

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

20 September 2001

(extract from Book 3)

Internet: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

JOHN LANDY, AC, MBE

The Lieutenant-Governor

Lady SOUTHEY, AM

The Ministry

Premier and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. S. P. Bracks, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Minister for Planning	The Hon. J. W. Thwaites, MP
Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister assisting the Minister for Workcover	The Hon. M. M. Gould, MLC
Minister for Transport	The Hon. P. Batchelor, MP
Minister for Energy and Resources, Minister for Ports and Minister assisting the Minister for State and Regional Development...	The Hon. C. C. Broad, MLC
Minister for State and Regional Development and Treasurer	The Hon. J. M. Brumby, MP
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Workcover and Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads	The Hon. R. G. Cameron, MP
Minister for Community Services	The Hon. C. M. Campbell, MP
Minister for Education and Minister for the Arts	The Hon. M. E. Delahunty, MP
Minister for Environment and Conservation and Minister for Women's Affairs	The Hon. S. M. Garbutt, MP
Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. A. Haermeyer, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Aboriginal Affairs	The Hon. K. G. Hamilton, MP
Attorney-General, Minister for Manufacturing Industry and Minister for Racing	The Hon. R. J. Hulls, MP
Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment and Minister for Finance	The Hon. L. J. Kosky, MP
Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Youth Affairs and Minister assisting the Minister for Planning	The Hon. J. M. Madden, MLC
Minister for Gaming, Minister for Major Projects and Tourism and Minister assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. J. Pandazopoulos, MP
Minister for Housing, Minister for Aged Care and Minister assisting the Minister for Health	The Hon. B. J. Pike, MP
Minister for Small Business and Minister for Consumer Affairs	The Hon. M. R. Thomson, MLC
Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet	The Hon. G. W. Jennings

Legislative Assembly Committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Cooper, Mr Holding, Mr Hulls, Mr Loney, Mr Maclellan, Mr Maughan, Mr Nardella, Mr Plowman and Mr Thwaites.

Standing Orders Committee — Mr Speaker, Mr Jasper, Mr Langdon, Mr Lenders, Mr McArthur, Mrs Maddigan and Mr Perton.

Joint Committees

Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables B. C. Boardman and S. M. Nguyen.
(*Assembly*): Mr Cooper, Mr Jasper, Mr Lupton, Mr Mildenhall and Mr Wynne.

Environment and Natural Resources Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables R. F. Smith and E. G. Stoney.
(*Assembly*): Mr Delahunty, Ms Duncan, Mr Ingram, Ms Lindell, Mr Mulder and Mr Seitz.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables E. J. Powell and G. D. Romanes.
(*Assembly*): Mr Hardman, Mr Lim, Mr Nardella, Mrs Peulich and Mr Wilson.

House Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables the President (*ex officio*), G. B. Ashman, R. A. Best, J. M. McQuilten, Jenny Mikakos and R. F. Smith. (*Assembly*): Mr Speaker (*ex officio*), Ms Beattie, Mr Kilgour, Ms McCall, Mr Rowe, Mr Savage and Mr Stensholt.

Law Reform Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables D. G. Hadden and P. A. Katsambanis.
(*Assembly*): Mr Languiller, Ms McCall, Mr McIntosh, Mr Stensholt and Mr Thompson.

Library Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables the President, E. C. Carbines, M. T. Luckins, E. J. Powell and C. A. Strong. (*Assembly*): Mr Speaker, Ms Duncan, Mr Languiller, Mrs Peulich and Mr Seitz.

Printing Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables the President, Andrea Coote, Kaye Darveniza and E. J. Powell.
(*Assembly*): Mr Speaker, Ms Gillett, Mr Nardella and Mr Richardson.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables D. McL. Davis, R. M. Hallam, G. K. Rich-Phillips and T. C. Theophanous. (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Barker, Ms Davies, Mr Holding, Mr Loney and Mrs Maddigan.

Road Safety Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables Andrew Brideson and E. C. Carbines.
(*Assembly*): Mr Kilgour, Mr Langdon, Mr Plowman, Mr Spry and Mr Trezise.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): The Honourables M. A. Birrell, M. T. Luckins, Jenny Mikakos and C. A. Strong. (*Assembly*): Ms Beattie, Mr Carli, Mr Dixon, Ms Gillett and Mr Robinson.

Heads of Parliamentary Departments

Assembly — Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Mr R. W. Purdey

Council — Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr W. R. Tunnecliffe

Hansard — Chief Reporter: Ms C. J. Williams

Library — Librarian: Mr B. J. Davidson

Joint Services — Director, Corporate Services: Mr S. N. Aird
Director, Infrastructure Services: Mr G. C. Spurr

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

Speaker: The Hon. ALEX ANDRIANOPOULOS

Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees: Mrs J. M. MADDIGAN

Temporary Chairmen of Committees: Ms Barker, Ms Davies, Mr Jasper, Mr Kilgour, Mr Loney, Mr Lupton, Mr Nardella,
Mrs Peulich, Mr Phillips, Mr Plowman, Mr Richardson, Mr Savage, Mr Seitz

Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Premier:

The Hon. S. P. BRACKS

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:

The Hon. J. W. THWAITES

Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. D. V. NAPHTHINE

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Liberal Party and Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. LOUISE ASHER

Leader of the Parliamentary National Party:

Mr P. J. RYAN

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary National Party:

Mr B. E. H. STEGGALL

Member	District	Party	Member	District	Party
Allan, Ms Jacinta Marie	Bendigo East	ALP	Leighton, Mr Michael Andrew	Preston	ALP
Allen, Ms Denise Margret ⁴	Benalla	ALP	Lenders, Mr John Johannes Joseph	Dandenong North	ALP
Andrianopoulos, Mr Alex	Mill Park	ALP	Lim, Mr Hong Muy	Clayton	ALP
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	Lindell, Ms Jennifer Margaret	Carrum	ALP
Ashley, Mr Gordon Wetzel	Bayswater	LP	Loney, Mr Peter James	Geelong North	ALP
Baillieu, Mr Edward Norman	Hawthorn	LP	Lupton, Mr Hurtle Reginald, OAM, JP	Knox	LP
Barker, Ms Ann Patricia	Oakleigh	ALP	McArthur, Mr Stephen James	Monbulk	LP
Batchelor, Mr Peter	Thomastown	ALP	McCall, Ms Andrea Lea	Frankston	LP
Beattie, Ms Elizabeth Jean	Tullamarine	ALP	McIntosh, Mr Andrew John	Kew	LP
Bracks, Mr Stephen Phillip	Williamstown	ALP	Maclellan, Mr Robert Roy Cameron	Pakenham	LP
Brumby, Mr John Mansfield	Broadmeadows	ALP	McNamara, Mr Patrick John ³	Benalla	NP
Burke, Ms Leonie Therese	Prahran	LP	Maddigan, Mrs Judith Marilyn	Essendon	ALP
Cameron, Mr Robert Graham	Bendigo West	ALP	Maughan, Mr Noel John	Rodney	NP
Campbell, Ms Christine Mary	Pascoe Vale	ALP	Maxfield, Mr Ian John	Narracan	ALP
Carli, Mr Carlo	Coburg	ALP	Mildenhall, Mr Bruce Allan	Footscray	ALP
Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Mulder, Mr Terence Wynn	Polwarth	LP
Cooper, Mr Robert Fitzgerald	Mornington	LP	Napthine, Dr Denis Vincent	Portland	LP
Davies, Ms Susan Margaret	Gippsland West	Ind	Nardella, Mr Donato Antonio	Melton	ALP
Dean, Dr Robert Logan	Berwick	LP	Overington, Ms Karen Marie	Ballarat West	ALP
Delahunty, Mr Hugh Francis	Wimmera	NP	Pandazopoulos, Mr John	Dandenong	ALP
Delahunty, Ms Mary Elizabeth	Northcote	ALP	Paterson, Mr Alister Irvine	South Barwon	LP
Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Dromana	LP	Perton, Mr Victor John	Doncaster	LP
Doyle, Robert Keith Bennett	Malvern	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	Bentleigh	LP
Duncan, Ms Joanne Therese	Gisborne	ALP	Phillips, Mr Wayne	Eltham	LP
Elliott, Mrs Lorraine Clare	Mooroolbark	LP	Pike, Ms Bronwyn Jane	Melbourne	ALP
Fyffe, Mrs Christine Ann	Evelyn	LP	Plowman, Mr Antony Fulton	Benambra	LP
Garbutt, Ms Sherryl Maree	Bundoora	ALP	Richardson, Mr John Ingles	Forest Hill	LP
Gillett, Ms Mary Jane	Werribee	ALP	Robinson, Mr Anthony Gerard Peter	Mitcham	ALP
Haermeyer, Mr André	Yan Yean	ALP	Rowe, Mr Gary James	Cranbourne	LP
Hamilton, Mr Keith Graeme	Morwell	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian	Gippsland South	NP
Hardman, Mr Benedict Paul	Seymour	ALP	Savage, Mr Russell Irwin	Mildura	Ind
Helper, Mr Jochen	Ripon	ALP	Seitz, Mr George	Keilor	ALP
Holding, Mr Timothy James	Springvale	ALP	Shardey, Mrs Helen Jean	Caulfield	LP
Honeywood, Mr Phillip Neville	Warrandyte	LP	Smith, Mr Ernest Ross	Glen Waverley	LP
Howard, Mr Geoffrey Kemp	Ballarat East	ALP	Spry, Mr Garry Howard	Bellarine	LP
Hulls, Mr Rob Justin	Niddrie	ALP	Steggall, Mr Barry Edward Hector	Swan Hill	NP
Ingram, Mr Craig	Gippsland East	Ind	Stensholt, Mr Robert Einar ²	Burwood	ALP
Jasper, Mr Kenneth Stephen	Murray Valley	NP	Thompson, Mr Murray Hamilton	Sandringham	LP
Kennett, Mr Jeffrey Gibb ¹	Burwood	LP	Thwaites, Mr Johnstone William	Albert Park	ALP
Kilgour, Mr Donald	Shepparton	NP	Treize, Mr Ian Douglas	Geelong	ALP
Kosky, Ms Lynne Janice	Altona	ALP	Viney, Mr Matthew Shaw	Frankston East	ALP
Kotsiras, Mr Nicholas	Bulleen	LP	Vogels, Mr John Adrian	Warrnambool	LP
Langdon, Mr Craig Anthony Cuffe	Ivanhoe	ALP	Wells, Mr Kimberley Arthur	Wantima	LP
Languiller, Mr Telmo	Sunshine	ALP	Wilson, Mr Ronald Charles	Bennettswood	LP
Leigh, Mr Geoffrey Graeme	Mordialloc	LP	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP

¹ Resigned 3 November 1999

² Elected 11 December 1999

³ Resigned 12 April 2000

⁴ Elected 13 May 2000

CONTENTS

THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2001

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

<i>Land tax: principal residence</i>	473
<i>Rural Northwest Health</i>	473
<i>Ansett Australia: tourism</i>	473
<i>Police: prisoner accommodation</i>	474, 476, 477
<i>Hospitals: Albury-Wodonga</i>	475
<i>Gaming: revenue</i>	476
<i>Insurance: public liability</i>	476
<i>Schools: racial tolerance</i>	478

NOTICES OF MOTION

<i>Minister for Education: conduct</i>	480
--	-----

PETITION

<i>Hurstbridge High School site</i>	480
---	-----

PAPERS

MEMBERS STATEMENTS

<i>United States of America: terrorist attacks</i>	481
<i>Katamatite Football Club</i>	481
<i>Hurstbridge High School site</i>	481
<i>Yarra River: walking track</i>	482
<i>Sunshine East Primary School</i>	482
<i>It Happened to Us — Mark II</i>	482
<i>Building Control Commission: inspection service</i>	482
<i>Burwood Bulletin</i>	483
<i>Preschools: administration</i>	483
<i>Primelife Corporation Ltd</i>	483
<i>Volunteers: Sandringham</i>	484

DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED

SUBSTANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL

<i>Second reading</i>	484
<i>Remaining stages</i>	485

ADJOURNMENT

<i>Rail: Geelong service</i>	485
<i>Police: Leongatha station</i>	486
<i>Firearms: imported hand guns</i>	486
<i>Police: Belgrave station</i>	486
<i>Police: Latrobe Valley complex</i>	487
<i>Schools: speech therapy</i>	487
<i>Housing: interstate transfers</i>	488
<i>Education, Employment and Training: consultancies</i>	488
<i>Hospitals: Hospital Services Report</i>	489
<i>Brain Injury Awareness Week</i>	489
<i>Emergency services: Pakenham</i>	489
<i>Victorian Multicultural Commission: appointments</i>	490
<i>Responses</i>	490

CONTENTS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2001

265. Transport: Spencer Street interstate bus terminal.....	495
267(a). Transport: Monash Freeway noise walls.....	495
267(b). Roads: Monash Freeway noise walls.....	496
268(a). Transport: Vicroads call centres.....	496
268(b). Roads: Vicroads call centres.....	497
269(a). Transport: C-class roads.....	499
269(b). Roads: C-class roads.....	499
270(a). Transport: Saferoads program.....	500
270(b). Roads: Saferoads program.....	502
272(a). Transport: Vicroads sponsorship.....	504
273(a). Transport: recycled asphalt pavement.....	505
273(b). Roads: recycled asphalt pavement.....	505
274(a). Transport: Vicroads LED technology.....	506
274(b). Roads: Vicroads LED technology.....	507
275(a). Transport: Vicroads contracts.....	507
275(b). Roads: Vicroads contracts.....	508
276(a). Transport: Vicroads skid-resistance study.....	509
276(b). Roads: Vicroads skid-resistance study.....	511
278(a). Transport: Vicroads resealing and rehabilitation.....	513
278(b). Roads: Vicroads resealing and rehabilitation.....	517
288. Environment and Conservation: Geelong Clay Target Club.....	520
291. Transport: Grovedale station.....	521
294. Transport: Geelong–Colac highway duplication.....	521
297. Environment and Conservation: beaches at risk.....	522
298. Environment and Conservation: South Channel Fort.....	522
299. Environment and Conservation: dispute mediation.....	523
300. Transport: Spring Creek–Anglesea roundabout.....	523
313. Transport: W-class trams.....	524
314. Transport: W-class trams.....	524
315. Transport: City Circle patronage.....	525
316. Transport: Frankston flyer service.....	525
317. Transport: Eastern Freeway extension.....	525
318. Transport: Eastern Freeway extension.....	526
321. Transport: Mornington Peninsula Freeway extension.....	526
322. Transport: dangerous and hazardous goods.....	526
323. Transport: dangerous and hazardous goods.....	526
324. Transport: railway station staff.....	527
325. Transport: White Street, Mordialloc.....	527
326. Transport: Wells Road, Aspendale Gardens.....	527
327. Transport: Beach Road–South Road lanes.....	528
328. Transport: intersection traffic management.....	528
347. Environment and Conservation: illegal shellfish collection.....	528
348. Environment and Conservation: new land for wildlife.....	529
359. Ports: boating collisions and groundings.....	529

360. Environment and Conservation: waste water and sewerage treatment.....	529
363. Transport: Box Hill transport interchange.....	530
364. Transport: QON no. 230.....	530
368. Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance.....	531
373. Multicultural Affairs: Macedonian Teachers Association of Victoria.....	531
374. Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance bill.....	531
375. Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance bill.....	532
376. Multicultural Affairs: Ethnic Enterprise Advisory Council.....	532
377. Multicultural Affairs: Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs.....	533
378. Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance bill.....	533
379. Multicultural Affairs: budget.....	533
380. Multicultural Affairs: funding allocations.....	534
381. Multicultural Affairs: budget.....	534
384. Housing: waiting list.....	535
386. Housing: eligibility criteria.....	535
389. Housing: women’s policy.....	535
391. Housing: Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement.....	536
392. Housing: supported accommodation assistance program.....	536
393. Housing: Office of Housing.....	537
394. Housing: supported accommodation assistance program.....	537
396. Housing: supported accommodation assistance program.....	537
397. Housing: homelessness.....	538
399. Aged Care: funding allocations.....	539
400. Aged Care: funding allocations.....	540
401. Aged Care: regional funding.....	541
402. Aged Care: central management.....	541
403. Aged Care: funding allocations.....	541
406. Aged Care: home-based care.....	541
408. Aged Care: hospital demand strategy.....	542
409. Aged Care: fire-risk management.....	542
410. Aged Care: Caulfield General Medical Centre.....	542
411. Aged Care: sub-acute services.....	543
412. Aged Care: Hospital to Home program.....	543
414. Aged Care: Wintringham nursing home.....	543
416. Aged Care: home and community care.....	543
417. Aged Care: day care and community rehabilitation centres.....	544
418. Aged Care: home and community care.....	544
419. Corrections: staff numbers.....	544
420. Corrections: prisoner accounts.....	545
421. Corrections: prison capacities.....	546
422. Corrections: prison populations.....	547
424. Major Projects and Tourism: Torquay Offshore Festival.....	548
425. Premier: Target head office.....	548
435. Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment: CAE contracts.....	548

Thursday, 20 September 2001

The SPEAKER (Hon. Alex Andrianopoulos) took the chair at 9.34 a.m. and read the prayer.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Land tax: principal residence

Dr NAPHTHINE (Leader of the Opposition) — I refer the Premier to the fact that the previous Liberal government removed land tax from all principal places of residence, and further to the Carr and Gallop Labor governments' introduction of a special land tax on houses coming under the category of premium homes. Will the Premier now guarantee to Victorians to never reintroduce land tax on Victorians' principal places of residence?

Mr BRACKS (Premier) — The government announced a package this year in response to an inquiry into state taxation, particularly business taxes, in which it reduced taxes by \$774 million. A part of that reduction was increasing the threshold and ensuring that fewer people paid land tax than was the case under the previous Liberal administration.

The government has absolutely no plans to put such a tax as suggested by the opposition leader.

Rural Northwest Health

Mr RYAN (Leader of the National Party) — I refer to the precedent set by the previous Minister for Health when he intervened to ask the Maryborough District Health Service to reverse its decision to close the now flourishing Dunolly hospital.

In accordance with local and regional community sentiment, will the Minister for Health now take the same action to stop the removal of midwifery and surgical services at the Hopetoun campus of Rural Northwest Health?

Mr THWAITES (Minister for Health) — The reason Dunolly hospital was being closed was that the former Liberal–National Party government was closing hospitals all around the state. Twelve hospitals! We all remember who was responsible for that.

The former parliamentary secretary for health produced a document called the *Small Rural Hospitals Taskforce Report*.

Mr Ryan — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, and on a matter of relevance, it seems to escape the

attention of the Minister for Health that the Dunolly hospital was not closed. The import of this question is to ask him to intervene and take similar action as was taken there to ensure that the hospital I have nominated and the services in it remain open.

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order.

Mr THWAITES — The question did not relate to hospital closures and action taken under the previous government. Under the previous government it was the current Leader of the Opposition who produced this report that talked about integration of services. Then it went on to say that opportunities for integrated area base services with beds being located in larger centres should be encouraged. In other words, close the smaller hospitals and move them to the larger centres.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr THWAITES — The question asked is, 'Did they close?'. Yes — Koroit, Macarthur, Clunes, Elmore, Mortlake, Lismore — one after the other. Where was the opposition then? Of course, it was closing them!

By comparison this government is boosting funding to rural health by millions of dollars, including boosting funding to the Hopetoun hospital.

Ansett Australia: tourism

Mrs MADDIGAN (Essendon) — Will the Premier inform the house of the response to the Victorian government's tourism package launched as a consequence of the Ansett crisis?

Mr BRACKS (Premier) — I thank the honourable member for Essendon for her question. The additional \$10 million allocated as a rescue package to the tourism package of the state government has been extremely well received by the tourism industry around the country. The impact of the Ansett crisis and the tragic events in the United States of America could spread rapidly if the tourism industry is not supported, and supported immediately, by all states and the commonwealth.

I give some figures to illustrate this fact. The Australian Tourism Export Council estimates that there has been a 20 per cent fall in forward bookings by international visitors to Australia, and if that continues there will be a reduction of some million visitors annually. That figure alone should cause governments around the country to take immediate and combined action to ensure rescue

packages and supports are in place for the tourism industry.

Another tourism analyst, Alan Midwood of Midwood Tourism and Development, has stated that an extra 20 000 jobs in the tourism sector in Australia could be lost. The impact on regional Australia is equally profound. Approximately 207 000 people are employed in the industry in regional Australia, and they want to know that governments, both federal and state, are working with them, for them, assisting them and providing them with the necessary interim support until we get out of this downturn in the tourism industry.

If we go back to the Gulf War, its impact saw a 30 per cent overall downturn in tourism in Australia over an 18-month period. As I have mentioned previously in this house, if you look at the Gulf War and the pilot strike, in each case the federal government took responsibility by injecting money for a rescue package and got people to consider holidaying at home, travelling at home and going to destinations in Victoria or other states. As I indicated yesterday, the government will encourage New Zealand travellers from across the Tasman to come to Victoria. We will be the first state to encourage that inbound tourism from New Zealand to Victoria.

The reaction to the \$10 million government package that we announced this week has been overwhelmingly supportive. Christopher Brown of the tourism task force has welcomed the package as doing exactly what the industry needs from government at the right point in time. I welcome his comments. He is a national tourism spokesman on the tourism industry, and he endorses what we have done.

I am pleased to indicate that other states have joined Victoria with emergency support and assistance packages for the tourism industry, including New South Wales, which is refocusing its international tourism product and packages for domestic tourism; Queensland, which is adding some resources and funding; and Western Australia, which is following Victoria's lead. Victoria was the first state to put in an extra amount of money and has given the most.

I have to say that the only level of government that does not seem to think there is a problem is the federal government. I remind the house what the federal Minister for Sport and Tourism, the Honourable Jackie Kelly, said yesterday in response to questions on radio. In commenting about the problem in tourism she said that it was about getting over this little blip. Gee! We are in good hands with Jackie Kelly and John Anderson managing this crisis! We are in fantastic hands in

Australia! What was the Prime Minister's response regarding the call for a \$50 million federal government package? It was to set up a committee that would report back in three weeks! He will set up a committee that will report back in three weeks!

The problems are self-evident because the projection is for 1 million fewer tourists than currently. Victoria has shown leadership, the other states are following, and the only level of government that does not give a damn is the one that is supported by the other side.

Police: prisoner accommodation

Mr WELLS (Wantirna) — I refer the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to the fact that police cells in Victoria are designed to hold a maximum of 120 prisoners and that they are currently holding 350 prisoners, a figure confirmed by impeccable sources within the minister's own department. Can the minister advise the house how many police officers are now directly involved in the care of these prisoners rather than out fighting crime?

Mr HAERMEYER (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) — The honourable member for Wantirna is wrong — very, very wrong. I can advise the house that this government has been proceeding with its program of increasing the capacity of our existing prisons with additional — —

Dr Napthine — With cells?

Mr HAERMEYER — You are an absolute goose! No wonder you are in opposition.

We are proceeding on the path of creating additional beds in our existing prisons. We are also building three new prisons which will open by 2004, but the 357 additional prison beds will be created — —

Dr Napthine — My point of order, Mr Speaker, concerns debating the question. The question related to the tying up of police resources looking after people in overcrowded police cells rather than being out there fighting the 40 per cent increase in aggravated burglary in this state.

The SPEAKER — Order! There is no point of order. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services was being relevant, and I will continue to hear him.

Mr HAERMEYER — I am pleased to be able to advise the house that as part of this progressive movement of people from police cells back to prisons as we create this added capacity, today another 20 prisoners will go out of police cells into the prison

system, which will bring the numbers in police cells not to 350 but to below 260. This is a process that is progressing — —

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr HAERMEYER — Below 260! The reason we have this problem is that over seven years we had an increase in the prison population of more than 1000 — more than 33 per cent — and what did the former government do? They closed eight prisons! These are the people who got rid of 800 police and closed eight prisons. These are the people who say they do not want home detention.

Dr Napthine — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the minister is now debating the issue. The minister is the one who is closing country prisons, the minister is the one who has police tied up looking after — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The Leader of the Opposition cannot take a point of order requesting the Chair to ask the minister to cease debating the question and then proceed to debate the issue in the very same point of order. I ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to cease debating and to come back to answering the question.

Mr HAERMEYER — It certainly is quite clear that they were not only soft on crime but they are also soft on top! This is a problem that they created. The Leader of the Opposition sat in the cabinet that created the problem. The honourable member for Wantirna sat on the back bench, licking the big dictator's boots — —

Dr Napthine — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the minister is defying your ruling. He is simply refusing to answer the question about tying up police resources on looking after prisoners in police cells. He should be brought back to answering the question.

The SPEAKER — Order! I uphold the point of order. I ask the minister to come back to answering the question.

Mr HAERMEYER — Mr Speaker, I am glad the issue of police resources was introduced into the question, because I am pleased to advise the house that there are now over 500 additional police on the ground. Halfway into this government's term, it is more than halfway towards its target of 800. We are fixing the mess; we are turning around the mess that those people created. Their bleating is a little bit like the fire bug ringing up the Country Fire Authority, saying, 'Come along and put out the fire!'. These people are responsible, and that is why they are sitting over there!

Hospitals: Albury-Wodonga

Ms ALLEN (Benalla) — I refer the Minister for Health to the government's ongoing efforts to turn around the dire state of hospitals in country Victoria following years of neglect by the previous government. Will the minister inform the house of the latest action taken by the government to improve health services in the Albury-Wodonga region?

Mr THWAITES (Minister for Health) — I thank the honourable member for her question. I am pleased today to make a major announcement in cross-border relations between New South Wales and Victoria. Today the New South Wales Minister for Health, Craig Knowles, and I are announcing a united public hospital system for Albury and Wodonga commencing from 1 January 2002. A joint health service for the border region has been a goal for many years, but unfortunately there has not been the cooperation to achieve it. It makes commonsense to integrate services on both sides of the Murray River.

Last year the New South Wales health minister and I proposed a way forward with a local community consultative committee seeking the advice of the local community on how to achieve a joint service. I am pleased to announce that last night the local cross-border committee reached agreement on the mechanism for achieving this united service, and that the New South Wales health minister and I are this morning endorsing the agreement.

The Wodonga Regional Health Service will manage both Albury and Wodonga hospital campuses under a contract to the New South Wales Greater Murray Area Health Service. There will be no changes to employment conditions of staff. This means that one management team will be responsible for management, for service planning and for coordination. The hospitals in the region will be able to eliminate duplication and will be able to divert funds from that duplication saving into better and more services. That will also allow better specialisation of services to improve patient care. The management contract will include performance and accountability measures to be overseen by a strategy and monitoring group, with equal representation from the boards of the Wodonga Regional Health Service and the Greater Murray Area Health Service.

I would like to acknowledge the work of many people in reaching this agreement. I pay tribute to the local communities, the local councils, and the doctors, nurses and other health workers who have been involved in the joint consultative committee. I also acknowledge the support of the honourable member for Benambra, and I

particularly acknowledge the role of the New South Wales health minister, Craig Knowles, who has demonstrated leadership and vision throughout this whole process.

This is an example of what happens when cooperative governments — cooperative Labor governments — work together to improve health care. It is the same cooperative approach that characterises the Medicare alliance which the Premier recently signed with the federal Leader of the Opposition, Kim Beazley, and with all Labor state leaders, which will ensure a cooperative approach to health care around this country.

Gaming: revenue

Ms DAVIES (Gippsland West) — I have a question for the Premier. In the year 2000–01 poker machine losses in the Bass Coast shire topped \$16 million. That is up from \$13 million in the previous year and up from \$40 000 in 1992–93. We cannot wait on the slow road for gaming reforms. I ask the Premier: when will the government produce its timed and tangible strategy for reducing state government dependence on that most regressive form of taxation — gaming revenue?

Mr BRACKS (Premier) — I thank the honourable member for Gippsland West for the question. On the last matter in her question she raised the dependency of the state government on gaming taxes and gaming revenue. I shall make just a few points on that. One in particular is that last year, 2000–01, gaming taxes as a share of government revenue — not including the federal government's GST if you look at a comparison from year to year and with past years — were the lowest they have been for six years.

Honourable members interjecting.

Mr BRACKS — The shadow gaming minister cannot talk, with his shares in the gaming industry! You can't talk! I'd just sit there quietly, if I were you!

The SPEAKER — Order! The Premier, addressing the Chair.

Mr BRACKS — Through you, Mr Speaker, if you compare the reliance on gaming revenue in 2000–01 it is now 5.35 per cent, or \$1.2 billion out of total revenue of \$23.5 billion, compared with 5.49 per cent in 1994–95.

So there is less reliance — but I fully admit that we have a greater taxation take from gaming than other states. We have it because we provide less in profit to operators. In fact recently we took \$35 million out of

excessive profits which would otherwise have gone to gaming companies. We took that out into the health system in Victoria, because we are taking a greater tax take which would otherwise go to private gaming operators as excessive profits.

In a similar way, as we committed in our last election campaign, we have also taken out some \$7 million to \$10 million to ensure we have an effective drug response in the state. So we are taking out the biggest tax take, which is less profit to operators.

In addition, in responding to the question of the honourable member for Gippsland West, I indicate that we have undertaken each of the government reforms that we said in the last campaign we would undertake.

The last of those is the requirement for clocks on each of the machines. The deadline for that is in two weeks time. If that is not met operators' licences will be removed. If you look around most venues those clocks are starting to go on, and that work will be completed in two weeks time. So, as well as truth in advertising, warnings and a massive advertising campaign, we are taking measures to bring gaming into balance in Victoria.

Police: prisoner accommodation

Mr WELLS (Wantirna) — I direct my question to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. I refer to an incident last weekend, confirmed this morning, when a man who had been serving a prison sentence in the Ballarat police cells for the last two months suffered an acute psychotic episode, forcing the local police to summon the Special Operations Group from Melbourne to move him to Sunshine. I ask: why was this prisoner serving his prison sentence in a prison cell, placing himself, other prisoners and police officers at risk, and tying up available police resources?

Mr HAERMEYER (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) — Quite simply because your government closed eight prisons and allowed the prison population to increase by a thousand — and you did nothing about it!

Insurance: public liability

Mr STENSCHOLT (Burwood) — Will the Minister for Finance inform the Parliament of actions the government is undertaking to assist the many small businesses and community groups who are suffering from the impact of increasing premiums for public liability insurance?

Ms KOSKY (Minister for Finance) — I thank the honourable member for Burwood for his question, and for his interest in this particular issue for community organisations and small business in relation to public liability insurance. Of course we know that regulation of the insurance industry is primarily a federal government responsibility.

Honourable members interjecting

Ms KOSKY — It is! It has the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, which it has said is a world leader, but it is not showing the world leadership that is required — it did not in relation to the collapse of HIH Insurance and has not in relation to the increases in public liability insurance, so as the state government we have taken the role of leader.

We are concerned about the range of stories we have heard about the hikes in public liability insurance premiums, in some instances fivefold, as happened with some community organisations. The groups are diverse — tourism operators, small businesses, festival organisers and sport and recreation groups. Premiums for all have increased and they are having great difficulty paying those increases. We want to make sure that they can continue to operate whilst they are also gaining insurance.

We have put in place a number of different actions, which includes writing to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission requesting an investigation of possible breaches of the Trade Practices Act, conducting a survey of small businesses to feed into the ACCC investigation. We have also pushed the commonwealth government to consider short-term relief and possibly the phasing in of increases in premiums in conjunction with the Insurance Council of Australia, but we have had no response. It is probably a bit like the federal government's response of, 'Let's have a three-week moratorium on anything to do with Ansett'.

We are holding a forum tomorrow in the Parliament, which will include a range of key stakeholders and the Insurance Council of Australia. The National Party leader is attending, as well as, I believe, someone from the opposition and the Independents. We want this to be a bipartisan approach. We want to come up with practical solutions that can be put in place in the short and longer terms in Victoria, and to provide national leadership on this issue. It will be the first time that the insurance council and insurance industry will have come together with all the stakeholder groups to talk through the issues.

Some of the groups attending tomorrow will be the Insurance Council of Australia, the Victorian Council of Social Service, the Victorian Employers Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Victorian Law Institute, the Municipal Association of Victoria and a range of other peak organisations. It is not just about talking about the problem; it is about talking about solutions. Some of the suggestions that have been made to date are about pooling arrangements, sharing risk in a much better way and also looking at a possible code of practice about risk minimisation for a lot of the organisations. So we are very keen to facilitate that discussion, to provide leadership. I know it will be a bipartisan approach and a range of ideas will be put on the table. We want some short-term measures, but it does also need to be taken up at a national level so that we can have an Australia-wide response to the increases in premiums.

Mr Ryan — On a point of order on the question of relevance, Mr Speaker, I am wondering whether the agenda for the day is the same as that for the forum that had been organised by the National Party before the government announced its backflip?

The SPEAKER — Order! I will not allow the Leader of the National Party in raising a point of order to ask a further question.

Police: prisoner accommodation

Mr WELLS (Wantirna) — I refer the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to the fact that at the century-old Kyneton police cells categorised B — or two-day-only stays — there is one prisoner who has been there for two weeks and two other prisoners who have been held for more than three weeks. Can the minister now guarantee that his program of using police cells as prisons, which wastes police resources and endangers the safety of officers, will not result in another dangerous Ballarat-style incident?

Mr HAERMEYER (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) — Do you want to talk about the pay claim as well? I am still waiting for a question on the enterprise bargaining. We have not had one, even though it has been going on for quite some time.

The honourable member for Wantirna speaks as if these sorts of incidents are novel. I remind him of the occasion when my predecessor as minister for police and for corrections reopened the B-category cells at Preston and a person hanged himself after that. This problem is not novel —

Dr Napthine — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, the minister is debating the issue. I ask that he come

back to addressing the issue. He is the minister, and he should be responsible. What guarantee does he have to protect the safety of prisoners and police officers?

The SPEAKER — Order! I am not prepared to uphold the point of order. The minister was making an opening remark.

Mr HAERMEYER — I have said, and I will say it again, that this problem of prisoners being kept in police cells because of overcrowding of the prisons, which was left to us by that mob, is unacceptable. We are fixing the problem; we are turning it around. It is a problem they caused, but they have not offered one single solution. They closed eight prisons, and they are opposed to home detention. Can I get this straight? Is the honourable member suggesting that we open the doors and let them all out into the streets? That seems to be the case. Let us open the cell doors and let them all out into the streets! We are building new wings in our prisons, and we are building new prisons. If the honourable member wants to get out of his suit and into his gumboots to help the builders, we can speed the process along.

Schools: racial tolerance

Mr LANGDON (Ivanhoe) — Will the Minister for Education inform the house of the steps taken by the Bracks government to manage the effects of the crisis in America in Victorian schools and the steps taken by the Department of Education, Employment and Training to promote racial tolerance within Victorian schools?

Ms DELAHUNTY (Minister for Education) — I thank the honourable member for his question. If the events in America last week shocked and horrified adults, they have had a profound effect on children around the world. Most people do not know how far reaching the effects on children are of seeing those images of horror and devastation in America again and again and again. They are images that children mostly associate with movies. It is apparent now from questions and responses to both parents and teachers that children are as nervous and frightened about the state of the world as adults appear to be.

Schools have responded magnificently in trying to support students by holding forums to answer their questions and providing as much factual information as possible. The department has supported teachers by sending out strategies which are age appropriate for students right through from prep into the middle years and the teenage years. Each of these strategies is

directed towards the different needs of different ages in our school groups.

I thank the schools, particularly the teachers and principals, for both their professionalism and their compassion during this difficult time. We have put our psychologists on stand-by, and we have asked the regional directors, the guidance officers and the social workers in our regional offices to support schools that are asking the department for more professional assistance in dealing with this. The department's emergency and security management communications centre is also working with schools to try to manage their planned overseas trips.

One issue that has emerged out of this crisis is that some members of the community are taking positions of speculative blame around this tragedy and are unfortunately engaging in racial harassment against people of Middle Eastern background. It is an unacceptable community response, but it is unfortunately being reflected in some schools. Just a month ago the department reaffirmed its policy of racial tolerance and support for cultural diversity. These guidelines for managing cultural diversity, and linguistic diversity in particular, were released last month and we have sent them out again to the schools. The department is now working closely and very specifically with Middle Eastern community groups to support local communities.

If honourable members are interested in the guidelines booklet that has gone to all schools, I would be happy to supply it to electorate offices so that they, too, can assist in dealing with this problem.

Mr Honeywood — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, in question time yesterday in a response to a question from me the Minister for Education said 'he is ... wrong on this' and 'The cost was \$19 562 — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The honourable member cannot quote from the current *Hansard*; however, he may paraphrase the remarks.

Mr Honeywood — My point of order is that it is standard operating procedure in this Parliament for a personal explanation to be made when a minister of the Crown, or any other member, deliberately misleads the Parliament. Yesterday the minister clearly misled Parliament. She has had ample opportunity to make a personal explanation, and she has not done so.

The SPEAKER — Order! The honourable member may not make a statement as he has just done accusing another member of deliberately misleading the house. If

he wants to proceed down that track, he must do so by way of substantive motion.

Mr Batchelor — On the point of order — —

The SPEAKER — Order! I just asked the honourable member for Warrandyte to desist from going down that track and advised that he may proceed along the lines I have suggested. Does the honourable member for Warrandyte want to proceed with his point of order?

Mr Honeywood — No.

Mr Batchelor — On a separate point of order, Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Warrandyte just made an accusation against an honourable member and used unparliamentary language. He should be asked to withdraw it.

The SPEAKER — Order! I ask the honourable member for Warrandyte to withdraw his remarks.

Mr Honeywood — Mr Speaker, I am not aware of what has been claimed, but I withdraw any unparliamentary language.

The SPEAKER — Order! The honourable member has withdrawn.

The time set down for questions without notice has expired, and the minimum number of questions has been dealt with.

Mr Cooper — On a point of order, Mr Speaker. I draw your attention to pages 39 and 40 of yesterday's *Daily Hansard* relating to a question that was asked by the honourable member for Clayton, in which he asked that the Minister for Corrections inform the house of the impact of the Liberal Party's decision to block the Corrections and Sentencing Acts (Home Detention) Bill. Then, following various points of order taken, and finalised in one that I raised, you, Mr Speaker, then said that the question was not in order, and you asked the honourable member for Clayton to rephrase his question.

The first question, Mr Speaker, asked the minister to inform the house about the impact. In the rephrasing of the question the words were identical except that the word 'impact' was replaced by the word 'implication'. The definitions of the words 'impact' and 'implication' are exactly the same, so I believe the question was in essence exactly the same, even though the honourable member for Clayton had endeavoured to rephrase it.

After the honourable member for Bentleigh raised a point of order you, Mr Speaker, said, and I refer to page 41 of *Daily Hansard*:

... it asked about government policy and administration in regard to the home detention ...

In neither the original question nor the rephrased question did the honourable member for Clayton in any way refer to government policy and administration. I understand that at question time it is difficult for you, Mr Speaker, to make decisions on the run, as you are so often asked to do. I understand the difficulties that face you in that regard. I now ask you to examine the record and inform the house on this matter.

Your decision yesterday has created something that could be used as a precedent by both you and future Speakers. I believe an error needs to be examined by you in the cool light of day — perhaps between now and the next sitting week — as the error that was made on the run and in good faith could influence future decisions on the admissibility or inadmissibility of questions. I ask that you examine the record and report to the house at the first available opportunity.

The SPEAKER — Order! I thank the honourable member for Mornington for raising the point of order. He correctly points out that with the benefit of hindsight and with the written words in front of the house it is possible to make a better examination of the matters he has raised in his point of order than can be done while the hurly-burly of question time is occurring, when it is sometimes difficult for not only the Chair but all honourable members to hear. I shall undertake to do that and report back to the house.

Mrs Peulich — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, on Tuesday of this week I raised a point of order with the Deputy Speaker asking her to take up with you a matter relating to the failure of the Premier to respond to an all-party committee report tabled some 10 months ago, therefore being in breach of the Parliamentary Committees Act.

The reason I raised it and why I am eager to obtain your ruling on the timing of the government's response relates specifically to the issues the Minister for Education has raised today — that is, a number of matters pertaining to the disturbing images being displayed on television during children's viewing hours. Those sorts of matters and a raft of other issues and recommendations were the subject of that report, and I am personally concerned that the Premier — the person who reaffirmed the reference to the Family and Community Development Committee — has not seen fit to respond within the prescribed time under the

Parliamentary Committees Act. I seek your advice as to the timeliness of your response on that issue.

The SPEAKER — Order! I am prepared to rule on the point of order raised by the honourable member for Bentleigh. She correctly points out that she raised this matter in the house earlier in the week and asked me to take action. I respond with the following.

Parliament is the forum where the executive is made accountable to the community. However, upon examining the procedures of the Parliament it is difficult for the Chair to elicit in the house a response from the executive on the matter raised by the honourable member.

I have taken administrative action to elicit a response from the Premier. I further suggest to the honourable member for Bentleigh that it may be appropriate for a question to be asked on the matter that she raised.

Mr McArthur — We can ask the question now if you like!

The SPEAKER — Order! Questions can be asked only during question time.

NOTICES OF MOTION

The SPEAKER — Order! Are there any notices of motion?

Minister for Education: conduct

Mr HONEYWOOD (Warrandyte) — I desire to give notice that tomorrow I will move:

That this house condemns the Minister for Education for carelessly or deliberately misleading the house yesterday when she said that ‘he is ... wrong on this’ and ‘The cost was \$19 562, not \$30 000 as the honourable member described’, when any reading of the freedom of information documents, which the minister had in front of her, shows that the actual cost of the director of schools’ office refurbishment, which the opposition set out clearly and in detail in its question, was \$28 600.

Clearly the minister was wrong in her reply. She knew that she was being misleading, and the minister has failed to correct the record through a personal explanation, even though she has had ample time to do so since question time the day before.

Ms Delahunty — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, again the honourable member for Warrandyte has impugned my motives. He said that I was — —

Honourable members interjecting.

Ms Delahunty — Secondly, he is again wrong, and his point is misleading this house. What I said was that the section arrangement on level 1, 33 St Andrews Place, was at a cost of — —

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order. I will not allow the minister to use the point of order to make a point in debate. The honourable member for Warrandyte is giving notice of a substantive motion. I will continue to hear him.

Mr Haermeyer — On a point of order, Mr Speaker, I seek your guidance in terms of how these motions are framed, because it is clear that the honourable member for Warrandyte is using the form of a motion to make a speech which is attacking and impugning the integrity of the Minister for Education. This is not a motion, this is a speech, but he is using the form of a motion to do it. I ask you to investigate whether this is an appropriate way in which to be moving a motion.

The SPEAKER — Order! I do not uphold the point of order.

Further notice of motion given.

PETITION

The Clerk — I have received the following petition for presentation to Parliament:

Hurstbridge High School site

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled:

The humble petition of the undersigned citizens of the state of Victoria sheweth:

That the former Hurstbridge High School site not be sold in whole or part for private development, but that it be retained in its entirety in public hands, whether offered to council at a nominal fee or retained as state government or Crown land.

Your petitioners therefore pray the state government of Victoria take heed of these requests of the Hurstbridge and district community and direct the ministry for education to execute such process to retain and transfer the Hurstbridge High School site for community use.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

By Mr HAERMAYER (Yan Yean) (1021 signatures)

Laid on table.

PAPERS

Laid on table by Clerk:

Statutory Rules under the following Acts:

Children and Young Persons Act 1989 — SR Nos 88, 89

Marine Act 1988 — SR No 91

Wildlife Act 1975 — SR No 90

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 — Minister's exemption certificate in relation to Statutory Rule No 89.

MEMBERS STATEMENTS

United States of America: terrorist attacks

Ms BURKE (Pahran) — The United States consulate located on St Kilda Road is in the electorate of Pahran which I represent in this Parliament. Last Tuesday, along with other Victorians, its workers sat up late watching in fear and disbelief the attack on America. I wish to extend my condolences to all the families and those harmed by this event. My respects go to the heroes who literally walked through fireballs to save the lives of others.

Our shared disbelief about what happened last Tuesday in America is based on a shared belief in certain fundamental values of humanity. Those values are as simple as the right to leave our homes without fear or threat of violence, but again and again we are reminded not to take these freedoms for granted. Last Tuesday was the most grave reminder of this that our current generation has witnessed.

As we move forward, this is the time to thank those who protect our freedoms. It is time to unite in this Parliament and across all nations and governments. It is time to strengthen our shared beliefs because they are threatened. Every day we focus on our differences, opinions and values and we should pause for a moment and be thankful for what unites us, for that is our very foundation. To David Lyons and his staff, my sincere condolences.

Katamatite Football Club

Mr JASPER (Murray Valley) — I wish to extend my personal congratulations and I am sure those of the Parliament to the Katamatite Football Club, its president, Bill Dopper, and its coach and players for their great grand final win over the Blighty Football Club in the Picola and District Football League last Sunday. I am the no. 1 member of that club. Katamatite is the home town of the honourable member for

Shepparton and we took great pride in this crunching victory by the Katamatite Football Club.

I am a great supporter of country football and a member of more than 12 football clubs in my electorate of Murray Valley. I see country football and its clubs as being essential to the small communities across my electorate and country Victoria in general. Those clubs are the lifeblood of small communities and I pay tribute to the huge volunteer effort required of many people to maintain football and netball clubs in those areas.

However, I am concerned about the ever-increasing role of the Australian Football League and the fact that television coverage of football will be expanded next year. The AFL has a responsibility to provide greater and more direct support to country football clubs. I have made representations to the chief executive officer of the AFL, Wayne Jackson. While he indicates support for the country organisations he does not indicate that there could be direct support for country football. I seek further support, particularly from the Minister for Sport and Recreation in the Victorian government, to ensure that the AFL and Football Victoria take positive action to support country football organisations.

Hurstbridge High School site

Mr HAERMEYER (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) — A petition was tabled in this house this morning seeking the retention of the site of the former Hurstbridge High School for community use. The college was effectively closed after a gunpoint marriage to the Diamond Creek Technical School was enforced by the previous government. That campus has been closed for some time and the community has been very keen to ensure that the essential facilities on the site, such as the gymnasium, the library and some of the sporting and other facilities, are retained for community use. It is also keen to ensure that the site is not broken up into a residential subdivision.

I congratulate the Minister for Education, who has been cooperative in ensuring that nothing happens to the site while discussions are ongoing about how it might be transferred to the possession of the council and how those facilities can be maintained for future community use. The community wants to continue to use those worthwhile and very valuable facilities and I am keen to ensure that a decision is made as soon as possible because the site is becoming subject to vandalism — part of the school was the subject of an arson attack a few weeks ago. I congratulate the Minister for Education for the cooperation she has shown in this regard.

Yarra River: walking track

Mr BAILLIEU (Hawthorn) — The Yarra River is a precious Melbourne icon. For many years there has been bipartisan commitment to develop the status of the Yarra River, to open bicycle tracks, to improve the water quality, to improve amenity and to particularly open up walking tracks. The opening of walking tracks has been a priority and it would be a great concern to all Victorians, particularly families and walking groups, to learn of the closure of the Yarra River walking track at Pridmore Park near Barkers Road. This closure has occurred as a result of unilateral action by a Harrison Crescent landowner. The track has been open for more than 50 years and is a popular route along the Yarra River. The landowner has constructed a fence across the walking track and removed river bank trees, and ultimately the river bank has collapsed and has required expensive repair by Melbourne Water.

Boroondara City Council has worked hard to negotiate a solution with this landowner, without success. A number of public meetings have been held over several months. At those public meetings there has been unanimous commitment to the reopening of the track. I call on the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment and Conservation to work with Boroondara council to reach an early solution to this unfortunate closure.

Sunshine East Primary School

Mr MILDENHALL (Footscray) — On Monday night I had the great pleasure of joining hundreds of students, parents, teachers and former students of Sunshine East Primary School at an unusual function — the official opening of the school, which has been operating for some 50 years. It began operating in mid-September 1951.

On Monday night the school was officially opened by former Premier the Honourable John Cain in the presence of many of the graduates of that school from the surrounding areas. I had the honour of opening the school's centenary of Federation garden, which has been developed on an extremely small budget by parents, teachers and students, with the main ingredient being donated plants and voluntary labour.

The school is not a Toorak school. It is in a traditional working-class area, and has one of the highest student learning needs levels in the state. However, it has fantastic programs and is led by an inspirational principal in Keith Redenbach and the indefatigable council president, Len Goninen. Overall it was a great

success and I wish the school all the best for the next 50 years.

It Happened to Us — Mark II

Mr SAVAGE (Mildura) — In 1942 members of the 8th Division, 2nd Australian Imperial Force (AIF), became prisoners of the Japanese. The 4th Anti-Tank Regiment was part of the 8th Division. In January 1942 the 4th Anti-Tank 13th Battery made one of the great last stands on the Bakri Purit Sulong Road prior to the fall of Singapore, where it single handedly knocked out eight Japanese tanks. Of all Australians captured by the Japanese, 33 per cent died in captivity from massacres, malnutrition, beatings or being worked to death.

A former anti-tank gunner, Colin Finkemeyer, has edited two books which contain a collection of their first-hand experiences in captivity. The books are called *It Happened to Us* and *It Happened to Us — Mark II*. These are great books, and it will be my pleasure today, in company with Colin Finkemeyer, Bill Dunn and Don Moore, to present a copy of *It Happened to Us — Mark II* to the parliamentary library. This book details the courage and indomitable spirit of men like Colin, Don and Bill and thousands of others. Of the 123 4th anti-tankers who went through Hellfire Pass, only 12 are still living in Australia today. I urge all honourable members to avail themselves of this book in the library. The Duke of Edinburgh has seen it and endorsed it. It is a great read about a great piece of our history.

Building Control Commission: inspection service

Mr McINTOSH (Kew) — One of the vital and important functions of the Building Control Commission is to provide an inspection service in relation to domestic building works. This function is given to the BCC under the Domestic Building Contracts and Tribunals Act. This service enables a house owner, as a consumer, to have a relatively cheap and effective inspection service. On payment of \$300 a house owner can have an inspector appointed by the BCC to inspect building works to determine whether those building works have been completed in compliance with the plans and specifications of a building contract.

The investigator's report may be produced in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in the event that a dispute needs to be arbitrated. As I said, this relatively cheap service is a vital, important and significant function performed by the Building Control Commission.

It is with some alarm that I note that this service has apparently been temporarily suspended. A search of the BCC's web site shows it has since June been temporarily suspended. I call upon the Minister for Planning to immediately explain this apparent permanent state and to immediately take steps to reinstate this vital and important consumer service and apologise to all those consumers who have been forced to go to VCAT direct without having an inspection of their premises.

Burwood Bulletin

Mr STENSHOLT (Burwood) — On behalf of everyone in my electorate of Burwood I wish to congratulate the *Burwood Bulletin* on its 21st anniversary as a local free community newsletter. The Burwood Bulletin Association has since 1980 put together a very professional and comprehensive local news service for the community in Burwood and surrounding areas. Published quarterly it has grown into a 48-page newsletter with the support of residents and businesses in the district.

I pay special tribute to the many hardworking volunteers who have made the *Burwood Bulletin* what it is today. They include Ian Yuill, Colin Billington, Don McMoody, Jean Hadler, the late Jean Warland, Margaret Warland and Dal Adams.

Each edition of the *Burwood Bulletin* is packed with local news such as recalling the day it snowed in Burwood, Agnes Plunkett's 100th birthday, the retirement of local headmaster David Ross, and local business profiles. All of us in Burwood look forward to the 21st anniversary edition in November. Happy birthday and best wishes for a bright future for the *Burwood Bulletin*.

Preschools: administration

Mrs ELLIOTT (Mooroolbark) — In a press release of 14 September headed 'Preschool volunteers relieved of admin. load' the Minister for Community Services announced that a private contractor, ADP Employer Services, would provide a payroll administration service to 860 preschools across Victoria. Honourable members should be aware that this is not a new service; it was introduced by the previous coalition government in 1994 as Payline, which was first contracted to Lend Lease, then to Payconnect Solutions and now to ADP Services — which in turn subcontracts Kindergarten Parents Victoria to provide an advisory service and training to preschool committees of management.

It is misleading for the Minister for Community Services to claim that this is a Bracks government initiative or to imagine that she would be let off the hook by committees of management simply by re-announcing an effective and longstanding initiative implemented by the coalition seven years ago. Committees of management in preschools want more than to be congratulated for the selfless work they contribute to their children's preschool. A committee of management wrote to me in June, saying:

From our point of view as parents we feel that the huge responsibility of keeping our preschool going is becoming a bigger and harder task each year.

What preschool committees of management want is for the minister to announce how many of the 34 recommendations in the Kirby report released in June she will implement. They want to know why the minister commissioned a review of preschools yet has remained totally silent about its — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Primelife Corporation Ltd

Mr SEITZ (Keilor) — I express publicly my disappointment and dismay at the publicity stunt performed in my electorate by Primelife Corporation Ltd. The case for a village for the frail aged presented to the people of St Albans by that corporate organisation is nothing less than the despicable action of a corporation that behaves like the bin Laden of the west and his followers. It has come with its big money saying it will build a frail and aged village on top of the St Albans railway station land — a three-storey building akin to a jail that it is proposing to build there for the people. People are getting frightened they will have to sell their homes and move into that area because the government will not provide facilities for aged people.

If Primelife is genuine there is enough land close to shops in the St Albans district to purchase and establish a village for the frail aged. There have been opportunities for many years to do that. I have been a full-time campaigner for providing for, supporting and attracting private companies that can provide these facilities in my area.

It has been predicted for 10 years by the local council that the need for additional aged care facilities in this area will rise. The action by Primelife is nothing but the despicable action of the company's own bin Laden and his demented followers to terrorise the old people in the western suburbs and making them think they will have

to support their position and force the government into an underground position — —

The SPEAKER — Order! The honourable member for Sandringham has 20 seconds.

Volunteers: Sandringham

Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) — I wish to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of many volunteers in the Sandringham electorate, people such as Judy McIntyre, who has served on behalf of MOIRA, the community welfare agency that looks after the needs of disabled children; Wal and Elaine Bencraft from the Hampton RSL, who have been the backbone of Hampton over many years; Val Guest-Galt from the Beaumaris Red Cross group; and Dolph Slythuis from the Friends of Black Rock House.

DRUGS, POISONS AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Second reading

Debate resumed from 19 September; motion of Mr HULLS (Attorney-General).

Mr HULLS (Attorney-General) — I thank all honourable members who made a contribution to this very important piece of legislation, which is part of the government's comprehensive strategy in relation to the scourge of drugs in our community. The government has increased resources for drug treatment, rehabilitation and diversion programs and for drug education.

The government is looking at setting up a drug court in Victoria. It has undertaken a general sentencing review. Legislation has been passed to set up the Judicial College of Victoria to ensure that judicial officers have the most appropriate skills required to do their jobs at the highest level. This is part of an integrated approach. This bill targets the Mr Bigs and imposes sentences of up to life imprisonment for large commercial traffickers of drugs.

I want to touch on a couple of points raised by opposition members that somewhat startled me, because they seem to be saying that they are prepared to support the legislation but it is not tough enough. The government is imposing up-to-life jail sentences for large commercial traffickers of drugs. It has made it quite clear that it is not going to go down the path of mandatory sentencing; it is philosophically and vehemently opposed to mandatory sentencing.

If the opposition wants to go down that path — down the Denis Burke, hillbilly path of mandatory sentencing — that is a matter opposition members will have to discuss in their party room and explain to the Victorian community. The Victorian community is well aware of the importance of judicial discretion in a democracy, and the government is firmly of the view that judicial discretion is a crucial part of our democracy, so it will not be going down the mandatory sentencing path.

Nonetheless this legislation sends a clear message that the government, on behalf of the community, treats large commercial drug traffickers with contempt and wants to arm the judiciary with the strongest penalties possible while maintaining judicial discretion.

Another issue raised was the confiscation of assets legislation. I do not know if the opposition is aware of it, but currently where a person is convicted of a serious offence such as drug trafficking in a commercial quantity or a serious fraud, potentially all of that person's property will be forfeited to the Crown unless that person can prove that the property was lawfully acquired and has not been used in an unlawful activity.

The reverse onus situation strengthens the effectiveness of asset confiscation to ensure that offenders do not reap financial benefits from their unlawful activity. The government believes, and I know when it was in government the current opposition believed, that this is a significant deterrent for those considering engaging in illegal activities.

For the information of honourable members, for the financial year 1999–2000 assets to the value of about \$2.3 million were forfeited to the state as a result of confiscation orders made in Victorian courts. In the last financial year that figure increased to approximately \$3.4 million. The government recognises that drug trafficking and organised crime are threats to society. I am sure all honourable members would agree that the present confiscation scheme is relatively new, and the scheme will continue to be monitored to ensure that it operates in an effective, just and fair manner.

It is a bit rich for opposition members to come in here and while supporting the legislation say that it does not go far enough and suggest that other penalties should be imposed.

The legislation we are talking about, whether it be the confiscation of assets legislation or the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act in its original form, was actually introduced by the former Kennett government. The parliamentary secretary to the Attorney-General at

the time is the current shadow Attorney-General. There was ample opportunity then, if the honourable member for Berwick believed the penalties being imposed by his government were not high enough, to have done what we are doing now — that is, to increase the penalty to life imprisonment — but the former government was not prepared to do it. We are the ones who have taken this very strong stance against the scourge of drugs.

All honourable members hope that we have a civilised enough society in Victoria and that as politicians we are civilised enough people not to go down this crazy path of the law and order and mine's-bigger-than-yours debate that has occurred in other states and, indeed, in the Northern Territory. The public of Victoria understands what democracy is all about, it understands what judicial discretion is all about and it understands what mandatory sentencing is all about.

I repeat that we as a government are vehemently opposed to mandatory sentencing. We will not go down that path. We are very supportive of judicial discretion. We believe that the judiciary should treat each case on its individual merits. If the opposition wants to have that debate in the wider community and make it an election issue we are more than happy to engage in that. I simply warn members of the opposition that Denis Burke tried that in the Northern Territory and fell flat on his face. They should not take the people of Victoria for fools, because Victorians want to live in a fair and just democratic society where there is a separation of powers and where judicial discretion is maintained.

Finally, having made those few comments, I repeat that this is important legislation which the government has introduced as part of a package to address the drug scourge. I thank all honourable members who spoke in support of this legislation.

Motion agreed to.

Read second time.

Remaining stages

Passed remaining stages.

Remaining business postponed on motion of Mr HULLS (Attorney-General).

ADJOURNMENT

Mr HULLS (Attorney-General) — I move:

That the house do now adjourn.

Rail: Geelong service

Mr PATERSON (South Barwon) — I call on the Minister for Transport to examine the possibility of the electrification of the Geelong–Melbourne train line, and I am joined in this call by Cr Stretch Kontelj, the mayor of the City of Greater Geelong, Jim Cousins, from the Committee for Geelong, and Lawrie Miller, from the Geelong Chamber of Commerce.

The minister has finally announced the short-listed tenderers for the much-delayed fast rail project. They are: Thiess Alstom Joint Venture; Fastrax Victoria, which is Leighton Contractors; and the BLM consortium made up of Baulderstone Hornibrook, Bilfinger Berger and Lockheed Martin Australia.

As honourable members would know, the government's estimated budget for the statewide project has blown out from \$80 million during the election campaign to around \$800 million. Who knows where it will eventually end? We all remember the infighting between the Minister for Transport and the Treasurer over exactly how much the government would contribute. Honourable members will also be interested to know that the time savings on the Geelong–Melbourne route will be achieved in a quite novel way: instead of stopping at stations along the way, the trains will simply sail through most of them! Perhaps the government will arrange for the doors to be left open as the carriages fly through stations so that passengers can throw themselves at the train in the hope of making it through one of the door openings!

As we understand it, the trains will stop at only two stations between Geelong and Spencer Street. It is believed one of the problems lies in the government's intention to provide only the slower 130-kilometre-per-hour trains for the Geelong route rather than the faster trains capable of speeds of around 160 kilometres per hour.

A further problem for Geelong–Melbourne commuters is accessibility to the city of Melbourne upon their arrival here. If the government were to commit to the electrification of that rail line, Geelong–Melbourne trains could access the underground loop rather than passengers having to change at Spencer Street to then travel on separate metropolitan services.

The Liberal government made significant improvements to the Geelong–Melbourne train service. I remember being on hand at the Geelong station with the then Minister for Transport, Alan Brown, as well as former Geelong footballers Bobby Davis and Gary

Ablett, who had Sprinter trains named after them, to witness the commencement of the Sprinter services.

I also well recall an exciting day with the honourable member for Mornington, the then Minister for Transport, at the launch of the upgraded South Geelong station. It is now time to see whether the Bracks government can grasp the challenge of continuing the lead set by the Liberal government.

Police: Leongatha station

Mr RYAN (Leader of the National Party) — I raise for the attention of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services a matter that relates to the Leongatha police station and particularly to two aspects of that imperative service provided in South Gippsland. Firstly, the Leongatha police station requires a complete rebuild. The existing facility has been there for decades. Improvements have been made over recent years; nevertheless it has reached its time. In my view the police station should be demolished and a new police station constructed with additional facilities appropriate to the needs of the area.

Secondly, there is now a case to fully examine the prospect of operating the police station on a 24-hour basis. I make these proposals, Deputy Speaker, because Leongatha is the thriving hub of South Gippsland. It is part of an area which makes a rich contribution to the fortunes of Victoria. The policing that comes from Leongatha not only affects the township itself but has a regional influence.

It is of even more significance now that the decision has been taken by the current government to remove the traffic management unit from Korumburra to Wonthaggi. That in turn means that policing services provided from the Leongatha police station are all the more important not only for the township but for the many surrounding towns and sections of the highway which run out from Leongatha in both directions.

Another element is that with the increase in traffic to Wilsons Promontory and magnificent South Gippsland over the summer months we have an enormous growth in the population along those coastal areas during the holiday times. Again there is all the more need to ensure that appropriate policing facilities are at hand to maintain law and order and, additionally, to make certain that not only the people who live in the area but also those who properly, sensibly and justifiably come to the magnificence of South Gippsland for holidays are able to enjoy their time with us in safety.

In all of this the provision of appropriate policing facilities at Leongatha is an absolute must. It is

something about which the local community is very concerned. There have been numerous calls to have this happen. I ask the minister, in all the prevailing circumstances, to give the situation appropriate consideration on both grounds — that is, a new and more extensive police station than we now have and a facility that operates on a 24-hour basis.

Firearms: imported hand guns

Mr SEITZ (Keilor) — I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. I refer him to an article in the *Herald Sun* of Friday of last week which states that more than 1600 semiautomatic hand guns have been imported from China. The article further states that these guns could finish up in criminal hands for about \$500 each. The police have fears about the flood of these pistols — particularly semiautomatic guns — into the wrong hands. In Victoria we have tried to prevent their circulation even for security or any other work.

I ask the minister to take whatever steps are possible to prevent these hand guns finishing up in criminal hands in particular and to assist his federal and state colleagues so that we do not suddenly have an influx of hand guns, particularly of this calibre, into Australia. These guns apparently were seized by customs officials, but an appeal decision against a court judgment ruled that the guns had to be returned, because there is no law preventing the guns from being imported.

It is a very serious matter, particularly here in Victoria, where we have been the leaders in gun control. Hand guns are included in that, as a hand gun is a small weapon that is easily concealed and carried on a person for criminal activities — and at that price it is quite cheap.

I urge the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to take whatever steps he can, not only in this state but at a federal level and with ministers in the other states and the police forces around Australia, to ensure that, firstly, we change the law relating to the importation of weapons and guns like this and, secondly, we develop a method of having these guns confiscated so they do not end up in the hands of dealers and, ultimately, of criminals.

Police: Belgrave station

Mr McARTHUR (Monbulk) — My question to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services relates to the proposed new Belgrave police station. I have written to the minister a number of times on this issue.

He is well aware of the proposal to build a new police station at Belgrave and of the community's wish to have the station sited on the corner of Terrys Avenue in what is known in Belgrave as the Lightowlers site. This site has been vacant for many years; it has the space and is appropriately located near the main roads and provides good access and egress for police. That site is supported by both the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the Belgrave Traders Association.

Mr Maclellan — You could incorporate a McDonalds as well!

Mr McARTHUR — And, as the former Minister for Planning said, it would be a very handy site for a McDonalds, and the police would not have to walk too far to get their lunch.

I wrote to the minister on this issue on 20 April and urged him to meet with a delegation of local parties who were interested in this issue. He wrote back to me in June and said the matter was under investigation and that he was not willing to meet with them until after the investigation was concluded, which he was hoping would be in early June.

I hope the minister has managed to meet with those interested parties and discuss the issue. I believe it is now time for the minister to make a decision on this matter. I believe he should clearly make a decision in favour of the wishes of the community and of the local shire. The old Lightowlers site is a far better location than the current police station location and avoids the need to relocate the existing police officers to temporary accommodation while a new police station is built. It has the support of the Shire of Yarra Ranges, and the shire is prepared to make a financial contribution to this by providing land and resources.

The community supports it. It is a sensible solution, and I urge the minister to adopt the Lightowlers site as the site for the new Belgrave police station.

Police: Latrobe Valley complex

Mr MAXFIELD (Narracan) — I raise with the Attorney-General the issue of the core police complex and access to justice in the Latrobe Valley, and I ask him to take action to ensure the timely progress of this development, together with the refurbishment of the Moe Magistrates Court, so that community needs and expectations are met.

The Morwell County Court has been badly neglected, certainly in the seven years under the Kennett government, when we saw absolutely no action at all.

The Bracks government's commitment to the Latrobe Valley can only be described as second to none. The ministerial task force investigated issues in the Latrobe Valley, and the results are that the government is funding a massive investment in a new police and County Court complex within the Latrobe Valley. It says a great deal about the wonderful support the Bracks government is giving to the Latrobe Valley.

The \$100 million rescue package will revitalise a region that has been badly hit by economic neglect and seven years of an uncaring Kennett government which showed no regard for the needs of our wonderful community.

The Moe Magistrates Court has a fine reputation in the community, but has not had any funds expended on it since it was originally established a number of years ago. As a result of needs changing and wear and tear it is also in need of refurbishment. When we consider how the Kennett government was keen to close and shut down many community justice facilities, the Bracks government's commitment to maintain the Moe Magistrates Court and upgrade it says a lot about the caring and committed government that we now have in this state.

As the local member I am proud to be involved in a government that is ticking off development after development, upgrade after upgrade, building after building, commitment after commitment, extra teachers and extra nurses. We are turning around not only rural Victoria but the Latrobe region in my electorate of Narracan.

My constituents are aware that the Bracks government does care about them and is committed to delivering the best possible standards of service that the community can develop. I look forward to the strong support of the Attorney-General, who also has a tremendous commitment to the region.

Schools: speech therapy

Ms DAVIES (Gippsland West) — I raise an issue for the Minister for Community Services, perhaps with some need to communicate with the Minister for Education.

I have had a series of communications with the Minister for Education regarding unmet demand for speech therapists in primary and secondary schools. We have had issues about the time taken to get initial appointments as children move between kindergarten and primary school or in the stages between primary and secondary school, and the fact that few

appointments are available and that there are inadequate levels of treatment.

As part of my work in this area I am of the understanding that there is distinct anecdotal evidence of a significant rise in severe language disorders among students across Gippsland — and I presume across the state, if not across the country. The best time to address hearing and speech difficulties is at the earliest stage possible in a child's life. That involves ensuring that new parents understand how best to encourage language development in their children and that any signs of delayed speech development or other problems in speech are picked up and treated very early, perhaps when the child is from 18 months to three and four years of age.

I ask the Minister for Community Services to coordinate with the Minister for Education firstly, to make public figures on increased demand for treatment of severe language disorders, and secondly, to research and put in place an enhanced capacity for parent education and early childhood detection and treatment of speech disorder programs to ensure that every child can reach their full capacity to communicate with the world around them and to learn in the environment that they must live and work in.

Housing: interstate transfers

Mr THOMPSON (Sandringham) — I raise a matter for the attention of the Minister for Housing concerning the circumstances of Vera Hartman, a public housing tenant in Victoria, who for significant personal reasons would like to transfer her accommodation to New South Wales.

I had earlier written to the New South Wales minister for housing, who gave me a catch-22 answer: first, Miss Hartman was not eligible to transfer to public housing in New South Wales because she was not an existing tenant; and second, she was not eligible to apply for public housing in New South Wales because she did not reside in that state.

In these days of improved cooperation evident by the announcement of the Albury-Wodonga arrangement in the chamber today, it seems there should be a way forward for public housing tenants in Australian states to qualify under the transfer regime. I ask the minister to examine this issue carefully.

My constituent, Vera Hartman, has been a constructive contributor to her local community. She was born and raised in New South Wales and has no relatives in Victoria. Her reason for moving to New South Wales is that her only friend in Victoria moved to New South

Wales following the death of her husband so that she could be closer to her family. I ask the minister to seriously examine the issue and take it up with her ministerial colleagues interstate.

Education, Employment and Training: consultancies

Mr MILDENHALL (Footscray) — I request that the Minister for Education ensure the days of the wasteful and disgraceful consultancies that occurred under the administration of the previous government are gone and that the new standards promised by the current government be rigidly adhered to.

We all remember the disgraceful episodes under the administration of the previous government where the education portfolio became famous for wasteful and rorting consultancies. It started with the Byrne Fleming report on restructuring the education department. That was a firm of South African mining engineers who had never worked in education or in Australia previously but got the job because it had the best understanding of the brief that it wrote! So good was the report that the department had to second 17 of its staff from its regional offices for a three-week period to rewrite it. The department produced a better report than the \$500 000 consultancy report funded by the previous government.

The pièce de résistance of the then Minister for Education, the Honourable Don Hayward, was the so-called Success Maker computer program that bombed without a trace. It came about when a sharp salesman got into the minister's ear during an overseas trip. He decided it was the best thing since sliced bread.

Under the Honourable Phil Gude and the honourable member for Warrandyte we had the famous Kevin Donnelly. It did not matter what specialist area or level of expertise was required, Kevin Donnelly was always the best person in Australia to do the report. Dozens of consultancies were engaged serially — whenever one finished another started. No wonder the Auditor-General made such adverse comments about that arrangement. Wasn't it an amazing coincidence that he bobbed up simultaneously as the education expert in the *Herald Sun* to offer unwaveringly pro-government comments on why class sizes did not matter, what a good thing it was to close down schools, and how schools ought to be privatised so that they were all like Scotch College and other elite schools in the state where the parents of children would pay extraordinarily high fees to access education!

It is a great thing to see that those days are gone. I know the Minister for Education is rigorously dealing with the consultancies, but I ask her to ensure that the new standards are adhered to and to outline the action she is taking in this area.

Hospitals: *Hospital Services Report*

Mr WILSON (Bennettswood) — I raise for the attention of the Minister for Health the release of the June quarter *Hospital Services Report*. Honourable members are aware of the minister's history of releasing such reports on days and at times when they will attract the least scrutiny. On 14 June this year, during member statements, I called on the minister to release the March quarterly report. That pushed the minister into action, and he released the report that day. The report showed a dramatic deterioration in the Victorian public health system compared with the same quarter in 1999 under the administration of the Kennett government. In particular, the number of patients waiting on trolleys in emergency departments had blown out by 375 per cent and periods of ambulance bypass had blown out by a staggering 1140 per cent.

Next week is grand final week, an excellent time for governments to hide bad news. The action I am asking of the minister is that he release the *Hospital Services Report* for the June quarter tomorrow, Friday, 21 September, at a reasonable time that will allow the opposition, the media and the Victorian public to judge the performance of the minister and the government in this vital area of government administration.

Brain Injury Awareness Week

Mr CARLI (Coburg) — As the Minister for Community Services is well aware, this week is Brain Injury Awareness Week. I hope all honourable members are aware of the importance of this week. Acquired brain injury is a problem that affects many tens of thousands of Victorians as a result of car accidents, stroke, injury and disease. Accommodation and home support services are big issues for these tens of thousands of Victorians.

I ask the minister to examine the options for improving both home support and accommodation resources for people with acquired brain injury. It is really important that those services be put in place and that the sufferers of acquired brain injury be included in society and become full participants. Brain injury has a major impact on families, and this week is about raising awareness of it.

There has been a lack of appropriate accommodation and home-care support, and that has often put pressure on inappropriate accommodation such as nursing homes and hostels being provided for people with very serious acquired brain injury. I urge the minister to look at the options available to the government to provide accommodation and community housing to improve the home support available to people with acquired brain injury, but also to consider ways in which we as a general society can work with acquired brain injury sufferers and their families.

Clearly this week gives us an opportunity to raise awareness to ensure our community is responsive to this major issue in our community. It is important that we have specialised care; that we do not simply rely on often inappropriate services, particularly services set up for the aged; and that we look at providing specific services to give people with acquired brain injury dignity and ensure they can be full participants in society. We want to include them and have an inclusive approach to them. I urge the minister to look at the options available to provide extra resources for people with acquired brain injury and their families.

Emergency services: Pakenham

Mr MACLELLAN (Pakenham) — The Minister for Police and Emergency Services will recall that he visited the Pakenham police station site with me and is therefore well aware of the inadequacies of the police facilities in Pakenham. We have all the staff and a very active and worthwhile police unit there, but we do not have the buildings.

The Shire of Cardinia is having difficulty persuading the emergency services — that is, police, rural fire brigade and ambulance services — to agree on a new site. The shire has had \$1 million ready to contribute to such a site. The matter has been a two-year problem under this government and perhaps a three-month problem under the former government.

There is a need for careful coordination from the Minister for Health about the Melbourne Ambulance Service and from the Minister for Transport about Vicroads deciding which roads of the Pakenham bypass will or will not have on and off ramps, because that is of significance in the choice of the new site. The shire has had enormous difficulty trying to persuade the emergency services, including the ambulance service, to come to an agreement on a new site. The new site, if chosen, could become the centre for a relocation of those facilities from the commercial areas of the township so that the services could serve the whole district, as the minister would appreciate from his visit.

I ask that the minister undertake to have discussions with his colleagues the Minister for Health, in respect of the Metropolitan Ambulance Service, and the Minister for Transport, in respect of Vicroads, to arrange for the Shire of Cardinia to get answers from the emergency services people as to the appropriateness of the new location. Then the new location can be specific and planned for and capital works may be put into programs for the eventual co-location of emergency services on a suitable site.

Victorian Multicultural Commission: appointments

Mr KOTSIRAS (Bulleen) — I ask the Premier in his role as Minister for Multicultural Affairs to investigate why commissioners have not yet been appointed to the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) and the role played by the minister assisting him in delaying the process.

The commission has a full-time chairperson but unfortunately only half the complement of commissioners. I hear that this has occurred because it cannot be decided which factions of the Labor Party should be pleased. It seems that the minister is happy to increase the number of staff. The number at the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs is now 13.6. According to the CV of Elizabeth Jensen, the director of VOMA, one of her major achievements is downsizing program areas to meet declining workloads and general downsizing. I find that very strange. Downsizing is one of her major achievements, yet in nine months the minister has increased her staff from about 8 to 13.6.

I understand George Lekakis has been appointed as the full-time chairperson of the VMC. I also understand that George, an active member of the ALP, is experienced in the area. I have worked well with him. I hope George does not use the position to please the Premier and be merely a puppet of this government. I hope he follows the good work done by the former chairperson, Stefan Romaniw, and continues to serve the community as a whole rather than serving the needs of the Premier as the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

I ask the Premier to investigate why the appointment of the new commissioners, whose role is to service the needs of all Victorians, has taken so long. It is very important that they be appointed immediately to make sure that all Victorians — —

The DEPUTY SPEAKER — Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

Responses

Mr HAERMEYER (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) — The Leader of the National Party raised the issue of the condition of the Leongatha police station. I am pleased to advise him that Victoria Police has allocated \$31 000 in its works budget for the upgrading of that police station and residence. The police recognise it is extremely important to improve facilities in both police stations and residences so as to attract police officers to towns such as Leongatha and to retain them. It is also important to ensure that our police officers have appropriate conditions within which to work.

At the moment Victoria Police does not regard the building of a new police station as necessary. It thinks the existing facility is adequately serviceable, given its works expenditure, and the government has to go along with its priorities in that regard.

The Leader of the National Party said also that the government has moved the traffic management unit from Korumburra to Wonthaggi. That is not correct. The decision was an operational decision taken by Victoria Police. It would be most inappropriate for any member of Parliament to direct Victoria Police on how to allocate its resources, but I am assured by Victoria Police that it believes the area can be better serviced under the arrangements that have been put into place.

I can also assure the Leader of the National Party that because this government's program of recruiting 800 additional police is now well ahead of schedule, Gippsland will continue to benefit from having more police than it has had in recent years, so many of the shortages that have afflicted not only Gippsland but the whole of the state are starting to be alleviated.

The honourable member for Keilor raised a very serious matter. It relates to a report in the *Herald Sun* about a company called Granite Arms, which had sought to import 2000 Norinco hand guns, of which 350 failed their safety tests but 1600 did not. These hand guns are not guns that were ordered by or are required by our law enforcement agencies. We have made some inquiries with some of the private security firms around town. They have said, 'Look, we have not ordered these and they are not the sorts of guns that we would use'. I have spoken to some people involved in sporting pistol shooting and target shooting. They have also said, 'These are not the sorts of things we use'.

The advice I have received is that they are what are known in the United States as Saturday night specials. They are the weapon of choice for many criminal

elements in the community, and we would be in great danger in this state if those guns ever hit the street. I have little confidence that they would not find their way into criminal hands.

It really raises the question of why Granite Arms wants to import this quantity of this type of gun. I asked Victoria Police to ensure that for as long as possible the guns did not leave the docks. At the same time, while this government has power over the regulation of firearms in the state, importation is an issue for the federal Minister for Justice and Customs. It is a commonwealth responsibility.

I and my New South Wales colleague, who was equally concerned, have written to the Minister for Justice and Customs. He has obliged and has now impounded the hand guns. The advice we have received is that the hand guns were originally destined for a Queensland arms dealer, who is now confronting some very serious charges before the courts in Queensland. The guns were subsequently rerouted to Sydney, and then to Melbourne. I am pleased that they have now been taken out of circulation because I am very concerned about those sorts of hand guns getting into the community. I warn firearms dealers — anybody who wants to deal with Mr Owen in Queensland or who wants to import these sorts of firearms without there being any demonstrable need by law enforcement agencies, private security companies or target shooting organisations — that Victoria Police will watch their operations very, very closely.

The honourable member for Monbulk raised the issue and said I might be aware of the proposal to build a new Belgrave police station. I am well and truly aware of it, because it was an ALP commitment prior to the last election on which it is now delivering. Instead of closing three police stations in the Dandenong Ranges this government is building a new 24-hour police station at Belgrave, which will give a 24-hour police presence in the Dandenong Ranges and will vastly enhance the police presence in the area.

The honourable member is correct: I have been talking for some months to the local Shire of Yarra Ranges about the location of the police station. Victoria Police is attracted to the site being proposed by the shire. There are some issues relating to the steepness of the site and the construction involved, but there is a possibility that the site might get up. Accordingly I will advise the honourable member of its status.

The honourable member for Pakenham raised a matter of emergency services. Last year he called me out to view the police facilities and emergency services

facilities in Pakenham. Certainly Victoria Police is finalising its strategic facilities plan, which will determine where in its capital works priorities Pakenham stands. I agree that the existing police station is inadequate. The issue is also that the honourable member and the Shire of Cardinia are keen to ensure a co-location of emergency facilities into the one precinct.

The government has established the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner to ensure greater coordination between emergency services and to ensure that this government has a policy of encouraging co-location. I will ask both Victoria Police and the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner to provide me with a report, and I will get back to the honourable member for Pakenham on this issue promptly.

Ms CAMPBELL (Minister for Community Services) — The honourable member for Gippsland West is very concerned about the provision of speech therapy within her electorate and around Gippsland.

I am pleased to inform the honourable member that this government has been proactive in its work in Gippsland and with the funding to improve speech therapy. We are committed to the delivery of quality services that promote the healthy growth and development of all children.

The honourable member for Gippsland West was concerned that the Minister for Education and I need to be working to ensure that children have the adequate speech therapy they require. I am pleased to say the Minister for Education and I have jointly committed to improve services. We both understand the importance of parents understanding best language development, and again, more to the point, we have put in the funds to achieve this.

The government has committed an additional \$1 million from the state budget to further reduce waiting times for early intervention services for children from birth to school entry. Some of that money will be for speech therapy. That is in addition to Labor's financial statement commitment of \$6.5 million over four years, which was announced in the previous budget. We will work collaboratively with families and schools. I am happy to give the honourable member for Gippsland West the opportunity to follow up personally with the Gippsland regional office to make sure that any concerns she has of a specific nature can be addressed.

Throughout the state we have 52 early intervention services. We have a team in specialist children's services in the Department of Human Services. With the money and with those two teams working in partnership the only factor at the moment that is beyond our control to work on is the ready availability of speech therapists. Quite frankly there are not enough of them available in this state. They are prized possessions. If anybody has that skill they can be employed anywhere under any conditions — they are so valuable.

The honourable member for Coburg has raised the important issue of this week being Brain Injury Awareness Week. This government sees it as an opportunity to raise the issue of the prevention of brain injury, but also to celebrate the achievements of people with brain injury. The Kennett government had dozens of reports. We pooled together our own information and the reports that were gathering dust in the Department of Human Services and launched an acquired brain injury strategic plan in March of this year. Again we had the dollars in the state budget to deliver for 60 clients, people with acquired brain injury, a comprehensive individualised home package service so that they will have better outcomes in life, again working on a whole-of-government approach.

The Transport Accident Commission, Workcover, the Department of Human Services, the Minister for Workcover and I have been progressing this partnership agenda throughout this year. I look forward to continuing to report to this house and to people with acquired brain injury on the results of that work.

Mr BATCHELOR (Minister for Transport) — The honourable member for South Barwon has belatedly raised an issue about the fast rail project, and in particular the upgrading of the services between Melbourne and Geelong. It is indeed sad that he has raised this matter in such a sarcastic and attacking way but has not had the courtesy or decency to be in the chamber to hear the response. That typifies the attitude of the honourable member for South Barwon, who is better known for doing his household shopping in Hawthorn than visiting his beach house in the electorate.

This project of upgrading fast rail services to provincial towns is very popular. I am surprised that the Liberal Party would be trying to undermine and attack this project. The honourable member for South Barwon has raised this matter of electrification now only because it was reported in the *Geelong Advertiser* today, Thursday, 20 September. He is so lazy about raising

issues that he cannot even find them until they are reported in the local paper.

I can report to the house that the expressions-of-interest phase for the regional fast rail project has concluded. International and national companies are competing to be part of the tender process, and we are finalising those matters at the moment.

When we have resolved the expressions-of-interest stage we will go to a request for tender. That will be a very important part of the fast rail project. I do not want to pre-empt that at this stage other than to say that the strategy of this government is working well. We have called for interest from all around the world and we have received it. We are getting exciting opportunities coming through and we will deliver on this project. We have committed \$550 million to it. The people of Geelong will not appreciate the efforts of the honourable member for South Barwon, or indeed the Liberal Party, in trying to undermine this project at such a critical and crucial stage.

Ms DELAHUNTY (Minister for Education) — The honourable member for Footscray raised an important matter of the cost of consultancies under this and the previous government. This government has continued to honour its election commitment to slash the cost of consultancies. My three ministerial colleagues in the Department of Education, Employment and Training, which also includes youth affairs, have reduced the cost of consultancies by over \$1 million on the last year of the Kennett administration. In the first six months of this year, consultancy costs for the whole department have been slashed by a further \$400 000.

The Bracks government has saved the taxpayers a considerable amount, but when it comes to seeking advice it is determined to replace quantity with quality. We want the best value in advice when we go outside, as we occasionally do need expert advice — for example, the advice of the Allen Consulting Group in restructuring the entire department so that it can deliver on the recommendations of both *Public Education — The Next Generation* and the Kirby report. My ministerial colleagues' work in the Churchill precinct was also informed by some excellent outside advice. We will continue to turn education around and will continue to cut the cost of consultancies.

Mr HULLS (Attorney-General) — In relation to the matter raised by the honourable member for Sandringham, I will refer that to the Minister for Housing. I will refer the matter raised by the honourable member for Bennettswood to the Minister for Health. I will refer the matter raised by the

honourable member for Bulleen to the Premier, but I warn him that he should not be using this place to try to slur the characters of people who may be appointed to the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

In relation to the matter raised by the honourable member for Narracan, the Bracks government is turning around the sorry state of justice facilities in the Latrobe Valley. He will know it was a hallmark of the Kennett government to close and amalgamate local courts, the result of which was to deny justice to people in their local communities. This government for the past two years has been bringing justice back to rural and regional Victoria, and the Latrobe Valley complex is the perfect example.

We have committed \$25 million to build a Latrobe Valley court and police complex as part of our commitment to rebuilding the Latrobe Valley. We believe the complex will significantly boost access to justice services in the Latrobe Valley and strengthen communities in the region by providing a multijurisdictional court which will house the Magistrates Court, the Children's Court, the Coroners Court, the County and Supreme courts, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and police district headquarters. This complex will be located in Morwell after extensive consultation with the local community.

The first step in establishing this complex at Morwell will be to select a suitable site. Discussions have already commenced with Latrobe City Council to establish what options exist in the town. The project control group has developed a consultation strategy to seek community input to the question of a preferred site for the complex. That strategy will include consultation over the next month with the community, the council, the police, the courts and the profession. Once a suitable site has been selected it is estimated a period of approximately 12 months will be required to complete the design, followed by the construction period.

We do not want to see the closure or decay of existing regional courts, and we recognise the importance of local courts that have been providing access to justice for many years. For this reason we will be upgrading the existing court facilities at the Moe Magistrates Court. The needs of the Moe Magistrates Court will be considered as part of the overall process in the Latrobe Valley. It will continue to play a vital role as an integral part of the court strategy in the Latrobe region and the community.

I thank the honourable member for Narracan for his lobbying in relation to the Moe court. He has been a vigorous supporter of having an appropriate court

facility complex in the Latrobe Valley. I know he is supportive of the Morwell complex and also the upgrading of the Moe court. It is through his hard efforts and lobbying that these projects will ultimately see fruition.

Motion agreed to.

House adjourned 11.35 a.m.

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 Assembly.
Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.
The portfolio of the minister answering the question on notice starts each heading.*

Tuesday, 18 September 2001

Transport: Spencer Street interstate bus terminal

265. MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to a vacant bus space at Spencer Street Interstate Bus Terminal — (a) what date did McCafferty's Coachlines Pty Ltd vacate a tenancy at the terminal; (b) what amount in rent did McCafferty's Coachlines Pty Ltd pay per annum and to which authority was this paid; and (c) are any attempts being made to lease the vacant space.

ANSWER:

- (a) McCafferty's vacated their site at the main coach terminal on 29th December 2000. They subsequently relocated to a smaller (ex Greyhound) booth at the terminal but gave 30 days notice to vacate this site effective 7th March 2001.
- (b) McCafferty's were paying \$30,975 (not including GST) for the main site. The rent per annum on the smaller site is \$11,616 per annum (not including GST).

Prior to 1 December 2000, rental was paid to Victrack. Following the allocation of precinct leases and property rights to Spencer Street Station Authority on 1 December 2000, rental is now paid to the Authority

- (c) A leasing campaign is under way and consists of 'For Lease' Posters, billboards, advertisements in 'The Age' and phone canvassing.

Transport: Monash Freeway noise walls

267(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to the noise walls along the Monash Freeway —

- 1. How has the 350 metre recycled plastic wall performed in a variety of weather conditions.
- 2. What is the per kilometre cost to Vicroads of noise walls that use — (a) recycled plastic; and (b) conventional timber.
- 3. Will the use of recycled plastic in noise walls be extended in 2000–01; if so to what sections and in what length in kilometres of freeway, highway or other roads.

ANSWER:

- 1. The trial recycled plastic noise fence has not been in service over a sufficient number of seasonal cycles to evaluate its durability.
- 2. The estimated cost of four metre high plywood noise fencing is in the range of \$650–\$740 per linear metre. The recycled plastic noise fence was constructed as a trial in conjunction with a recycled plastic company. Hence the actual costs are not known.
- 3. Vicroads will consider proposals for any additional recycled plastic noise fences subsequent to the successful outcome of the Monash Freeway trial.

Roads: Monash Freeway noise walls

267(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to the noise walls along the Monash Freeway —

1. How has the 350 metre recycled plastic wall performed in a variety of weather conditions.
2. What is the per kilometre cost to Vicroads of noise walls that use — (a) recycled plastic; and (b) conventional timber.
3. Will the use of recycled plastic in noise walls be extended in 2000–01; if so to what sections and in what length in kilometres of freeway, highway or other roads.

ANSWER:

1. The trial recycled plastic noise fence has not been in service over a sufficient number of seasonal cycles to evaluate its durability.
2. The estimated cost of four metre high plywood noise fencing is in the range of \$650 - \$740 per linear metre. The recycled plastic noise fence was constructed as a trial in conjunction with a recycled plastic company. Hence the actual costs are not known.
3. Vicroads will consider proposals for any additional recycled plastic noise fences subsequent to the successful outcome of the Monash Freeway trial.

Transport: Vicroads call centres

268(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to Vicroads call centres —

1. What was the median time taken to answer customer telephone inquiries in each month between July and December in 1999 and 2000 at the Vicroads — (a) metropolitan; and (b) rural call centres.
2. How many calls were made in each month between July and December in 1999 and 2000 at — (a) metropolitan; and (b) rural call centres.
3. Does the technology used at the call centres monitor ‘drop outs’ (customers who hang up without their call having been attended to).
4. What percentage of calls ‘dropped out’ at each centre in each month from July to December 2000 and how does this compare to each month from July to December 1999.
5. What performance targets has Vicroads set for the median time taken to answer calls to the call centres in 2000–01 and the percentage of calls that go unanswered, and how do these targets differ from those set in 1999–2000.

ANSWER:

1. (a) Metropolitan Call Centre — ave. delay to answer (secs.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							29	27	28	35	31	29
2000	33	37	39	30	39	38	30	34	27	18	25	26

(b) Rural Call Centre — ave. delay to answer (secs.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							32	30	26	31	30	22
2000	30	26	27	27	23	31	22	23	24	28	25	22

2.

(a) Metropolitan Call Centre — calls received

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							176,672	188,518	194,350	193,450	195,137	172,908
2000	212,401	206,921	206,152	185,595	212,867	238,536	162,741	214,612	182,478	191,266	182,967	160,652

(b) Rural Call Centre — calls received

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							37,173	38,692	38,829	37,547	39,658	35,618
2000	39,423	41,721	41,037	33,606	42,131	39,485	36,898	41,154	36,666	39,948	38,608	34,690

3. Yes, the technology monitors ‘drop outs’ or abandoned calls.

4.

(a) Metropolitan Call Centre — abandoned calls (%)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							2.7	3.1	2.7	3.8	3.3	3.1
2000	3.3	3.8	4.2	3.6	4.0	4.7	3.3	3.4	2.8	2.0	2.4	3.2

(b) Rural Call Centre — abandoned calls (%)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							4.2	4.6	4.2	4.7	4.5	3.0
2000	4.3	3.9	4.0	3.1	3.2	4.5	2.5	3.7	3.5	4.1	3.5	3.3

5. The performance targets for 2000–2001 remain unchanged from those set in 1999–2000 at :

Average delay to answer ≤ 30 secs

Abandoned calls ≤ 6%

Roads: Vicroads call centres

268(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to Vicroads call centres —

1. What was the median time taken to answer customer telephone inquiries in each month between July and December in 1999 and 2000 at the Vicroads — (a) metropolitan; and (b) rural call centres.
2. How many calls were made in each month between July and December in 1999 and 2000 at — (a) metropolitan; and (b) rural call centres.
3. Does the technology used at the call centres monitor ‘drop outs’ (customers who hang up without their call having been attended to).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4. What percentage of calls ‘dropped out’ at each centre in each month from July to December 2000 and how does this compare to each month from July to December 1999.
5. What performance targets has Vicroads set for the median time taken to answer calls to the call centres in 2000–01 and the percentage of calls that go unanswered, and how do these targets differ from those set in 1999–2000.

ANSWER:

1.

(a) Metropolitan Call Centre - ave. delay to answer (secs.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							29	27	28	35	31	29
2000	33	37	39	30	39	38	30	34	27	18	25	26

(b) Rural Call Centre - ave. delay to answer (secs.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							32	30	26	31	30	22
2000	30	26	27	27	23	31	22	23	24	28	25	22

2.

(a) Metropolitan Call Centre - calls received

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							176,672	188,518	194,350	193,450	195,137	172,908
2000	212,401	206,921	206,152	185,595	212,867	238,536	162,741	214,612	182,478	191,266	182,967	160,652

(b) Rural Call Centre - calls received

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							37,173	38,692	38,829	37,547	39,658	35,618
2000	39,423	41,721	41,037	33,606	42,131	39,485	36,898	41,154	36,666	39,948	38,608	34,690

3. Yes, the technology monitors ‘drop outs’ or abandoned calls.

4.

(a) Metropolitan Call Centre - abandoned calls (%)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							2.7	3.1	2.7	3.8	3.3	3.1
2000	3.3	3.8	4.2	3.6	4.0	4.7	3.3	3.4	2.8	2.0	2.4	3.2

(b) Rural Call Centre - abandoned calls (%)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1999							4.2	4.6	4.2	4.7	4.5	3.0
2000	4.3	3.9	4.0	3.1	3.2	4.5	2.5	3.7	3.5	4.1	3.5	3.3

5. The performance targets for 2000–2001 remain unchanged from those set in 1999–2000 at :

Average delay to answer	≤ 30 secs
Abandoned calls	≤ 6%

Transport: C-class roads

269(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to signing C-class road routes —

1. How many road routes remained to be signed by Vicroads in each region at 31 December 2000.
2. How much is being spent in each region on signage in 2000–01.
3. How many routes are expected to remain without signs at 30 June 2001.
4. What is the name and locality of each road over 40 kilometres in length in each region that is expected to be without signs at 30 June 2001.

ANSWER:

1. South Western Region 45 routes
Western Region 47 routes
Eastern Region 3 routes.
2. South Western Region \$430,000
Western Region \$480,000
Eastern Region \$30,000.
3. None.
4. None.

Roads: C-class roads

269(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to signing C-class road routes —

1. How many road routes remained to be signed by Vicroads in each region at 31 December 2000.
2. How much is being spent in each region on signage in 2000–01.
3. How many routes are expected to remain without signs at 30 June 2001.
4. What is the name and locality of each road over 40 kilometres in length in each region that is expected to be without signs at 30 June 2001.

ANSWER:

1. South Western Region 45 routes
Western Region 47 routes
Eastern Region 3 routes.
2. South Western Region \$430,000
Western Region \$480,000
Eastern Region \$30,000.

- 3. None.
- 4. None.

Transport: Saferoads program

270(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to the Saferoads program —

- 1. What amount did each Victorian municipality receive from Vicroads under Saferoads in 1999–2000.
- 2. What amount — (a) has already been granted; and (b) is expected to be granted to each Victorian municipality for this program in 2000–01.
- 3. What total funding was allocated to Saferoads in — (a) 1999–2000; and (b) 2000–01.

ANSWER:

- 1. SafeRoads funding provided to Victorian municipalities in 1999–2000 was \$75,250.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Alpine	0	Manningham	0
Ararat	0	Maribyrnong	0
Ballarat	0	Maroondah	0
Banyule	0	Melbourne	0
Bass Coast	0	Melton	0
Baw Baw	0	Mildura	0
Bayside	0	Mitchell	\$5750
Boroondara	\$5000	Moira	0
Brimbank	0	Monash	0
Buloke	0	Moonee Valley	\$5000
Campaspe	0	Moorabool	\$5750
Cardinia	0	Moreland	0
Casey	0	Mornington Peninsula	0
Central Goldfields	0	Mount Alexander	0
Colac–Otway	\$5750	Moyne	0
Corangamite	0	Murrindindi	\$5750
Darebin	0	Nillumbik	0
Delatite	\$5750	Northern Grampians	0
East Gippsland	0	Port Phillip	\$5000
Frankston	\$5000	Pyrenees	0
Gannawarra	0	Queenscliffe	0
Glen Eira	0	South Gippsland	\$5750
Glenelg	0	Southern Grampians	0
Golden Plains	0	Stonnington	\$5000
Greater Bendigo	0	Strathbogie	0
Greater Dandenong	\$5000	Surf Coast	0
Greater Geelong	0	Swan Hill	0

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 18 September 2001

ASSEMBLY

501

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Greater Shepparton	0	Towong	0
Hepburn	0	Wangaratta	0
Hindmarsh	0	Warrnambool	0
Hobsons Bay	0	Wellington	\$5750
Horsham	0	West Wimmera	0
Hume	0	Whitehorse	0
Indigo	0	Whittlesea	0
Kingston	0	Wodonga	0
Knox	0	Wyndham	\$5000
Latrobe	0	Yarra	0
Loddon	0	Yarra Ranges	0
Macedon Ranges	0	Yarriambiack	0

2. (a & b) SafeRoads funding approved for allocation to Victorian municipalities in 2000–2001 is \$95,500.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Alpine	0	Manningham	0
Ararat	\$5750	Maribyrnong	0
Ballarat	0	Maroondah	0
Banyule	0	Melbourne	0
Bass Coast	\$5750	Melton	0
Baw Baw	\$5750	Mildura	0
Bayside	0	Mitchell	0
Boroondara	0	Moira	\$5750
Brimbank	0	Monash	0
Buloke	0	Moonee Valley	0
Campaspe	0	Moorabool	0
Cardinia	0	Moreland	0
Casey	0	Mornington Peninsula	0
Central Goldfields	0	Mount Alexander	0
Colac–Otway	0	Moyne	0
Corangamite	\$5750	Murrindindi	0
Darebin	0	Nillumbik	\$5000
Delatite	0	Northern Grampians	0
East Gippsland	0	Port Phillip	0
Frankston	0	Pyrenees	0
Gannawarra	0	Queenscliffe	0
Glen Eira	0	South Gippsland	0
Glenelg	0	Southern Grampians	0
Golden Plains	0	Stonnington	0
Greater Bendigo	0	Strathbogie	0
Greater Dandenong	0	Surf Coast	\$5750

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Greater Geelong	0	Swan Hill	0
Greater Shepparton	0	Towong	\$5750
Hepburn	\$5750	Wangaratta	\$5750
Hindmarsh	0	Warrnambool	\$5750
Hobsons Bay	0	Wellington	0
Horsham	\$5750	West Wimmera	0
Hume	0	Whitehorse	\$5000
Indigo	\$5750	Whittlesea	\$5000
Kingston	0	Wodonga	\$5750
Knox	0	Wyndham	0
Latrobe	0	Yarra	0
Loddon	\$5750	Yarra Ranges	0
Macedon Ranges	0	Yarriambiack	0

3. Total funding allocated to the SafeRoads project in:

- (a) 1999–2000 \$776,000
- (b) 2000–2001 \$1,315,000

Roads: Saferoads program

270(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to the Saferoads program —

1. What amount did each Victorian municipality receive from Vicroads under Saferoads in 1999–2000.
2. What amount — (a) has already been granted; and (b) is expected to be granted to each Victorian municipality for this program in 2000–01.
3. What total funding was allocated to Saferoads in — (a) 1999–2000; and (b) 2000–01.

ANSWER:

1. SafeRoads funding provided to Victorian municipalities in 1999–2000 was \$75,250.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Alpine	0	Manningham	0
Ararat	0	Maribyrnong	0
Ballarat	0	Maroondah	0
Banyule	0	Melbourne	0
Bass Coast	0	Melton	0
Baw Baw	0	Mildura	0
Bayside	0	Mitchell	\$5750
Boroondara	\$5000	Moira	0
Brimbank	0	Monash	0
Buloke	0	Moonee Valley	\$5000
Campaspe	0	Moorabool	\$5750

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Tuesday, 18 September 2001

ASSEMBLY

503

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Cardinia	0	Moreland	0
Casey	0	Mornington Peninsula	0
Central Goldfields	0	Mount Alexander	0
Colac-Otway	\$5750	Moyne	0
Corangamite	0	Murrindindi	\$5750
Darebin	0	Nillumbik	0
Delatite	\$5750	Northern Grampians	0
East Gippsland	0	Port Phillip	\$5000
Frankston	\$5000	Pyrenees	0
Gannawarra	0	Queenscliffe	0
Glen Eira	0	South Gippsland	\$5750
Glenelg	0	Southern Grampians	0
Golden Plains	0	Stonnington	\$5000
Greater Bendigo	0	Strathbogie	0
Greater Dandenong	\$5000	Surf Coast	0
Greater Geelong	0	Swan Hill	0
Greater Shepparton	0	Towong	0
Hepburn	0	Wangaratta	0
Hindmarsh	0	Warrnambool	0
Hobsons Bay	0	Wellington	\$5750
Horsham	0	West Wimmera	0
Hume	0	Whitehorse	0
Indigo	0	Whittlesea	0
Kingston	0	Wodonga	0
Knox	0	Wyndham	\$5000
Latrobe	0	Yarra	0
Loddon	0	Yarra Ranges	0
Macedon Ranges	0	Yarriambiack	0

2. (a & b) SafeRoads funding approved for allocation to Victorian municipalities in 2000–2001 is \$95,500.

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Alpine	0	Manningham	0
Ararat	\$5750	Maribyrnong	0
Ballarat	0	Maroondah	0
Banyule	0	Melbourne	0
Bass Coast	\$5750	Melton	0
Baw Baw	\$5750	Mildura	0
Bayside	0	Mitchell	0
Boroondara	0	Moira	\$5750
Brimbank	0	Monash	0
Buloke	0	Moonee Valley	0

<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>	<i>Municipality</i>	<i>Funding</i>
Campaspe	0	Moorabool	0
Cardinia	0	Moreland	0
Casey	0	Mornington Peninsula	0
Central Goldfields	0	Mount Alexander	0
Colac-Otway	0	Moyne	0
Corangamite	\$5750	Murrindindi	0
Darebin	0	Nillumbik	\$5000
Delatite	0	Northern Grampians	0
East Gippsland	0	Port Phillip	0
Frankston	0	Pyrenees	0
Gannawarra	0	Queenscliffe	0
Glen Eira	0	South Gippsland	0
Glenelg	0	Southern Grampians	0
Golden Plains	0	Stonnington	0
Greater Bendigo	0	Strathbogie	0
Greater Dandenong	0	Surf Coast	\$5750
Greater Geelong	0	Swan Hill	0
Greater Shepparton	0	Towong	\$5750
Hepburn	\$5750	Wangaratta	\$5750
Hindmarsh	0	Warrnambool	\$5750
Hobsons Bay	0	Wellington	0
Horsham	\$5750	West Wimmera	0
Hume	0	Whitehorse	\$5000
Indigo	\$5750	Whittlesea	\$5000
Kingston	0	Wodonga	\$5750
Knox	0	Wyndham	0
Latrobe	0	Yarra	0
Loddon	\$5750	Yarra Ranges	0
Macedon Ranges	0	Yarriambiack	0

3. Total funding allocated to the SafeRoads project in:

- (a) 1999–2000 \$776,000
- (b) 2000–2001 \$1,315,000

Transport: Vicroads sponsorship

272(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport —

1. What amount did Vicroads pay in sponsorship to Keep Australia Beautiful (Victoria) for the Rural Pride and City Pride Awards in 1999–2000 and to date in 2000–01.
2. How will the ‘community ownership and pride in managing streetscapes and associated landscapes’ referred to on page 14 of the Vicroads 1999–2000 Annual Report be maintained if the above two programs are discontinued.

ANSWER:

1. 1999–2000 \$5,000.00 for each award
2000–2001 \$3,850.00 for each award (including GST)
2. The continuation of the Rural Pride and City Pride Awards is a matter for The Hon. Sherryl Garbutt MP, Minister for Environment and Conservation. Sponsorship of the Rural Pride and City Pride Awards will continue to be considered by Vicroads.

Transport: recycled asphalt pavement

273(a). MR WILSON — To ask The Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) —

1. How many lane kilometres of Victorian highways and roads were surfaced or resurfaced in RAP in each Vicroads region between 1 July and 31 December 2000.
2. How many lane kilometres are expected to be resurfaced in RAP between 1 January and 30 June 2001.
3. What are the longest two sections of roadway in each Vicroads region that have used RAP to date and when was each project undertaken.
4. What savings, if any, in construction costs are expected to result from the use of RAP in 2000–01.

ANSWER:

1. Four (4) lane kilometres were surfaced using RAP in Vicroads' Metropolitan South East Region. No other Regions used RAP in that period.
2. No use of RAP is expected during this period.
3. The longest section of roadway (4 lane km) that has used RAP is Mitcham Road between Springvale Road and Park Street, Donvale. This was completed between July and December 2000.
4. The expected savings from the use of RAP in 2000/01 are estimated at \$1,000.

Roads: recycled asphalt pavement

273(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP) —

1. How many lane kilometres of Victorian highways and roads were surfaced or resurfaced in RAP in each Vicroads region between 1 July and 31 December 2000.
2. How many lane kilometres are expected to be resurfaced in RAP between 1 January and 30 June 2001.
3. What are the longest two sections of roadway in each Vicroads region that have used RAP to date and when was each project undertaken.
4. What savings, if any, in construction costs are expected to result from the use of RAP in 2000–01.

ANSWER:

1. Four (4) lane kilometres were surfaced using RAP in Vicroads' Metropolitan South East Region. No other Regions used RAP in that period.
2. No use of RAP is expected during this period.

3. The longest section of roadway (4 lane km) that has used RAP is Mitcham Road between Springvale Road and Park Street, Donvale. This was completed between July and December 2000.
4. The expected savings from the use of RAP in 2000/01 are estimated at \$1,000.

Transport: Vicroads LED technology

274(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to light-emitting diode (LED) technology —

1. What findings has Vicroads made following its evaluation of LED technology for traffic signals.
2. Has development of an Australian standard for this technology been finalised, and if not when is this expected to occur.
3. Has there been any difference in performance between the two intersections signalled in 1999–2000 using this technology.
4. How many intersections will be signalled using LED technology in — (a) 2000–01; and (b) 2001–02.
5. What funds has Vicroads allocated for the changeover program in 2000–01.
6. What is the average hourly life of the current conventional globes used in Victorian traffic signals.
7. What is the expected annual maintenance cost in 2000–01 for a standard metropolitan intersection using — (a) existing lanterns; and (b) LED traffic signal technology.

ANSWER:

1. Vicroads has determined that traffic signals based on Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology can be cost effective when compared with current technology.
2. An Australian Standard specifying the requirements for LED traffic signal lanterns has not yet been finalised. The finalisation of such a standard is expected to occur before the end of 2001.
3. The two intersections signalled in 1999–2000 using LED technology have been observed to perform satisfactorily. The LED signal displays are considered to be more readily discernible than the conventional signals that they replaced.
4. Traffic signals, using LED technology, will be installed at six intersections in 2000/2001. Vicroads has now adopted the use of LED technology for all new traffic signals. It is estimated that some 75 traffic signals will be equipped with LED lanterns in 2001/2002.
5. Nil.
6. Two types of traffic signal lamps are in use in Victoria. Incandescent globes are changed once each year and quartz halogen lamps, once every 3 years.
7. The estimated cost to maintain traffic signals, with conventional lamps at a metropolitan intersection is \$4,600 per annum. If LED traffic signals become commonly used, providing economies of scale both in the supply of the equipment and the maintenance arrangements, it is estimated that annual maintenance cost for the signals would be \$3,600.

Roads: Vicroads LED technology

274(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to light-emitting diode (LED) technology —

1. What findings has Vicroads made following its evaluation of LED technology for traffic signals.
2. Has development of an Australian standard for this technology been finalised, and if not when is this expected to occur.
3. Has there been any difference in performance between the two intersections signalled in 1999–2000 using this technology.
4. How many intersections will be signalled using LED technology in — (a) 2000–01; and (b) 2001–02.
5. What funds has Vicroads allocated for the changeover program in 2000–01.
6. What is the average hourly life of the current conventional globes used in Victorian traffic signals.
7. What is the expected annual maintenance cost in 2000–01 for a standard metropolitan intersection using — (a) existing lanterns; and (b) LED traffic signal technology.

ANSWER:

1. Vicroads has determined that traffic signals based on Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology can be cost effective when compared with current technology.
2. An Australian Standard specifying the requirements for LED traffic signal lanterns has not yet been finalised. The finalisation of such a standard is expected to occur before the end of 2001.
3. The two intersections signalled in 1999–2000 using LED technology have been observed to perform satisfactorily. The LED signal displays are considered to be more readily discernible than the conventional signals that they replaced.
4. Traffic signals, using LED technology, will be installed at six intersections in 2000/2001. Vicroads has now adopted the use of LED technology for all new traffic signals. It is estimated that some 75 traffic signals will be equipped with LED lanterns in 2001/2002
5. Nil.
6. Two types of traffic signal lamps are in use in Victoria. Incandescent globes are changed once each year and quartz halogen lamps, once every 3 years.
7. The estimated cost to maintain traffic signals, with conventional lamps at a metropolitan intersection is \$4,600 per annum. If LED traffic signals become commonly used, providing economies of scale both in the supply of the equipment and the maintenance arrangements, it is estimated that annual maintenance cost for the signals would be \$3,600.

Transport: Vicroads contracts

275(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to Vicroads contracts —

What was the value of new contracts from 1 July to 31 December 2000 and is the expected value of new contracts from 1 January to 30 June 2001 for — (a) new roadworks; (b) sealing; (c) road maintenance; (d) temporary staff; (e) new bridge work; (f) asphalt; (g) number plates; (h) noise barriers; (i) roadside amenities; (j) traffic-control services; and (k) bridge maintenance.

ANSWER:

Type of Work	Value of New Contracts Awarded 1 July to 31 December 2000	Expected Value of New Contracts Awarded 1 January to 30 June 2001
(a) new roadworks	\$106,057,000	\$276,786,000
(b) sealing	\$24,004,000	\$4,500,000
(c) road maintenance	\$741,000	nil
(d) temporary staff	nil	nil
(e) new bridge work	\$4,147,000	\$14,386,000
(f) asphalt	\$9,707,000	\$13,101,000
(g) number plates	nil	nil
(h) noise barriers	nil	nil
(i) roadside amenities	\$2,725,000	\$5,275,000
(j) traffic-control services	\$1,191,000	\$900,000
(k) bridge maintenance	nil	nil

Roads: Vicroads contracts

275(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to Vicroads contracts —

What was the value of new contracts from 1 July to 31 December 2000 and is the expected value of new contracts from 1 January to 30 June 2001 for — (a) new roadworks; (b) sealing; (c) road maintenance; (d) temporary staff; (e) new bridge work; (f) asphalt; (g) number plates; (h) noise barriers; (i) roadside amenities; (j) traffic-control services; and (k) bridge maintenance.

ANSWER:

Type of Work	Value of New Contracts Awarded 1 July to 31 December 2000	Expected Value of New Contracts Awarded 1 January to 30 June 2001
(a) new roadworks	\$106,057,000	\$276,786,000
(b) sealing	\$24,004,000	\$4,500,000
(c) road maintenance	\$741,000	nil
(d) temporary staff	nil	nil
(e) new bridge work	\$4,147,000	\$14,386,000
(f) asphalt	\$9,707,000	\$13,101,000
(g) number plates	nil	nil
(h) noise barriers	nil	nil
(i) roadside amenities	\$2,725,000	\$5,275,000
(j) traffic-control services	\$1,191,000	\$900,000
(k) bridge maintenance	nil	nil

Transport: Vicroads skid-resistance study

276(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to intersections and skid-resistant materials —

1. Has Vicroads conducted any further investigations into the relationship between skid-resistant performance and crashes at 200 urban intersections since the initial 1999–2000 findings of a pilot study referred to on page 48 of Vicroads 1999–2000 Annual Report.
2. Which intersections in the Cities of — (a) Monash; (b) Whitehorse; (c) Boroondara; (d) Stonnington; and (e) Port Phillip were surveyed by Vicroads in the initial pilot study and which of these intersections currently have low skid resistance.
3. What is the anticipated cost of upgrading a standard metropolitan intersection with higher skid-resistant materials.
4. Are intersection upgrades using higher skid-resistant materials possible for the road pavement area between tram tracks which may be surfaced in mass concrete or have an existing asphalt overlay.
5. How much has Vicroads allocated in 2000–01 for upgrading intersections to use high skid-resistant treatments on approaches.
6. What intersections in 2000–01 will be treated in the Cities of — (a) Monash; (b) Whitehorse; (c) Boroondara; (d) Stonnington; and (e) Port Phillip.

ANSWER:

1. Vicroads is conducting further investigations to confirm the results from the pilot study.
2. Attachment A shows which of the intersections in the pilot study were in the Cities of Monash, Whitehorse, Boroondara, Stonnington and Port Phillip. The pilot study was a desktop study of crashes in wet weather, which is used as an indicator of road surface skid resistance. The on-road skid resistance at these intersections was not measured as part of the pilot study.
3. \$40,000 to \$120,000.
4. Yes.
5. \$1.10 million.
6. Waverley Rd/Jells Rd in the City of Monash; none in the City of Whitehorse; none in the City of Boroondara; none in the City of Stonnington; and none in the City of Port Phillip.

ATTACHMENT A

Monash

BLACKBURN	RD	HIGH STREET	RD
BLACKBURN	RD	COLEMAN	PDE
BRANDON PARK	DR	FERNTREE GULLY	RD
CLAYTON	RD	FERNTREE GULLY	RD
FERNTREE GULLY	RD	JELLS	RD
HIGH STREET	RD	STEPHENSONS	RD
MIDDLEBOROUGH	RD	STEPHENSONS	RD
MONASH	FWY	BLACKBURN	RD
SPRINGVALE	RD	WAVERLEY	RD
SPRINGVALE	RD	WELLINGTON	RD
STEPHENSONS	RD	VIRGINIA	ST

Whitehorse

ARNOLD	ST	ELGAR	RD
BLACKBURN	RD	CANTERBURY	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	MORACK	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	HARTLAND	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	MIDDLEBOROUGH	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	SPRINGVALE	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	STATION	ST
CANTERBURY	RD	ELGAR	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	WARRIGAL	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	BORONIA	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	PACIFIC	WAY
CANTERBURY	RD	MIDDLEBOROUGH	RD
CHAPEL	ST	MAROONDAH	HWY
HIGHBURY	RD	WARRIGAL	RD
MAROONDAH	HWY	SURREY	RD
MAROONDAH	HWY	METROPOLITAN	AV
MAROONDAH	HWY	NELSON	RD
STATION	ST	THAMES	ST

Boroondara

AUBURN	RD	RATHMINES	RD
BALWYN	RD	WHITEHORSE	RD
BALWYN	RD	BELMORE	RD
BARKERS	RD	DENMARK	ST
BARKERS	RD	AUBURN	RD
BELMORE	RD	GREYTHORN	RD
BURKE	RD	COTHAM	RD
BURKE	RD	TOORAK	RD
BURWOOD	RD	GLENFERRIE	RD
CAMBERWELL	RD	SEYMOUR	GV
CHANDLER	HWY	EASTERN	FWY
COTHAM	RD	GLENFERRIE	RD
GLENFERRIE	RD	BARKERS	RD
GLENFERRIE	RD	RIVERSDALE	RD
HIGH	ST	STEVENSON	ST
TOORAK	RD	CAMBERWELL	RD

Stonnington

BELGRAVE	RD	WAVERLEY	RD
BURKE	RD	HIGH	ST
CHAPEL	ST	HIGH	ST
DANDENONG	RD	STATION	ST
DANDENONG	RD	TOORONGA	RD
DARLING	RD	WAVERLEY	RD

GLENFERRIE	RD	HIGH	ST
HIGH	ST	TOORONGA	RD
KOOYONG	RD	TOORAK	RD
MALVERN	RD	WATTLETREE	RD
MALVERN	RD	TOORONGA	RD
ORRONG	RD	TOORAK	RD
WARRIGAL	RD	MONASH	FWY

Port Phillip

ALMA	RD	BARKLY	ST
ALMA	RD	HOTHAM	ST
BARKLY	ST	CARLISLE	ST
CARLISLE	ST	CHAPEL	ST
CITY	RD	FERRARS	ST
DORCAS	ST	FERRARS	ST
GRAHAM	ST	WILLIAMSTOWN	RD
ORMOND	ESP	BARKLY	ST

Roads: Vicroads skid-resistance study

276(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads with reference to intersections and skid-resistant materials —

1. Has Vicroads conducted any further investigations into the relationship between skid-resistant performance and crashes at 200 urban intersections since the initial 1999–2000 findings of a pilot study referred to on page 48 of Vicroads 1999–2000 Annual Report.
2. Which intersections in the Cities of — (a) Monash; (b) Whitehorse; (c) Boroondara; (d) Stonnington; and (e) Port Phillip were surveyed by Vicroads in the initial pilot study and which of these intersections currently have low skid resistance.
3. What is the anticipated cost of upgrading a standard metropolitan intersection with higher skid-resistant materials.
4. Are intersection upgrades using higher skid-resistant materials possible for the road pavement area between tram tracks which may be surfaced in mass concrete or have an existing asphalt overlay.
5. How much has Vicroads allocated in 2000–01 for upgrading intersections to use high skid-resistant treatments on approaches.
6. What intersections in 2000–01 will be treated in the Cities of — (a) Monash; (b) Whitehorse; (c) Boroondara; (d) Stonnington; and (e) Port Phillip.

ANSWER:

1. Vicroads is conducting further investigations to confirm the results from the pilot study.
2. Attachment A shows which of the intersections in the pilot study were in the Cities of Monash, Whitehorse, Boroondara, Stonnington and Port Phillip. The pilot study was a desktop study of crashes in wet weather, which is used as an indicator of road surface skid resistance. The on-road skid resistance at these intersections was not measured as part of the pilot study.
3. \$40,000 to \$120,000.

4. Yes.
5. \$1.10 million.
6. Waverley Rd/Jells Rd in the City of Monash; none in the City of Whitehorse; none in the City of Boroondara; none in the City of Stonnington; and none in the City of Port Phillip.

ATTACHMENT A

Monash

BLACKBURN	RD	HIGH STREET	RD
BLACKBURN	RD	COLEMAN	PDE
BRANDON PARK	DR	FERNTREE GULLY	RD
CLAYTON	RD	FERNTREE GULLY	RD
FERNTREE GULLY	RD	JELLS	RD
HIGH STREET	RD	STEPHENSONS	RD
MIDDLEBOROUGH	RD	STEPHENSONS	RD
MONASH	FWY	BLACKBURN	RD
SPRINGVALE	RD	WAVERLEY	RD
SPRINGVALE	RD	WELLINGTON	RD
STEPHENSONS	RD	VIRGINIA	ST

Whitehorse

ARNOLD	ST	ELGAR	RD
BLACKBURN	RD	CANTERBURY	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	MORACK	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	HARTLAND	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	MIDDLEBOROUGH	RD
BURWOOD	HWY	SPRINGVALE	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	STATION	ST
CANTERBURY	RD	ELGAR	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	WARRIGAL	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	BORONIA	RD
CANTERBURY	RD	PACIFIC	WAY
CANTERBURY	RD	MIDDLEBOROUGH	RD
CHAPEL	ST	MAROONDAH	HWY
HIGHBURY	RD	WARRIGAL	RD
MAROONDAH	HWY	SURREY	RD
MAROONDAH	HWY	METROPOLITAN	AV
MAROONDAH	HWY	NELSON	RD
STATION	ST	THAMES	ST

Boroondara

AUBURN	RD	RATHMINES	RD
BALWYN	RD	WHITEHORSE	RD
BALWYN	RD	BELMORE	RD
BARKERS	RD	DENMARK	ST

BARKERS	RD	AUBURN	RD
BELMORE	RD	GREYTHORN	RD
BURKE	RD	COTHAM	RD
BURKE	RD	TOORAK	RD
BURWOOD	RD	GLENFERRIE	RD
CAMBERWELL	RD	SEYMOUR	GV
CHANDLER	HWY	EASTERN	FWY
COTHAM	RD	GLENFERRIE	RD
GLENFERRIE	RD	BARKERS	RD
GLENFERRIE	RD	RIVERSDALE	RD
HIGH	ST	STEVENSON	ST
TOORAK	RD	CAMBERWELL	RD

Stonnington

BELGRAVE	RD	WAVERLEY	RD
BURKE	RD	HIGH	ST
CHAPEL	ST	HIGH	ST
DANDENONG	RD	STATION	ST
DANDENONG	RD	TOORONGA	RD
DARLING	RD	WAVERLEY	RD
GLENFERRIE	RD	HIGH	ST
HIGH	ST	TOORONGA	RD
KOOYONG	RD	TOORAK	RD
MALVERN	RD	WATTLETREE	RD
MALVERN	RD	TOORONGA	RD
ORRONG	RD	TOORAK	RD
WARRIGAL	RD	MONASH	FWY

Port Phillip

ALMA	RD	BARKLY	ST
ALMA	RD	HOTHAM	ST
BARKLY	ST	CARLISLE	ST
CARLISLE	ST	CHAPEL	ST
CITY	RD	FERRARS	ST
DORCAS	ST	FERRARS	ST
GRAHAM	ST	WILLIAMSTOWN	RD
ORMOND	ESP	BARKLY	ST

Transport: Vicroads resealing and rehabilitation

278(a). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport —

1. Why did the State-funded resealing of the Victorian road network drop from 9.3 per cent in 1998–99 to 8.8 per cent in 1999–2000.
2. Why did the State-funded rehabilitation of the Victorian road network drop from 1.2 per cent in 1998–99 to 1 per cent in 1999–2000.

3. How many lane kilometres were — (a) resealed; (b) rehabilitated through the use of State funds in — (i) 1998–99; and (ii) 1999–2000 in each Vicroads region; and (c) what percentage of the Victorian road network does this area represent.
4. What are the targets in 2000–01 for — (a) resealing; (b) rehabilitation by — (i) lane kilometres; and (ii) expenditure by Vicroads region; and (c) what percentage of the Victorian road network does this area represent.
5. What was the cost per lane kilometre for each Vicroads region of (a) resealing; and (b) rehabilitation in — (i) 1998–99; and (ii) 1999–2000.

ANSWER:

1. In accordance with Vicroads pavement maintenance strategy targets for periodic pavement resurfacing are aimed at achieving an average coverage of ten percent for chip sealed surfaces, less the level of pavement rehabilitation (typically one percent). Resealing targets can however, vary from year to year whilst still achieving the ten per cent target over time.

The target for resealing in 1998/99 was 9 percent. However, an actual resealing coverage of 9.3 percent was achieved. The target for resealing in 1999/2000 was 8.8 percent and this target was achieved.

2. Within the overall resurfacing targets, the targets for rehabilitation are around one percent of the network area. The target for rehabilitation in 1998/99 was 1.1 percent. However, an actual coverage of 1.2 percent was achieved. On the other hand, the target for rehabilitation in 1999/2000 was 1.0 percent and this target was achieved.

It should be noted that two significant factors affected the differing outcomes between 1998/99 and 1999/00, namely:

– Natural Disaster Damage

During 1998/99, natural disaster relief amounted to \$8.1 million, spent mainly on repairing damage to needs caused by floods in East Gippsland and north-eastern Victoria. By comparison, the 1999/00 relief amounted to \$1.5 million.

– Road Network Condition

In preparing the 1998/99 budget, road condition surveys identified specific areas of network roughness and deteriorating pavement conditions in certain parts of the State. Due to availability of funds within the Better Roads Victoria program, the additional funds were able to be allocated to address the specific areas in urgent need of rehabilitation.

3. (a)

Region	Reseal (Chip Seal)					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	667	2,294,951	9.8	610	2,053,796	8.9
North Eastern	586	1,995,257	9.1	578	1,965,511	9.0
Northern	713	2,617,481	9.5	670	2,440,900	8.9
Western	777	2,668,343	9.7	727	2,500,599	9.1
South Western	689	2,378,060	8.8	659	2,272,892	8.4

Region	Reseal (Chip Seal)					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Metro North West	119	451,971	9.5	105	452,000	9.5
Metro South East	298	1,104,535	8.0	281	1,068,529	7.5
State Total		13,501,598	9.3		12,754,227	8.8

(b)

Region	Rehabilitation					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	94	324,369	1.4	67	225,610	1.0
North Eastern	65	220,997	1.0	75	253,839	1.2
Northern	68	250,670	0.9	81	296,369	1.1
Western	52	178,195	0.6	68	233,920	0.8
South Western	108	372,643	1.3	113	389,520	1.4
Metro North West	40	152,952	1.0	45	191,816	1.2
Metro South East	134	497,818	2.0	48	181,703	0.7
State Total		1,997,644	1.2		1,772,777	1.0

4.

(a)

Region	2000/01 Reseal (Chip Seal) Target			
	\$000's	Lane km	Area Treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	4,341	611	2,090,000	8.8
North Eastern	4,206	600	1,991,280	9.4
Northern	5,162	702	2,549,000	9.3
Western	5,015	732	2,519,234	9.1
South Western	4,740	632	2,204,751	8.2
Metro North West	2,137	110	467,625	9.4

Region	2000/01 Reseal (Chip Seal) Target			
	\$000's	Lane km	Area Treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Metro South East	5,717	298	1,109,617	7.7
State Total			12,931,507	8.8

(b)

Region	2001/02 Rehabilitation Target			
	\$000's	Lane km	Area Treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	6,824	81	277,216	1.2
North Eastern	3,221	36	120,403	0.6
Northern	4,888	53	193,361	0.7
Western	5,769	78	269,580	0.9
South Western	11,461	143	500,243	1.8
Metro North West	5,822	41	176,647	1.1
Metro South East	4,509	30	111,027	0.5
State Total			1,648,477	1.0

5.

(a)

Region	Chip Seals					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km
Eastern	4,862	667	7,289	4,603	610	7,546
North Eastern	4,036	586	6,887	4,204	578	7,273
Northern	5,054	713	7,088	4,814	670	7,185
Western	5,098	777	6,561	5,112	727	7,032
South Western	5,509	689	7,995	5,002	659	7,590
Metro North West	1,940	119	16,303	2,081	105	19,819
Metro South East	7,022	298	23,564	5,526	281	19,665

(b)

Region	Rehabilitation					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km
Eastern	7,939	94	84,457	5,277	67	78,761

Region	Rehabilitation					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km
North Eastern	6,773	65	104,200	5,470	75	72,933
Northern	5,858	68	86,147	7,797	81	96,259
Western	5,674	52	109,115	7,144	68	105,059
South Western	10,357	108	95,898	9,268	113	82,017
Metro North West	1,110	40	27,750	708	45	15,733
Metro South East	6,396	134	47,731	2,795	48	58,229

Roads: Vicroads resealing and rehabilitation

278(b). MR WILSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister assisting the Minister for Transport regarding Roads —

1. Why did the State-funded resealing of the Victorian road network drop from 9.3 per cent in 1998–99 to 8.8 per cent in 1999–2000.
2. Why did the State-funded rehabilitation of the Victorian road network drop from 1.2 per cent in 1998–99 to 1 per cent in 1999–2000.
3. How many lane kilometres were — (a) resealed; (b) rehabilitated through the use of State funds in — (i) 1998–99; and (ii) 1999–2000 in each Vicroads region; and (c) what percentage of the Victorian road network does this area represent.
4. What are the targets in 2000–01 for — (a) resealing; (b) rehabilitation by — (i) lane kilometres; and (ii) expenditure by Vicroads region; and (c) what percentage of the Victorian road network does this area represent.
5. What was the cost per lane kilometre for each Vicroads region of (a) resealing; and (b) rehabilitation in — (i) 1998–99; and (ii) 1999–2000.

ANSWER:

1. In accordance with Vicroads pavement maintenance strategy targets for periodic pavement resurfacing are aimed at achieving an average coverage of ten percent for chip sealed surfaces, less the level of pavement rehabilitation (typically one percent). Resealing targets can however, vary from year to year whilst still achieving the ten per cent target over time.

The target for resealing in 1998/99 was 9 percent. However, an actual resealing coverage of 9.3 percent was achieved. The target for resealing in 1999/2000 was 8.8 percent and this target was achieved.
2. Within the overall resurfacing targets, the targets for rehabilitation are around one percent of the network area. The target for rehabilitation in 1998/99 was 1.1 percent. However, an actual coverage of 1.2 percent was achieved. On the other hand, the target for rehabilitation in 1999/2000 was 1.0 percent and this target was achieved.

It should be noted that two significant factors affected the differing outcomes between 1998/99 and 1999/00, namely:

– Natural Disaster Damage

During 1998/99, natural disaster relief amounted to \$8.1 million, spent mainly on repairing damage to needs caused by floods in East Gippsland and north-eastern Victoria. By comparison, the 1999/00 relief amounted to \$1.5 million.

– Road Network Condition

In preparing the 1998/99 budget, road condition surveys identified specific areas of network roughness and deteriorating pavement conditions in certain parts of the State. Due to availability of funds within the Better Roads Victoria program, the additional funds were able to be allocated to address the specific areas in urgent need of rehabilitation.

3.

(a)

Region	Reseal (Chip Seal)					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	667	2,294,951	9.8	610	2,053,796	8.9
North Eastern	586	1,995,257	9.1	578	1,965,511	9.0
Northern	713	2,617,481	9.5	670	2,440,900	8.9
Western	777	2,668,343	9.7	727	2,500,599	9.1
South Western	689	2,378,060	8.8	659	2,272,892	8.4
Metro North West	119	451,971	9.5	105	452,000	9.5
Metro South East	298	1,104,535	8.0	281	1,068,529	7.5
State Total		13,501,598	9.3		12,754,227	8.8

(b)

Region	Rehabilitation					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	94	324,369	1.4	67	225,610	1.0
North Eastern	65	220,997	1.0	75	253,839	1.2
Northern	68	250,670	0.9	81	296,369	1.1
Western	52	178,195	0.6	68	233,920	0.8
South Western	108	372,643	1.3	113	389,520	1.4

Region	Rehabilitation					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated	Lane km	Area treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Metro North West	40	152,952	1.0	45	191,816	1.2
Metro South East	134	497,818	2.0	48	181,703	0.7
State Total		1,997,644	1.2		1,772,777	1.0

4.

(a)

Region	2000/01 Reseal (Chip Seal) Target			
	\$000's	Lane km	Area Treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	4,341	611	2,090,000	8.8
North Eastern	4,206	600	1,991,280	9.4
Northern	5,162	702	2,549,000	9.3
Western	5,015	732	2,519,234	9.1
South Western	4,740	632	2,204,751	8.2
Metro North West	2,137	110	467,625	9.4
Metro South East	5,717	298	1,109,617	7.7
State Total			12,931,507	8.8

(b)

Region	2001/02 Rehabilitation Target			
	\$000's	Lane km	Area Treated (m2)	% of total area treated
Eastern	6,824	81	277,216	1.2
North Eastern	3,221	36	120,403	0.6
Northern	4,888	53	193,361	0.7
Western	5,769	78	269,580	0.9
South Western	11,461	143	500,243	1.8
Metro North West	5,822	41	176,647	1.1
Metro South East	4,509	30	111,027	0.5
State Total			1,648,477	1.0

5.

(a)

Region	Chip Seals					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km
Eastern	4,862	667	7,289	4,603	610	7,546
North Eastern	4,036	586	6,887	4,204	578	7,273
Northern	5,054	713	7,088	4,814	670	7,185
Western	5,098	777	6,561	5,112	727	7,032
South Western	5,509	689	7,995	5,002	659	7,590
Metro North West	1,940	119	16,303	2,081	105	19,819
Metro South East	7,022	298	23,564	5,526	281	19,665

(b)

Region	Rehabilitation					
	1998/99			1999/2000		
	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km	\$000's	Lane km	\$/Lane km
Eastern	7,939	94	84,457	5,277	67	78,761
North Eastern	6,773	65	104,200	5,470	75	72,933
Northern	5,858	68	86,147	7,797	81	96,259
Western	5,674	52	109,115	7,144	68	105,059
South Western	10,357	108	95,898	9,268	113	82,017
Metro North West	1,110	40	27,750	708	45	15,733
Metro South East	6,396	134	47,731	2,795	48	58,229

Environment and Conservation: Geelong Clay Target Club

288. **MR SPRY** — To ask the Honourable Minister for Environment and Conservation with reference to the Geelong Clay Target Club —

1. Why does the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) intend to evict the club from parts of its shooting grounds and demolish the club assets prior to the Department needing possession for rectification works and before the works have been let out for tender.
2. Does the Minister know that DNRE agrees that its contractors can carry out sampling to define the specifications for that tender on some of the club's grounds whilst they are still in use, but insists on vacation and demolition of assets on other parts of the grounds.

3. Will the Minister — (a) affirm her undertaking given in Parliament last year that the club will be permitted to continue to use the whole of its grounds until the tender has been let and the works are about to commence; and (b) advise DNRE of such an undertaking.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. The Geelong Clay Target Club is continuing to use all its facilities at Limeburners Point Geelong for target shooting in the run up to the decontamination of the site.
2. NRE has appointed environmental engineers to design and document a program for the decontamination of Limeburners Point to remediate the site to Environmental Protection Authority standards for public open space. Tenders were called from contractors to undertake the decontamination and remediation works on 30 June 2001, closing on 26 July 2001.

The remediation works will improve the environmental condition of the coastal reserve. The outcome will be a safer coastal recreation area capable of sustaining increased community use and benefits.

The use of Limeburners Point for target shooting is now inconsistent with the surrounding public recreation activities at the Geelong waterfront area, Botanic Gardens and public golf course in Eastern Park.

3. The Geelong Clay Target Club can continue to occupy the building(s) at Limeburners Point as clubrooms and for equipment storage until it secures a new location for clay target shooting activities. All existing target ranges will be available to Club members until two (2) weeks prior to the decontamination and remediation works commence, after which no target shooting activity will occur at Limeburners Point.

The City of Greater Geelong supports the decontamination of Limeburners Point by NRE and will be responsible for the future management of the site as public open space.

Transport: Grovedale station

291. **MR PATERSON** — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what is the Government's — (a) timetable for the establishment of a railway station at Grovedale; and (b) proposed financial contribution.

ANSWER:

Under its Franchise Agreement V/Line Passenger was required to undertake a feasibility study to determine the viability of the construction of a new Station at Grovedale. V/Line has completed this study and concluded that the project is feasible but not commercially viable for V/Line without a Government subsidy. V/Line is therefore not obliged to proceed with the project.

However, V/Line has indicated that it would be interested in extending services to Grovedale if the Government were willing to fund it. V/Line's study has been submitted to the Department of Infrastructure for its consideration. No decision has yet been made by Government to proceed with a new station.

Transport: Geelong–Colac highway duplication

294. **MR PATERSON** — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what is the Government's timetable for the duplication of the Princes Highway between Geelong and Colac.

ANSWER:

The Bracks Government has requested the Federal Government to declare the Princes Highway between Geelong and the South Australian border as a "Road of National Importance", with a 50% Federal funding contribution. Federal funding would enable duplication between Geelong and Colac to be scheduled, and help to redress the massive shortfall in Federal road funding to Victoria.

Environment and Conservation: beaches at risk

297. MR THOMPSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Conservation with reference to a \$100,000 study to identify beaches at risk around Port Phillip Bay —

1. What does the Government propose to do for any cliffs that are presently a serious risk to public safety or under serious risk of further harmful erosion, pending the results of the study.
2. Which individual, firm or organisation will be conducting the study.
3. When was the departmental decision made to approve over \$7 million of completed works including the projects at Sandridge and Point Lonsdale.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

1. The Government announced \$1.1m of funding for Coastal Risk Projects for Port Phillip Bay in a Media Release by the Minister for Environment and Conservation on 8 November 2000. The initial allocation for 13 projects recognised that there were other problems that required further investigation. Some funds were reserved to provide the capacity to respond to immediate risks of public safety and further harmful erosion. In the budget announcements for 2001/02 there was a further allocation to address coastal risk mitigation issues broadly throughout Victoria.
2. The first stage of the 'Beaches at Risk' study has been awarded to Vantree Pty Ltd, in association with Coastal Engineering Solutions Pty Ltd. Submissions were sought from a select list of coastal engineering consultants established from consultants that had responded to public tenders advertised for larger coastal consultancies.
3. The decision to allocate funding for works at Point Lonsdale and Sandridge were announced by the previous Government and completed by the Bracks Government. For Sandridge, additional funding is being provided by Mirvac (Beacon Cove) Pty Ltd (\$1.12m) and the City of Port Phillip (\$0.3m).

Environment and Conservation: South Channel Fort

298. MR THOMPSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Conservation with reference to the recent re-opening of the South Channel Fort to the public —

1. What was the date of the decision by the Department to improve the island and the jetty.
2. What is the recurrent funding required to manage and maintain the island.
3. What are the negative environmental impacts upon Port Phillip Bay as a result of the creation of a 0.7 hectare island being established on a base of 14,000 tonnes of bluestone boulders.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

South Channel Fort is part of the network of defences constructed to protect the entrance to Port Phillip Bay from anticipated Russian attack in the 19th Century. The role of this artificial island was to illuminate the channel at night and electronically explode mines under attacking ships coming through the Heads. Construction began in 1879 with the laying of the bluestone foundations (the annulus), but funding was short and the Fort was not completed until 1888. A system of antiquated gun emplacements and tunnels are a feature of the island, which is now a significant refuge for seabirds, including the White-faced Storm-Petrel.

South Channel Fort is part of the Mornington Peninsula National Park.

1. The original jetty was condemned and closed in December 1997 as it was in an unsafe condition. Works completed recently replaced the jetty on its original footprint. This was done after detailed investigation of options, approval from Heritage Victoria, and a benthic (seabed) environmental survey.
2. Recurrent funding to manage and maintain the island is approximately \$5,000 per annum as it is expected that little maintenance work to the new jetty will be required for the next 10 years. Capital works on the island consist of fencing to protect White-faced Storm-Petrel nesting sites (\$6,000 in 2000/01 and a further \$6,000 in 2001/02)
3. There is no knowledge as to whether environmental impacts were considered when the island was constructed in the 1880s. Recent jetty works were carried out after environmental assessment and with all appropriate approvals and controls.

Environment and Conservation: dispute mediation

- 299. MR THOMPSON** — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Conservation with reference to dispute mediation covering the period 31 October 2000 to 22 March 2001 — (a) what disputes has the Minister or the Department endeavoured to settle through mediation; (b) who were the mediators appointed; (c) what has been the cost to the Department of each mediation; and (d) what have been the outcomes of the mediations.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Bracks Government is committed to working with communities to ensure that they are involved in government decision making. Mediation and conciliation provides an opportunity to resolve issues before expensive legal costs are incurred.

- (a) In relation to the period 31 October 2000 to 22 March 2001, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment settled by mediation a dispute regarding the integrity of the Porepunkah waste water treatment ponds and the proposed location of a winter storage pond involving North East Water. A small part of the Porepunkah community had been concerned at the process put in place by North East Water Authority to resolve this issue.
- (b) The mediator appointed was Mr Bob Smith, Senior Associate at the Centre for Public Policy at the University of Melbourne.
- (c) The cost of the mediation from 31 October 2000 to 22 March 2001 was approximately \$20,000.
- (d) The mediation process is now complete and North East Water is implementing the preferred option for the upgrade of the sewerage treatment ponds which was announced by the Minister on 6 March 2001.

Transport: Spring Creek–Anglesea roundabout

- 300. MR PATERSON** — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to the Great Ocean Road between Spring Creek and the Anglesea roundabout — (a) what plans does the Government have to address traffic congestion issues for Jan Juc residents accessing the road west of Spring Creek; (b) what conclusions did the study into this section of road, funded by the previous Government, reach regarding road safety and upgrade requirements; and (c) what is the timetable for the upgrade works.

ANSWER:

- (a) Vicroads in consultation with the Surf Coast Shire Council, has developed an interim traffic signal treatment for the intersection on the Great Ocean Road at Hoylake Avenue to address safety issues. Following agreement

to the signal design, this project will be nominated by Vicroads for funding consideration under the Statewide Accident Blackspot Program.

- (b) Vicroads has carried out some preliminary planning works, including investigation of environmental and heritage issues, for a possible duplication of the Great Ocean Road through Jan Juc. The further development of this project has been put on hold pending the outcome of a Department of Infrastructure study to develop a strategy to guide the management and development of the total length of the Great Ocean Road. This strategy is not expected to be completed before the end of 2001.
- (c) The interim traffic signal treatment will be considered by the Blackspot Program Advisory Committee for advice to the Government and its priority determined in comparison with other similar projects throughout the State. It is expected that the project will be submitted by Vicroads to the Committee in August 2001. The implementation of any further works on the Great Ocean Road at Jan Juc will not be able to be considered prior to the completion of the Department of Infrastructure study.

Transport: W-class trams

313. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what is the expected date for the return of ‘W Class’ trams to service on the metropolitan tram network.

ANSWER:

The first two City Circle trams returned to service on 28 May 2001. The other ten will follow as they are upgraded. The balance of the non City Circle Ws are intended to have two spring applied actuators for the tread brake installed to replace the current single pneumatic actuator. This is in addition to the track brakes. I am advised that this improved level of safety is appropriate for route operation of Ws where a higher service speed is required. The first of these Ws will be modified in 3 months and the balance will follow progressively.

Transport: W-class trams

314. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are all the expenses incurred by the Department of Infrastructure and the Office of Public Transport in attempts to return the ‘W Class’ trams to service on the metropolitan tram network.

ANSWER:

Expenses at the time the question was asked were \$186,463 in accordance with the following table. A further \$288,450 is committed for an additional 10 tram sets of track brakes.

Item	Qty	Date	Amount
Equipment			
TRAS Data Logger	5	Oct 00	\$32,560 (plus card reader and software)
	5	Feb 01	\$40,843
Track Brake	2 sets	Mar 01	\$100,507
Consultants & Engineering Services			
S Braham		Mar 01	\$1,716
G Rumble		Nov 00	\$96
G Rumble		Dec 00	\$96
G Vallance		Oct 00	\$2,043
Worley Services		Jan 01	\$8,602
			\$186,463

Transport: City Circle patronage

315. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the patronage figures for the City Circle tram for each of the months between January 2000 and February 2001 inclusive.

ANSWER:

2000

January	416,433
February	330,633
March	309,024
April	168,545
May	389,461
June	271,248
July	150,448
August	111,229
September	112,562
October	161,971
November	131,654
December	153,053

2001

January	187,087
February	142,577

Transport: Frankston flyer service

316. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the details of the expected implementation of a ‘flyer train’ service to Frankston.

ANSWER:

The Government’s Flier Train program aims to provide an enhanced service for outer suburban residents on the Dandenong, Ringwood and Frankston rail lines.

The Frankston line Flier Trains are to make use of the speed upgrades required to be provided by the train operator, M>Train (Bayside Trains), as part of the franchise agreement. These works are to be completed by March 2002 at a cost of over \$5 million.

The Flier Trains are to have an optimum stopping pattern to be determined in conjunction with the train operator. Techniques for ascertaining such stopping patterns are under development.

Transport: Eastern Freeway extension

317. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the details of an anticipated commencement date for the construction of the Eastern Freeway Extension to Ringwood.

ANSWER:

Construction of the Eastern Freeway extension to Ringwood commenced in March 2000, following the award of a contract on 16 February 2000. The scope of that contract includes:

- construction of a bridge on Mitcham Road to overpass the freeway;

- construction of a bridge on Park Road to overpass the freeway; and
- partial freeway earthworks from Springvale Road to Park Road.

Construction of a bridge on Deep Creek Road to overpass the freeway commenced in March 2001, following award of a contract on 16 January 2001.

Transport: Eastern Freeway extension

318. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the details of any plans to apply passive fire protection and active fire protection to the walls of the Eastern Freeway Extension Tunnel.

ANSWER:

The specification for the Design and Construction of the Eastern Freeway extension tunnels includes:

- requirements for passive fire protection in the form of a fire rating for the structure and for an additional sacrificial coating;
- provision for active fire protection as part of the fire deluge system in accordance with the requirements of the Metropolitan Fire & Emergency Services Board and the Country Fire Authority.

Transport: Mornington Peninsula Freeway extension

321. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the details of an anticipated commencement date for the construction of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway Extension in Braeside.

ANSWER:

A date for the commencement of construction of the Mornington Peninsula Freeway extension in Braeside has not yet been set.

Transport: dangerous and hazardous goods

322. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the plans to protect the community against the risks of transporting dangerous and hazardous goods and materials.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Victorian Workcover Authority and is part of the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon. Bob Cameron, Minister for Workcover.

Transport: dangerous and hazardous goods

323. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the plans to protect the community in the south eastern suburbs against the risks of transporting dangerous and hazardous goods and materials, considering the imminent closure of the Tullamarine Toxic Waste Facility.

ANSWER:

This is a matter for the Victorian Workcover Authority and is part of the portfolio responsibilities of the Hon. Bob Cameron, Minister for Workcover.

Transport: railway station staff

324. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — which railway stations have been allocated additional station staff since September 1999.

ANSWER:

1. The Bracks' Government made a commitment to introduce 100 additional staff on the metropolitan railway network with priority to be given to outer suburban locations to meet the safety needs of passengers arriving at stations late into the evening.
2. On the 20 November 2000, the Bracks Government announced that 100 Roving Safety Officers would be introduced to improve personal security and customer services on Melbourne's train network. All 100 have now been employed.
3. The 100 Roving Safety Officers patrol Melbourne's train network including stations, car parks and on-board vehicles.
4. These new Roving Safety Officers operate from the base stations of Noble Park, Essendon, Mount Waverley, Regent, Eaglemont and East Ringwood and travel throughout the train network on a seven day a week rotating roster.
5. In addition to this Government initiative, both Bayside Trains and Connex Trains will be converting 5 existing Non Premium stations to Premium status which will increase station staff by an additional 12 staff.
6. The new Premium Stations will be at Narre Warren, Mooroolbark, Surrey Hills, Bayswater and Macleod Stations. These Stations will be staffed from first to last train.

Transport: White Street, Mordialloc

325. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the plans, if any, for the improvement of traffic management in White Street, Mordialloc.

ANSWER:

Vicroads has recently provided pedestrian crossings for both left turn slip lanes at the intersection of Nepean Highway and White Street and also added extra 60 km/h repeater signs to remind motorists of the speed limit on this road.

The intersection of White Street and Treeby Boulevard is to be signalised in 2001. This will improve the overall safety in this area as part of the development of adjacent residential land.

Transport: Wells Road, Aspendale Gardens

326. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the projections, if any, of the changes in the volume of traffic using Wells Road, Aspendale Gardens, following — (a) the widening of Boundary Road, Mordialloc; (b) proposed changes to Rutherford Road, Seaford; and (c) the construction of the proposed Scoresby Freeway.

ANSWER:

I am advised by Vicroads that the recent widening of Boundary Road in Mordialloc has had minimal impact on Wells Road traffic volumes.

The provision of a north bound entry ramp from Rutherford Road is being considered as part of the Scoresby Freeway Project. The specific effect of this connection on Wells Road traffic has not been assessed.

Vicroads has advised that traffic forecasts undertaken as part of the Scoresby Transport Corridor EES and the City of Kingston's Wells Road corridor strategy, indicate that the construction of the Scoresby Freeway will result in a reduction in traffic on Wells Road of between 25% and 30%.

Transport: Beach Road–South Road lanes

327. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the details of any plans by Vicroads to reduce the number of lanes in Beach Road between South Road, Brighton and Nepean Highway, Mordialloc.

ANSWER:

Beach Road has an important role as an arterial road in providing for traffic to serve the transport needs of the community. Whilst certain actions have been taken to encourage freight traffic onto the Nepean Highway, the Government has no plan to reduce the number of lanes on Beach Road.

Transport: intersection traffic management

328. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport — what are the details of any plans to improve traffic management at — (a) the intersection of Springvale Road, Princes Highway, Police Road and Centre Road; (b) the intersection of Toorak Road and the Warrigal Highway, Burwood; and (c) the intersections of Murrumbeena Road and Neerim Road in Murrumbeena both north and south of the railway.

ANSWER:

Springvale Road/Princes Highway/Police Road/Centre Road

I am advised Vicroads is currently investigating a proposal to upgrade the intersection by constructing an underpass of Springvale, Police and Centre Roads for the Princes Highway. The project will be considered by the Government for possible inclusion in a future works program.

Toorak Road/Warrigal Highway

The Government has allocated \$20,000 this financial year for improvements to the signals to provide priority to the trams along Toorak Road. The project has been recently completed and is designed to improve the operation of trams and traffic at this intersection.

Murrumbeena Road/Neerim Road

I am advised that a proposal to link the traffic signals in Murrumbeena Road with the adjacent railway level crossing has been developed by VicRoads and will be forwarded for consideration by the Government for possible inclusion in a future works program.

Environment and Conservation: illegal shellfish collection

347. MR THOMPSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Conservation with reference to the illegal collection of shellfish in the City of Port Phillip and the City of Bayside — (a) how many infringement notices have been issued in the 1999 and 2000; (b) how many prosecutions have been instituted in 1999 and 2000; and (c) what plans has the Department of Natural Resources and Environment developed to stop the illegal gathering of shellfish in these municipalities.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Fisheries enforcement does not fall within my portfolio responsibilities and should more appropriately be asked of the Minister for Energy and Resources.

Environment and Conservation: new land for wildlife

348. MR THOMPSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Conservation with reference to page 218 of Budget Paper No. 3, Budget Estimates 2001–02 and the line item: ‘Proportion of new Land for Wildlife properties which include habitat unrepresented in the reserve system’ — (a) what is the methodology for the inclusion of land; and (b) why is the target figure for 2001–02, subject to the methodology of assessment, at a lesser figure than for 1999–2000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (a) Land for Wildlife properties are assessed by extension staff according to established Departmental guidelines. Data is entered onto the Land for Wildlife Statewide Property Register database and scrutinised for poorly reserved habitat types identified by Froud and Calder (1987) and Victoria’s Biodiversity Strategy.
- (b) The 2001–2002 Target is lower than the 1999–00 figure reflecting that, as there is a finite number of habitat types found in Victoria and, as the different habitat types are represented within the Land for Wildlife system, the target must decline.

Ports: boating collisions and groundings

359. MR THOMPSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Ports — how many boating collisions and groundings have been investigated by the Marine Board for — (a) 1997; (b) 1998; (c) 1999; (d) 2000; and (e) 2001 to date.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Water Police are primarily responsible for the investigation of recreational boating incidents, including groundings and collisions. The Marine Board undertakes a preliminary assessment of every reported recreational incident and provides input to Water Police investigations when requested.

Environment and Conservation: waste water and sewerage treatment

360. MR THOMPSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Conservation — with reference to the introduction in New South Wales of regulations governing waste water treatment and sewerage discharge from recreation vessels — what plans does the Victorian government have to improve water quality along Victoria’s coastline and inland water waste by minimising waste water and sewerage discharge from recreation vessels.

ANSWER:

I believe that this is an issue where both sides of the Assembly are in agreement. It is not acceptable for boats and ships in this day and age to still be discharging sewage to our recreational waters. This position was reflected with the recent gazettal of both the Port Phillip Bay and Yarra River schedules to the State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria).

The “no discharge” requirement has been in place in Lake Eildon for many decades and was introduced in the Gippsland Lakes in 1988.

In addition to these statutory requirements, EPA is working with various authorities to ensure that waste and sewage reception facilities are implemented and used in areas such as the Yarra River, Western Port, Port Phillip Bay and the Gippsland Lakes. There are already 5 pump-out facilities operating throughout the Gippsland Lakes and one facility at Hastings. Proposals to install 4–6 facilities around Port Phillip Bay are currently being pursued, while all marinas developed as part of Docklands will be fitted-out with such facilities at the construction stage.

These measures will progressively minimise the impact of waste water and sewage discharges from vessels on our coasts and inland water environments.

Transport: Box Hill transport interchange

363. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport with reference to the Box Hill transport interchange —

1. How often is the bus departure area cleaned.
2. Are missing tiles from the wall of the interchange to be replaced; if so, when.
3. Are the yellow safety and queuing lines for bus passengers due for repainting; if so, when.
4. Is the sign incorrectly spelling ‘Bennettswood’ with one ‘t’ due for replacement; if so, when.
5. For how many days in April and May 2001 were the elevators to and from the interchange out of service for at least part of the day between 0700 and 1900 hours.
6. Will advertising posters illegally placed at the interchange be removed; if so, when.

ANSWER:

1. Connex have advised that the area is cleaned twice daily.
2. Connex are aware of the problem and will replace the tiles as soon as possible.
3. Connex have advised that the lines have been inspected and repainting is not required at this stage.
4. The Department was not aware of the misspelling. My Department has pursued the matter with Ventura Bus Lines and the problem will be remedied.
5. Box Hill Shopping Centre management operate the lifts. The Operations Manager of the Shopping Centre management has advised that the lifts were out of operation for half a day in both April and May due to maintenance and service checks being conducted.
6. Connex have advised that no illegal advertising posters were found to be on display when an inspection was conducted on Tuesday 5 June.

Transport: QON no. 230

364. MR LEIGH — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Transport further to question on notice number 230 and the Minister’s answer (*Hansard*, 27 February 2001, page 230) —

1. Why was the previously specified date of ‘early in 2001’ not met.
2. When is the Automated Ticketing System expected to be fully operational across all modes.

ANSWER:

The functionality required to permit the National Bus Company to be included in the Automated Ticketing System has taken longer to develop than originally anticipated.

The new functionality which contains improvements for all Metropolitan bus operators will be rolled out across the route bus network when the National Bus Company is brought on line later this year.

Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance

368. MR KOTSIRAS — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — what strategies have been initiated to combat both racial and religious vilification since July 2000.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Racial and Religious Tolerance education campaign is currently being planned for implementation. During this time the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs has consulted widely with community groups, Government Departments and agencies to ascertain existing anti-vilification programs and areas of perceived shortfall.

Diversity Victoria was funded through the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs in October 2000 to provide a community training program concentrating on the issues of vilification and diversity.

As part of the State Government's commitment to supporting anti-racism initiatives the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs organised events in Victoria for Harmony Day, which occurred on 21 March 2001. Such events included a postcard and poster campaign; a lunch for community leaders and young people and 200 community based events across Victoria.

Multicultural Affairs: Macedonian Teachers Association of Victoria

373. MR KOTSIRAS — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs whether the Victorian Government authorised anyone to enter into discussions with the Macedonian Teachers Association of Victoria to withdraw the term 'Macedonian (Slavonic)', issuing an apology and contributing to costs; if so, when did the Minister become aware of these discussions.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

When this Government took Office, a legal action by the Macedonian Teachers' Association of Victoria (MTAV) against the State of Victoria was unresolved. The Government undertook to have the matter resolved via the legal process and as part of this process various suggestions were made about how the issue might be resolved. No agreement for an apology or a contribution towards the MATV costs of proceedings was made. The State of Victoria sought leave to appeal to the High Court. The High Court dismissed this application in May 2000. As is usual, it also made an order about costs. In this case, the costs order was made against the State in favour of the MATV. Those costs were paid. On 8 September 2000, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) determined that the language directive was indeed unlawful. This decision resulted in the subsequent withdrawal of the language directive. No apology was issued by the State.

Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance bill

374. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to the Racial and Religious Tolerance Bill — what are the costs to date for community consultation on the bill; (b) how much money was allocated for the said consultations and how much remains unused; (c) what are the details of any consultants that have been engaged to assist in — (i) the preparation of the bill; and (ii) conducting community consultation meetings related to the bill; and (c) what is the cost of the community consultation as specified.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The budget allocated to the consultation phase for the introduction of the Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation was \$300,000 and the total cost to date for community consultation on the Racial and Religious Tolerance Bill is \$227,789.

There are no unspent funds as a grant of \$81,818 was made to Diversity Victoria.

Sweeney Research Pty Ltd was engaged to research and assist in developing a communication strategy to publicise the Government's proposed Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation. The cost of research undertaken by Sweeney Research totalled \$35,200 GST inclusive.

The Strategy Shop was engaged as part of the consultation process to facilitate the public and Indigenous consultations. The total cost of the facilitation process was \$42,128.75 GST inclusive.

No consultants were engaged to assist in the preparation of the Bill as relevant units within the Department of Premier and Cabinet and other government departments and agencies were consulted in the preparation of the Racial and Religious Tolerance Bill.

Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance bill

375. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to the Racial and Religious Tolerance Bill — (a) what funds were allocated in the 2000–01 budget for an education campaign to accompany the legislation; (b) how were these funds expended in terms of — (i) programs; (ii) projects; (c) what amount of funding remains unspent; (d) what are the budget outputs detailing expenditure and performance for the education campaign; and (e) what funding has been allocated in the 2001–02 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Funds of \$700,00 were allocated in the 2000–2001 budget for an education campaign to accompany the introduction of the legislation.

These funds were not expended in terms of programs or projects as the Government always intended to develop and implement its community education campaign on passage of the legislation. Given that the Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation was passed by Parliament on 14 June 2001 and the Act will come into effect on 1 January 2002, there has been no specific expenditure against the allocated funds of \$700,000.

The funds committed to this aspect of the Racial and Religious Tolerance community education campaign have therefore been carried-over into the 2001–02 budget.

Multicultural Affairs: Ethnic Enterprise Advisory Council

376. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to the Ethnic Enterprise Advisory Council — (a) what progress has been made towards establishing the Council; (b) how many members will the Council have; (c) what is the selection criteria for the appointment of members; (d) what funds have been allocated for the operation of the Council; and (e) what costs have already been incurred in work to establish the Council.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (a) The Ethnic Enterprise Advisory Council is being established and appointments are expected to be finalised shortly.
- (b) The Council will consist of approximately 15 members.
- (c) Selection criteria for membership of the Council requires that nominees should possess proven expertise, skills and experience relevant to business and have sound relationships which can build Victoria's export base.
- (d) Approximately \$50,000 per annum will be incurred in costs, covering sitting fees and other aspects of the work of the Council.
- (e) Advertising costs of \$17,663.44 have been incurred to date in the establishment of the Council.

Multicultural Affairs: Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs

377. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to the budget allocation for the Office of Multicultural Affairs — why was the 2000–01 budget of \$4.9 million reduced to \$3.9 million in 2001–02.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The budget allocation for financial year 2001–2002 is \$3.9 million with the difference from the previous financial year being due to the one-off allocation of \$1 million towards the racial and religious tolerance legislation and community education program.

Multicultural Affairs: racial and religious tolerance bill

378. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to education strategies for the Racial and Religious Tolerance Bill — (a) what was the — (i) output; and (ii) expenditure in the 2000–01 Multicultural Affairs budget for such strategies; and (b) what are the — (i) target outputs; and (ii) expenditure for these strategies in the 2001–02 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government always intended to develop and implement its community education campaign on passage of the legislation. Given that the Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation was passed by Parliament on 14 June 2001 and the Act will come into effect on 1 January 2002, there has been no specific expenditure against the allocated funds of \$700,000 in FY 2000–01.

The funds committed to this aspect of the Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation campaign have therefore been carried over into FY 2001–02.

Other outputs and expenditure in the 2000–2001 Multicultural Affairs budget with reference to education strategies for the Racial and Religious Tolerance Bill include a grant of \$81,818 to Diversity Victoria.

Multicultural Affairs: budget

379. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to the reduction in the 2000–01 Budget from \$4.9 million to \$4.5 million — what are the reasons for the \$400,000 decrease in the Budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The revision was due to a projected underspend, primarily within the allocated funds for the Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation community education campaign and the Language Allowance program.

Multicultural Affairs: funding allocations

380. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs with reference to the \$800,000 allocated for Multicultural Affairs briefs and \$2.4 million to education strategies, Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria funding and language in the 2000–01 Budget — how was this funding allocated and spent in each area.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The \$800,000 allocation towards the *Advice* major output incorporates the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs' (VOMA's) staff salaries and on-costs. The \$2.4 million allocation towards the *Access and Communication* major output incorporates VOMA's administrative, project and grant operational expenditure, including:

- \$1 million towards the Racial and Religious Tolerance legislation and community education campaign, of which approximately \$700,000 was carryover for the education campaign as the legislation only passed through Parliament on 14 June 2001;
- \$500,000 towards the language proficiency allowance, which was underspent; and,
- \$140,000 towards the Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria's core grant allocation, which was fully allocated.

Amounts unspent have been submitted for carryover by VOMA and will be determined through the DTF and DPC administrative procedures.

Multicultural Affairs: budget

381. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Multicultural Affairs — are any unspent amounts from 2000–01 financial year being rolled over into the 2001–02 budget; and if so, how are these amounts shown in the 2001–02 budget.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There are unspent amounts from the 2000–2001 financial year. Amounts unspent have been submitted for carryover by the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs and will be determined through the DTF and DPC administrative procedures.

The unspent amounts are identified within an overall departmental context in the *2001–02 Budget Estimates, Budget Paper No. 3*. These unspent amounts, in an estimated form, are identified under “*Unspent previous year appropriation carried over*” in Table 4.5, which is entitled “*Consolidated Fund payment: Total Annual Appropriations*”.

Housing: waiting list

384. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing with reference to the review for the segmented waiting list — (a) has the review been completed; and (b) has the Community Reference Group provided its recommendation to the Minister; if so, could the Minister provide a copy of the report.

ANSWER:

The Segmented Waiting List Review held its final round of consultations from 18 to 31 July 2001 in metropolitan Melbourne and regional centres across Victoria. These consultations were based on a paper, “Summary of Proposed Directions”, which outlined proposals for public housing eligibility, assessment and allocations.

The Community Reference Group for the Review, chaired by Ann Barker MP, is currently considering the feedback gained from the consultation process and is expected to report later this year.

Housing: eligibility criteria

386. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing with reference to the proposed review of the eligibility criteria for public tenants — whether the review has been completed; if so, could the Minister provide a copy of the report.

ANSWER:

The Eligibility Review Community Reference Group was established in October 2000 and is chaired by the Office of Housing with representation from community groups, academic institutions, housing advocates and public housing tenants.

The Reference Group has produced a consultation paper on proposed principles and directions for change relating to public housing eligibility criteria. The paper has been sent to major housing stakeholders and published on the Department of Human Services’ web site.

The key principles from the paper have been included in the Segmented Waiting List Review consultation paper, “Summary of Proposed Directions” and feedback on these principles was sought at regional sessions conducted in July 2001. A final report is expected later this year.

Housing: women’s policy

389. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing with reference to the investigation initiated by Government for the development of a Women’s Housing Policy — (a) who is undertaking the review; (b) what are the associated costs of the investigation; and (c) what progress has been made so far.

ANSWER:

- (i) A Ministerial Advisory Committee, chaired by Karen Overington MP, has been established to lead the policy development process and conduct an appropriate public consultation process. The Committee includes representatives of a broad range of groups, including women’s housing services, domestic violence services, disability services, migrant resource centres, the Tenants’ Union of Victoria and the Real Estate Institute of Victoria. The Ministerial Advisory Committee is supported by a secretariat from the Office of Housing.
- (ii) The policy development process is being conducted by the Office of Housing. Expenses associated with the consultation process and in-house meeting costs will be funded from existing Office of Housing budgets.
- (iii) The Committee’s consultations (currently under way) are based on a strategy to ensure that there are substantial and inclusive opportunities for community input into the policy development.

During June and early July 2001, the Ministerial Advisory Committee held 14 public forums throughout Victoria. Some of the key issues that emerged from the consultations included the need for policies that

reflected the differences between metropolitan, regional and rural areas, the links between crisis and transitional housing systems and the importance of security of tenure and of income.

Focus group discussions are now being arranged for groups such as women in prison, women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, women with a disability and women living on public housing estates.

The one-on-one interviews will be conducted after the focus groups have been completed.

The outcomes of these consultations and the contents of submissions to other projects will form the basis of a draft report on Women's Housing. Public comment on the draft report will be sought before the report is finalised for further consideration by the Office of Housing.

Housing: Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement

- 391. MRS SHARDEY** — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing what are the details of the —
 (a) Commonwealth Government's contribution for 2001–02 under the Commonwealth–State Housing Agreement; and (b) separate contribution made by the State Government.

ANSWER:

The Commonwealth's funding allocations to Victoria in 2001/02 under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement (CSHA), and other agreements relating to GST and interest subsidy, total \$226.5 million:

	\$M
Base Funding	181.4
GST compensation	15.0
Housing assistance for Indigenous people	3.6
Community housing	15.9
Crisis accommodation assistance	9.9
Interest subsidy	0.7
Total	226.5

The State Government will provide \$102.8m to the Office of Housing as part of Victoria's CSHA matching requirements and GST compensation arrangements in 2001/02. In addition, Victoria will provide the second year instalment in respect of the Government's \$94.5m Social Housing Innovations Project, bringing total State contributions to \$140.8m. Details are as follows:

	\$M
State matching funds	88.8
GST compensation	13.7
Embedded tax savings	0.3
Social Housing Innovations Project	38.0
Total	140.8

Housing: supported accommodation assistance program

- 392. MRS SHARDEY** — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing — what is the funding breakdown of the — (a) Commonwealth; and (b) State Government contribution for the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program for 2001–02.

ANSWER:

In total the State Budget, which includes both Commonwealth and State funds, has allocated \$63.4m in 2001–02 to the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP).

The Commonwealth will provide \$33.8m in 2001–02 for SAAP with the State providing the balance (\$29.6m) comprising \$22.6m of matching contributions under the SAAP agreement and \$7m in non matched amounts, including accumulated additional State funds provided in 2000–01 and 2001–02 budgets.

Housing: Office of Housing

393. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing to provide a table detailing the operating expenses for the Office of Housing 2000/2001 showing — (a) employee related expenses; (b) purchase of supplies and services; (c) depreciation; (d) capital asset charge; and (e) other expenses.

ANSWER:

This and related information is consolidated in Annual Reports of the Department of Human Services. The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Reports of the Department of Human Services.

Housing: supported accommodation assistance program

394. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing to explain why the 2000–01 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee report on Budget Estimates shows that the total Supported Accommodation Assistance Program funding for 2000–01 provided by the Commonwealth and State Government's was \$58.4 million when figures released by the Commonwealth show a total of \$55.97 million for the program for that year.

ANSWER:

The Commonwealth amount of \$55.97 million relates to the gross funds provided under the SAAP IV bilateral agreement in 2000/2001 consisting of \$33.77 million of Commonwealth funds and \$22.2 million of State matching funds.

The amount advised to PAEC includes:

- the Commonwealth and State base (matched) funds for 2000/2001;
- additional State only funds;
- projected Commonwealth growth funds for 2000/2001; and
- additional State growth funds provided over and above the requirements of the Commonwealth/State bilateral agreement to provide additional assistance to those who are homeless.

Housing: supported accommodation assistance program

396. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing with reference to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Report on Budget Estimates 2000–01, page 292, in which the Minister stated that there is a Supported Accommodation Assistance Program funding shortfall received by Victoria from the Commonwealth Government of approximately \$2.5 million per annum on a per capita basis — what is the basis for this claim, apart from the fact that the percentage of total funding received by Victoria is 21.5% and Victoria's population as a proportion of the Australian population is 24.85%.

ANSWER:

Commonwealth funding to the States for SAAP builds off a historical service base dating back to 1985. In the period since 1985 Commonwealth additional funds have been offered to the States and Territories, generally on a per capita basis. As a consequence, inequities between the States and Territories arising from the original levels of funding have been perpetuated.

A number of the States and Territories, other than Victoria, were provided with award supplementation funding totalling \$45 million over three years (\$15 million in the first financial year 2000/01) under the arrangements in the current SAAP Agreement. This arrangement has placed Victoria at a further disadvantage in relation to population share. Victoria now receives only 21.5% of national SAAP funds or approximately \$5 million per annum less than its per capita share would require. Victoria is now providing significant additional State only funds above the matching agreement with the Commonwealth to address the Commonwealth funding shortfall.

Housing: homelessness

397. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Housing with reference to a policy initiative in the Housing portfolio for the development of a whole of government approach to homelessness through the establishment of — (a) an interdepartmental committee; and (b) a ministerial advisory committee — what are the details of the formation of the interdepartmental committee including — (i) a list of the committee members and their respective positions within the committee; (ii) how often, and on what dates, has the committee met; (iii) what are the terms of reference of the committee (iv) what are the issues discussed; (v) what have been the committee’s recommendations; and (vi) will the Minister provide minutes of the meetings.

ANSWER:

(i) Membership of the IDC comprises:

DEPARTMENT	POSITION
Department of Human Services	
– Office of Housing (Chair)	Director of Housing
– Aged, Community and Mental Health	Director
– Community Care	Director
– Public Health	Assistant Director, Drugs, Food and Health Development
– Regional Management	Regional Director
Department of Justice	Deputy Secretary, Justice Operations
Department of Education,	
– Office of Schools	General Manager, School Programs and Student Welfare
– Post-Compulsory Education, Training and Employment	Director
– Office of Youth Affairs	Director
Department of Treasury and Finance	Director, Portfolio Analysis
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Assistant Secretary, Social Policy
Office of Local Government	Executive Director

(ii) The full IDC has met formally on three occasions:

- 31 May 2000
- 27 September 2000
- 25 October 2000

At various dates and times, members of the IDC and their representatives have met to progress specific initiatives related to portfolio responsibilities and to initiate cross-government responses.

(iii) The Terms of Reference of the Inter Departmental Committee are:

- (a) To develop across Government strategies for the prevention of homelessness, and for those who are homeless.
- (b) To improve coordination of service delivery for people who are homeless.
- (c) To address issues around substance abuse and homelessness.

(iv) The IDC has discussed the following issues

- Process and structure of the VHS and the role of the IDC
- The community consultations undertaken by the Ministerial Advisory Committee
- The scope of actions occurring across IDC areas in relation to homelessness
- Identification of possible areas where preventative, early intervention and responsive initiatives could be developed. These areas included, but were not limited to:
 - Corrections
 - Child Protection/Juvenile Justice
 - Drug and Alcohol crisis responses
 - Mental Health
 - Aged and frail people at risk
 - Preventative educational initiatives

These discussions have resulted in the development of a number of joint initiatives for people exiting prison, people with a mental illness, and younger people at risk of homelessness.

(v) The discussions and development work undertaken by the IDC and relevant portfolio areas has resulted in design and coordination of proposals considered by the VHS MAC and the Project Team. These were:

- Transitional Housing initiative for young people exiting Juvenile Justice
- Transitional Housing initiative for people leaving prison
- Mental health and housing initiative.

These initiatives are currently being implemented across the State.

(vi) Not applicable.

Aged Care: funding allocations

399. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to the implementation of the 2001–02 Budget — what is the detailed financial breakdown of the aged care direct service delivery for—

1. Geriatric care in — (a) total; (b) inpatient geriatric evaluation and management; (c) inpatient geriatric respite; (d) continence clinic; and (e) cognitive, dementia and memory clinics.

2. Aged care rehabilitation in — (a) total; (b) inpatient rehabilitation; and (c) community rehabilitation centres.
3. Palliative care in — (a) total; (b) inpatient hospice care; and (c) community palliative care.
4. Aged Care Assessment Services (ACAS) and Home and Community Care (HACC) assessments.
5. Independent living in — (a) total; (b) Vicpacs; (c) delivered meals (HACC-funded); (d) personal care; (e) property maintenance; and (f) flexible service response.
6. Social support in — (a) total; (b) day centres; and (c) other support services that come under the HACC program.
7. Aged care respite delivered under the — (a) HACC program; and (b) carers program.
8. Complex community care in — (a) total; (b) Linkages packages; and (c) acquired brain injury program.
9. Nursing and allied health in — (a) total; (b) HACC and non-HACC; and (c) low cost eye scheme.
10. Prevention and promotion in — (a) total; (b) falls prevention; (c) Seniors cards; (d) Seniors Week; (e) community grants; and (f) any other promotional and preventative initiatives.
11. Aged care in — (a) training; (b) research; and (c) development.

ANSWER:

Last year's Aged Care budget, including the program items that you have asked for, have been rolled over as at 1 July 2001, and where applicable cost and wage adjustments have been incorporated. Final details for 2001/02 are not yet available.

The budgets for all Home and Community Care services cannot be finalised until formal approval of the State Plan by the Commonwealth.

The budgets for all Aged Care Assessment Services cannot be finalised until formal notification of funding from the Commonwealth.

For new initiatives refer to *2001–02 Budget Paper No. 3*.

Other available information is in the *Aged, Community and Mental Health Division Policy and Funding Plan 2001–2002* and the *2001–02 Victoria — Public Hospitals Policy and Funding Guidelines*.

Aged Care: funding allocations

- 400. MRS SHARDEY** — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to the implementation of the 2001–02 Budget — what amounts are being spent on — (a) aged care services and regional administration; (b) statewide programs including carry over from 2000–01 and any growth funding for the current year; and (c) head office costs and overheads, capital asset charge and depreciation costs.

ANSWER:

Budgets for Aged & Home Care services provided externally and departmental program management and services Care Services are published in the *Aged, Community and Mental Health Division Policy and Funding Plan 2001–2002*.

Details of growth funding for 2001–2002 are published in the *Aged, Community and Mental Health Division Policy and Funding Plan 2001–2002*. Data on carry over from 2000/01 are still to be finalised.

Head Office costs, including overheads, capital asset charge and depreciation costs are published in Budget Paper No. 3.

Aged Care: regional funding

401. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to aged care services and regional administration funding across Victoria — what are the funding allocations to each of the nine Departmental regions for 2001–02.

ANSWER:

Notional budget allocations relating to Aged Care services and internal regional program management costs for 2001–2002 are provided in the *Aged, Community and Mental Health Division Policy and Funding Plan 2001–2002* and the 2001–2002 version of *Victoria — Public Hospitals Policy and Funding Guidelines*.

Aged Care: central management

402. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care — what statewide programs in aged care are being managed centrally.

ANSWER:

Most programs combine both central and regional management

Examples of Statewide programs in aged care being managed centrally include:

Positive Ageing;
 Research and Development;
 Statewide Palliative Care;
 Seniors Card; and
 Residential Aged Care Quality Improvement Program.

Aged Care: funding allocations

403. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Aged Care with reference to the aged care services budget for 2001–02 — what are the specific amounts allocated for — (a) aged care inpatient services; (b) aged care community based services; and (c) other costs.

ANSWER:

Details of the aged care admitted patient services are provided in the *Victoria — Public Hospital Policy and Funding Guidelines 2001–2002*.

The budgets for all Aged Care Assessments and Home and Community Care services cannot be finalised until formal approval of grants from the Commonwealth is received.

Aged Care: home-based care

406. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable Minister for Aged Care with reference to 2000–01 Budget Paper No. 3 in which a total output cost of \$20.8 million for home based care was allocated — what amount was allocated to — (a) the Hospital in the Home program; and (b) post acute care.

ANSWER:

\$5 million has been allocated to Hospital in the Home and \$14.4 million to post acute care.

Aged Care: hospital demand strategy

408. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care — (a) whether the Hospital in the Home and Hospital to Home programs form part of the new Hospital Demand Strategy; (b) what are the details of other programs that form part of the Hospital Demand Strategy; and (c) what are the details of funds allocated to each of the programs that form part of the Hospital Demand Strategy.

ANSWER:

(a) The Hospital Demand Strategy incorporates increased use of Hospital in the Home. The Hospital Demand Strategy is complemented by Hospital to Home.

(b) The Hospital Demand Strategy is a four year program totalling \$582 million funding includes:

- \$384 million over four years (\$96 million in 2001–2002) to increase emergency department and elective surgery capacity at major metropolitan and regional hospitals, treat extra patients provide extra support for intensive care units and neonatal intensive care, open more than 300 new hospital beds and improve patient care processes;
- \$48 million over four years (\$12 million in 2001–2002) to take pressure off emergency departments by expanding access to sub-acute and interim care services so that elderly patients can be treated in a more appropriate environment than busy hospital emergency departments;
- \$150 million over four years for a patient management strategy (\$17 million in 2001–2002) to ease emergency demand by diverting elderly people and those with chronic conditions from unnecessarily ending up in emergency departments.

At this stage, proposals from individual metropolitan health services are being assessed by the Department of Human Services to determine the most appropriate mix of initiatives to meet local demand pressures.

Aged Care: fire-risk management

409. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to the \$10 million allocation over two years announced in this year’s Budget for fire risk management — what is the breakdown of funds to be allocated to such facilities over the two year period.

ANSWER:

The \$10 million is part of the \$18 million allocated for upgrades to a range of facilities and general Fire Risk Management.

Work has commenced on acute and residential aged care facilities under previous funding allocations and the \$18 million will continue Priority 1 works for acute and residential aged care facilities. This stage of the works program is directed toward rural facilities and the funding allocation to individual facilities will be priority ordered in accordance with a risk assessment. At this stage agency level allocations are not finalised.

Aged Care: Caulfield General Medical Centre

410. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to the Caulfield General Medical Centre — (a) how much money has been allocated to upgrade the aged care facilities on site since the current Government came to power; and (b) are there any future plans for continued redevelopment of the aged care facilities; if so, what funding will be required to implement the plan.

ANSWER:

Capital funds of approximately \$2.0M have been allocated for refurbishment of the Montgomery Hostel, closed by the previous government, to enable the reopening of 30 high care residential aged care beds.

Planning is progressing for future capital works at Caulfield General Medical Centre. Once planning and the evaluation of options is complete budget implications for the future development of the site will be determined.

Aged Care: sub-acute services

411. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to the \$48 million allocated in the 2001–02 Budget over four years to expand access to sub-acute services for elderly people — what type of services will be offered under this alternative care plan.

ANSWER:

A range of initiatives will be funded with the \$12m additional funding available in 2001/2 for substitution services to assist Metropolitan Health Services (MHS) and major regional hospitals to address emergency hospital demand. Some examples are short stay units attached to emergency departments to relieve pressure and streamline care; greater involvement of geriatricians and gerontic nurses in the care of the elderly in acute hospitals; care coordination to ensure that patients are assessed and treated in a timely and appropriate manner and discharged home with the right support in place; and better models of care for patients awaiting placement in nursing homes and hostels. Some additional sub acute care may be provided under this fund. Given that increasing numbers of older people are being admitted to public hospitals all these initiatives will benefit older people.

At this stage proposals from individual MHS are being assessed by the Department of Human Services to determine the most appropriate mix of initiatives to meet local demand pressures.

Aged Care: Hospital to Home program

412. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to the Hospital to Home program — (a) where does the program sit within the Department of Human Service’s structure; (b) how does the program operate; and (c) from which area of the Department’s budget is the program funded.

ANSWER:

- (a) The Home and Community Care Program (managed by the Aged, Community and Mental Health Division) and the Post Acute Care Program (managed by the Acute Health Division).
- (b) As above.
- (c) Hospital to Home is funded through the Department of Human Services, Acute Program.

Aged Care: Wintringham nursing home

414. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to the proposed development of the 45-bed Wintringham nursing home in the 2001–02 Budget — are these bed allocations part of the State off-line bed pool.

ANSWER:

The bed allocations at the proposed development at Wintringham are not part of the state bed pool.

Aged Care: home and community care

416. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care — to provide a more detailed explanation in relation to Home and Community Care service system development and resourcing itemised in the 2001–02 Budget Paper No. 3.

ANSWER:

The Output HACC Service System Development and Resourcing includes a number of activities of which the main component is HACC Service System Resourcing. Service System Resourcing includes projects that assist service providers to better meet the needs of all people in the HACC target group.

It covers services, which use advocacy, training and information strategies to improve the service system and resource service providers. Included under this activity are:

- Program Development and Access workers;
- Continence Nurses and Allied health professionals undertaking resourcing services;
- Community Service Officers undertaking planning and development;
- Maintenance grants for Senior Citizens Centres; and,
- HACC Response Service.

It may also include funds used to assist the agency's involvement in a Primary Care partnership and one off projects to improve quality, effectiveness and efficiency of HACC services and service system.

Aged Care: day care and community rehabilitation centres

417. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to adult day care centres and community rehabilitation centres — (a) what are the output measures; and (b) what is the expenditure for 2001–02.

ANSWER:

The budget allocations relating to Community rehabilitation centres for 2001 – 2002 as at July 2001 is provided in the 2001–2002 version of the *Victoria — Public Hospitals Policy and Funding Guidelines*.

The budget for Adult Day Care Centres 2001–2002 is part of the Home and Community Care (HACC) Services budget which cannot be finalised until formal approval of the HACC state plan.

Aged Care: home and community care

418. MRS SHARDEY — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Aged Care with reference to Home and Community Care nursing and allied health — (a) what are the output measures; and (b) what is the expenditure for 2001–02.

ANSWER:

Measures and expenditure for the Output HACC Primary Health, Community Care and Support, which includes nursing, allied health and support services, are noted in the *2001– 2002 Budget Estimates Budget Paper No. 3* (page 65).

Expenditure figures for 2001–2002 are not available at this time.

Corrections: staff numbers

419. MR WELLS — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Corrections with reference to employees within the Office of the Commissioner for Corrections —

1. From 20 October 1999 to 31 March 2001 — (a) what explanation is there for the increase in employee numbers from 63 to 78; (b) what was the actual cost of employee remuneration and entitlements; (c) what was the organisational structure (by means of supplying organisational charts) of the Office; (d) how many employees worked in each area/unit of the Office identified by — (i) classifications; and (ii) duties; and (e) how many employees were classified as Senior Executives
2. What was the level of effective full time employees within the Office at 31 May 2001

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The increase in employee numbers resulted from:

- the transfer of 7 staff from the Information Systems Branch following an internal restructure
- 3 additional staff to the Monitoring and Review Unit
- 3 staff to implement new initiatives
- 2 trainees recruited under the Youth Employment Scheme

As at 20 October 1999, 4 employees were classified as Senior Executives. This does not include the Deputy Commissioner who resigned during October 1999. As at 31 March 2001, 4 employees were classified as Senior Executives.

The number of effective full time employees within the OCSC as at 31 May 2001 was 85.

Corrections: prisoner accounts

420. MR WELLS — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Corrections with reference to prisoners' weekly pay held in individual internal prisoner accounts (separate from the global bank account managed on behalf of prisoner by CORE — The Public Correctional Enterprise) —

1. How many accounts operate at — (a) 31 March 2001; (b) 30 April 2001; and (c) 31 May 2001.
2. What is the total monetary balance in accounts at — (a) 31 March 2001; (b) 30 April 2001; and (c) 31 May 2001
3. How many accounts have a deficit balance at — (a) 31 March 2001; (b) 30 April 2001; and (c) 31 May 2001.
4. What is the total amount of monetary surplus or deficit of the accounts at — (a) 31 March 2001 (b) 30 April 2001; and (c) 31 May 2001
5. If all of the monies owed to prisoners, as detailed in accounts, needed to be paid out at a single point in time, is the amount in the single global bank account sufficient to meet this liability; if not, why.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

- (a) Each prison provider operates a trust account in which the individual money balances of each prisoner are held. Prisoner weekly earnings are deposited into this account. The number of such individual balances will equal the number of prisoners held by that providers at that point, although a small number of balances may be held for prisoners who have been discharged directly from court and are yet to collect their money, or have escaped and are not yet apprehended. Information with regard to prisoner numbers has been provided in response to question 1871.

(b) The balances held in CORE's trust account are:

31 March 2001	\$1,210,403.18
30 April 2001	\$1,157,276.11
31 May 2001	\$1,559,945.91

(c) Nil.

(d) The trust accounts operated for the purpose of holding prisoner money do not operate on the basis of a surplus or a deficit. They hold the sum of actual prisoner money balances.

(e) Yes

Corrections: prison capacities

421. MR WELLS — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Corrections — what is the ‘design’ prisoner capacity of — (a) HM Prison Ararat; (b) HM Prison Barwon; (c) HM Prison Beechworth; (d) HM Prison Bendigo; (e) HM Prison Dhurringile; (f) HM Prison Langi Kal Kal; (g) HM Prison Loddon; (h) HM Melbourne Assessment Prison; (i) HM Prison Tarrengower; (j) HM Prison Won Wron; (k) Fulham Correctional Centre; (l) Dame Phyllis Frost Centre; and (m) Port Phillip Prison at — (i) 30 June 1999; (ii) 20 October 1999; (iii) 30 June 2000; (iv) 31 December 2000; (v) 31 March 2001; and (vi) 31 May 2001.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Prison design capacities have not changed during the period from 30 June 1999 to 31 May 2001 and are set out in the following table.

PRISON DESIGN CAPACITIES

Location	Design Capacity
Ararat *	256
Barwon	250
Beechworth	123
Bendigo	80
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre	125
Dhurringile	106
Fulham	590
Langi Kal Kal	100
Loddon	250
Melbourne Assessment Prison	250
Port Phillip Prison	580
Tarrengower	38
Won Wron	127

*Note: Ararat capacity temporarily increased by 50 from April 2001 due to temporary use of Aradale facility.

Corrections: prison populations

422. MR WELLS — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Corrections — what is actual prisoner populations of — (a) HM Prison Ararat; (b) HM Prison Barwon; (c) HM Prison Beechworth; (d) HM Prison Bendigo; (e) HM Prison Dhurringile; (f) HM Prison Langi Kal Kal; (g) HM Prison Loddon; (h) HM Melbourne Assessment Prison; (i) HM Prison Tarrengower; (j) HM Prison Won Wron; (k) Fulham Correctional Centre; (l) Dame Phyllis Frost Centre; and (m) Port Phillip Prison at — (i) 30 June 1999; (ii) 20 October 1999; (iii) 30 June 2000; (iv) 31 December 2000; (v) 31 March 2001; and (vi) 31 May 2001.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

PRISONER POPULATION BY LOCATION — 30.6.1999 TO 31.5.2001

Location	Prisoner Population					
	30.6.99	20.10.99	30.6.00	31.12.00	31.3.01	31.5.01
Ararat	261	268	279	297	344	371*
Barwon	261	285	294	318	305	292
Beechworth	121	122	131	132	123	132
Bendigo	68	75	80	79	80	79
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre	144	148	153	163	175	169
Dhurringile	113	122	119	122	120	120
Fulham	582	626	623	643	684	688
Langi Kal Kal	97	75	100	108	108	92
Loddon	262	285	307	309	307	308
Melbourne Assessment Prison	276	274	269	274	275	266
Port Phillip Prison	588	651	646	672	699	705
Tarrengower	35	33	30	48	53	47
Won Wron	107	116	122	120	111	113
Total	2915	3080	3153	3285	3385	3384

*Note: Includes 27 prisoners placed at Aradale.

The shortfall in prison accommodation is being addressed through the Corrections Long Term Management Strategy which aims to reduce the growth in prisoner numbers through diversion and rehabilitation initiatives, complemented by a major redevelopment of Victoria's prison infrastructure over the next four years.

- A Temporary Bed Strategy has seen the construction of 690 temporary beds across the prison system. The first of six 50-bed Relocatable Cellular Accommodation units has been built at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre, and another five units will be commissioned at various prisons over the next six months.
- The 2000 State Budget funded the expansion of the prison system by 357 permanent beds to be built at existing prisons, which are due to become operational progressively.
- The 2001 State Budget approved a further building program which will result in a net gain of an additional 716 permanent prison beds by December 2004. The program includes building three new prisons, and closure of three existing prisons.

Major Projects and Tourism: Torquay Offshore Festival

424. MR PATERSON — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Major Projects and Tourism — is the Government proposing to provide assistance, financial or otherwise, to the Torquay Offshore Festival.

ANSWER:

Torquay Offshore Festival has applied to Tourism Victoria for funding assistance and this application is currently under consideration.

Premier: Target head office

425. MR PATERSON — To ask the Honourable the Premier with reference to the head office of Target in Geelong — (a) what assurances has the Government sought from Coles Myer that the office will remain in Geelong with the current work force numbers preserved; and (b) will the Premier provide any correspondence with Coles Myer.

ANSWER:

I have had discussions with Coles Myer executives concerning the trial centralisation of the company's buying functions from Geelong to Melbourne.

In addition, I recently met with a delegation which included the City of Greater Geelong concerning Coles Myer's presence in the region.

The Government is concerned about any potential job losses in Geelong and its impact on the local economy. To ensure Coles Myer maintains a strong presence in Geelong, I have written to Mr John Fletcher, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer designate of Coles Myer inviting him to discuss this and other issues, when he takes up his position on 10 September 2001.

I have asked the Hon. Marsha Thomson MLC, Minister for Small Business and the Department of State and Regional Development to continue discussion with Coles Myer concerning its plans for its Geelong operations.

Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment: CAE contracts

435. MR KOTSIRAS — To ask the Honourable the Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Employment and Training with reference to the Council of Adult Education — what are the details of all advertising undertaken since January 2000 to date indicating — (a) the date of approval for each contract; (b) the cost of each contract; (c) the purpose of each advertisement; (d) the duration of each advertisement; (e) where each advertisement was published and broadcast; (f) when each advertisement was published and broadcast; and (g) to whom each contract was awarded.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Centre for Adult Education advertises widely through many forms of media to promote its educational programs. For example, the CAE's Course Guide was recently distributed through the Age newspaper. Advertisements promoting literacy programs have been placed on commercial television.

To provide the level of detail requested would require the diversion of resources from other priority areas.

The Honourable Member may wish to ask a more focused question.