

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**30 August and 1 September 2016**

**(Extract from book 12)**

**Internet: [www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/downloadhansard)**

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# HANSARD<sup>150</sup>



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**

(from 20 June 2016)

Premier . . . . .	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, and Minister for Emergency Services (from 10 June 2016) [Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation 10 June to 20 June 2016] . . . . .	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer . . . . .	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects . . . . .	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Small Business, Innovation and Trade . . . . .	The Hon. P. Dalidakis, MLC
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, and Minister for Suburban Development . . . . .	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 Health and Minister for Ambulance Services . . . . .	The Hon. J. Hennessy, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for International Education and Minister for Corrections . . . . .	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 Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation . . . . .	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, and Minister for Youth Affairs . . . . .	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water . . . . .	The Hon. L. M. Neville, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment, and Minister for Resources . . . . .	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 G. A. Tierney, MLC

### Legislative Council committees

**Privileges Committee** — Ms Hartland, Mr Herbert, Ms Mikakos, Mr O’Donohue, 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** — Mr Bourman, #Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Finn, Ms Hartland, Mr Leane, Mr Morris and Mr Ondarchie.

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

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

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

**Port of Melbourne Select Committee** — Mr Barber, 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 and Ms McLeish.

**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*): 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:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmr, Mr Finn, Mr Melhem, 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 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 <sup>2</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Elasmr, 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 Jaclyn	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	SFFP
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP			

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>2</sup> Appointed 15 April 2015

<sup>3</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;  
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;  
LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;  
SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; VILJ — 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, 30 August 2016**

**Public transport**

**1227.** **MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development (for the Minister for Public Transport): In each of 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, how many reports of non-compliance from authorised officers were received by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

**ANSWER:**

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

The following numbers of reports of non-compliance were received from authorised officers by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources:

2012-13	212 005
2013-14	201 939
2014-15	278 569

**Mental health**

**4796.** **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Mental Health): For the period between 4 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;
- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**4860.** **MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): For the period between 4 December 2014 and 30 June 2015, what was the cost for the following:

- (a) charter flights taken in your capacity as Minister;
- (b) charter flights taken by your Ministerial staff;

- (c) domestic commercial flights taken in your capacity as Minister; and
- (d) domestic commercial flights taken by your Ministerial staff.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

Flights required to perform ministerial responsibilities are factored into the budget allocated to Departments. Department expenditure is published in their Annual Report. Guidelines for the use of flights are outlined in the Victorian Public Sector Travel Principles, which is available online.

**Agriculture**

**4893. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to the trial and review of the proposed changes to the Rubicon Haulage Code of Behaviour by VicForests for the Alexandra area:

- (1) Will the impact on the sleeping patterns of local residents, in particular the serious health impacts of interrupted sleep, be taken into account by VicForests as part of the proposed changes and review of truck operation hours.
- (2) Were the noise metre readings of the trucks, referred to in the “Project Changes to Rubicon Road Haulage Code of Behaviour — 2 February 2016,” taken on Rubicon Road, adjacent to the Rubicon Outdoor Centre.
- (3) What are the other locations where VicForests will undertake noise metre readings.
- (4) Will noise level readings of all trucks related to logging operations be measured (i.e. gravel trucks for roading).
- (5) Will the Rubicon Haulage Code of Behaviour apply to all trucks related to logging operations in the region (i.e. gravel trucks for roading).
- (6) Will the impacts of the proposed changes to truck operation hours on the adjacent tourism businesses, such as Rubicon Outdoor Centre (approximately 50 metres from Rubicon Rd), Rubicon Valley Horse Riding (approximately 100 metres from Rubicon Rd) and Camp Jungai (approximately 250 metres from Rubicon Rd), be taken into account.
- (7) When will the results of the ongoing review of the proposed changes, commencing February 2016, be finalised and reported back to affected community members.
- (8) If the proposed changes are to be implemented, when would this take place.

**ANSWER:**

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

- 1. Yes.
- 2. Yes.
- 3. Additional locations are being determined.
- 4. Yes.
- 5. Yes.
- 6. Yes.
- 7. It is anticipated the review will be completed in March 2016.
- 8. Any proposed changes will occur following the review.

**Energy, environment and climate change**

**5030. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water): Between 24 June 2015 and 31 December 2015, what are the dates the Alpine Advisory Committee has held meetings and who of the committee has attended.

**ANSWER:**

The only function of the Alpine Advisory Committee, under section 32AE(2) of the National Parks Act 1975 is to assist in the development of a management plan for the Alpine National Park.

The current committee was appointed on 15 June 2013. There was no committee in place from 30 June 2011 to 15 June 2013.

Between 24 June 2015 and 31 December 2015 there was one meeting of the Alpine Advisory Committee, on Monday 7 December 2015.

**Public transport**

**5042. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): Between 1 July 2015 and 31 December 2015, how many people have been provided access to subsidised transport as part of the Arts Access Project in Bendigo and surrounding areas.

**ANSWER:**

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

This important Arts Access Program was announced on 17th April 2015 at the opening of the Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo.

The initiative is primarily aimed at rural students, disadvantaged groups and young people in rural areas that currently do not have access—through the provision of a transport service—to performance and educational programs at the Bendigo Arts Precinct.

During 2015, the City of Greater Bendigo and neighbouring municipalities developed project proposals aligning with the Bendigo Arts Access Program, to be delivered throughout 2016.

The City of Greater Bendigo is administering the program and works with a steering committee to review pilot project proposals.

**Health**

**5297. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Department of Health and Human Services 2014-15 annual report, page 182 Note 5(e) shows an ex-gratia expense of \$1.5m. What does the ex-gratia expense relate to.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The ex gratia expense of \$1.5 million relates to payments to former residents, or their estates, of Mentone Gardens.

Mentone Gardens was a supported residential service that was placed in liquidation in September 2013.

The Victorian Ombudsman’s Investigation into Department of Health oversight of Mentone Gardens, a Supported Residential Service, was presented to Parliament in April 2015. The Victorian Ombudsman’s recommended that the government make ex gratia payments to people, or their estates, who lost bonds, deposits or unspent fees paid in advance as a result of Mentone Gardens being placed in liquidation.

The government accepted the Victorian Ombudsman's recommendations and an ex gratia payment scheme review panel was established and applications were assessed against its Guidelines

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**5320. MR DALLA-RIVA** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing):

- (a) what was the Minister's 'Ministerial Office' air travel expenditure from the beginning of calendar year 1 January 2015 to 29 February 2016; and
- (b) what is the breakdown of that expenditure, including but not limited to, flight locations, individual cost and type of class (i.e. first, premium economy or economy) of travel undertaken.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

I refer the member to my previous answer for LC 4796.

**Agriculture**

**5344. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: How many protected bird species have been shot on Victorian wetlands since the opening of the 2016 duck shooting season.

**ANSWER:**

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

Government agencies have recovered four protected waterbirds that had been illegally shot.

**Agriculture**

**5345. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: How many prosecutions for the shooting of protected bird species have been initiated since the opening of the 2016 duck shooting season.

**ANSWER:**

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

There are a number of matters currently under investigation. Decisions on whether proceedings will be taken will be made following the investigations by the relevant agency.

**Agriculture**

**5355. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: What funding allocation was made in the 2015-16 Victorian Budget to meet the Government's pre-election commitment to expand aerial baiting for wild dog control in North East and far East Gippsland.

**ANSWER:**

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

The Andrews Labor Government has provided an additional \$6.2 million to support the ongoing management of foxes and wild dogs to manage the risks they pose.

This additional investment will build on the current program and increase the frequency of aerial baiting in north eastern Victoria and far East Gippsland from once to twice per financial year.

The next round of aerial baiting is scheduled for Spring 2016 to coincide with spring lambing and then again in Autumn 2017. In scheduling aerial baiting, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will take into account when community wild dog control groups are baiting on private property, as the coordination of control activities results in improved outcomes.

### Agriculture

**5356. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: What was the staffing profile for the Wild Dog Control Program on—

- (a) 1 December 2014;
- (b) 1 January 2015;
- (c) 1 February 2015;
- (d) 1 March 2015;
- (e) 1 April 2015;
- (f) 1 May 2015; and
- (g) 1 June 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There has been no changes to staff resource allocation for the wild dog control program since the November 2014 election.

The wild dog controllers workforce maintained by the Department of Environment, Water and Planning include permanent full-time Wild Dog Controllers, Field Services Officers, and a pool of contractors and casual staff, to ensure a consistent level of on ground staff according to local needs.

### Corrections

**5359. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections): In relation to community corrections orders:

- (1) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2014.
- (2) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 April 2014 and 30 June 2014.
- (3) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 July 2014 and 30 September 2014
- (4) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 October 2014 to 31 December 2014.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The information that you have requested is listed on the Corrections Victoria website.

The dataset on the website provides end of month prisoner and offender numbers according to prison location/region and selected demographic characteristics.

Month on month comparison with the previous years are also provided.

You can access the statistics by visiting:

<http://www.corrections.vic.gov.au/utility/publications+manuals+and+statisticsmonthly+prisoner+and+offender+statistics>

**Police**

**5369. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 4 January 2016;
- (b) 11 January 2016;
- (c) 18 January 2016; and
- (d) 25 January 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 12 female prisoners in police cells at 7 a.m. on 31 January 2016.

**Police**

**5370. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 1 February 2016;
- (b) 8 February 2016;
- (c) 15 February 2016;
- (d) 22 February 2016; and
- (e) 29 February 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 11 female prisoners in police cells at 7 a.m. on 29 February 2016.

**Police**

**5371. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 7 March 2016;
- (b) 14 March 2016;
- (c) 21 March 2016; and
- (d) 28 March 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 14 female prisoners in police cells at 7 a.m. on 31 March 2016.

**Police**

**5372.** **MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 4 April 2016;
- (b) 11 April 2016;
- (c) 18 April 2016; and
- (d) 25 April 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 9 female prisoners in police cells at 7 a.m. on 30 April 2016.

**Police**

**5373.** **MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 4 January 2016;
- (b) 11 January 2016;
- (c) 18 January 2016; and
- (d) 25 January 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 224 male prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 31 January 2016.

**Police**

**5374.** **MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 1 February 2016;
- (b) 8 February 2016;
- (c) 15 February 2016;
- (d) 22 February 2016; and
- (e) 29 February 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 224 male prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 29 February 2016.

**Police**

**5375.** **MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 7 March 2016;
- (b) 14 March 2016;

- (c) 21 March 2016; and
- (d) 28 March 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 188 male prisoners in police cells at 7 a.m. on 31 March 2016.

**Police**

**5376. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7 a.m. on the following dates —

- (a) 4 April 2016;
- (b) 11 April 2016;
- (c) 18 April 2016; and
- (d) 25 April 2016.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There were 227 male prisoners in police cells at 7 am on 30 April 2016.

**Education**

**5428. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of unsuccessful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2016 at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5429. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of unsuccessful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2016 at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5430. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of successful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2016 at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5431. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of successful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2016 at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5432. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of unsuccessful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2015 at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5433. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of unsuccessful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2015 at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5434. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of successful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2015 at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5435. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of successful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2015 at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5436. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of unsuccessful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2014 at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5437. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of unsuccessful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2014 at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5438. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of successful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2014 at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support staff (formerly known as integration aides) or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5439. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many children were the subject of successful applications for funding for an integration aide for the school year 2014 at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support staff (formerly known as integration aides) or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5440. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In 2016, what is the average number of hours that is funded for a child who has an integration aide at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5441. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In 2016, what is the average number of hours that is funded for a child who has an integration aide at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5442. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In 2015, what is the average number of hours that is funded for a child who has an integration aide at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5443. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In 2015, what is the average number of hours that is funded for a child who has an integration aide at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5444. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In 2014, what is the average number of hours that is funded for a child who has an integration aide at state primary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5445. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In 2014, what is the average number of hours that is funded for a child who has an integration aide at state secondary schools across Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5475. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education):  
For the school year 2016, how many children at McKinnon Secondary College are funded for an integration aide.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support staff (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

**Education**

**5483. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education):  
For the school year 2016, how many integration aides work at Bentleigh Secondary College.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support staff (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

Each school's Principal determines the school's staffing profile, including the number of education support staff, to best support the delivery of teaching and learning programs for all students, including students with disabilities and additional needs.

**Education**

**5731. MS FITZHERBERT** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education):  
For the school year 2016, how many integration aides work at Belle Vue Primary School.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Each school is responsible for the effective use of total resources for students in its care and has flexibility to employ education support staff (formerly known as integration aides), teaching or allied health staff or invest in alternative programs where appropriate.

Each school's Principal determines the school's staffing profile, including the number of education support staff, to best support the delivery of teaching and learning programs for all students, including students with disabilities and additional needs.

**Roads and road safety**

**5840. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety):  
How many road accidents have there been that have involved container trucks in the following years—

- (1) 2016;
- (2) 2015;
- (3) 2014;
- (4) 2013;

- (5) 2012;
- (6) 2011; and
- (7) 2000.

**ANSWER:**

This data is not available as the police-reported crash data held by VicRoads does not specifically identify container trucks from other types of heavy vehicles.

**Roads and road safety**

**5841. MS HARTLAND** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many road accident fatalities have there been that have involved container trucks in the following years—

- (1) 2016;
- (2) 2015;
- (3) 2014;
- (4) 2013;
- (5) 2012;
- (6) 2011; and
- (7) 2000.

**ANSWER:**

This data is not available as the police-reported crash data held by VicRoads does not specifically identify container trucks from other types of heavy vehicles.

**Attorney-General**

**6268. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to Recommendation 1.1 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Coroner’s Court of Victoria receive funding to undertake the necessary information and communication technology improvements to facilitate accurate reporting and analysis of deaths of people with disability.
- (2) If so, when will the Coroner’s Court of Victoria receive funding for these improvements.

**ANSWER:**

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in disability services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards, quality and oversight of specialist disability services as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Attorney-General**

**6269. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to Recommendation 1.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Government propose legislative changes to provide for the Coroner to report all deaths that occur in disability services directly to the Disability Services Commissioner.
- (2) If so, when does the Government plan to propose such legislative changes.

**ANSWER:**

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in disability services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards, quality and oversight of specialist disability services as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Attorney-General**

**6270. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to Recommendation 1.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Government fund a renewed Disability Services Commissioner to undertake a comprehensive, annual review of all deaths that occur in disability services.
- (2) If so, will the results of this review be made public.

**ANSWER:**

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in disability services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards, quality and oversight of specialist disability services as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Police**

**6271. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to Recommendation 1.4 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Government require Victoria Police to change its data collection process to include disability as a standard demographic characteristic in all police crime reports, for both victims of crime and alleged offenders.
- (2) If so, when will the Government require Victoria Police to change its data collection process to include these standards.
- (3) Will this data be made available publicly through the Crime Statistics Agency and disaggregated by gender, age, and cultural background.

**ANSWER:**

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in disability services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards, quality and oversight of specialist disability services as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6272. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 1.5 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Government aim to develop reliable data on the incidence of violence against people with disability—including violence that occurs in the context of all disability service providers as well as the broader community.
- (2) If so, will the findings of this research be made available publicly, and include information on rates of violence according to gender, age, type of disability, cultural background, and place of residence.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months..

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6273. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 1.6 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will The Victorian Government use its position on the Disability Reform Council and the Council of Australian Governments to:

- (1) Support a federal Royal Commission into violence against people with disability.
- (2) Develop a national strategy for the prevention of violence against people with disability, in addition to the quality and safeguarding framework for the NDIS.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months..

### **Housing, disability and ageing**

**6274. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 2.1 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government:

- (1) Amend section 5 of the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) to include zero tolerance as a guiding principle for the delivery of disability services.
- (2) Require all disability service providers to demonstrate their commitment to the principle of zero tolerance as a condition of registration.
- (3) Fund the Disability Services Commissioner to work with National Disability Services, advocacy organisations and people with disability to develop and deliver zero tolerance training to all disability support services in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### **Health**

**6275. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Recommendation 2.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Department of Health and Human Services:

- (1) Change its critical incident management system to include descriptions that emphasise the impact that acts of abuse have on people with disability.
- (2) Cease usage of the term ‘incident’ and instead employ terminology that reflects the type of abuse, including, but not restricted to —
  - (a) sexual assault and physical assault;
  - (b) violence;
  - (c) allegation of assault and disclosure of assault;
  - (d) verbal, emotional and financial abuse; and
  - (e) neglect.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Minister for Housing, Disability & Ageing has portfolio responsibility for these matters. I have referred the question to Minister Foley and requested that he respond to you directly.

### Education

**6276. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to Recommendation 2.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government provide dedicated funding to appropriate independent organisations to deliver human rights education programs to people with disability, their families and carers, that provide information on how to identify and report abuse.

#### ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to establishing Victoria as the Education State where every Victorian has an equal right to the knowledge and skills to shape their lives. As the question relates to delivery of services to people with disability, their families and carers, the Hon Martin Foley MP, Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing would be best placed to respond.

### Housing, disability and ageing

**6277. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 2.4 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government amend the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) to allow for the Disability Services Commissioner to penalise disability service employers that are found to have taken adverse action against employees for reporting abuse.

#### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months..

### Housing, disability and ageing

**6278. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 2.5 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will disability service providers be required, as a condition of registration, to have clearly documented and articulated processes for supporting employees who report abuse.
- (2) Will the zero tolerance framework clearly state the rights and obligations of workers to report abuse, and the obligations of employers to support workers who report abuse.

#### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Police**

**6279. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to Recommendation 2.6 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government ensure that Victoria Police is appropriately resourced to implement its Accessibility Action Plan 2014–2017.
- (2) Will Victoria Police be directed to report annually on the implementation of its Accessibility Action Plan with particular reference to the four stated goals of the Plan, and progress on each of the goals deliverables.

**ANSWER:**

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Police**

**6280. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to Recommendation 2.7 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government:

- (1) Fund an expansion of the Independent Third Person (ITP) program operated by the Office of the Public Advocate.
- (2) Ensure that the Victoria Police Manual is updated to require that a person’s ITP is independent of their disability service provider.

**ANSWER:**

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6281. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 2.8 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government amend the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) to require that support plans prepared under section 54 address the complex communication needs of people with disability.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6282. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 2.9 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government:

- (1) Amend the Evidence Act 2008 (Vic) to provide for communication intermediaries to assist people with complex communication needs.
- (2) Investigate the feasibility of introducing the UK model of funded, registered intermediaries in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6283. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 3.1 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government work with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Disability Services Commissioner, and National Disability Services to create

standardised policies and processes for providers to follow when reporting suspected abuse, and supporting clients in the aftermath of abuse.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6284. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 3.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government fund the Department of Health and Human Services and the Disability Services Commissioner to implement an online reporting system for all disability service providers that enables improved recording, tracking, and analysis of all reported instances of abuse.
- (2) If so, when will funding be received for the online reporting system.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6285. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 3.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government require the Department of Health and Human Services to streamline its critical incident management system to more clearly describe the impact of abuse on clients by using new terminology (as referred to in Recommendation 2.2) and fewer ‘incident types’ to categorise abuse.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### **Housing, disability and ageing**

**6286. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 3.4 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government use its position on the Disability Reform Council and the Council of Australian Governments to support the establishment of a national system for reporting and investigating violence against people with disability, including a mandatory reporting scheme, as recommended by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee.
- (2) If so, how will the Victorian Government use its position to achieve these goals.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### **Housing, disability and ageing**

**6287. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 3.5 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government amend the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) to establish a mandatory reporting scheme that:

- (1) Requires all registered disability service providers to report cases of suspected abuse and neglect within their organisation to the Disability Services Commissioner.
- (2) Includes penalties for disability service providers and their staff that fail to report abuse to the Disability Services Commissioner.
- (3) If so, when will these amendments be made.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### Police

**6289. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to Recommendation 4.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government legislate for the introduction of a Working with Vulnerable People Check, and will it include, but not be limited to:

- (a) National and international criminal history and non-conviction information;
- (b) Professional conduct reports;
- (c) Information from any relevant sources and agencies;
- (d) Across lifetime examination;
- (e) Ongoing monitoring;
- (f) Provision for the revocation of the check; and
- (g) Penalties for contravention of provisions.

### ANSWER:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### Health

**6290. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to Recommendation 4.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government extend the Disability Worker Exclusion Scheme (DWES) to cover all disability services, and disability service providers, and ensure that the scheme becomes more transparent to key stakeholders.
- (2) If so, will The Department of Health and Human Services provide disability service providers with updated information, and greater clarity, on the application and workings of the DWES.

### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Minister for Housing, Disability & Ageing has portfolio responsibility for these matters. I have referred the question to Minister Foley and requested that he respond to you directly.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6291. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 4.4 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government require the Disability Services Commissioner to collaborate with peak body National Disability Services, disability service providers, and the Department of Health and Human Services, to develop best practice employment screening and induction processes.
- (2) If so, will this best practice model be underpinned by the principle of the involvement of people with disability in the selection and choice of staff, wherever practicable and appropriate.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6295. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 5.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government clarify the obligations of disability service providers and the rights of people with disability in relation to gender preference for the provision of intimate supports, by developing:

- (1) Information sheets for people with disability and their families to be made available online and in accessible formats, including Easy English.
- (2) A practice guide for service providers and disability support workers on providing intimate supports.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6296. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 5.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government amend the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) with the addition of a new section in relation to the provision of intimate supports and support plans, and ensure this new section requires:

- (1) All support plans to record the gender preference of people with disability in relation to the provision of intimate supports.
- (2) That where necessary or requested, disability service providers will provide independent assistance, such as the services of a communication specialist, to people with an intellectual disability or complex communication needs, to record gender preference in relation to the provision of intimate supports.
- (3) That in the interim period prior to the development of a full support plan, disability service providers must ascertain the gender preference of people with disability in relation to the provision of intimate supports, including where necessary the provision of assistance to do so.
- (4) That in the circumstance where no gender preference can be determined in relation to the provision of intimate supports, support plans for women with disability will provide for intimate supports to be provided by female support workers.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6300. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 6.1 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government use its position on the Disability Reform Council to support the roll out of a self advocacy program nationally, based on the Victorian Self Advocacy Resource Unit model.
- (2) If so, how will the Victorian Government use its position to support this program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability

Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### **Housing, disability and ageing**

**6301. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 6.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government continue to administer funding for disability advocacy through the Office for Disability.
- (2) In addition, will the Victorian Government conduct a review of disability advocacy, with a focus on —
  - (a) Identifying the demand for different types of advocacy;
  - (b) Establishing the views of people with disability about advocacy services;
  - (c) Determining the impact of the National Disability Insurance Scheme on the capacity of advocacy services; and
  - (d) Ensuring that both funded and volunteer advocacy services undergo safety screenings and meet appropriate quality standards.
- (3) If so, when will the Victorian Government conduct this review.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### **Housing, disability and ageing**

**6302. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 6.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government establish and fund a program for appropriately qualified advocacy organisations to deliver dedicated family advocacy services, including in rural and regional areas.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability

Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### **Housing, disability and ageing**

**6303. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 7.1 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government amend the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) to make the Disability Commissioner the key oversight body for the disability sector in Victoria with responsibility for:

- (a) Resolving complaints about disability service providers;
- (b) Receiving mandatory reports about abuse and neglect (with penalties for failure to report);
- (c) Own motion powers to investigate reports of abuse and neglect of both an individual and systemic nature;
- (d) Developing standardised policies and processes for providers to follow when reporting and investigating suspected abuse;
- (e) Monitoring and evaluating service quality (through the use of dedicated investigation officers); and
- (f) Supporting the professional development of the disability workforce.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### **Housing, disability and ageing**

**6304. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 7.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government appropriately fund the Disability Commissioner to ensure it can perform its new functions, particularly in relation to increasing its capacity to undertake investigations into abuse and neglect.

#### **ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability

Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### Police

**6305. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to Recommendation 7.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government require the Disability Commissioner and Victoria Police to develop a protocol around the investigation of abuse and neglect, which includes a clear process for disability service providers to follow to report criminal abuse.

#### ANSWER:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### Housing, disability and ageing

**6306. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 7.4 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government amend section 14(3) of the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) to ensure that the Disability Commissioner can hold office for a maximum total of 5 years (including any periods of reappointment).

#### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

### Housing, disability and ageing

**6307. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 7.5 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government give consideration to an independent Disability Commissioner being established as a statutory body/entity under its own legislation, provided that any such legislation is consistent with the NDIS national safeguarding framework.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6308. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 7.6 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, in the interim period while their national role is reviewed, will the Community Visitors Program be retained in Victoria within the context of the zero tolerance of abuse framework, and will the Victorian Government ensure that:

- (a) Community Visitors will be further trained in the detection, prevention and reporting of abuse;
- (b) all reports of abuse and neglect will also be made to the Disability Commissioner; and
- (c) Community Visitors will receive training in communicating with people with complex communication needs standards.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6309. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 7.7 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government amend the Disability Act 2006 (Vic) to provide for the appointment of authorised officers within a renewed office of the Disability Commissioner and allow for these officers to be empowered by, and accountable to, the Disability Commissioner under the Act to:

- (a) Conduct investigations into reports of abuse and neglect to the Disability Commissioner of both an individual and systemic nature;
- (b) Investigate reports of abuse made by Community Visitors;
- (c) Monitor, evaluate and enforce service quality and standards; and
- (d) Enter the premises of any disability service provider at any time.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

The Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months..

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6310. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 7.8 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government ensure that the Senior Practitioner (Disability) role be re located within the office of a renewed Disability Commissioner.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6311. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 8.1 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government use its role on the Council of Australian Governments Disability Reform Council to ensure that people with disability and their families, and disability service providers and their employees receive relevant and timely information about transitioning to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, in a variety of accessible formats.
- (2) If so, how will the Victorian Government use its role to ensure that these provisions are met.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability

Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6312. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 8.2 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report, will the Victorian Government request that the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission and the Victorian Ombudsman provide advice on preserving the protections offered by the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) in the context of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**6313. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to Recommendation 8.3 of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services Report:

- (1) Will the Victorian Government use its role on the Council of Australian Governments Disability Reform Council to ensure that the National Disability Insurance Scheme incorporates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a schedule to the National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth).
- (2) If so, how will the Victorian Government use its role to ensure that these provisions are met.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Government has welcomed the recommendations of the Inquiry into Abuse in Disability Services and acknowledges the substantial contribution of the Committee over the past year.

Government will carefully consider all recommendations, particularly how Victoria reforms and strengthens safeguards and quality and oversight of specialist disability services, as we transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Government will continue to advocate to the Commonwealth Government regarding high quality and enforceable standards and safeguards.

Abuse of people with a disability is abhorrent and it is important that we get the response right. The Government will respond to the report within six months.

**Corrections**

**6650. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Corrections: In relation to the response from the former Acting Corrections Minister to questions on notice 4897:

- (1) What evidence supports group-based interventions as being most effective in reducing recidivism rather than one on one therapy.
- (2) What is the percentage amount for the 'significant reduction' in waitlists for access to offending behaviour programs as a result of recent government initiatives.
- (3) What is the percentage amount for the 'significant reduction' in waitlists for access to rehabilitation programs required for parole.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that:

- (1) Group based offender rehabilitation programs have the largest evidence base and are considered to be the most effective approach for reducing reoffending. From a therapeutic perspective, group based interventions also provide the opportunity for positive behaviour change influenced by peers as well as allowing for modelling and practicing positive skills (ATSA, 2005; Berenson & Underwood, 2000; Jennings & Sawyer, 2003; Marshall, Anderson, & Fernandez, 1999, Marshall et al., 2006b; NAPN, 1993; Sawyer, 2002; Schwartz, 1995). A priority focus on group-based interventions enables Corrections Victoria to respond to demand for offending behaviour programs within allocated resources, and assists in meeting service targets.

(2 & 3)

The statement that there has been a significant reduction in waitlists for access to rehabilitation programs required for parole reflects that in the 11 months since the implementation of the parole reforms (April 2015 to March 2016), there was a 85 per cent increase in Serious Violent Offenders accessing an Offending Behaviour Program compared to the 12 months preceding the reforms.

**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, 1 September 2016**

**Corrections**

**5360. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Corrections):  
In relation to community corrections orders:

- (1) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 January 2015 and 31 March 2015.
- (2) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 April 2015 and 30 June 2015.
- (3) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 July 2015 and 30 September 2015.
- (4) What was the number of people on community corrections orders between 1 October 2015 to 31 December 2015.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As advised in my answer given to 5359, the information you have requested is listed on the Corrections Victoria website.

The dataset on the website provides end of month prisoner and offender numbers according to prison location/region and selected demographic characteristics.

Month on month comparison with the previous years are also provided.

You can access the statistics by visiting:

<http://www.corrections.vic.gov.au/utility/publications+manuals+and+statistics/monthly+prisoner+and+offender+statistics>.