

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

12, 13 and 14 April 2016

(Extract from book 6)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

HANSARD¹⁵⁰



1866–2016

Following a select committee investigation, Victorian Hansard was conceived when the following amended motion was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 23 June 1865:

That in the opinion of this house, provision should be made to secure a more accurate report of the debates in Parliament, in the form of *Hansard*.

The sessional volume for the first sitting period of the Fifth Parliament, from 12 February to 10 April 1866, contains the following preface dated 11 April:

As a preface to the first volume of “Parliamentary Debates” (new series), it is not inappropriate to state that prior to the Fifth Parliament of Victoria the newspapers of the day virtually supplied the only records of the debates of the Legislature.

With the commencement of the Fifth Parliament, however, an independent report was furnished by a special staff of reporters, and issued in weekly parts.

This volume contains the complete reports of the proceedings of both Houses during the past session.

In 2016 the Hansard Unit of the Department of Parliamentary Services continues the work begun 150 years ago of providing an accurate and complete report of the proceedings of both houses of the Victorian Parliament.

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

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Drum, Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Ms Pulford, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Morris, Mr Ondarchie and Ms Tierney.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, #Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — Ms Fitzherbert, #Ms Hartland, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O'Donohue, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

Port of Melbourne Select Committee — Mr Barber, Mr Drum, Mr Mulino, Mr Ondarchie, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing and Ms Tierney.

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

President: The Hon. B. N. ATKINSON

Deputy President: Ms G. TIERNEY

Acting Presidents: Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmar, Mr Finn, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:
The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:
The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:
The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:
The Hon. D. K. DRUM

Leader of the Greens:
Mr G. BARBER

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ¹	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel	Western Metropolitan	DLP	O'Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Patten, Ms Fiona	Northern Metropolitan	ASP
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	V1LJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph	Northern Victoria	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaelyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

¹ Resigned 25 February 2015

² Appointed 15 April 2015

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;
SFP — Shooters and Fishers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Tuesday, 12 April 2016

Public transport

- 25. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): To provide details of all appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees made or approved by the Minister since 4 December 2014, indicating —
- (a) the expression of interest process, and selection process that was used;
 - (b) the terms of appointment;
 - (c) any remuneration applicable;
 - (d) when the positions became subject to remuneration; and
 - (e) what changes have been made to the level of remuneration.

ANSWER:

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

The Government is in the process of appointing and reappointing vacancies on Boards, Commissions and Committees.

The process for recruitment is consistent with past practice. Details of vacancies and the recruitment process are available on getonboard.vic.gov.au/

Details of appointments and reappointments such as terms of appointments and remuneration can be found at www.publicboards.vic.gov.au or www.premier.vic.gov.au

Agriculture

- 4759. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: Since 1 July 2015, how many audits of Victorian puppy farms have been conducted as part of the \$5 million Victorian Government funding allocation.

ANSWER:

The Andrews Labor Government's first budget delivered on our election commitment to provide an additional \$5 million to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). This funding, which commenced on 1 July 2015, will strengthen the RSPCA inspectorate capacity to investigate illegal and non-compliant dog and cat breeding establishments. It will boost RSPCA Victoria's investigative resources and facilitate data collation, animal seizure, rehabilitation and care of animals seized from puppy and kitten farms.

The main functions of the RSPCA Victoria's Special Investigations Unit are to investigate complaints about breeding business and support council in the inspection of facilities, in their capacity as inspectors under both the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986 and Domestic Animals Act 1994. The also undertake seizure of animals, both directly or in support of council, and the care and rehabilitation of animals from illegal businesses that fail to comply with the Domestic Animals Act 1994 and the Code of Practice for the Operation of Breeding and Rearing Businesses 2014 or the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986.

Reporting since July 2015 shows the RSPCA have received more than 120 reports of suspect breeding activities. To date, the RSPCA have approximately 35 suspected puppy/kitten farm investigations/compliance activities being managed by the Special Investigations Unit.

Public transport

4821. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): in relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 2 and 3 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following tram services:

- (a) Route 19 North Coburg to City (via Brunswick);
- (b) Route 67 Melbourne University to Carnegie (via St Kilda, Glenhuntly);
- (c) Route 75 City to Vermont South (via Richmond, Hawthorn, Camberwell, Burwood);
- (d) Route 86 Bundoora to Docklands (via Reservoir, Thornbury, Northcote, Fitzroy);
- (e) Route 96 East Brunswick to St Kilda (via Fitzroy); and
- (f) Route 109 Box Hill to Port Melbourne (via Mont Albert, Surrey Hills, Kew, Hawthorn, Richmond).

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trams is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4822. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 9 and 10 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following tram services:

- (a) Route 19 North Coburg to City (via Brunswick);
- (b) Route 67 Melbourne University to Carnegie (via St Kilda, Glenhuntly);
- (c) Route 75 City to Vermont South (via Richmond, Hawthorn, Camberwell, Burwood);
- (d) Route 86 Bundoora to Docklands (via Reservoir, Thornbury, Northcote, Fitzroy)
- (e) Route 96 East Brunswick to St Kilda (via Fitzroy); and
- (f) Route 109 Box Hill to Port Melbourne (via Mont Albert, Surrey Hills, Kew, Hawthorn, Richmond).

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trams is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4823. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 16 and 17 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following tram services:

- (a) Route 19 North Coburg to City (via Brunswick);

- (b) Route 67 Melbourne University to Carnegie (via St Kilda, Glenhuntly);
- (c) Route 75 City to Vermont South (via Richmond, Hawthorn, Camberwell, Burwood);
- (d) Route 86 Bundoora to Docklands (via Reservoir, Thornbury, Northcote, Fitzroy);
- (e) Route 96 East Brunswick to St Kilda (via Fitzroy); and
- (f) Route 109 Box Hill to Port Melbourne (via Mont Albert, Surrey Hills, Kew, Hawthorn, Richmond).

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trams is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4824. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 23 and 24 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following tram services:

- (a) Route 19 North Coburg to City (via Brunswick);
- (b) Route 67 Melbourne University to Carnegie (via St Kilda, Glenhuntly);
- (c) Route 75 City to Vermont South (via Richmond, Hawthorn, Camberwell, Burwood);
- (d) Route 86 Bundoora to Docklands (via Reservoir, Thornbury, Northcote, Fitzroy);
- (e) Route 96 East Brunswick to St Kilda (via Fitzroy); and
- (f) Route 109 Box Hill to Port Melbourne (via Mont Albert, Surrey Hills, Kew, Hawthorn, Richmond).

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trams is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4825. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 30 and 31 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following tram services:

- (a) Route 19 North Coburg to City (via Brunswick);
- (b) Route 67 Melbourne University to Carnegie (via St Kilda, Glenhuntly);
- (c) Route 75 City to Vermont South (via Richmond, Hawthorn, Camberwell, Burwood);
- (d) Route 86 Bundoora to Docklands (via Reservoir, Thornbury, Northcote, Fitzroy);
- (e) Route 96 East Brunswick to St Kilda (via Fitzroy); and
- (f) Route 109 Box Hill to Port Melbourne (via Mont Albert, Surrey Hills, Kew, Hawthorn, Richmond).

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trams is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4826. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 6 and 7 February 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following tram services:

- (a) Route 19 North Coburg to City (via Brunswick);
- (b) Route 67 Melbourne University to Carnegie (via St Kilda, Glenhuntly);
- (c) Route 75 City to Vermont South (via Richmond, Hawthorn, Camberwell, Burwood);
- (d) Route 86 Bundoora to Docklands (via Reservoir, Thornbury, Northcote, Fitzroy);
- (e) Route 96 East Brunswick to St Kilda (via Fitzroy); and
- (f) Route 109 Box Hill to Port Melbourne (via Mont Albert, Surrey Hills, Kew, Hawthorn, Richmond).

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network trams is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4827. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 2 and 3 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following coach services to:

- (a) Ballarat;
- (b) Bendigo;
- (c) Traralgon; and
- (d) Geelong.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network coaches is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4828. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of January 9th and 10th 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following coach services to:

- (a) Ballarat;
- (b) Bendigo;
- (c) Traralgon; and
- (d) Geelong.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network coaches is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4829. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 16 and 17 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following coach services to:

- (a) Ballarat;
- (b) Bendigo;
- (c) Traralgon; and
- (d) Geelong.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network coaches is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4830. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 23 and 24 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following coach services to:

- (a) Ballarat;
- (b) Bendigo;
- (c) Traralgon; and
- (d) Geelong.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network coaches is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4831. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 30 and 31 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following coach services to:

- (a) Ballarat;
- (b) Bendigo;
- (c) Traralgon; and
- (d) Geelong.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network coaches is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4832. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of February 6th and 7th 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following coach services to:

- (a) Ballarat;
- (b) Bendigo;
- (c) Traralgon; and
- (d) Geelong.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network coaches is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4833. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 2 and 3 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following bus services:

- (a) Route 941: City, Footscray, Sunshine North, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens;
- (b) Route 942: City, Footscray, Sunshine, Deer Park, St Albans;
- (c) Route 943: Watergardens, Caroline Springs, Melton;
- (d) Route 944: City, Newport, Altona, Altona Meadows, Point Cook;
- (e) Route 945: City, Geelong Road, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Wyndham Vale;
- (f) Route 951: City, Moonee Ponds, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy;
- (g) Route 952: City, Footscray, Maribymong, Airport West, Gladstone Park, Broadmeadows;
- (h) Route 953: Broadmeadows, Meadow Heights, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn;
- (i) Route 955: City, Brunswick, Ivanhoe, Bundoora, Mill Park, South Morang, Mernda;
- (j) Route 961: City, Collingwood, Eastern Freeway, Templestowe, Doncaster;
- (k) Route 963: Ringwood, Mooroolbark, Lilydale;
- (l) Route 964: Croydon, Kilsyth, Mt Evelyn, Lilydale;
- (m) Route 965: Lilydale, Woori Yallock, Healesville loop;
- (n) Route 966: City, Kew, Doncaster Road, Box Hill;

- (o) Route 967: Glen Waverley, Burwood Highway, Bayswater;
- (p) Route 969: City, Caulfield, Ferntree Gully Road, Rowville, Wantirna, Ringwood;
- (q) Route 970: Carrum, Frankston, Mornington, Rosebud;
- (r) Route 978: Elsternwick, Ormond, Huntingdale, Mulgrave, Dandenong;
- (s) Route 979: Elsternwick, Bentleigh, Clarinda, Keysborough, Dandenong;
- (t) Route 981: Dandenong, Berwick, Narre Warren South, Cranbourne; and
- (u) Route 982: Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Cranbourne.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network buses is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4834. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 9 and 10 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following bus services:

- (a) Route 941: City, Footscray, Sunshine North, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens;
- (b) Route 942: City, Footscray, Sunshine, Deer Park, St Albans;
- (c) Route 943: Watergardens, Caroline Springs, Melton;
- (d) Route 944: City, Newport, Altona, Altona Meadows, Point Cook;
- (e) Route 945: City, Geelong Road, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Wyndham Vale;
- (f) Route 951: City, Moonee Ponds, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy;
- (g) Route 952: City, Footscray, Maribymong, Airport West, Gladstone Park, Broadmeadows;
- (h) Route 953: Broadmeadows, Meadow Heights, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn;
- (i) Route 955: City, Brunswick, Ivanhoe, Bundoora, Mill Park, South Morang, Mernda;
- (j) Route 961: City, Collingwood, Eastern Freeway, Templestowe, Doncaster;
- (k) Route 963: Ringwood, Mooroolbark, Lilydale;
- (l) Route 964: Croydon, Kilsyth, Mt Evelyn, Lilydale;
- (m) Route 965: Lilydale, Woori Yallock, Healesville loop;
- (n) Route 966: City, Kew, Doncaster Road, Box Hill;
- (o) Route 967: Glen Waverley, Burwood Highway, Bayswater;
- (p) Route 969: City, Caulfield, Ferntree Gully Road, Rowville, Wantirna, Ringwood;
- (q) Route 970: Carrum, Frankston, Mornington, Rosebud;
- (r) Route 978: Elsternwick, Ormond, Huntingdale, Mulgrave, Dandenong;
- (s) Route 979: Elsternwick, Bentleigh, Clarinda, Keysborough, Dandenong;
- (t) Route 981: Dandenong, Berwick, Narre Warren South, Cranbourne; and
- (u) Route 982: Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Cranbourne.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network buses is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4835. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 16 and 17 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following bus services:

- (a) Route 941: City, Footscray, Sunshine North, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens;
- (b) Route 942: City, Footscray, Sunshine, Deer Park, St Albans;
- (c) Route 943: Watergardens, Caroline Springs, Melton;
- (d) Route 944: City, Newport, Altona, Altona Meadows, Point Cook;
- (e) Route 945: City, Geelong Road, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Wyndham Vale;
- (f) Route 951: City, Moonee Ponds, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy;
- (g) Route 952: City, Footscray, Maribyrnong, Airport West, Gladstone Park, Broadmeadows;
- (h) Route 953: Broadmeadows, Meadow Heights, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn;
- (i) Route 955: City, Brunswick, Ivanhoe, Bundoora, Mill Park, South Morang, Mernda;
- (j) Route 961: City, Collingwood, Eastern Freeway, Templestowe, Doncaster;
- (k) Route 963: Ringwood, Mooroolbark, Lilydale;
- (l) Route 964: Croydon, Kilsyth, Mt Evelyn, Lilydale;
- (m) Route 965: Lilydale, Woori Yallock, Healesville loop;
- (n) Route 966: City, Kew, Doncaster Road, Box Hill;
- (o) Route 967: Glen Waverley, Burwood Highway, Bayswater;
- (p) Route 969: City, Caulfield, Ferntree Gully Road, Rowville, Wantirna, Ringwood;
- (q) Route 970: Carrum, Frankston, Mornington, Rosebud;
- (r) Route 978: Elsternwick, Ormond, Huntingdale, Mulgrave, Dandenong;
- (s) Route 979: Elsternwick, Bentleigh, Clarinda, Keysborough, Dandenong;
- (t) Route 981: Dandenong, Berwick, Narre Warren South, Cranbourne; and
- (u) Route 982: Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Cranbourne.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network buses is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4836. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 23 and 24 January 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following bus services:

- (a) Route 941: City, Footscray, Sunshine North, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens;
- (b) Route 942: City, Footscray, Sunshine, Deer Park, St Albans;
- (c) Route 943: Watergardens, Caroline Springs, Melton;
- (d) Route 944: City, Newport, Altona, Altona Meadows, Point Cook;
- (e) Route 945: City, Geelong Road, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Wyndham Vale;
- (f) Route 951: City, Moonee Ponds, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy;
- (g) Route 952: City, Footscray, Maribyrnong, Airport West, Gladstone Park, Broadmeadows;
- (h) Route 953: Broadmeadows, Meadow Heights, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn;

- (i) Route 955: City, Brunswick, Ivanhoe, Bundoora, Mill Park, South Morang, Mernda;
- (j) Route 961: City, Collingwood, Eastern Freeway, Templestowe, Doncaster;
- (k) Route 963: Ringwood, Mooroolbark, Lilydale;
- (l) Route 964: Croydon, Kilsyth, Mt Evelyn, Lilydale;
- (m) Route 965: Lilydale, Woori Yallock, Healesville loop;
- (n) Route 966: City, Kew, Doncaster Road, Box Hill;
- (o) Route 967: Glen Waverley, Burwood Highway, Bayswater;
- (p) Route 969: City, Caulfield, Ferntree Gully Road, Rowville, Wantirna, Ringwood;
- (q) Route 970: Carrum, Frankston, Mornington, Rosebud;
- (r) Route 978: Elsternwick, Ormond, Huntingdale, Mulgrave, Dandenong;
- (s) Route 979: Elsternwick, Bentleigh, Clarinda, Keysborough, Dandenong;
- (t) Route 981: Dandenong, Berwick, Narre Warren South, Cranbourne; and
- (u) Route 982: Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Cranbourne.

ANSWER:

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

latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network buses is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4837. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 30 and 31 January 2015, what was the myki touch on data count for the following bus services:

- (a) Route 941: City, Footscray, Sunshine North, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens;
- (b) Route 942: City, Footscray, Sunshine, Deer Park, St Albans;
- (c) Route 943: Watergardens, Caroline Springs, Melton;
- (d) Route 944: City, Newport, Altona, Altona Meadows, Point Cook;
- (e) Route 945: City, Geelong Road, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Wyndham Vale;
- (f) Route 951: City, Moonee Ponds, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy;
- (g) Route 952: City, Footscray, Maribymong, Airport West, Gladstone Park, Broadmeadows;
- (h) Route 953: Broadmeadows, Meadow Heights, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn;
- (i) Route 955: City, Brunswick, Ivanhoe, Bundoora, Mill Park, South Morang, Mernda;
- (j) Route 961: City, Collingwood, Eastern Freeway, Templestowe, Doncaster;
- (k) Route 963: Ringwood, Mooroolbark, Lilydale;
- (l) Route 964: Croydon, Kilsyth, Mt Evelyn, Lilydale;
- (m) Route 965: Lilydale, Woori Yallock, Healesville loop;
- (n) Route 966: City, Kew, Doncaster Road, Box Hill;
- (o) Route 967: Glen Waverley, Burwood Highway, Bayswater;
- (p) Route 969: City, Caulfield, Ferntree Gully Road, Rowville, Wantirna, Ringwood;
- (q) Route 970: Carrum, Frankston, Mornington, Rosebud;
- (r) Route 978: Elsternwick, Ormond, Huntingdale, Mulgrave, Dandenong;
- (s) Route 979: Elsternwick, Bentleigh, Clarinda, Keysborough, Dandenong;
- (t) Route 981: Dandenong, Berwick, Narre Warren South, Cranbourne; and
- (u) Route 982: Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Cranbourne.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network buses is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Public transport

4838. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the Night Network and specifically the weekend of 6 and 7 February 2016, what was the myki touch on data count for the following bus services:

- (a) Route 941: City, Footscray, Sunshine North, Taylors Lakes, Watergardens;
- (b) Route 942: City, Footscray, Sunshine, Deer Park, St Albans;
- (c) Route 943: Watergardens, Caroline Springs, Melton;
- (d) Route 944: City, Newport, Altona, Altona Meadows, Point Cook;
- (e) Route 945: City, Geelong Road, Tarneit, Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Wyndham Vale;
- (f) Route 951: City, Moonee Ponds, Brunswick West, Pascoe Vale, Glenroy;
- (g) Route 952: City, Footscray, Maribyrnong, Airport West, Gladstone Park, Broadmeadows;
- (h) Route 953: Broadmeadows, Meadow Heights, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn;
- (i) Route 955: City, Brunswick, Ivanhoe, Bundoora, Mill Park, South Morang, Mernda;
- (j) Route 961: City, Collingwood, Eastern Freeway, Templestowe, Doncaster;
- (k) Route 963: Ringwood, Mooroolbark, Lilydale;
- (l) Route 964: Croydon, Kilsyth, Mt Evelyn, Lilydale;
- (m) Route 965: Lilydale, Woori Yallock, Healesville loop;
- (n) Route 966: City, Kew, Doncaster Road, Box Hill;
- (o) Route 967: Glen Waverley, Burwood Highway, Bayswater;
- (p) Route 969: City, Caulfield, Ferntree Gully Road, Rowville, Wantirna, Ringwood;
- (q) Route 970: Carrum, Frankston, Mornington, Rosebud;
- (r) Route 978: Elsternwick, Ormond, Huntingdale, Mulgrave, Dandenong;
- (s) Route 979: Elsternwick, Bentleigh, Clarinda, Keysborough, Dandenong;
- (t) Route 981: Dandenong, Berwick, Narre Warren South, Cranbourne; and
- (u) Route 982: Dandenong, Endeavour Hills, Hampton Park, Cranbourne.

ANSWER:

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

Latest touch on data shows that almost 140 000 passengers used Night Network services over the five weekends of January. Patronage for Night Network services is currently more than 30 000 each weekend. Patronage on Night Network buses is one consideration in the Night Network Evaluation.

Roads and road safety

4886. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister of Roads and Road Safety): In relation to Labor's election commitment to fix our outer urban arterial roads with a \$2 billion road fund:

- (1) has this fund been established;
 - (a) if so, how much has been spent on fixing outer urban arterial roads;

- (b) if not, when will to be established;
- (2) will the Government use this fund to duplicate Doherty's Road in Laverton North, east of Fitzgerald Road; and
- (3) will the Government use this fund to duplicate Sayers Road in Tarnait between Palmers Road and Morris Road.

ANSWER:

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

The Andrews Labor Government will meet its commitment and introduce legislation to meet the better roads for more communities commitment.

The Better Roads Victoria Trust Account will continue to be the main funding source for new road improvement projects.

VicRoads has been working collaboratively with the 10 Interface Councils on the prioritisation of outer suburban arterial roads for future upgrade.

Roads and road safety

4889. **MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the 2014 election promise made by the Labor candidate for the seat of Forest Hill, Ms Pauline Richards, that Labor would support the protection of the Healesville Freeway Reserve between Springvale Road and Boronia Road and it's reservation as Crown land:

- (1) when will you deliver on the election promise and roll out the Biolink/shared path;
- (2) when will the entire corridor, including parcels of land that are currently leased, be transferred to the Crown; and
- (3) what actions are being undertaken to maintain the parcel of land to the rear of the disused police station in Vermont South, which is currently unkempt and overgrown.

ANSWER:

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

The Andrews Labor Government has honoured its commitment to preserve the Healesville Freeway Reserve as public open space.

The process to transfer the land from VicRoads to the Crown is well underway.

Once this transfer is complete, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will lead the process to establish management arrangements for the land so that it can be managed as public open space reserve.

The Victorian Government will make sure that the community is involved in the future management of the reserve, including the establishment of community facilities within the reserve.

With regard to the disused police station in Vermont South, only the new Police Complex in Springvale Road abuts the Healesville Freeway Reserve, and is managed by VicRoads.

VicRoads advises me that there is a scheduled grass maintenance program for all of the land within the Healesville Freeway Reservation, which includes slashing of grass and spraying and clearing of weeds and blackberries.

The last scheduled slashing of the land was in November 2015, and there will shortly be a further cut in late February to early March 2016.

Roads and road safety

4894. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Chandler Highway widening and bridge duplication project proposed by VicRoads and seeking information that is not included on the Chandler Highway widening and bridge duplication project website at www.vicroads.gov.au/planning-and-projects/Melbourne-road-projects/Chandler-Highway-Kew:

- (1) What assessment, research and/or planning has been conducted on the public transport integration of the Chandler project.
 - (a) If the answer to (1) is none, why has public transport integration not been considered.
- (2) Why is there no provision, planning or integration with any future Doncaster railway.
- (3) Will the Minister consider an alternative route and design which better reflects the public transport integration of the area, including any future Doncaster Rail project.

ANSWER:

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

- (1) VicRoads is working closely with Public Transport Victoria regarding frequent and reliable bus services in the area and is working to separate cyclist and pedestrian facilities where possible. On 27 January 2016, the Andrews Labor Government announced that works to remove the Grange Road, Alphington rail level crossing will be fast-tracked to commence in 2018.

VicRoads has further commissioned an independent review of the bus services that utilise this important north-south corridor. to identify and prioritise improvement opportunities on the wider network. This work will strengthen VicRoads' ability to further advocate for improved services and implement infrastructure upgrades to improve service reliability.

- (2) The design of the Chandler Highway Upgrade will provide for the provision of any potential railway station in the future.
- (3) On 27 January 2016, the Andrews Labor Government announced that it would proceed with the preferred option of a six-lane bridge to the west of the existing Chandler High Bridge, which will provide for public transport integration of the area.

Premier

4898. MR BARBER — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): Since the commencement of this government, by month, how much public funds have been expended on advertising, promotions and post boosts associated with the Premier's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DanielAndrewsMP>.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

We are reducing expenditure by moving to more effective, efficient and targeted advertising such as digital.

We've spent an average of \$15 million less on advertising each year than the previous government.

The most recent Government Advertising Report showed the Government is beginning to achieve reduction in expenditure with 2014-15 expenditure down to \$94.9m from a previous average of more than \$100m — <http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/communication/victorian-govemment-annual-advertising-expenditure>

Environment, climate change and water

4900. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Planning

4902. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Industry

4903. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

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

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Training and skills

4916. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Energy and resources

4928. **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

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

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Employment

4929. **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): Since being appointed a Minister of the Crown, have you received any gifts from the private sector up to the sum of AUD\$500 and if so, please specify —

- (a) the donor;
- (b) the gift;
- (c) the value of the gift; and
- (d) whether this gift was disclosed in a declaration.

ANSWER:

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

Members of the Victorian Parliament are required to declare personal interests in accordance with the Members of Parliament (Register of Interests) Act 1978.

Families and children

4947. **MS SPRINGLE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: During 2014-15, what was the rate of successful family reunification in relation to children subject to protection orders.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There were 2637 children who exited from out of home care in 2014-15. Some of the children included in this number would have exited because they had reached 18 years of age.

Environment, climate change and water

4958. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): Could the Minister supply the relevant data about the rates of recovery and recycling across the following categories —

Material Type	Tonnes Landfilled		Tonnes recovered		Tonnes recycled	
	Total	proportion that are beverage containers	All of the material	proportion that are beverage containers	All of the material	proportion that are beverage containers
Glass						
Plastic						
Paper						
Green waste						
Other rubbish						

ANSWER:

Sustainability Victoria surveys key Victorian recovery and recycling businesses to produce the annual Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey Report. The report outlines the most recovered materials in Victoria by sector and source and provides total recovery rates for each material as well as an overarching total.

The survey report is publicly available at <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/publications-and-research/research/victorian-recycling-industry-annual-survey>.

Sustainability Victoria also surveys all Victorian councils about their waste and recycling services.

The survey report is publicly available at <http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/publications-and-research/research/victorian-local-government-annual-survey>.

Environment, climate change and water

4959. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the recycling rate in Victoria:

- (1) How does the Minister define recycling; and
- (2) Are ‘pre-consumer’ materials included in the total of recorded recycled plastics.

ANSWER:

- (1) Recycling is a term that may be used to cover a wide range of activities, including collection, sorting, reprocessing and manufacture into new products and excluding material that is sent to landfill.

Source: State-wide Waste & Resource Recovery Plan, Sustainability Victoria June 2015.

- (2) Pre-consumer plastic are defined as scrap off-cuts and off-specification items in the manufacturing industry which are not used by the consumer but are collected for reprocessing at a different site. It does not include material that is recycled directly back into manufacturing processes at the same site and does not include material that has reached the end consumer, whether domestic or industrial.

Source: National Plastics Recycling Survey Report.

Pre-consumer plastics are included in the total recovered plastics reported by Sustainability Victoria through the National Plastics Recycling Survey Report and then published via the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey Report.

Pre-consumer plastics are not included in the recovered plastics reported by Sustainability Victoria through the Victorian Local Government Annual Survey report. This report focuses on packaging material with regard to plastics.

Environment, climate change and water

4960. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the recycling rate in Victoria: Is the total figure of recyclable materials based on

- (a) reported collections by local government and other government agencies;
- (b) by reported materials received by recycling industries; or
- (c) through another source.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Waste & Resource Recovery portfolio's data reporting primarily refers to a 'recovery rate', not a 'recycling rate'. The recovery rate is the percentage of materials recovered for reprocessing from the total quantity of waste generated.

The data that informs the recovery rate is from the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey and landfill levy data provided annually by the Environment Protection Authority Victoria.

The recovery rate is calculated as follows:

- Numerator-sum of total amount (metric tonnes) of material recovered in Victoria for recycling;
- Denominator-sum of total amount (metric tonnes) of material deposited in Victorian Landfills and the total amount (metric tonnes) of material recovered in Victoria for recycling;
- Recovery rate = Numerator divided by the Denominator and expressed as a percentage.

Sustainability Victoria also collects waste and resource recovery data from all 79 local governments and derives from this a 'diversion rate'.

The diversion rate is calculated by dividing the tonnes of recyclables and green organics recycled (i.e. net of contaminants), by the tonnes of recyclables, green organics and garbage collected from the kerbside system. The kerbside system refers to municipal domestic collection, which in some local government areas can include small businesses and other institutions where they are provided with a domestic bin system and are included in the domestic waste collection pick-up.

Environment, climate change and water

4961. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the recycling rate in Victoria: Is the Minister aware of any difference between reported total recycled material —

- (a) collected by local government and other government agencies;
- (b) received by the recycling industry;
- (c) recycled into new materials or finished products ready for reuse; and
- (d) sent to landfills.

ANSWER:

Reported amounts of total recycled material by local governments are collected by Sustainability Victoria using the Victorian Local Government Annual Survey.

Reported amounts of total recycled material received by industry are collected by Sustainability Victoria using the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey.

Reports of both surveys are publicly available on the Sustainability Victoria website.

In 2011-12 over 8 million tonnes of valuable material was recovered from waste streams in Victoria, representing a 66% recovery rate, however 4.1 million tonnes were still sent to landfill.

Recovering more resources reduces our impact on our environment, mitigates the impacts of climate change, creates jobs and bolsters our economy. The Victorian Government is committed to reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and has developed a long-term plan to effectively manage the waste we generate, and in doing so protect the public health, community amenity and natural environment we so value.

Environment, climate change and water

4962. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the recycling rate in Victoria: Is the Minister aware of any difference between reported total recycled glass —

- (a) collected by local government and other government agencies;
- (b) received by the recycling industry;
- (c) recycled into new materials or finished products ready for reuse; and
- (d) sent to landfills.

ANSWER:

Reported amounts of total recycled glass by local governments is collected by Sustainability Victoria using the Victorian Local Government Annual Survey.

Reported amounts of total recycled glass received by industry is collected by Sustainability Victoria using the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey.

Reports of both surveys are publicly available on the Sustainability Victoria website.

Environment, climate change and water

4963. **MS SPRINGLE** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the recycling rate in Victoria: Is the Minister aware of any difference between reported total recycled plastic —

- (a) collected by local government and other government agencies;
- (b) received by the recycling industry;
- (c) recycled into new materials or finished products ready for reuse; and
- (d) sent to landfills.

ANSWER:

Reported amounts of total recycled plastic by local governments is collected by Sustainability Victoria using the Victorian Local Government Annual Survey.

Reported amounts of total recycled plastic received by industry is collected through the National Plastics Recycling Survey Report and then published via the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey Report.

Reports of both surveys are publicly available on the Sustainability Victoria website.

Environment, climate change and water

4964. **MS SPRINGLE** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the recycling rate in Victoria: Is the Minister aware of any difference between reported total recycled paper —

- (a) collected by local government and other government agencies;
- (b) received by the recycling industry;
- (c) recycled into new materials or finished products ready for reuse; and
- (d) sent to landfills.

ANSWER:

Reported amounts of total recycled paper by local governments is collected by Sustainability Victoria using the Victorian Local Government Annual Survey.

Reported amounts of total recycled paper received by industry is collected by Sustainability Victoria using the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey.

Reports of both surveys are publicly available on the Sustainability Victoria website.

Environment, climate change and water

4965. **MS SPRINGLE** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to the media release dated 21 December 2015 Keeping Victoria’s Title as Least Littered State, the Minister is on record stating that “Victoria had the lowest litter rate in the country”, can the Minister inform me —

- (a) how this data is sourced;
- (b) is this litter rate quantified by area or per capita;
- (c) is this litter rate quantified by weight, volume or using another measurement; and
- (d) is this litter rate broken down into litter categories such as recyclable glass, plastic, paper and landfill rubbish.

ANSWER:

The data which outlines Victoria as the least littered state is the Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index (NLI).

The detailed edition of the NLI is available on the Keep Australia Beautiful National Association website: <http://kab.org.au/nli-201415-detailed-edition/>.

More information on the litter count methodology is found in section 3 on page 7.

Environment, climate change and water

4967. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Planning

4969. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Planning): As at 29 February 2016

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004. Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Industry

4970. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Ambulance services

4971. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Equality

4973. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Equality): As at 29 February 2016

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

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

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practise. Ministerial Staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for Ministerial Staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Finance

4975. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Multicultural affairs

4977. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Multicultural Affairs): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Women

4978. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Women): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Funding and tenure for ministerial staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Health

4979. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that: Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Housing, disability and ageing

4980. **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Mental health

4981. **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for Ministerial Staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Training and skills

4982. **MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Prevention of family violence

4983. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Prevention of Family Violence): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Funding and tenure for ministerial staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Tourism and major events

4986. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): As at 29 February 2016

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that, Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

The tenure and funding is consistent with best practice for Ministerial Staff.

The salary band, remuneration and roles of Ministerial Staff vary depending on the level of responsibility and experience.

Families and children

4988. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for Ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Attorney-General

4989. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Racing

4990. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Racing): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Police

4991. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Corrections

4992. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Energy and resources

4994. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Employment

4995. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

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

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Aboriginal affairs

4997. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004. Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Youth affairs

5003. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Youth Affairs: As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for Ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Police

5027. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): For each month between December 2014 and June 2015 inclusive, how many compliance visits were made by Victoria Police to illegal or alleged illegal brothels.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Victoria's sex industry, including the licensing of brothels, is regulated under the Sex Work Act 1994 and the Sex Work Regulations 2006, which are administered by the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has the power to bring court action against any licensed operator who breaches sex work laws, and remains primarily responsible for monitoring compliance with the licensing system.

Victoria Police is the lead agency for investigating allegations of illegal brothel activity and enforcing laws relating to the sex work industry. In 2012, Victoria Police established the Sex Industry Coordination Unit (SICU) to provide a more centralised approach to gathering intelligence and policing.

The SICU gathers intelligence on the sex work industry to determine the issues in order to establish how best to make an impact on illegal activity in the sex work industry and protect vulnerable persons from exploitation.

I am advised that Victoria Police has conducted 39 visits to suspected illegal brothels between December 2014 and June 2015.

Police

5028. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): For each month between July 2015 and December 2015 inclusive, how many compliance visits were made by Victoria Police to illegal or alleged illegal brothels.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Victoria’s sex industry, including the licencing of brothels, is regulated under the Sex Work Act 1994 and the Sex Work Regulations 2006, which are administered by the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has the power to bring court action against any licensed operator who breaches sex work laws, and remains primarily responsible for monitoring compliance with the licensing system.

Victoria Police is the lead agency for investigating allegations of illegal brothel activity and enforcing laws relating to the sex work industry. In 2012, Victoria Police established the Sex Industry Coordination Unit (SICU) to provide a more centralised approach to gathering intelligence and policing.

The SICU gathers intelligence on the sex work industry to determine the issues in order to establish how’ best to make an impact on illegal activity in the sex work industry and protect vulnerable persons from exploitation.

I am advised that Victoria Police has conducted 67 visits to suspected illegal brothels between July 2015 and December 2015.

Housing, disability and ageing

5031. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): How many people that were previously on the public housing waiting lists were housed at the Evo Apartments, Parkville, between 23 June 2015 and 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Evo apartments are not owned by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) nor by the Director of Housing. In addition neither the Secretary of DHHS nor the Director of Housing manage the tenants at the Evo apartments. As such, the government cannot provide the information that you have requested regarding the residents of the Evo apartments.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

5032. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): What is the monthly hit count breakdown of the Consumer Affairs Victoria’s Dob in a Scam page for —

- (a) June 2015;
- (b) July 2015;
- (c) August 2015;
- (d) September 2015;
- (e) October 2015;
- (f) November 2015;

- (g) December 2015;
- (h) January 2016; and
- (i) February 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised: Between June 2015 and February 2016 (inclusive), the ‘Report a scam’ page [previously called ‘Dob in a scam’] on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website, received 3119 page views.

Energy and resources

- 5035. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): With regards to back-up diesel generators in residential care-facilities, what is the breakdown per local government area of grants allocated between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

There were 66 generators installed across 21 local government areas between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015.

Training and skills

- 5043. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the TAFE Back to Work Fund announced in March 2015 —

- (1) Which organisations have applied for funding and what was their requested funding amount.
- (2) As of 23 June 2015, which of the applications (from Question 1), have been funded.
- (3) What is the current status of each application.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (1) Information about applications and requested funding amounts is commercial-in-confidence. Releasing commercial-in-confidence information could disadvantage institutes in a competitive training market.
- (2) I have allocated \$50 million in funding for 15 organisations from the TAFE Back to Work Fund. These are the 12 stand-alone TAFE institutes, and three dual sector universities. A full list of the projects and funding awarded is available on the Department of Education and Training website.
- (3) All initiatives are on track and are in the development and/or implementation phase.

Families and children

- 5066. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many spot audits were conducted in residential care units between 9 February 2015 and 8 March 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government introduced spot audits for the first time in residential care to improve the safety and care quality of children and young people living in those units. 163 spot audits were conducted in residential units and associated offices up until 8 March 2016.

Families and children

5074. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to concerns about the quality of care of children in out of home care, how many new cases did the Department of Health and Human Services investigate in 2015 relating to concerns raised about the quality of care of children in this care.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The quality of care process guides the Department of Health and Human Services response to allegations about the quality of care a child receives in out-of-home care placements.

Quality of care concerns can range from minor quality issues through to possible physical or sexual abuse. All reports are treated seriously at the outset of the process and the best interests of the child or young person are considered paramount.

The number of new quality of care cases investigated in relation to quality of care concerns during 2014-15 is published in the Department of Health & Human Services 2014-15 Annual Report.

Families and children

5078. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Does the Department of Health and Human Services require external contractors who manage residential care facilities to provide their direct care staff with any training for working with vulnerable children.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Program requirements for residential care in Victoria (April 2015) outline mandatory training requirements for community service organisations that deliver residential care. This training includes occupational health and safety, fire and evacuation management, infection control and cultural awareness.

For service providers that deliver therapeutic residential care, the Program requirements for therapeutic residential care (April 2015) outline additional mandatory 'With Care' training requirements for staff.

The Residential Care Learning and Development Strategy offers a range of voluntary training and professional development opportunities for all residential care staff; this includes training to support staff working with vulnerable children. Training courses, available in 2015-16, include topics such as youth mental health, sexual exploitation, substance abuse, cyber safety, conflict management and working with Aboriginal children and families.

Families and children

5079. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: As at 8 March 2016, how many children under 10 years old were housed in residential care.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the number of children and young people in residential care by quarter is available on the Department's website.

In March 2015, the Andrews Labor Government announced \$43 million for Targeted Care Packages which aim to move children out of residential care and into home-based care.

A further \$19 million was allocated in October 2015 with a view to preventing children and young people coming into residential care in the first place.

As at 29 February 2016, 109 young people have moved from residential care into home-based care and are now with foster carers, extended family or their parents.

Families and children

5080. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Between June 2015 and 8 March 2016, how many specialised child protection workers were employed to target the sexual exploitation of children in out of home care.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The 2015-16 State Budget resources an additional 148.8 FTE workers in child protection to meet the impact of 10 000 additional reports forecast for 2015-16—the largest ever single increase to the number of child protection positions.

These significant improvements will give the Department of Health and Human Services a greater capacity to respond to the increasing number of children being reported to child protection, to investigate reports where required and to provide longer term intervention and support where necessary.

As funded in the 2015-16 Budget, four specialised child protection workers have been employed to target the sexual exploitation of children in out of home care. These specialised positions have been established for the first time under the Andrews Labor Government.

These positions follow the Government’s announcement in February 2015, of a range of immediate actions to improve the safety and wellbeing of Victorian children and young people in out of home care. This includes \$16 million to increase staff in standard residential care units, including stand-up overnight staff and for the first time, \$1.5 million for spot audits of residential care facilities.

The Andrews Labor Government acted quickly in our first 100 days in office to enhance safety for children and young people and is getting on with the task of reforming the child protection and out of home care system.

Families and children

5081. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: As at 8 March 2016, how many residential care units had CCTV cameras operating in bedrooms.

ANSWER:

I refer the Member to my response to Question without Notice 4673.

Families and children

5085. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many children aged between 0–5 were in residential care during the —

- (a) March 2015 quarter;
- (b) June 2015 quarter;
- (c) September 2015 quarter; and
- (d) December 2015 quarter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the number of children and young people in residential care by quarter is available on the Department's website.

In March 2015, the Andrews Labor Government announced \$43 million for Targeted Care Packages which aim to move children out of residential care and into home-based care.

A further \$19 million was allocated in October 2015 with a view to preventing children and young people coming into residential care in the first place.

As at 29 February 2016, 109 young people have moved from residential care into home-based care and are now with foster carers, extended family or their parents.

Families and children

5086. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many children aged between 6–12 were in residential care during the —

- (a) March 2015 quarter;
- (b) June 2015 quarter;
- (c) September 2015 quarter; and
- (d) December 2015 quarter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the number of children and young people in residential care by quarter is available on the Department's website.

In March 2015, the Andrews Labor Government announced \$43 million for Targeted Care Packages which aim to move children out of residential care and into home-based care.

A further \$19 million was allocated in October 2015 with a view to preventing children and young people coming into residential care in the first place.

As at 29 February 2016, 109 young people have moved from residential care into home-based care and are now with foster carers, extended family or their parents.

Families and children

5093. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many Aboriginal children in out of home care as at 8 March 2016 have a cultural support plan in place.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to ensuring the over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in child protection and out of home care is addressed as a matter of urgency.

In relation to Aboriginal cultural support plans, the percentage of required cultural support plans that were recorded in the system as at 31 December 2015 was 95.1 per cent.

Families and children

5097. **MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many child protection cases were closed at intake in 2015 in the —

- (a) North region;
- (b) South region;
- (c) East region; and
- (d) West region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Child protection reports that do not proceed to investigation, are closed at intake. Where necessary, action may be taken to refer families to other appropriate services.

Data relating to the number of child protection investigations and substantiations for 2014-15 is published in the Department of Health & Human Services 2014-15 Annual Report.

Families and children

5098. **MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many child protection cases were closed at investigation in 2015 in the —

- (a) North region;
- (b) South region;
- (c) East region; and
- (d) West region.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Investigations that are not substantiated, are closed after investigation. Where necessary, action may be taken to refer families to other appropriate services.

Data relating to the number of child protection investigations and substantiations for 2014-15 is published in the Department of Health & Human Services 2014-15 Annual Report.

Families and children

5108. **MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Of the \$1.3 million allocated to Reducing Family Violence in the 2015-16 budget, how much has been expended to 8 March 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to addressing the issue of family violence in our society. The 2015-16 State Budget provided \$81.3 million for family violence initiatives, including the establishment of Australia’s first Royal Commission into Family Violence.

There is no line item in the 2015-16 titled “Reducing Family Violence”. If the matter raised relates to the \$1.3 million allocated to Reducing Aboriginal Family Violence in the 2015-16 budget, this initiative is the responsibility of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Natalie Hutchins MP.

Families and children

5109. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: When will the already completed mid-term evaluation of progress under the Indigenous Family Violence 10 Year Plan: Strong Culture, Strong Peoples and Strong Families be released.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The mid-term evaluation of progress under the Indigenous Family Violence 10 Year Plan: Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families is the responsibility of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Natalie Hutchins MP.

Families and children

5111. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What was the number of Aboriginal children in out of home care for 2014-15, which was not included in the Victorian Government Aboriginal Affairs Report for 2014-15.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the number of Aboriginal children in out of home care in 2014-15 is published in the 2016 Report on Government Services. This report was published on 27 January 2016.

Families and children

5114. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many fines did the Department of Health and Human Services pay to Public Transport Victoria for children in residential care travelling on public transport without a ticket in 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

This information would be contained within individual client records. It would require a manual review of every individual client record and would be an unreasonable redirection of child protection worker time and effort.

Families and children

5115. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: Which child protection programs and/or initiatives were ceased between 1 December 2014 and 31 January 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

– No child protection programs or initiatives ceased between 1 December 2014 and 31 January 2016.

Families and children

5116. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to foster care —

- (a) how many reviews in total has the Andrews government conducted into foster care; and
- (b) of the reviews undertaken how many have been published.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government has not conducted any reviews specifically into foster care.

We have invested \$3.2 million towards attracting, recruiting and retaining more foster carers. Fostering Connections was launched on 21 January 2016 bringing together all 26 Victorian foster care agencies with the Victorian Government in a state-wide campaign to attract and recruit more foster carers. As part of this funding, \$1.7 million has been invested specifically for retention activities to better support foster carers and retain them in their role.

The Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children project will set the directions and practical steps for long term reform of the Victorian child and family services system. It will outline the vision and directions for delivering better outcomes for vulnerable children and families.

Families and children

5117. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: When will the Taskforce 1000 report be published.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The publication of the Taskforce 1000 report is a matter for the Commission for Children and Young People as part of its Systemic Inquiry into Services Provided to Aboriginal Children and Young People in Out of Home Care in Victoria.

Families and children

5118. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many Early Childhood Intervention Service trained staff are employed in Victoria —

- (a) by the Department of Education and Training; and
- (b) by service providers to the Department of Education and Training.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

- (a) 124 Full Time Equivalent Early Childhood Intervention Service trained staff are employed by the Department of Education and Training in the Specialist Children's Services Teams.
- (b) The Department does not collect information on staffing levels of non-government service providers.

Families and children

5119. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many children are on the waitlist for Early Childhood Intervention Services in the —

- (a) Western Melbourne area;
- (b) Brimbank Melton area;
- (c) Hume Moreland area;
- (d) North Eastern Melbourne area;
- (e) Inner Eastern Melbourne area;
- (f) Outer Eastern Melbourne area;

- (g) Southern Melbourne area; and
- (h) Bayside Peninsula area.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Member does not specify a time period for the data requested.

The 2015-16 Budget committed \$9 million over four years to continue funding for 150 Early Childhood Intervention (ECIS) places and 150 Flexible Support Packages (FSP) which would have lapsed on 30 June 2015.

These places and packages have been allocated across the state to enable continuity of service delivery so that children and families continue to get the support they need.

Families and children

5120. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How long (in time period) is the waitlist for Early Childhood Intervention Services in the —

- (a) Western Melbourne area;
- (b) Brimbank Melton area;
- (c) Hume Moreland area;
- (d) North Eastern Melbourne area;
- (e) Inner Eastern Melbourne area;
- (f) Outer Eastern Melbourne area;
- (g) Southern Melbourne area; and
- (h) Bayside Peninsula area.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Department does not collect waiting time periods for Early Childhood Intervention Services at an area level.

The 2015-16 Budget committed \$9 million over four years to continue funding for 150 Early Childhood Intervention (ECIS) places and 150 Flexible Support Packages (FSP) which would have lapsed on 30 June 2015.

These places and packages have been allocated across the state to enable continuity of service delivery so that children and families continue to get the support they need.

Families and children

5121. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In 2014-15, what was the rate of children in Victoria on child protection orders, (rate per thousand children).

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The rate of children in Victoria on care and protection orders (rate per thousand children) can be found in the Report on Government Services 2016 report.

Families and children

5122. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many young people leaving residential care were provided with assistance by the Springboard program in 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Springboard provides intensive case management support to young people leaving residential care to help them transition to independence. Springboard has a focus on education and employment outcomes, to support economic independence, improve life outcomes and reduce the likelihood of reliance on other State Government and welfare services for this particularly vulnerable cohort.

Young people leaving residential care have had very difficult lives and face many barriers in participating in education and employment and successful transition to independent adulthood.

A 2014 evaluation found that 90 per cent of young people engaged with the program were from residential care. Those that were not from residential care had similarly complex needs and support requirements to those who were from residential care.

Families and children

5124. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many Springboard programs were provided to young people leaving care in each of the 17 Department of Health and Human Services areas.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

There are 12 Springboard programs in Victoria that cover all 17 Department of Health and Human Services areas.

Families and children

5127. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: As at 30 June 2015, what was the percentage of children in out of home care who were less than 12 years of age.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the number of children and young people in out of home care as at 30 June 2015, including by quarter, is available on the Department's website.

In March 2015, the Andrews Labor' Government announced \$43 million for Targeted Care Packages which aim to move children out of residential care and into home-based care.

A further \$19 million was allocated in October 2015 with a view to preventing children and young people coming into residential care in the first place.

As at 29 February 2016, 109 young people have moved from residential care into home- based ca.re and are now with foster carers, extended family or their parents.

Families and children

5128. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many children were placed in residential care in 2015 who were less than 12 years of age.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the number of children and young people in out of home care as at 30 June 2015, including by quarter, is available on the Department's website.

In March 2015, the Andrews Labor Government announced \$43 million for Targeted Care Packages which aim to move children out of residential care and into home-based care.

A further \$19 million was allocated in October 2015 with a view to preventing children and young people coming into residential care in the first place.

As at 29 February 2016, 109 young people have moved from residential care into home-based care and are now with foster carers, extended family or their parents.

Families and children

5129. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What was the percentage of child protection practitioners receiving regular supervision for 2014-15.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The percentage of practitioners receiving regular supervision for the 2014-15 financial year is published in the Department of Health and Human Services 2014-15 Annual Report.

Families and children

5130. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to unborn children —

- (1) what was the total number of reports on unborn children for 2014-15; and
- (2) what was the number of reports on unborn children for the June 2015 quarter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total number of reports on unborn children for 2014-15, including by quarter, is published in the Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report.

Families and children

5131. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What was the Department of Health and Human Services annual total number of investigations 2014-15 for child protection, which was not included in the 2014-15 annual report.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Member is incorrect in her assertion.

The annual total number of investigations for child protection in 2014-15, including by quarter, is published in the Department of Health and Human Services Annual Report.

Families and children

5132. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to child protection substantiations —

- (1) what was the total number of child protection substantiations in 2014-15;
- (2) how many child protection substantiations were there in the June 2015 quarter; and
- (3) how many child protection substantiations were there in the December 2015 quarter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total number of child protection substantiations in 2014-15, including by quarter, is published in the Department of Health and Human Services Annual Report.

Families and children

5133. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: How many child protection investigations were there in the —

- (1) June 2015 quarter; and
- (2) December 2015 quarter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the Member to my response to Question on Notice 5131.

Families and children

5134. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What was the total number (not percentage) of children and young people who were the subject of a substantiated report within 12 months of the closure of a previous substantiated report in 2015?

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The total number of children and young people who had been part of a previously substantiated case that had been closed in the previous 12 months in 2014-15 is published in the Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report.

Families and children

5135. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: What was the total number (not percentage) of children and young people who were the subject of a substantiated report within 12 months of the closure of a previous substantiated report for:

- (1) the June 2015 quarter; and
- (2) the December 2015 quarter.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Data relating to the number of children and young people who had been part of a previously substantiated case that had been closed in the previous 12 months in 2014-15 is published in the Department of Health & Human Services Annual Report.

Environment, climate change and water

5145. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to air quality levels —

- (1) when will the Government update the State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management) to be in line with the new National Environment Protection Council (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (NEPM) variation which was agreed to in December 2015;
- (2) when will the Government update the State Environment Protection Policy (Ambient Air Quality) to be in line with the new National Environment Protection Council (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (NEPM) variation which was agreed to in December 2015; and
- (3) will the changes reflect the national agreement or Victoria's pledge for tighter air quality levels than this.

ANSWER:

1. The State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management) (SEPP AQM) is Victoria's framework for meeting the air quality standards outlined in the State Environment Protection Policy (Ambient Air Quality) (SEPP AAQ). The SEPP AQM does not need to be updated for the stricter standards to apply, as standards that were agreed in December 2015 will be contained in the SEPP AAQ.
2. The process for updating the SEPP AAQ to reflect the new National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (NEPM) is outlined on EPA's website at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/your-environment/air/review-of-national-ambient-air-quality-standards>.

The NEPM must be formally updated before the new standards can be included in the SEPP AAQ. This is a federal process that has started and is likely to be completed in the middle of this year. Victoria will then update the SEPP AAQ.

3. The changes to SEPP AAQ will reflect a more stringent annual average standard for PM10 particulate matter of 20 micrograms per cubic metre, while ensuring nationally consistent monitoring and reporting against the agreed NEPM standards.

Premier

5160. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Multicultural affairs

- 5161. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Multicultural Affairs): What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Training and skills

- 5166. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides an overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Special Minister of State

- 5171. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Special Minister of State: What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Employment

- 5179. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Employment): What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

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

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Premier

- 5189. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Families and children

5270. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: When will the Taskforce 1000 report be made public.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

I refer the Member to my response to Question on Notice 5117.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

Wednesday, 13 April 2016

Creative industries

4972. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Creative Industries):
As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

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

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practise. Ministerial Staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for Ministerial Staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Small business, innovation and trade

5152. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade: What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Industry

5154. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry): What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

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

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

Finance

5159. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Answers to the following questions on notice were circulated on the date shown.

Questions have been incorporated from the notice paper of the Legislative Council.

Answers have been incorporated in the form supplied by the departments on behalf of the appropriate ministers.

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Thursday, 14 April 2016

Police

4671. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to the Victoria Police narcotic detection dogs, in each of the years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015:

- (1) How many searches of individuals were conducted as a result of these dogs indicating a positive result for drugs.
- (2) How many people were strip searched as a result of these dogs indicating a positive result for drugs.
- (3) Of all those searched due to a positive result from a dog, how many resulted in drugs being found.
- (4) Of those strip searched due to a positive result from a dog, how many resulted in drugs being found.
- (5) Of those searched due to a positive result from a dog, how many were arrested.
- (6) How many searches of freight or commercial goods were conducted as a result of these dogs indicating a positive result for drugs.
- (7) Of all the freight or commercial goods searched due to a positive result from a dog, how many resulted in drugs being found.
- (8) At what types of events or locations did Victoria Police use narcotic detection dogs (for example, at music festivals, airports, major events, private houses, etc.).
- (9) How many times were the dogs used at each type of event or location.
- (10) What was and is the annual budget of the Victoria Police Narcotic Detection Dogs program/division.
- (11) How many searches of individual's clothing, bags or luggage that were conducted as a result of these dogs indicating a positive result for drugs occurred while that person was at or entering a festival event.
- (12) Of all those searched at or entering a festival due to a positive result from a dog, how many searches resulted in drugs being found.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

The Narcotic Detection Dog Squad is an important operational unit within the Victoria Police Dog Squad, with the teams supporting both general policing and specialised unit operations. The dogs are trained to detect a range of smells linked to a range of drugs.

The Victoria Police Dog Squad is a support unit to operational police as well as specialist squads.

Victoria Police advises information is not recorded in the form requested to respond to questions 1, 3, 5, and 12. The Dog Squad teams work with other operational areas, generally local policing units. The teams are responsible for locating offenders, they do not process them. That is the responsibility of the appropriate operational area.

In response to questions 8 and 9, Victoria Police advises that drug detection dogs are used in the service of warrants by police at houses, other private dwellings, factories, boats and caravans on a daily basis, and from time to time

are used in public places for street screening purposes. Street screening tasks account for less than 6 per cent of the squad's yearly commitments and are conducted at music events, night club districts and railway stations at the request of local policing units in response to intelligence driven drug trafficking and drug detection issues.

Environment, climate change and water

4951. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to marine health in Victoria: Does the Minister have any recent figures obtained by state government agencies on marine species mortality caused by plastic and other pollution in Port Phillip Bay and Victoria's coastline, for the following species —

- (a) seals;
- (b) dolphins;
- (c) turtles;
- (d) penguins; and
- (e) weedy sea dragons.

ANSWER:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) does not systematically compile reporting on the mortality of marine species caused by plastic or other pollution, and so no recent published figures are available. The Victorian Government has arrangements in place with Zoos Victoria's AGL Marine Response Unit and the Phillip Island Nature Park key organisations to assist injured or distressed marine species and to provide data on these emergency responses; however this data does not specifically identify mortality caused by plastic and other pollution.

Every year, the AGL Marine Response Unit receives hundreds of calls relating to Victoria's marine wildlife. Each call is recorded to capture the species involved, location, time, reason for the call, type of response required, outcomes and communications. The type of response will vary depending on the nature of the animal's condition. The AGL Marine Response Unit will alert the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) about all reports that involve whales, dolphins and porpoises, or which raise concerns about animal welfare, risks to the public or if the animal is in highly frequented areas. Since 1 July 2015, the AGL Marine Response Unit has reported 74 cases involving marine wildlife to DELWP representing 44 per cent of cases received in that period.

The AGL Marine Response Unit provides ongoing communication to DELWP for cases meeting the aforementioned criteria. This will include, but not limited to, the type of injury, causes where understood, the response required, the animal's prognosis, prospects for rehabilitation, and ongoing updates as required. The AGL Marine Response Unit also submits an annual report through to DELWP at the end of each financial year which provides an overview of the unit's work-over the previous 12 months.

The AGL Marine Response Unit releases its final report including the number of cases to the media each year to provide the public with updates about cases involving Victoria's marine wildlife. Updates about specific cases are also provided using social media. The annual reports have not been made public to date. However, Zoos Victoria is able to provide copies on request.

Some specific data is available for seals. Published research from Phillip Island Nature Parks (Mcintosh et al., 2015 Marine Pollution Bulletin 101 (2015)-716-725) on Australian fur seals at Seal Island estimates that approximately 300 seals at Seal Island may be entangled by marine debris each year. 77% of recorded seal entanglements in this research were from fishing debris, with approximately 20% of entanglements from items which could have originated from land or boat, including cloth, twine and plastic bags. According to cited research in this reference, most seal entanglements are expected to be fatal.

Environment, climate change and water

4952. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to marine health in Victoria: Is any monitoring currently underway by the state government of concentrations of plastic in Victoria’s marine environment and if so —

- (1) What regions are tested and how frequently.
- (2) Which agency undertakes this testing.
- (3) What concentrations of plastic are detectable —
 - (a) in ocean and bay sediment;
 - (b) in shallow water; and
 - (c) along shorelines.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the health of Victoria’s marine and coastal environment through a range of initiatives, including the development of a new Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Port Phillip Bay. As part of consultation on the plan the community has told us that pollution, including from plastic litter and micro-plastics, is an issue of concern.

Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria conducts an annual survey of litter across Victoria. Community-based groups are collecting shoreline data on larger plastic pollution.

In relation to concentrations of plastic in Victoria’s marine environment, micro-plastics in Port Phillip Bay largely come from its catchments via stormwater. Micro-plastic sources can include degrading litter, consumer products and industry.

The Victorian Government does not currently include micro-plastics in routine monitoring programs for our coastal and marine environments. However, micro-plastics are the subject of a range of initiatives with financial support provided by the Victorian Government.

Examples include:

- the Port Phillip Ecocentre in collaboration with Yarra RiverKeepers and with support from the Victorian Government Litter Hotspots, conducted community based research into the presence of micro-plastics in Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and at beaches in Port Phillip Bay in 2013-2014; and
- the Tangaroa Blue Foundation, a marine debris mitigation organisation, also with support from Litter Hotspots, is introducing a program to the plastics industry in the Port Phillip Bay catchment. This program provides simple solutions to reduce plastic resin pellet pollution into the marine environment.

Other relevant programs underway to support state government priorities to reduce litter (including plastic) and pollution in the Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay include the Litter Innovation Fund as part of the state-wide litter strategy.

Environment, climate change and water

4954. MS SPRINGLE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In relation to marine health in Victoria what measures are in place to:

- (1) monitor the number of plastic bags escaping into marine environments;
- (2) recover plastic bags from marine environments; and
- (3) monitor concentrations of microbeads passing through storm water and sewerage.

ANSWER:

- (1) Monitor the number of plastic bags escaping into marine environments

Litter from plastic bags and micro-plastics is an issue because of effects on amenity, recreation and the environment (including species). The key sources of litter and micro-plastics to the bay are from people directly dropping litter into the bay or on the beaches, and via stormwater.

A number of initiatives are in place to reduce litter and pollution in Victoria's marine environment. These include development of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for Victoria. The new EMP will focus effort on management and prevention of litter to Port Phillip Bay. Environmental outcomes and actions will be set in the EMP to better manage pollution in partnership with government agencies, key stakeholders and the community.

Other relevant current initiatives include the Victorian Litter Plan and my commitment to deliver a \$700 000 Litter Innovation Fund. Existing projects also include Litter Hotspots, a partnership between the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Metropolitan Waste Reduction Group which addresses localised litter issues by providing targeted funding and grants to support local government, business and community partnership initiatives.

In addition, Keep Australia Beautiful Victoria conducts an annual survey of litter across Victoria. Community-based groups in Victoria (including Port Phillip EcoCentre, Beach Patrol) collect shoreline data on larger plastic pollution.

The Victorian Litter Report contains data that includes the measurement of litter levels from 2009 to 2013, including at waterfront and beach environments. In September 2013, plastic film (including plastic bags) comprised 2 per cent of all litter reported in the Victorian Litter Report, but the number of plastic bags escaping into marine environments is not known.

- (2) Recover plastic bags from marine environments

The current focus is on preventing plastic bags, or any litter, from reaching marine environments through programs such as Litter Hotspots and Parks Victoria Litter Traps in the Yarra River.

- (3) Monitor concentrations of microbeads passing through storm water and sewerage

With support from the Victorian Government Litter Hotspots, the Port Phillip EcoCentre, in collaboration with Yarra RiverKeepers, conducted community based research into the presence of microplastics in Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers and at beaches in Port Phillip Bay in 2013-2014.

Melbourne Water wastewater treatment plants are unlikely to be a significant source of microbeads/micro-plastics, according to international research on micro-plastics and wastewater treatment. Sewerage undergoes advanced tertiary treatment at Melbourne's Eastern Treatment Plant, and the treatment process at Melbourne's Western Treatment Plant involves activated sludge coupled with long lagoon residence times. Melbourne Water has recently commenced a research project with RMIT University to improve the quantification and mass balance of micro-plastics in wastewater and other water matrices.

In December 2015, Commonwealth, state and territory Environment Ministers announced plans to achieve a voluntary phase out of microbeads by no later than July 2018.

Local government

4996. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Local Government): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and

- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004. Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

4998. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Funding and tenure for Ministerial Staff is consistent with past practice. Ministerial staff are employed in accordance with the Public Administration Act 2004.

Remuneration for ministerial staff varies depending on experience and responsibility.

Emergency services

4999. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): As at 29 February 2016 —

- (1) How many ministerial staff based in the Ministers Office are employed or engaged in communications, including public, corporate and media relations;
- (2) What is the salary band for each of these officers; and
- (3) What is the job title.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Please see previous response Question No. 4998.

Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

5024. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): How many licensed liquor venues received increases to licensing renewal fees for 2016 due to licensing breaches in 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Twelve liquor licences received a compliance fee in 2016 due to breaches in the relevant period of 1 October 2014 to 30 September 2015.

Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

5025. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): For each month between December 2014 and June 2015 inclusive, how many compliance visits did the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation make to licensed liquor venues.

ANSWER:

I am informed:

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation conducted the following number of inspections in licensed liquor venues:

Total 7337

Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

5026. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): For each month between July 2015 and December 2015 inclusive, how many compliance visits did the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation make to licensed liquor venues.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation conducted the following number of inspections in licensed liquor venues:

Total 13,934

Emergency services

5033. **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Emergency Services): What is the monthly call breakdown of the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line for —

- (a) June 2015;
- (b) July 2015;
- (c) August 2015;
- (d) September 2015;
- (e) October 2015;
- (f) November 2015;
- (g) December 2015;
- (h) January 2016; and
- (i) February 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

From June 2015 until February 2016 the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line has received 1000 calls.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

5037. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, how many false billing scams have been reported to Consumer Affairs Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, 72 reports of false billing scams were reported to Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

5038. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): Between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, how many downloads of the RentRight app have been recorded.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Figures for the number of RentRight downloads are routinely published in the Consumer Affairs Victoria Annual Report. For the period in question, figures were recently published in the Consumer Affairs Victoria Half Yearly Report, available on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website (www.consumer.vic.gov.au).

Energy and resources

5044. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to the annual electricity concession as of June 2015 —

- (1) how many people received the annual electricity concession in Victoria;
- (2) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Health Card;
- (3) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Pensioner Concession Card;
- (4) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a DVA Gold Card; and
- (5) what were the demographics of electricity concession recipients in relation to:
 - (a) age
 - (b) gender
 - (c) marital status
 - (d) country of Birth (top Ten Countries)
 - (e) language spoken at home
 - (f) home ownership
 - (g) rental status
 - (h) low income earners
 - (i) income support type.

ANSWER:

The energy concessions framework is applied through the State Concessions Act 2004, which is administered by the Minister for Families & Children, Jenny Mikakos MLC. Your question should therefore be directed to her as the Minister responsible for the matter you have raised.

Energy and resources

5045. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources):
In relation to the annual electricity concession in the 2014-15 financial year —

- (1) how many people received the annual electricity concession in Victoria;
- (2) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Health Card;
- (3) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Pensioner Concession Card;
- (4) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a DVA Gold Card; and
- (5) what were the demographics of electricity concession recipients in relation to:
 - (a) age
 - (b) gender
 - (c) marital status
 - (d) country of Birth (top Ten Countries)
 - (e) language spoken at home
 - (f) home ownership
 - (g) rental status
 - (h) low income earners
 - (i) income support type.

ANSWER:

The energy concessions framework is applied through the State Concessions Act 2004, which is administered by the Minister for Families & Children, Jenny Mikakos MLC. Your question should therefore be directed to her as the Minister responsible for the matter you have raised.

Energy and resources

5046. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources):
In relation to the excess electricity concession as of June 2015 —

- (1) how many people received the annual electricity concession in Victoria;
- (2) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Health Card;
- (3) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Pensioner Concession Card;
- (4) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a DVA Gold Card; and
- (5) what were the demographics of electricity concession recipients in relation to:
 - (a) age
 - (b) gender
 - (c) marital status

- (d) country of Birth (top Ten Countries)
- (e) language spoken at home
- (f) home ownership
- (g) rental status
- (h) low income earners
- (i) income support type.

ANSWER:

The energy concessions framework is applied through the State Concessions Act 2004, which is administered by the Minister for Families & Children, Jenny Mikakos MLC. Your question should therefore be directed to her as the Minister responsible for the matter you have raised.

Energy and resources

5047. MS HARTLAND— To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources):
In relation to the excess electricity concession in the 2014-15 financial year —

- (1) how many people received the annual electricity concession in Victoria;
- (2) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Health Card;
- (3) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a Pensioner Concession Card;
- (4) what number and/or percentage of these recipients were granted a concession due to possession of a DVA Gold Card; and
- (5) what were the demographics of electricity concession recipients in relation to:
 - (a) age
 - (b) gender
 - (c) marital status
 - (d) country of Birth (top Ten Countries)
 - (e) language spoken at home
 - (f) home ownership
 - (g) rental status
 - (h) low income earners
 - (i) income support type.

ANSWER:

The energy concessions framework is applied through the State Concessions Act 2004, which is administered by the Minister for Families & Children, Jenny Mikakos MLC. Your question should therefore be directed to her as the Minister responsible for the matter you have raised.

Energy and resources

5048. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources):
In relation to annual electricity concession, what was the total Victorian budget expenditure on provisions of this electricity concession in each of the following financial years —

- (a) 2009-10;
- (b) 2010-11;
- (c) 2011-12;
- (d) 2012-13;

- (e) 2013-14; and
- (f) 2014-15.

ANSWER:

The energy concessions framework is applied through the State Concessions Act 2004, which is administered by the Minister for Families & Children, Jenny Mikakos MLC. Your question should therefore be directed to her as the Minister responsible for the matter you have raised.

Energy and resources

5049. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Energy and Resources): In relation to excessive electricity concession, what was the total Victorian budget expenditure on provisions of this electricity concession in each of the following financial years —

- (a) 2009-10;
- (b) 2010-11;
- (c) 2011-12;
- (d) 2012-13;
- (e) 2013-14; and
- (f) 2014-15

ANSWER:

The energy concessions framework is applied through the State Concessions Act 2004, which is administered by the Minister for Families & Children, Jenny Mikakos MLC. Your question should therefore be directed to her as the Minister responsible for the matter you have raised.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

5065. MRS PEULICH — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): What is the monthly call breakdown of the Consumer Affairs Victoria's 'Travelling Con Men' hotline for —

- (a) June 2015;
- (b) July 2015;
- (c) August 2015;
- (d) September 2015;
- (e) October 2015;
- (f) November 2015;
- (g) December 2015;
- (h) January 2016; and
- (i) February 2016.

ANSWER:

I am advised that:

Between June 2015 and February 2016 (inclusive), there was a total of 117 reports of Travelling Con Men to Consumer Affairs Victoria via the national hotline and directly.

Environment, climate change and water

5146. MS HARTLAND — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): In order to submit an annual report on its compliance with the measures in the new National Environment Protection Council (Ambient Air Quality) Measure (NEPM) variation agreed in December 2015, will the Government be establishing more air monitoring stations, so there is even coverage across the Melbourne metropolitan area.

ANSWER:

The Government will continue to fulfil its obligations under the National Environment Protection Council (Ambient Air Quality) Measure variations, however proposed changes to Victoria's air monitoring network will not be foreshadowed ahead of the Government Response to the review into the EPA.

Consumer affairs, gaming and liquor regulation

5182. MR DALLA-RIVA — To ask the Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade (for the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation): What was the advertising expenditure including public, corporate and media relations but not including mandatory or staff recruitment for the Calendar year ending 31 December 2015.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Victorian Government Advertising Report 2014/2015 is published on www.dpc.vic.gov.au. This report provides a reasonable overview of government advertising expenditure, including media expenditure and details on advertising categories.