was \$20 million. It was only allocated \$10 million in last year's budget, and there is no more in this year's outputs. Where has the other \$10 million come from?

Tim ADA: There is an allocation for the Tiny Towns Fund through the regional package, Mr O'Brien.

Danny O'BRIEN: Which regional package?

Tim ADA: The \$2 billion regional package that was announced by the government in July last year.

Danny O'BRIEN: So it was in the budget update?

Tim ADA: I would have to check. I do not have that with me.

Danny O'BRIEN: Would you take that on notice?

Tim ADA: Yes.

Answer:

The \$2 billion Regional Package was published in the 2023-24 Budget Update, p117.

[2023-24 Budget Update \(dtf.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.dtf.vic.gov.au/2023-24-Budget-Update)