

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4 September to 17 September 2015

(Extract from book 13)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AM

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable Justice MARILYN WARREN, AC, QC

The ministry

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Employment	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Industry, and Minister for Energy and Resources	The Hon. L. D’Ambrosio, MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety, and Minister for Ports	The Hon. L. A. Donnellan, MP
Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Minister for Sport and Minister for Veterans	The Hon. J. H. Eren, MP
Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Equality and Minister for Creative Industries	The Hon. M. P. Foley, MP
Minister for Emergency Services, and Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation	The Hon. J. F. Garrett, MP
Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills	The Hon. S. R. Herbert, MLC
Minister for Local Government, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Minister for Industrial Relations	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Police and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. W. M. Noonan, MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Racing	The Hon. M. P. Pakula, MP
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development	The Hon. J. L. Pulford, MLC
Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. F. Richardson, MP
Minister for Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Kairouz, MP

**OFFICE-HOLDERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

Speaker:

The Hon. TELMO LANGUILLER

Deputy Speaker:

Mr D. A. NARDELLA

Acting Speakers:

Mr Angus, Mr Blackwood, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Carbines, Mr Crisp, Mr Dixon, Ms Edwards, Ms Halfpenny,
Ms Kilkenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr McGuire, Ms McLeish, Mr Pearson, Ms Ryall, Ms Thomas,
Mr Thompson, Ms Thomson, Ms Ward and Mr Watt.

Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Premier:

The Hon. D. M. ANDREWS

Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party and Deputy Premier:

The Hon. J. A. MERLINO

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

The Hon. M. J. GUY

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

The Hon. D. J. HODGETT

Leader of The Nationals:

The Hon. P. L. WALSH

Deputy Leader of The Nationals:

Ms S. RYAN

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 A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION

Member	District	Party	Member	District	Party
Allan, Ms Jacinta Marie	Bendigo East	ALP	McLeish, Ms Lucinda Gaye	Eildon	LP
Andrews, Mr Daniel Michael	Mulgrave	ALP	Merlino, Mr James Anthony	Monbulk	ALP
Angus, Mr Neil Andrew Warwick	Forest Hill	LP	Morris, Mr David Charles	Mornington	LP
Asher, Ms Louise	Brighton	LP	Mulder, Mr Terence Wynn ¹	Polwarth	LP
Battin, Mr Bradley William	Gembrook	LP	Naphthine, Dr Denis Vincent ²	South-West Coast	LP
Blackwood, Mr Gary John	Narracan	LP	Nardella, Mr Donato Antonio	Melton	ALP
Blandthorn, Ms Elizabeth Anne	Pascoe Vale	ALP	Neville, Ms Lisa Mary	Bellarine	ALP
Brooks, Mr Colin William	Bundoora	ALP	Noonan, Mr Wade Matthew	Williamstown	ALP
Bull, Mr Joshua Michael	Sunbury	ALP	Northe, Mr Russell John	Morwell	Nats
Bull, Mr Timothy Owen	Gippsland East	Nats	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ³	Gippsland South	Nats
Burgess, Mr Neale Ronald	Hastings	LP	O'Brien, Mr Michael Anthony	Malvern	LP
Carbines, Mr Anthony Richard	Ivanhoe	ALP	Pakula, Mr Martin Philip	Keysborough	ALP
Carroll, Mr Benjamin Alan	Niddrie	ALP	Pallas, Mr Timothy Hugh	Werribee	ALP
Clark, Mr Robert William	Box Hill	LP	Paynter, Mr Brian Francis	Bass	LP
Couzens, Ms Christine Anne	Geelong	ALP	Pearson, Mr Daniel James	Essendon	ALP
Crisp, Mr Peter Laurence	Mildura	Nats	Perera, Mr Jude	Cranbourne	ALP
D'Ambrosio, Ms Liliana	Mill Park	ALP	Pesutto, Mr John	Hawthorn	LP
Dimopoulos, Mr Stephen	Oakleigh	ALP	Richardson, Mr Timothy Noel	Mordialloc	ALP
Dixon, Mr Martin Francis	Nepean	LP	Richardson, Ms Fiona Catherine Alison	Northcote	ALP
Donnellan, Mr Luke Anthony	Narre Warren North	ALP	Ryall, Ms Deanne Sharon	Ringwood	LP
Edbrooke, Mr Paul Andrew	Frankston	ALP	Ryan, Mr Peter Julian ⁴	Gippsland South	Nats
Edwards, Ms Janice Maree	Bendigo West	ALP	Ryan, Ms Stephanie Maureen	Euroa	Nats
Eren, Mr John Hamdi	Lara	ALP	Sandell, Ms Ellen	Melbourne	Greens
Foley, Mr Martin Peter	Albert Park	ALP	Scott, Mr Robin David	Preston	ALP
Fyffe, Mrs Christine Anne	Evelyn	LP	Sheed, Ms Suzanna	Shepparton	Ind
Garrett, Ms Jane Furneaux	Brunswick	ALP	Smith, Mr Ryan	Warrandyte	LP
Gidley, Mr Michael Xavier Charles	Mount Waverley	LP	Smith, Mr Timothy Colin	Kew	LP
Graley, Ms Judith Ann	Narre Warren South	ALP	Southwick, Mr David James	Caulfield	LP
Green, Ms Danielle Louise	Yan Yean	ALP	Spence, Ms Rosalind Louise	Yuroke	ALP
Guy, Mr Matthew Jason	Bulleen	LP	Staikos, Mr Nicholas	Bentleigh	ALP
Halfpenny, Ms Bronwyn	Thomastown	ALP	Staley, Ms Louise Eileen	Ripon	LP
Hennessy, Ms Jill	Altona	ALP	Suleyman, Ms Natalie	St Albans	ALP
Hibbins, Mr Samuel Peter	Prahran	Greens	Thomas, Ms Mary-Anne	Macedon	ALP
Hodgett, Mr David John	Croydon	LP	Thompson, Mr Murray Hamilton Ross	Sandringham	LP
Howard, Mr Geoffrey Kemp	Buninyong	ALP	Thomson, Ms Marsha Rose	Footscray	ALP
Hutchins, Ms Natalie Maree Sykes	Sydenham	ALP	Tilley, Mr William John	Benambra	LP
Kairouz, Ms Marlene	Kororoit	ALP	Victoria, Ms Heidi	Bayswater	LP
Katos, Mr Andrew	South Barwon	LP	Wakeling, Mr Nicholas	Ferntree Gully	LP
Kealy, Ms Emma Jayne	Lowan	Nats	Walsh, Mr Peter Lindsay	Murray Plains	Nats
Kilkenny, Ms Sonya	Carrum	ALP	Ward, Ms Vicki	Eltham	ALP
Knight, Ms Sharon Patricia	Wendouree	ALP	Watt, Mr Graham Travis	Burwood	LP
Languiller, Mr Telmo Ramon	Tarneit	ALP	Wells, Mr Kimberley Arthur	Rowville	LP
Lim, Mr Muy Hong	Clarinda	ALP	Williams, Ms Gabrielle	Dandenong	ALP
McCurdy, Mr Timothy Logan	Ovens Valley	Nats	Wynne, Mr Richard William	Richmond	ALP
McGuire, Mr Frank	Broadmeadows	ALP			

¹ Resigned 3 September 2015

² Resigned 3 September 2015

³ Elected 14 March 2015

⁴ Resigned 2 February 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; Greens — The Greens;
Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals.

Legislative Assembly committees

Privileges Committee — Ms Allan, Ms D’Ambrosio, Mr Morris, Ms Neville, Ms Ryan, Ms Sandell, Mr Scott and Mr Wells.

Standing Orders Committee — The Speaker, Ms Allan, Ms Asher, Mr Brooks, Mr Clark, Mr Hibbins, Mr Hodgett, Ms Kairouz, Mr Nardella, Ms Ryan and Ms Sheed.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Staikos and Ms Thomson.
(*Council*): Ms Bath, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes.

Dispute Resolution Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Allan, Mr Clark, Mr Merlino, Mr M. O’Brien, Mr Pakula, Ms Richardson and Mr Walsh. (*Council*): Mr Bourman, Mr Dalidakis, Ms Dunn, Mr Jennings and Ms Wooldridge.

Economic, Education, Jobs and Skills Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Nardella and Ms Ryall.
(*Council*): Mr Elasmr and Mr Melhem.

Electoral Matters Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Asher, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dixon, Mr Northe and Ms Spence.
(*Council*): Ms Patten, Mr Somyurek.

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Halfpenny, Mr McCurdy, Mr Richardson, Mr Tilley and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Mr Young.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Assembly*): Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards, Ms Kealy, Ms McLeish and Ms Sheed. (*Council*): Mr Finn.

House Committee — (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson. (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Hartland, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells. (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes.

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley. (*Council*): Mr Eideh and Ms Patten.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward. (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Blandthorn, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kealy, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto. (*Council*): Mr Dalla-Riva.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

4 September to 17 September 2015

Roads and road safety

294. **Mr R. SMITH** (Warrandyte) to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — In both numbers and percentage of total traffic, how many vehicles exiting the Transurban Western Distributor will:

- (1) Continue to the Port of Melbourne.
- (2) Continue on Footscray Road.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

Transurban has put the Western Distributor project forward as a market-led proposal which is currently being assessed by the State Government.

An appraisal of the proposal's transport and traffic benefits will form an important part of the assessment process. This will include assessing the traffic flow outcomes of the project.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to releasing a business case for the Western Distributor, should it proceed. The business case would include information on transport and traffic flows.

Roads and road safety

307. **Ms SANDELL** to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — What are the Government's plans for alternative bicycle routes in the CBD during the disruption to Swanston Street due to the Melbourne Metro Project.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:

During the construction of Melbourne Metro, bicycle access in the vicinity of work sites along Swanston Street may be temporarily restricted to ensure the safety of cyclists, pedestrians and the project workforce.

Alternative north-south cycling routes through the CBD will be identified as part of Melbourne Metro's planning and design phase in consultation with key stakeholders, including Bicycle Network Victoria, who met with the Melbourne Metro Rail Authority on 28 July to commence engagement.

Police

369. **Mr THOMPSON** (Sandringham) to ask the Minister for Police — How many fines were imposed each month in 2014 and in each month from January to June 2015 for right hand turns at the intersection of Nepean Highway and Bay Road, Cheltenham.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

**C16M–Nepean Highway and Karen Street, Highett
Lane 5 “Right hand turn only” Red-light Infringements (by OFFENCE DATE)**

Year and Month	Infringement Count
Jan-14	78
Feb-14	102
Mar-14	103
Apr-14	123
May-14	116
Jun-14	81
Jul-14	116
Aug-14	107
Sep-14	90
Oct-14	114
Nov-14	110
Dec-14	109
Jan-15	94
Feb-15	96
Mar-15	114
Apr-15	115
May-15	102
Jun-15	114

Data extracted from Serco Data Repository 10-Sep-2015

All infringements are at the date the offence occurred.

The numbers above may be subject to variation over time as infringements can be withdrawn or reissued.

*Also known as ‘Nepean Highway and Bay Road, Highett’
Location code formerly 80153*

Mental health

393. Mr HIBBINS to ask the Minister for Mental Health — With reference to the practice of ‘gay conversion therapy’:

- (1) What steps have been taken to identify the extent of this practice in Victoria.
- (2) What action has the Government taken to stop this practice from occurring.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

- (1) We have taken appropriate steps to investigate the extent of this practise in Victoria. Given so-called ‘conversion therapies’ are not categorised as a legitimate therapy by any professional body in Victoria, it is difficult to ascertain the extent of their practise.
- (2) The Andrews Labor Government took to the election a commitment to ensure the Health Services Commissioner and Consumer Affairs Victoria have the necessary powers to investigate people conducting unregulated and unproven therapies, such as ‘gay-conversion therapy’ or ‘miracle cancer cures’. The

Government condemns damaging and misguided efforts to change any individual's sexual orientation and remains committed to all our election promises.

Housing, disability and ageing

417. Ms SANDELL to ask the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing — With reference to properties acquired for the East West Link project:

- (1) How many of the properties will the Government make available for public housing.
- (2) Where the original owners do not wish to return, will the Government commit to transferring all the acquired properties to public housing.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government is currently looking at innovative ways to use vacant properties acquired for the East West Link project to provide support and assistance to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. I am working with my colleagues in Government to identify properties that be suitable for social housing.

Aboriginal affairs

418. Ms SANDELL to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs — Will the Minister consult with the Victorian Aboriginal community on whether to fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on Victorian Parliament House, and with their support advocate to the Speaker, President and House Committee for the flags to fly permanently on Victorian Parliament House.

ANSWER:

I'd like to note the Member for Melbourne's interest in having the Aboriginal flag permanently flying at Parliament, a practice that is currently in place across a wide range of government buildings.

I have found in my consultations with numerous Aboriginal Victorian people and organisations that there is strong support for this idea. It was a point I raised in my letter to the Presiding Officers requesting that the flag be flown, and sent on 30 July 2015.

As I'm sure the Member is aware, we are a government committed to listening to Aboriginal voices-and not merely paying lip service. We've made a commitment to ensuring Aboriginal people are at the centre of decision making and we intend to honour it.

Education

466. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Education — With reference to the Government's recent announcement to change the delivery hours of Special Religious Instruction (SRI) in 2016:

- (1) Did the Minister seek advice on the anticipated cost to Victorian Government schools of delivering the program out of hours; if so, when did the Minister seek this advice.
- (2) Who did the Minister consult with regarding the anticipated cost.
- (3) What is the anticipated additional cost to schools for delivering the program out of hours.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The delivery of Special Religious Instruction (SRI) in Victorian Government schools has always had costs associated with it. Costs include staffing costs for schools to supervise both groups of children-those undertaking SRI and those doing other non-curriculum related activities during the SRI time. There are also costs to the parents

of the children undertaking SRI for materials. It is not anticipated that the change to the scheduling of SRI would impact on those costs. Schools offering SRI in the hour before or the hour after school will still provide teacher supervision for the students undertaking SRI as well as a venue for the instruction to take place.

Education

467. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Education — With reference to the delivery of Special Religious Education (SRI) in Victorian Government Schools:

- (1) Which Victorian Government schools currently participate in the program.
- (2) How many students currently participate in the program at each participant school.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Data from previous years shows a gradual annual decrease in numbers of students undertaking SRI since 2008. Student attendance dropped from 136 604 in 2008 to 53 361 in 2014, a reduction of 61 per cent over the seven-year period. The number of schools offering SRI dropped from 891 to 603 over the same period.

Current providers of Special Religious Education (SRI) in Victorian Government Schools are ACCESS Ministries (ACCESS), Religions for Peace Australia (RfP), Catholic Education Office (CEO), United Jewish Education Board (UJEB) and Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV)/Arkan Toledo.

Education

471. Mr WAKELING to ask the Minister for Education — With reference to home-schooling in Victoria:

- (1) How many students are currently home-schooled.
- (2) What is the projected number of home-schooled students for 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- (3) What number of students are currently home-schooled at each year level.
- (4) What monetary support do parents of home-schooled students currently receive.
- (5) What other support services are available for home-schooled parents and their children.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

As at 30 June 2015 there were 4136 students registered with VRQA for home schooling in Victoria.

The VRQA is not able to project future registrations as individual parents make decisions to register students for home schooling, and to cancel home schooling registration, at different times through the year and for different reasons. The proportion of Victorian children registered for home schooling is 0.44% (4136 expressed as a percentage of the total number of children either enrolled in a Victorian registered school or registered for home schooling).

Students registered for home schooling are not registered or categorised by a school year level. As at 30 June 2015 the ages of children registered for home schooling are:

Age	Students
19	36
18	89
17	150
16	246
15	322
14	325
13	341
12	332
11	354
10	416
9	361
8	383
7	378
6	332
5	71
Total:	4136

The Victorian government funds schools to offer students high quality education and support for individual needs. No state or jurisdiction provides per capita funding (Student Resource Package or equivalent) for the purposes of home schooling. Parents who choose to home school their child assume responsibility for ensuring that their child receives a quality education. There is a wide range of support and resources available to families who choose to home school, these are detailed in the Department's 'Guide to Home Schooling in Victoria' and summarised below:

- Partial enrolment in a local school for specific activities.
- Option to sit NAPLAN through a local school.
- Curriculum planning resources through Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (based on AusVELS).
- Access to resources through FUSE (the Department's online teaching resource portal) and the SchoolMate app.
- Resources through Distance Education Centre Victoria (DECV) at a nominal cost (max \$160 per year).
- Access to VCE or equivalent at the DECV (Years 11 and 12) subject to some enrolment requirements.
- Teaching resources through the Commonwealth's 'Scootle' portal.
- Access to education programs at major public cultural/educational venues.
- Access to Languages Online resources and the Victorian School of Languages' out-of-hours program.
- Public Transport Concession Cards.
- Until June 2016 parents meeting certain eligibility requirements may access the Commonwealth's Schoolkids bonus (\$422 for each of primary school age and \$842 for each child of secondary school age).