



# What would you say to Parliament?

Preparing for The Parliament Prize 2021

Parliament  
of Victoria  
Education

## The Parliament Prize 2021

Entries for the Parliament Prize 2021 will open on Monday 31 May 2021.

Further details will be posted on [the Parliament's website](#), so keep an eye out for updates. On this page you'll also find the winning videos from the 2020 competition. There is also [a short video](#) that's available on the Parliament's YouTube channel, which explains the competition and what a Member statement is.

In Appendix A and Appendix B of this resource, you'll find examples of Member statements delivered in the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Hansard. These are taken from Hansard, the official record of the Parliament.

## Member Statements

Each day that Parliament meets (called sittings days), Members of Parliament (MPs) may make statements on any topic of concern. MPs often use this time to speak about individual constituents (voters and citizens) or organisations in their electorate (the area the MPs represent). They have just 90 seconds to give their statement. One of the great things about Member statements is that MPs can speak on any topic in any way they like (provided the language is appropriate), meaning that Member statements can vary a lot depending on who the MP is and what they are speaking about.

### Topics

Last year students from across the Victoria spoke about state-based issues such as

- Environmental issues including deforestation and plastic usage
- Infrastructure such as skate parks and roads
- Mental health issues including increasing support for people

Please note students aren't required to select one of the above issues but are encouraged to select any state-based issue that is important to them.

### Structure

There is no set structure to a Members' statement, the only requirement is that it is 90 seconds and on a topic of concern.

## Teacher notes

There is no set structure for Member statements, the only two considerations are that each statement is no more than 90 seconds long and the statement is on a topic that the Member considers relevant to Parliament of Victoria. [The teaching and learning cycle](#) provides a framework for students developing texts based on model or example texts. The process also includes students building their understanding of the topic area (referred to as field) as they draft and explore language. Students then write texts together as a class and in groups using the language and structures from the model texts (the joint construction phase), before re-drafting and finalising their Member statements. Details of the teaching and learning cycle is available on the [Department of Education's Literacy Teaching Toolkit](#).

The details for students below step through a couple of key considerations for when they are putting their Member statements together, including some advice for filming and submission.

## Creating your Member statement

Below are some questions and tips to help you put your Parliament Prize entry together.

### Choosing an issue or topic

- Pick a topic you're interested in and can speak about with passion.
- Is it a state-based issue?
  - How can you tell which level of government is responsible?

### Researching an issue or topic of concern

- Do some research
  - Research can add some credibility to what you are saying because it can help you feel confident and knowledgeable about your topic. You may not include everything you discover or know in your Member statement, but it can help you select what you want to focus on.
- Think about where you get your research from
  - Reputable places to get your information include news, government websites, and non-governments organisations
- Do you need to include evidence or support? If so, what will it be?
  - Statistics, personal stories from your own or others' experiences, pictures, or use of backdrops or props to help reinforce your points.

### Crafting your presentation

- 90 seconds is around 240-250 words, so you're not going to be able to include everything. Think about:
  - What are the key things that you want to speak about?
  - What was the most interesting thing you found out?
  - Why did you choose this topic or why is it important to you?
- Explore some examples of Member statements from the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council ([Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#))
  - What sort of topics do the Members talk about?
  - Are there any words or phrases that are used consistently between the different Member statements?
  - What sort of examples do they use?
  - How might you use or incorporate some of words and phrases or types of examples into your Member statement?
  - If you would like more examples of Member statements, you can search the Hansard page on the Parliament of Victoria website (type Member statements into the Hansard search bar).
- Member statements are spoken not written, so while you might plan and write your statement, make sure when you film it, it sounds like you are speaking to people not reading something out loud.
- Members of Parliament must keep their language appropriate, so we ask you to use respectful language, i.e., don't swear.

### Filming your presentation

- It's really important that we can hear clearly what you say so minimise background noise. Outside can look great, but the wind can make it really hard to hear even if it doesn't seem that windy. Watch your video back to make sure you can understand everything.

- Think about how your background might be able to compliment what you are saying. If in doubt, filming against a plain wall can work.
- Practice a couple of times to make sure you can keep to the 90 second time limit.
- The ACMI website has lots of information about filming that you might find helpful. There are lots of explanations on their Film It page that looks at shot types, camera angles, sound recording, and if you want to get creative, visual effects too.
  - <https://www.acmi.net.au/education/film-it/>
- While a Member statement is usually an MP talking to the chamber, if you've got an idea to creatively produce your video that's good too. Bring your personality and just make sure your message is clear.

#### Submitting your entry

- Before you submit, make sure your file can be played on another computer or device – your friend's, parent's, or teacher's device might be a good option.
  - MP4 or MOV file types tend to be transferable to different devices, if possible, try to select one of these file types.
- Check the Terms and Conditions with your Parents. If submitting as part of school/classroom activity your teachers should talk to you about this.
- Make sure you put the correct email address and your full school name, campus (if applicable), including a link to the school website. This helps us find you and your school if we need to contact you. If you are a home-schooled you can still participate, please identify that you are home schooled.
- Submit your entry well before the deadline. Sometimes files can take a long time to upload.
- You'll receive an email confirming your entry.

## Appendix A

### Member Statements, Legislative Assembly

Parliament of Victoria  
Extract from Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)  
Legislative Assembly  
Fifty-Ninth Parliament  
Wednesday, 3 March 2021,  
pp. 738 – 747

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Ms STALEY** (Ripon) (09:36): 8 March is International Women's Day. The theme of this year is 'Choose to Challenge'. Today I stand in the Victorian Parliament as a woman elected to this place, and I challenge the false narrative that women are simply the sum of our body parts. Women are not people with periods or vulva owners, women are adult human females. We make up over half the Australian population. As Baroness Claire Fox said in the British House of Lords recently:

Our laws and words must never treat people as non-human things.

She went on to say:

I am not a uterus holder, nor a person with a vagina nor a chestfeeder. These are linguistic abominations ...

Ms Shing of the other place is reported as supporting the erasure of women as whole personas and the erasure of the female-only role women can have as mothers. I reject this. Ms Shing supports changing the language to make breastfeeding 'chest feeding' and pregnancy 'pregnant people'. Women have far to go to achieve equality in all spheres, including, as we have seen in recent weeks, women's rights to safety and freedom from violence and rape. We should not have to fight about our identity as women.

#### MADELINE DOSSIS

**Mr CARROLL** (Niddrie—Minister for Public Transport, Minister for Roads and Road Safety) (09:37): I rise to celebrate the life of Madeline Elise Dossis. In the historic sitting of the Victorian Parliament at the Royal Exhibition Building in a moving speech the Premier of Victoria spoke about a local girl named Madeline, an intelligent and articulate young woman who we had the privilege of meeting at Essendon Keilor College in 2014. To quote the Premier:

... Madeline was a bright and shining star ... who deserved a bright and shining future.

Through different hospital and community services, her journey represented the fractured approach that just has not kept the most vulnerable Victorians safe, including Madeline. Madeline's family wants our Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System to mark a turning point in mental health care in Victoria, and by accepting all 65 recommendations we are going to make a dramatic difference in getting those with mental health challenges the support they need when they need it.

I want to take this occasion to thank Madeline's family: Karen, Vi, Michael, Stephanie, Katherine and Matt. I want to thank them for their bravery in coming forward and telling Madeline's story. I also want to acknowledge Stephanie for the wonderful service we had at Woodlands Park recently and the \$20 000 that she raised for the Reach Foundation to support young individuals just like Madeline. The landmark royal commission will not bring Madeline back or heal their heartache, but I hope they can find some comfort in the knowledge we are absolutely committed to rebuilding our broken mental health system. Their experience will shape a new system. We owe it to Madeline, that bright and shining star.

## AUSTRALIAN STREET ART AWARDS

**Mr D O'BRIEN** (Gippsland South) (09:39): Congratulations to Yarram for last night winning the gold award in the highly coveted Best Street Art Trail category at the 2020 Australian Street Art Awards on Queensland's Sunshine Coast. Yarram has transformed itself into a mural town in the past 12 months, engaging Mongolian street artist Heesco Khosnaran to so far produce 17 outdoor murals. These murals tell the story of the town, its people and its history. Dubbing itself 'Heesco Town', Yarram has attracted attention from around the country with the murals, which can now be described as 'award-winning'. A national panel of judges described Yarram as 'Australia's newest and hottest start destination'. That much of the work was done in the early stages of the pandemic was also a credit to the town. The judges said:

We love that Yarram pulled up its socks, strapped on its thinking cap and turned to street art as a secret weapon during this period.

Along the way they created hope, joy, a blaze of colour and an Australian first. Congratulations to Heesco and the forces behind the win, Eric Greenaway, Wayne Tindall, Paul Frost and many others that helped make it work, including the business owners who allowed their walls to become canvases. I invite all members, indeed all Victorians, to get down to Yarram and see this fantastic new streetscape.

## LOCH SPORT

**Mr D O'BRIEN**: Loch Sport is another town moving ahead in leaps and bounds. It was great to recently attend the official opening of the new synthetic bowling green at the bowls club, while the newly rebuilt golf club clubhouse will be opened this weekend. These upgrades, which provide new facilities for the town's growing population, along with the boom in house sales and the redevelopment of the commercial centre around the supermarket, Loch Sport is certainly a town on the move.

## WILLIAMSTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

**Ms HORNE** (Williamstown—Minister for Ports and Freight, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, Minister for Fishing and Boating) (09:40): I recently had the pleasure of visiting the Williamstown Football Club, the Seagulls, and meeting the VFL women's team at their training facility, newly developed thanks to a \$1.2 million investment from this government.

It is fitting for me to also mention that Monday will be International Women's Day. Ordinarily I would be delighted to welcome female leaders from schools in my electorate to this place on International Women's Day, an event I know that my friend the Minister for Women has enjoyed joining in the past. While the pandemic has put that on hold this year, I want to take the opportunity to recognise some incredible women from my community in Williamstown. The Seagulls VFLW players are extraordinary leaders in our community and champions for young women and girls to look up to. The club should be commended for its effort in the accelerated football program, giving young girls access to the training and resources to become better footy players and level the playing field.

## PAULA BENSON

**Ms HORNE**: There can be no gender equality, though, without the leadership of women like this or Williamstown resident Paula Benson, who was recently awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to people living with ovarian cancer and to business. Paula has served as a chair of Ovarian Cancer Australia and has been absolutely pivotal in changing the lives of so many Australian women touched by ovarian cancer. From the first national action plan for ovarian cancer research to securing millions of dollars in funding for research programs, Paula's own personal experience and the incredible positive change effected by her speaks volumes to her strength. (*Time expired*)

## MYANMAR

**Mr HODGETT** (Croydon) (09:42): I rise today to speak on the situation still taking place in Myanmar. Since 1 February Myanmar has been without a democratically elected government, as the nation lives under a military coup. The state counsellor, president and a number of leaders have been detained for nearly a month now. Also detained is Australian academic Sean Turnell, whose whereabouts are still unknown.

The situation is deeply concerning to Australia, which is a great supporter of returning democracy to Myanmar. Myanmar is a nation which struggled under military rule for many years following its independence in 1948. The democratic election of 2015 brought hope to a nation that was and still is desperately seeking democracy. The return to military rule is a step back from that goal. The Australian government has called for the release of the unlawfully detained leaders and for the military to respect the rule of law. The impact of this coup is being felt around the world, including by those of the Chin community in my electorate and the Australia Chin Communities Council. We must stand with and offer our support to the people of Myanmar and the Burmese communities here in Australia during these tough times.

#### **R JOSEPH XIN LU**

**Mr HODGETT:** On another matter, I wish to congratulate Father Joseph Xin Lu on his 20th year anniversary of ordination into the priesthood. Father Joseph is our parish priest at the St Peter Julian Eymard Catholic church in Mooroolbark. He has spent more than half of his time as a priest with us, going into his 11th year at the Mooroolbark parish. Thank you, Father Joseph, for all your service and spiritual leadership and your service to the Mooroolbark parish. We are blessed to have you and wish you well as you continue your religious and faith journey.

#### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND LABOUR DAY**

**Ms THOMAS** (Macedon—Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional Development) (09:43): On Monday we celebrate International Women's Day and Labour Day. Born of the women's equality and labour movements, these two days are extremely significant for me, for all my colleagues and for those who share our Labor values—equality, justice and an abiding commitment to improving the lives of working people.

#### **MODERN SLAVERY**

**Ms THOMAS:** It is this week that my electorate team and I have committed to learn more about modern slavery and to support awareness raising and action in my electorate. Modern slavery is an umbrella term that includes human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, deceptive recruitment for labour or services, forced marriage and child labour. While often hidden from view, modern slavery denies humans their inherent dignity through exploitation, degradation and control. Poverty, discrimination, civil disruption, weak rule of law and natural disasters are all drivers of modern slavery. According to Anti-Slavery Australia 40.3 million people live in slavery globally— a truly shocking figure—while here in Australia, Anti-Slavery Australia estimates, over 1900 people are victims of modern slavery. It is a wake-up call to all of us in this place to open our eyes, stand up, speak out and make change. A big thanks to my constituent Marg Leahy through her work with ACRATH, Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans, which is affiliated with Anti-Slavery Australia. Marg has been a passionate advocate and is at the forefront of raising awareness of this issue in the community I represent.

#### **SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT**

**Mr MORRIS** (Mornington) (09:45): There have been repeated claims about the support that the government has provided to assist small businesses to weather the COVID storm. Yet despite these claims we know many Victorian businesses are in trouble, and this morning we learned that the number of business collapses had doubled in February in Victoria. Why? Because the government has totally failed to deliver on their promises. Angela, the proprietor of a Mornington retail outlet, applied for business support in September. The website clearly indicated that \$10 000 was available for businesses in metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell shire and \$5000 for regional businesses. On 1 October the business received \$5000. Upon making inquiries, Angela was told that Mornington was not in the metropolitan area. The department claimed the program had told her that was the case and she was only eligible for the smaller payment. It is a pity the program was not managing the lockdown. Eventually in mid-October the department conceded that Mornington was part of metropolitan Melbourne and indicated they would hear back in a few days. Needless to say, that did not happen. After the involvement of my office, the Mornington Peninsula shire, the Mornington Chamber of Commerce and even the Victorian Ombudsman, and thanks to Angela's tenacity, things started to move,

but it was only during the last sitting week in February, more than 4½ months after the application, that the final \$5000 was received.

Clearly the government has no conception of the financial pressures faced by small business. This delay could have been terminal for that business. No thanks to the government it was not, but how many more businesses face closure because the government just does not get it?

#### **KANGAROO FLAT LIBRARY**

**Ms EDWARDS** (Bendigo West) (09:46): Last week I was delighted to join in the official opening of the new Kangaroo Flat Library. This \$1.6 million project is a great example of what can be achieved when state government and local government come together and invest in the community. I am proud that through the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program we provided \$400 000 towards this project. We invest in libraries for several reasons: first, because Victorians in fast-growing communities like Kangaroo Flat deserve the best possible facilities; second, because we know the lifelong benefits children and families can get from libraries; and third, because every investment we make helps to employ local people and keep the economy moving. This is more important than ever as we look to recover from COVID-19.

Libraries are about so much more than books. They strengthen and enrich our communities. They enable learning, personal development and relaxation, and they remain a vibrant, inclusive and much-loved part of our society. Under stages 3 and 4 COVID restrictions, libraries across the state were closed, but they displayed ingenuity, resilience and commitment to their communities, and no less so than at the Goldfields Library Corporation.

This new library is just across the road from my office, so I am very excited that I have seen many people using it already. Whether they are there to read, study, use the internet or just relax, this upgrade caters for the whole community. It is accessible, and there is more room for books and other collection items. We are very pleased to be able to support our libraries with our November state budget—\$56.9 million for our Living Libraries program. This will ensure Victorians can continue to benefit from everything libraries can offer.

#### **BRUNSWICK ELECTORATE CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Dr READ** (Brunswick) (09:48): It is heartening to see an increase in walking and bike riding in the wake of the pandemic. Sadly, the roads are choked with cars again, but active transport still seems to be popular. It is not surprising in my area because more people rode to work from Brunswick than from any other Australian suburb at the last census. But they are increasingly forced onto the roads because the shared paths on the Upfield line and along the Merri Creek are crowded with pedestrians and bikes, and they are narrow paths. VicTrack's Upfield shared path has been blocked by construction around Jewell station for two years now and blocked by the level crossing project further north for almost a year. Construction at Anstey station makes the Upfield path too narrow for bikes, so it barely exists as a viable route. I am seeing more people risking the ride down Sydney Road heading for the safer Royal Parade but also threading their way between the cars and trams on Lygon Street.

The City of Melbourne is installing more separated bike lanes, as is the state government, on several roads around Melbourne but none in Brunswick. Moreland council is giving Brunswick its first separated bike lane—just half a kilometre on Dawson Street. So I call on the Minister for Transport Infrastructure and the Minister for Roads and Road Safety to urgently improve cycling routes in the Brunswick electorate.

#### **NORTHERN HOSPITAL**

**Ms HALFPENNY** (Thomastown) (09:49): Last Wednesday I had the great pleasure of representing the Minister for Mental Health in visiting the HOPE service at the Northern Hospital to formally announce its commencement. HOPE stands for hospital outreach post-suicidal engagement, and this is a new service in Epping. HOPE is a follow-up and after-care service for people who attend a hospital emergency department in crisis or following a suicide attempt. The first HOPE service commenced at St Vincent's Hospital in April 2017.

In its interim report the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System recommended that the HOPE

service be expanded to all Victorian area mental health services, and this will see the service grow from 12 to 21 service locations. This is a great service for the residents of the northern suburbs and particularly the Thomastown electorate, and I want to congratulate the staff that I met there who were so dedicated and hardworking: Elizabeth, Yvette, Kelly, Sharon, Stephanie and the many other staff that really work to help those suffering mental illness. I would also like to note that most of the staff are women, and now that we are looking next week at celebrating International Women's Day I think it shows how women really do have dedication and do some of the really tough jobs that mean so much and contribute so much to our society.

### **GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE**

**Mr ANGUS** (Forest Hill) (09:51): The hypocrisy of the Victorian state government knows no bounds. This was highlighted in the government's recent announcement of a royal commission into Crown Casino. Whilst this is a much-needed inquiry, what is needed even more is a royal commission into the deadly hotel quarantine and contact-tracing disaster here in Victoria. The recently completed Coate inquiry into hotel quarantine and contact tracing was nothing more than a cover-up and a whitewash, hiding the truth in relation to many key aspects of the government's deficient behaviour. Witnesses should be recalled and all evidence examined properly to determine the answers to many of the fundamental questions that remain unanswered. The collective amnesia that was exhibited by most of the witnesses should not be tolerated.

In stark contrast to yesterday's special sitting of Parliament at the Royal Exhibition Building, I think there is little likelihood of the tabling of the final report of the royal commission into Crown Casino being done in that manner when it is finalised. Rather I expect the government will try to release this report under the cover of darkness with as little scrutiny as possible.

### **SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT**

**Mr ANGUS:** The delays in getting much-needed business support grants to small businesses continue to be a significant issue. Whilst small businesses continue to struggle to get going again after repeated government-imposed lockdowns, the government has been slow to get assistance to these businesses. I would urge the government to ramp up its efforts to assist businesses before it is too late for them. With today's media reports showing that the number of companies collapsing in the past month has doubled, urgent action is needed. The government was very quick to restrict the operations of businesses but is very slow to assist them to recover. This inaction must change in order to properly support struggling businesses, especially small businesses.

### **JOURNEY ON WADAWURRUNG COUNTRY EXHIBITION**

**Ms COUZENS** (Geelong) (09:52): It was an honour to speak at the Journey on Wadawurrung Country exhibition last week at the Geelong Arts Centre. Journey on Wadawurrung Country is a cultural exploration of the local Aboriginal people and their stories through artistic practice. Together in close consultation with Corrina Eccles, Wadawurrung traditional owner, Ferne Millen, art director and photographer, and Vicki Hallett, musician and sound artist, they have captured the stories of traditional owners of the Wadawurrung land. It is a journey of the oldest living culture through images, stories and sound on country. Sharing culture is a significant way of educating the broader community about the beautiful culture while learning, understanding and acknowledging the brutal truth of the past.

I am proud of the Victorian campaign Deadly and Proud, sharing stories from traditional owners and Aboriginal Victorians, which instils pride in Victorian Aboriginal Health culture, resilience of community and the path to treaty, truth and justice. Deadly and Proud is what the Geelong community can see in Geelong through this Journey on Wadawurrung Country. I want to acknowledge and thank Corrina Eccles, Wadawurrung traditional owner, for her tireless commitment to share First Nations culture and her great leadership of community.

## PAKO FESTA

**Ms COUZENS:** Diversitat Pako Festa Reimagined was launched with a new format to ensure it was delivered in a COVID-safe way. I am proud of the support we provide from the Andrews government to Pako Festa. I was delighted to launch the Pako Festa 2021 alongside the 30 multicultural groups that are featured in the projections on the walls of the Geelong West town hall on Pako. No-one wanted to miss this famous Pako Festa this year.

## SHEPPARTON EARLY PARENTING CENTRE

**Ms SHEED** (Shepparton) (09:54): For many years we have called for the establishment of a residential mother-baby unit in Shepparton on the model of the Tweddle Child and Family Health Service. Over the years the terminology around such residential units has changed, and they are now called early parenting centres. In October 2020 the government announced Victorian health and family services would be responsible for the \$123 million new early parenting centres to be established in seven locations, being Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Frankston, Casey, Wyndham and Whittlesea, but not Shepparton. The centres provide critical support for parents who need advice and support around caring for their babies. For years now mothers have been discharged from hospitals within days of delivering their babies and often prior to breastfeeding being established. Issues around feeding, sleeping and settling can be very important for young parents to deal with, and a residential support unit provides the setting for these issues to be addressed. Shepparton has all the key indicators which support the need for such a unit, including a high rate of teenage births, poor breastfeeding outcomes and many emotional and behavioural difficulties at school-entry level. We have worked hard advocating for this service. The hard work has been done and it is now ready to fund and build. It will help our community address many of its underlying issues which lead to more problems later on.

## REFUGEE DETENTION

**Ms WARD** (Eltham) (09:55): I rise to thank a local man, Luke, for his kindness and compassion. Luke met with me last week to talk about his dismay at the difficult detention experienced by refugees held within the Park Hotel in Carlton. The hotel room windows are tinted and their access to the outside world is severely limited. In wanting to help improve their quality of life, Luke, with the support of locals Fiona and Darren, raised money to purchase basic electronics for those detained refugees. Disappointingly, due to an Australian Border Force directive the drop-off facilities at the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation in Broadmeadows closed a few weeks ago. In denying access to these devices border force continue the difficulty these men have experienced in communicating with the wider world, including communicating with their legal representation, accessing online medical and self-care resources, and maintaining relationships.

I wrote to the Minister for Home Affairs asking for these refugee men to be permitted to receive their devices. I am glad to see that almost two weeks after Melbourne's circuit-breaker shutdown ended these drop-off facilities have now reopened. The community I represent has a big heart, and I thank them for their generosity and efforts to help these refugees where they can. I do hope the federal government can come up with a way to work with refugees.

## WELCOME TO ELTHAM

**Ms WARD:** Kindness and caring for others are common in my community. Welcome to Eltham is a local group providing support to local refugees and people seeking asylum through programs and social connections. They began a number of years ago to support Syrian and Iranian refugees in our community. This year they received a grant through the Victorian government's coronavirus support for multicultural seniors program. The funding enabled Welcome to Eltham to purchase five tablet devices to be shared amongst those they support to provide IT training, with the help of former refugee Phillip, in applications such as Zoom and WhatsApp. I thank the Minister for Multicultural Affairs for joining with Welcome to Eltham last week on Zoom— *(Time expired)*

### **ST LEONARD'S UNITING CHURCH, BRIGHTON**

**Mr NEWBURY** (Brighton) (09:57): St Leonard's Uniting Church in Brighton has ignited the spark of compassion. To raise money for the homeless, parishioners put aside \$4 each week as part of the coffee cup challenge. This year the Brighton congregation raised \$10 000. The spark is well and truly ignited, with 12 other parishes now participating in the challenge. Congratulations to Minister Kim Cain and Barry Schofield on the initiative.

### **TASKFORCE YOUTH HUB**

**Mr NEWBURY:** Each year TaskForce Youth Hub in Station Street, Moorabbin, helps 1000 young people access drug and alcohol addiction support services. Part of that service includes Reset Life, a free and intensive outpatient program where participants receive wraparound rehabilitation. The hub provides a first step to many young people who both need and deserve a hand up.

### **LIONS YOUTH OF THE YEAR**

**Mr NEWBURY:** This year five Bayside Lions clubs have hosted a Youth of the Year Award event. The award is aimed at helping young people develop worthwhile skills. Congratulations to Shaelea Hilliard, who was declared Brighton Lions Club Youth of the Year, and Harrison Huber, who was awarded the public speaking prize. Congratulations also to club members Kim Lowe, Mike Hawke and Ron Smith on the Brighton event.

### **ELSTERNWICK PARK**

**Mr NEWBURY:** There has been a lot of activity at Elsternwick Park north. Excavators are shaping a new chain of ponds which will help mitigate flooding and enhance the environmental space. I recently met with new Elsternwick Park Association presidents Natalie Davey and Julie Beatty and site supervisor Marcus Gwynne at the bottom of a future billabong to see the works firsthand, which will convert the site into an environmental wetland of regional significance.

### **ROYAL COMMISSION INTO VICTORIA'S MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

**Mr DIMOPOULOS** (Oakleigh) (09:58): The release of the report of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System was a historic move. It is a first but an important step and will make lasting change and lasting history when we actually adopt all of the recommendations, which we have committed to doing. And it will make profound and permanent change to people's lives. That will be the biggest achievement in this historic move. The mental health of our family, our friends, our neighbours and our colleagues is the biggest challenge we face. The system is broken. It is on us. It is on all of us to do our job. We have an obligation, we have a responsibility, and we must do this.

I want to offer my love and respect to the thousands of people across Victoria, to so many people in my community who made submissions to this inquiry and who have lived experience. To all those I have spoken to over many years, both in my current role and in my personal life, your courage and your experience have been crucial to the understanding of how the system works, or in fact how it does not work. I want to remember also those who are no longer with us. I want to thank the royal commission for its tireless work on this report, and I want to give my enduring thanks and support to all of those who work in this system. You too have suffered for too long. Your dedication has gone above and beyond. The failures of our system have also failed you. This is not my quote, but it is an incredibly powerful one: 'The first step in solving any problem is recognising that there is one', and there is a time to solve this problem.

### **BENTLEIGH SECONDARY COLLEGE**

**Mr STAIKOS** (Bentleigh) (10:00): One of the great joys of being a member of Parliament is working with local schools to deliver positive outcomes for local students, and last week I had the pleasure of visiting Bentleigh Secondary College and meeting with students to hear their views on what a future performing arts centre at the school should look like. They are an awesome group of students—superstars in fact—and I thank them for their work. I acknowledge drama captains Ester Rubino and Roxy Hellwege, Zoe Robinson, Bianca Tsan, Jake Murphy, Cristina Pizzolante, Gleb Shvetcov, Maya Thurlow, Holly Pirett, Gabriele Rubino, Scarlett Moss, Georgie Clarke, Stephany Handoyo, Olivia Fitzpatrick and Ben Littlejohn.

The meeting was held in response to the appointment of Haskell Architects to start planning work on this new facility. The students had a number of thoughts about facilities within the performing artscentre that would be essential as well as others that would be ideal. I have attended many of Bentleigh's productions over the years, including *Seussical the Musical*, *Grease*, *The Wedding Singer* and *We Will Rock You*. Each one has been a stellar performance, and I can only imagine the awesome work Bentleigh Secondary could do with a purpose-built performing arts centre. I am also very pleased that the architects appointed are the same architects who designed Bentleigh's Da Vinci Centre and indoor courts. Bentleigh Secondary College is an outstanding school, and I am very much looking forward to seeing this work progress.

#### **WERRIBEE ISLAMIC CENTRE FACILITIES**

**Ms CONNOLLY** (Tarneit) (10:01): A couple of weeks ago I had the pleasure of joining the wonderful folks at Werribee Islamic Centre for a tour of the Melbourne Grand Mosque. This mosque has been a dream of so many people in our Muslim community and Melbourne's west for over a decade now, and I am very pleased to say that this dream is now almost a reality, with the mosque hoping to open its doors for prayers in coming months. I have to say whenever I am visiting mosques in my local community I am always awed by the incredible architecture. The beautiful archways and traditional interior will make this new mosque a landmark out in Tarneit as a place of both religious worship and community gatherings for many, many years to come.

Not only this but thanks to a \$575 000 grant from our government's Multicultural Community Infrastructure Fund as well as a \$650 000 grant from our major early learning facility fund, a community hall and an onsite kinder are also well underway. These two facilities will be open to the broader public in the very near future and are welcomed and much-needed additions to our local Tarneit community. In Tarneit we are home to a very vibrant and welcoming Muslim community, and it is great to see the joy that this new mosque and attached facilities will bring to them. Whether it is the mosque itself, the community hall or onsite kinder, these facilities are going to be open and will welcome the broader Wyndham public. I cannot wait to stand alongside those elders who fought so hard to build this mosque; stand alongside, cut a ribbon and— (*Time expired*)

#### **CHRISTINE TIPPETT**

**Ms HENNESSY** (Altona) (10:03): I rise to place on the record my deepest respects to the family of Christine Tippett, who very sadly died this week. She was a trailblazing clinician and a very loving mother. She was a grandmother and a champion for women's health. She not only specialised in high-risk gynaecology and obstetrics at Monash Health and worked for 45 years, she was the leader on the expert panel for abortion law reform in this state. She was without doubt a person who has changed the opportunities and options for women not just in Victoria but right across the country in the leadership and the rollout of much of the neonatal documentation and clinical education that she had led. She was a member of the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. She was one of those people who had been awarded an Order of Australia who rightfully deserved to receive one. She brought a sense of the importance of open information for women about their pregnancies, and she was a great educator of people in this place as we dealt with very, very difficult issues. My love and care to her family and to all at Monash Health who worked with her.

#### **WESTALL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Mr TAK** (Clarinda) (10:04): Last week I was delighted to join the prep to grade 3 students at Westall Primary School for their vision screening onsite at the school as part of the Glasses for Kids program. Thank you to the State Schools Relief and their partner optometrists for coming down to Westall Primary School. State Schools Relief's dedicated work has ensured that vision impairments in thousands of Victorian children have been detected and treated. Importantly the program has introduced tens of thousands of students to the importance of eye health at an early age. Some of the Westall Primary School kids were really excited about their new glasses, which will make a huge difference to learning outcomes for our youngest students. It was great to hear about the difference they will make not just in schools but also in everyday life.

#### **HUNTINGDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Mr TAK:** On another note, a massive congratulations to all the year 6 captains at Huntingdale Primary School. It was a pleasure to present badges to the school's newest leaders. Congratulations again to the school captains, Keitaro and Ellie; multimedia captains Rika, Hector, Mei and Lindsay; environment captains Noemi, Satoshi and Takuma; community captains Jamie, Mika and Lily; house captains Joey, Kenny, Misha, Orlando, Rio, Crystal, Billie and Rebecca; taiko captain Jamie and senior choir captain Jeniytha. *(Time expired)*

## Appendix B

### Member Statements, Legislative Council

Parliament of Victoria  
Extract from Parliamentary Debates (Hansard)  
Legislative Council  
Fifty-Ninth Parliament  
Thursday, 4 March 2021  
pp. 863-868

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Mrs McARTHUR** (Western Victoria) (10:27): March the eighth is International Women's Day, and while I do not normally subscribe to identity labels for the sake of it, I do want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to those women who are suffering breast cancer and in particular a dear young friend of mine who was diagnosed with this dreadful disease while breastfeeding her youngest son. Of course men also get breast cancer—by the way, as far as I know, nobody gets chest cancer. I am proud to be a woman and mother who breastfed my daughter and twin sons. My husband, by the way, was occasionally on hand but of little help. Those boys, one of whom of course is no longer with us, and my darling daughter grew up to be wonderful young men and women. James is now a proud dad himself. I am also proud to be a grandmother, wife and supporter of men and women living whatever life and identity they choose. So I celebrate International Women's Day, and I look forward to celebrating International Men's Day. I am of course presuming there is such an occasion.

#### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Ms SHING** (Eastern Victoria) (10:28): I am rising today to speak ahead of International Women's Day, and I am doing so with a rage, a dismay, a frustration and a grief that I think is being channelled not just around Australia but around the world. We continue to see the exploitation of women, the violence, the discrimination, the harassment, the rape and the murder of women, every day. We continue to see exploitation and trafficking. We continue to see systems that refuse to acknowledge the complaints that are made by women and instead enable men to close ranks around each other to persist with a status quo that undermines us.

I stand here today on behalf of the women who suffer gender inequality, wage discrepancies, poverty in old age, a lack of access to care and services and a lack of recognition of our intersectionality. I stand here today to continue to represent women and to argue for change that encompasses our diversity, that does not seek to exclude us from decision-making and that in fact does not seek to diminish our contributions or to make a mockery of the complaints which we consistently raise around our treatment at the hands of those who would much prefer to maintain a status quo.

I stand here with my colleagues, not just from the government benches but around the chamber, to say that it is not good enough that violence persists, that inequality persists and that systems, language and decision-making persist which enable and perpetuate discrimination against women. That must change. International Women's Day must do more work, and we must continue to follow this through every single day of every single year.

#### ANIMAL SHELTERS

**Mr MEDDICK** (Western Victoria) (10:30): Last year we passed in this place a motion to reform the animal pound and shelter systems in Victoria. I was very pleased to be asked to lead a task force to work out the details of how best we can improve the welfare and survival of cats and dogs requiring rehoming. As well as animals being released from research, this task force will consider the new regulatory frameworks required, processes, systems and reporting methods. Despite the difficulties and delays in the state due to

the Christmas holidays, the situation with the current pandemic and a change of ministers, I am pleased to update the house that this effort is progressing apace. The terms of reference of the task force are being finalised now, and I look forward to consulting widely with stakeholders, including shelters, rehoming groups, vets, charities, local governments, research bodies and others. I look forward to the work of the task force commencing and will keep the house updated on its progress.

#### **RENEE MCLENNAN**

**Ms BATH** (Eastern Victoria) (10:31): On the eve of International Women's Day on 8 March, I pay tribute to our women around the nation. In particular I would like to pay tribute to a strong, dynamic constituent of mine—a fighter, a champion and a lovely person to boot. Eight years ago Renee McLennan was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer—an extremely serious prognosis requiring aggressive and sustained treatment. While Renee had tremendous support from family and friends, ultimately she had her own personal battle to contend with. Renee focused on the elements that she could control: mental positivity, keeping fit and eating well. Exercise and cycling became one of her drivers for wellness—a success story we can celebrate. In 2018 Renee completed the Tour de Cure in Far North Queensland, raising funds for cancer research. This week she just completed the VIC Discovery Tour. Together with other participants, collectively they raised half a million dollars for the Olivia Newton-John Foundation. With the support of many donors, Renee smashed her own personal target again. An inspiration for others, Renee is also caringly remembering and honouring those who have not won this terrible battle. With International Women's Day just around the corner, let us all applaud women and reflect on our personal challenges, our successes and our battles to come.

#### **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**Ms WATT** (Northern Metropolitan) (10:33): Last week I had the privilege of attending the launch of the hospital outreach post-suicidal engagement, or HOPE, service at the Royal Melbourne Hospital with the Minister for Mental Health. The HOPE service provides vital follow-up and after-care services for those who attend hospital emergency departments in crisis or following a suicide attempt. The service provides a 12-week program of holistic care to support individuals and their personal support networks. Over the next 12 months the HOPE program will grow from 12 to 21 service locations, fulfilling a key interim report recommendation from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. The HOPE program's focus on home and community-based recovery generates positive outcomes in a high-risk group of individuals, with 96 per cent of respondents surveyed in an independent evaluation of the program feeling extremely or very supported through the program.

As we heard on Tuesday in the final report of the royal commission, too many vulnerable Victorians fall through the cracks of the mental health system. Any Victorian falling through the cracks is too many. We need to overhaul our mental health system to meet the needs of those in crisis and to prevent them from reaching crisis point. That is why the Andrews Labor government committed to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System and committed to implementing every single recommendation from its final report. The recommendations include that mental health emergencies should be responded to by ambulances rather than by police. We have got to get it right.

#### **NORTHERN VICTORIA REGION VOLUNTEERS**

**Ms MAXWELL** (Northern Victoria) (10:34): I rise today to speak to the fact that north-east Victoria is still recovering from the 2019–20 bushfires which devastated many farming properties and is still having an impact on these farming communities' livelihoods. Volunteer organisations, who are still working tirelessly to help with the recovery, are the unsung heroes here. I recently became aware of a member of the Benalla Rotary group, Mr Alan Stafford, who led a team of Rotarians into the Corryong region over the previous winter months, working on refencing many properties impacted by these horrendous bushfires. Alan has been volunteering for many years, including after the 2009 Black Saturday fires and the 2013 fires around Boho and Warrenbayne.

Thousands of dollars have been raised by local Benalla volunteer groups and individuals to purchase

equipment, including a large tractor equipped with a post rammer, an ATV, four fencing-equipped trailers and a troop carrier to transport the volunteers to and from these fencing jobs. I would like to thank the Benalla volunteer groups, Rotary, the Uniting Church and the CWA for all the work they have done in helping farmers in the Corryong area get back on their feet and also all the volunteer organisations across my electorate for the wonderful work they do time and time again.

#### **SHEPPARTON EDUCATION PLAN**

**Ms LOVELL** (Northern Victoria) (10:36): On 4 February I raised with the Minister for Education the failure of the Andrews Labor government to meet designated time lines for the completion of the *Shepparton Education Plan*. The plan was originally divided into four stages—early years, primary, secondary and tertiary education—but later became three stages with the combining of early years and primary education together. Planning for the secondary stage has resulted in the closing of four public secondary schools and the creation of the largest single-campus secondary school in Australia. The other two stages of the plan are still incomplete, with the minister failing to meet his original time line for completion of the early childhood and primary stage of December 2018 and completion of the tertiary stage of June 2019.

When I raised this with the minister in 2019 he created new time lines for the completion of both stages, stating the early childhood and primary stage would be completed and published in early 2020 and the tertiary stage completed and published in mid-2020. This new time line was again missed and my contribution on 4 February again sought an explanation as to why. The minister's excuse was that consultations were impacted by COVID-19 during 2020, and he completely ignored the fact that one of the reports was due before COVID-19 even hit Victoria and the other one should have been largely completed. The minister then put forward a third time line, being early childhood and primary plans released by the end of March 2021 and the tertiary stage plan released by the end of May 2021. The people of Greater Shepparton are anxious about the future of education and what it will look like for their children and grandchildren, and they deserve answers from this minister.

#### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**Mr MELHEM** (Western Metropolitan) (10:38): 8 March marks two major events which are dear to my heart, International Women's Day and Labour Day. I have not got time in 90 seconds to talk about these two events, but International Women's Day is a day to celebrate the important achievements of women and focus on the goal of accelerating gender equality or parity. This year the theme is Choose to Challenge. This means calling out gender bias and inequality.

I just want to acknowledge Grace Tame for her elevation as Australian of the Year and for her struggle and her advocacy on behalf of women around Australia. Reading her story—it is amazing what she was able to achieve. I want to talk about her great speech—I think it was yesterday. It gave encouragement to women around the country to come out and speak out. Ms Shing spoke very eloquently about the issue we face. As a man I call on all men: it is time—2021. Let us stop this. Women and men are equal. Not because I have got a daughter or a wife does it mean that I actually have to care. No. They are human like us. We do not exist without being a man and a woman. We are equal, and let us make sure we stay that way. Let us call it out. Enough is enough.

#### **FAMILY DRUG SUPPORT AUSTRALIA**

**Mr LIMBRICK** (South Eastern Metropolitan) (10:40): Last Friday I had the honour of being asked to speak at Family Drug Support Day. Family Drug Support is an organisation that helps the people who are often forgotten when people have substance dependence issues, and that is the families themselves. These are the groups of people that often wonder why this is happening to them. I was honoured to hear stories from everyday people who thought of drug issues as something that happens to someone else or is something that they read about in a newspaper, but it happened to their families. They did not know what to do, and organisations like Family Drug Support were able to provide them with some advice and support on how to keep that vital connection to the family member that has these issues with drug dependence. One of the things I heard that I would like to continue on is that one of the barriers to users of drugs is getting a criminal

record. I would like in the future this Parliament to work towards families, health professionals and community groups helping people with drug issues rather than police, the court system and the prisons.

### **TROLLING**

**Ms CROZIER** (Southern Metropolitan) (10:41): I would like to just make a few comments in relation to some of the commentary around the attacks on and trolling of MPs. Whilst we are recognising International Women's Day, which needs to be recognised, I pay tribute to all those women who have gone before me who have led in so many ways. They need to be celebrated and all those issues that members have spoken out about. But I am fortunate that I have had the support of both men and women to get me to this position, for which I am very grateful. I am also very grateful for the support that I have received in relation to the trolling, the abuse and the vile and disgraceful sexist language from anonymous letters and security issues from Victoria Police, who have been particularly supportive in protecting my security.

I want to actually just mention that it is not just one side of politics or any side of politics that is subject to vicious trolling. When my office is being targeted by Trades Hall, when I am being targeted by Trades Hall on Twitter and when I am calling out on Twitter for Trades Hall to stop, they do, which I am grateful for. But with the abuse that I am getting in my office from people and the emails that my staff are getting, I suggest that the Minister for Health, the Premier and members of the Labor Party call out those people too, because that trolling and abuse needs to stop. The anonymous comments that are coming out on this Twitter platform and other social media need to stop. Respect needs to happen and all of this needs to be addressed.

### **VICTORIAN HEART HOSPITAL**

**Mr TARLAMIS** (South Eastern Metropolitan) (10:43): The Andrews Labor government is getting on with the construction of Australia's first-ever specialist heart hospital. The Victorian Heart Hospital will be Australia's first state-of-the-art specialist cardiac hospital, providing innovative, holistic and patient-centred care as well as world-leading research and education. Located on the Monash University Clayton campus, the hospital will integrate clinical cardiology services, research and education to create a centre of excellence, raising the profile of cardiovascular research, treatment and training and enabling patients with heart disease to access world-class cardiac care and groundbreaking research all under the one roof. It will bring together Monash Health and Monash University, both leaders in the field of cardiac research, treatment and education, as well as building upon the achievements of Monash Heart, which is now the largest provider of cardiac care in Victoria.

Currently cardiovascular disease is the biggest killer in Australia, accounting for around 30 per cent of all deaths, with recent statistics showing one Australian dies every 12 minutes from cardiovascular disease. When opened, the hospital will have capacity for up to 206 beds to provide up to 2150 cardiac surgeries, 13 500 cardiac laboratory procedures and 108 000 consultations each year. It will play an important role in training our future heart specialists and nursing and allied health professionals. Construction is on track, with the hospital expected to open its doors in 2022. Ninety per cent of the construction materials have been sourced from local suppliers, and more than 1700 construction jobs have been created. Once completed, it will employ more than 850 people across clinical care and research and will be just one of the projects the Labor government has delivered or will deliver as part of its unprecedented \$7 billion health infrastructure build program.

### **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**Dr CUMMING** (Western Metropolitan) (10:44): Today I dedicate my members statement to my beautiful daughters, Violet and Zara. Today is my daughter Zara's 18th birthday.

8 March is International Women's Day, and it is a day to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their communities. The world has made unprecedented advances, but no country has actually achieved gender equality. International

Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. In over 20 countries, including China, Russia and Vietnam, it is actually a public holiday. In some countries it is customary for men to give women in their lives—friends, mothers, wives, girlfriends, daughters, colleagues—flowers and a small gift. In some countries it is also observed as an equivalent to Mother's Day, where children give presents to their mothers and grandmothers. In Russia the day has lost all political context through time, becoming simply a day to honour women and feminine beauty. Let us make International Women's Day count for women and girls everywhere. I hope that we remember those that went before us and their fight for our rights and that we celebrate the personal achievements of all women in our lives.

### **SOUTH YARRA TRAIN STATION**

**Ms TAYLOR** (Southern Metropolitan) (10:46): I would like to say that I am very pleased we are upgrading South Yarra station, certainly one of the busiest stations that we have around, and we are doing this while we prepare for the Metro Tunnel. In March I did pop down there—I popped down there a few times because I love to see works unfold.

**Ms Shing:** You're a regular.

**Ms TAYLOR:** I am a regular, exactly. Night works are taking place on stage 2 of this very important upgrade: works to finish the canopy, including installing new lighting and timber panels—I have seen some of those timber panels and they are looking pretty fly, let me tell you; finishing and opening the new booking office and staff amenities area—I can say it is well underway; completing refurbishment works inside the concourse area, including restoring the floor and ceiling; and removing the hoarding at the existing station entrance—the hoarding was still up when I looked at the weekend—allowing a wider entrance to open it, and because it is so busy there, this is a good reason indeed to be able to widen that entrance and allow people to be able to exit and enter in a comfortable manner. There are also tram stop service investigation works. In early March we will continue minor

investigations to inform our design and construction methodology for the tram stop upgrade in 2021. I am really celebrating that. The whole upgrade is really, really important. The tram stop upgrade—I don't know, it just really excites me, because of course we know how important it is to improve accessibility for everyone. So really modernising that tram stop is going to be brilliant. And let me tell you, it is the Labor government delivering this—no-one else.

### **SANGAM FESTIVAL**

**Dr KIEU** (South Eastern Metropolitan) (10:48): The other day I had the opportunity to represent Minister Ros Spence, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, at the Dandenong Sangam 2021 festival, which celebrated South Asian performing arts. The Sangam at Dandenong Earth Matters Walking Experience was an immersive cultural experience which included performances at Dandenong's Drum Theatre, Harmony Square and Walker Street Gallery. I would like to extend my appreciation to Multicultural Arts Victoria, the City of Greater Dandenong and the event participants for truly spirited, energetic and inspiring performances. Dandenong's celebration of Sangam 2021 was a testament to Victoria's creativity, talent and vibrant multiculturalism.

### **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**Dr KIEU:** On another matter, I was also able earlier this week to represent the minister to join the Federation of Chinese Associations to celebrate the international day for overseas students. Studying abroad bridges the geographical divide between countries. It is a unique learning experience which enriches not only students' knowledge but their sense and understanding of another's country, culture and history. This is why the Victorian government is so strongly committed to supporting our international students. I hope the Year of the Ox brings everyone good luck and prosperity, including students' studies and future. I am delighted to see life in Melbourne now safely and gradually returning to COVID normal.

## SWAN HILL DISTRICT HEALTH

**Mr GEPP** (Northern Victoria) (10:49): This morning I had the great pleasure to stand with the Minister for Health and make the announcement that the Andrews Labor government was committing \$18.7 million to the redevelopment of the Swan Hill District Health emergency department along with a further contribution from the federal government, bringing it to a total of some \$48 million for the redevelopment of this emergency department. This is a very, very welcome announcement, and I congratulate the hospital, the board and all of the staff on this announcement. They have been advocating for many years for improvements to the hospital, and this morning's is a very, very important announcement. It means that 145 new jobs will be created through the construction phase, which will commence in 2022 and run through until 2024. Most importantly, the Swan Hill district hospital has a very high rate per capita of emergency department presentations, and this funding will go towards the Victorian Labor government delivering a quality, world-class health facility for the people of the Swan Hill district area.