

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

4, 5, 6 and 7 September 2018

(Extract from book 13)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

The ministry (from 16 October 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Education and Minister for Emergency Services	The Hon. J. A. Merlino, MP
Treasurer and Minister for Resources	The Hon. T. H. Pallas, MP
Minister for Public Transport and Minister for Major Projects	The Hon. J. Allan, MP
Minister for Industry and Employment	The Hon. B. A. Carroll, MP
Minister for Trade and Investment, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Minister for Small Business	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 Aboriginal Affairs, Minister for Industrial Relations, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. N. M. Hutchins, MP
Special Minister of State	The Hon. G. Jennings, MLC
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation, and Minister for Local Government	The Hon. M. Kairouz, MP
Minister for Families and Children, Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth Affairs	The Hon. J. Mikakos, MLC
Minister for Police and Minister for Water	The Hon. L. M. Neville, 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 Finance and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	The Hon. R. D. Scott, MP
Minister for Training and Skills, and Minister for Corrections	The Hon. G. A. Tierney, MLC
Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
Cabinet Secretary	Ms M. Thomas, MP

Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Dalidakis, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle, Ms Symes 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, #Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

Standing Committee on the Environment and Planning — Ms Bath, #Mr Bourman, Mr Dalla-Riva, Mr Davis, #Ms Dunn, Mr Elasmarr, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, #Mr Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Dr Ratnam, #Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Shing, Mr Somyurek, Ms Springle and Ms Symes.

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

Fire Services Bill Select Committee — Ms Lovell, Mr Melhem, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Rich Phillips, Ms Shing and Mr Young.

Joint committees

Accountability and Oversight Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Angus, Mr Gidley, Mr Noonan and Ms Thomson.

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

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

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

Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee — (*Council*): Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Ramsay and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): Mr J. Bull, Ms Halfpenny, Mr Richardson and Mr Riordan.

Family and Community Development Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Finn. (*Assembly*): Ms Britnell, Ms Couzens, Mr Edbrooke, Ms Edwards and Ms McLeish.

House Committee — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, 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*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Gepp. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, 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 — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and 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 N. ELASMAR

Acting Presidents:

Ms Dunn, Mr Gepp, Mr Melhem, Mr Morris, Ms Patten, Mr Purcell, Mr Ramsay

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O'Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁸	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	Western Metropolitan	Ind	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	O'Sullivan, Mr Luke Bartholomew ⁹	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona ¹⁰	Northern Metropolitan	FPRP
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin ⁴	Northern Victoria	Nats	Peulich, Mrs Inga	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Dunn, Ms Samantha	Eastern Metropolitan	Greens	Pulford, Ms Jaala Lee	Western Victoria	ALP
Eideh, Mr Khalil M.	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Purcell, Mr James	Western Victoria	VILJ
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ¹¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred ⁶	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁷	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Truong, Ms Huong ¹²	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017;
AC until 3 August 2018

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 9 February 2018

⁷ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁸ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁹ Appointed 12 October 2016

¹⁰ ASP until 16 January 2018;
RV until 14 August 2018

¹¹ Appointed 18 October 2017

¹² Appointed 21 February 2018

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party; DLP — Democratic Labour Party;
FPRP — Fiona Patten's Reason Party; Greens — Australian Greens; Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party;
Nats — The Nationals; RV — Reason Victoria; 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, 4 September 2018

Ambulance services

10 191. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): Regarding the thunderstorm asthma event across Victoria on 21 November 2016 —

- (1) which of the Minister’s advisors was first advised by Ambulance Victoria of the unfolding thunderstorm asthma event;
- (2) at what time was that ministerial advisor advised by Ambulance Victoria of the unfolding thunderstorm asthma event;
- (3) at what time was the Minister first informed of the thunderstorm asthma event; and
- (4) who first informed the Minister of the thunderstorm asthma event.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The events of 21 and 22 November 2016 are subject to an investigation by the Inspector General of Emergency Management.

This investigation is ongoing and a final report will be released later this year. The Government will consider the recommendations of that report.

A preliminary report was released on 1 February 2017 and it can be found at:
<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/emeragencies/thunderstorm-asthma-event>.

[Question 10 191 reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 7 February 2017, page 359.]

Finance

11 478. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it’s building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we’re working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 478 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1890.]

Industry and employment

11 479. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 479 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 316.]

Major projects

11 482. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 482 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1890.]

Finance

11 500. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 500 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1892.]

Industry and employment

11 501. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 501 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 320.]

Major projects

11 504. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2017.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 504 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1892.]

Finance

11 523. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 523 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1893.]

Industry and employment

11 524. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 524 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 323.]

Major projects

11 527. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 527 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1894.]

Finance

11 545. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 545 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1895.]

Industry and employment

11 546. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 546 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 326.]

Major projects

11 549. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within your ministerial office, as of 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 549 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1895.]

Finance

11 567. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Finance): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 567 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1897.]

Industry and employment

11 568. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 568 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2018, page 329.]

Major projects

11 571. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Major Projects): How many new employees commenced work within your ministerial office (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

ANSWER:

Unlike the Liberals who did nothing but cut services for four years — we make no apology for employing the people we need to deliver the things that matter most to Victorians.

Whether it's building thousands of new and upgraded schools, better hospitals, road and rail projects, and removing 50 dangerous and congested level crossings — we're working hard to deliver for all Victorians.

I refer you to the updated response from the Premier.

[Question 11 571 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1897.]

Health

12 566. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Heat health plan for Victoria —

- (1) how many heat health alerts have been issued for each of the Victorian districts this summer; and
- (2) which health services undertook a formal debrief following extreme heat on 18 and 19 January 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

A total of 46 heat health alerts were issued throughout the 2017-18 summer.

I am advised that no health services undertook a formal debrief as there were no significant impacts across the state due to the extreme heat conditions on 18 and 19 January 2018.

Public transport

12 689. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the media release ‘More Trains, Less Level Crossings’ of 29 April 2018, what were the four extra peak services introduced on the Hurstbridge rail line in 2017.

ANSWER:

There were two AM Peak extensions under the August 2017 timetable change.

The 8:23 a.m service from Heidelberg to Flinders Street was extended to start from Greensborough at 8:11 a.m, and the 8:15 a.m service from Greensborough to Flinders Street was extended to start from Eltham at 8:08 a.m.

The information from 29 April 2018 has been updated.

Industry and employment

12 723. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Industry and employment

12 724. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources worked within your ministerial office located at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Public transport

12 727. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Public transport

12 728. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018, how many full time equivalent staff were employed by —

- (1) the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; and
- (2) Public Transport Victoria.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Energy, environment and climate change

12 735. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Energy, environment and climate change

12 736. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning worked within your ministerial office located at 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Water

12 740. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Water

12 741. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning worked within your ministerial office located at 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Aboriginal affairs

12 745. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet worked within your ministerial office located at 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Families and children

12 747. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Families and children

12 748. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to staff, working in your office located at 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018, how many full time equivalent staff were employed by —

- (1) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (2) the Department of Justice and Regulation; and
- (3) the Department of Education and Training.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Tourism and major events

12 765. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Tourism and major events

12 766. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources worked within your ministerial office located at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Treasurer

12 814. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How much has the Department of Treasury and Finance spent on payments to staff members who are ‘on suspension’ during —

- (1) 2016-17; and
- (2) 2017-18.

ANSWER:

Details of department activity can be found in the Annual Report as required by the Financial Management Act 1994.

Treasurer

12 817. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many official complaints have employees of the Department of Treasury and Finance made against their employer during —

- (1) 2016-17; and
- (2) 2017-18.

ANSWER:

Details of department activity can be found in the Annual Report as required by the Financial Management Act 1994.

Treasurer

12 820. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How much has the State Revenue Office spent on payments to staff members who are ‘on suspension’ during —

- (1) 2016-17; and
- (2) 2017-18.

ANSWER:

Details of department activity can be found in the Annual Report as required by the Financial Management Act 1994.

Treasurer

12 822. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many legal proceedings is the State Revenue Office currently involved in that relate to its current employees.

ANSWER:

Details of department activity can be found in the Annual Report as required by the Financial Management Act 1994.

Treasurer

12 823. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many complaints have employees of the State Revenue Office made against their employer during —

- (1) 2016-17; and
- (2) 2017-18.

ANSWER:

Details of department activity can be found in the Annual Report as required by the Financial Management Act 1994.

Treasurer

12 824. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many complaints has the State Revenue Office received regarding alleged breaches of the privacy of its employees in —

- (1) 2016-17; and
- (2) 2017-18.

ANSWER:

Details of department activity can be found in the Annual Report as required by the Financial Management Act 1994.

Treasurer

12 825. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many complaints has the State Revenue Office received regarding alleged breaches of the privacy by the department in —

- (1) 2016-17; and
- (2) 2017-18.

ANSWER:

Details of department activity can be found in the Annual Report as required by the Financial Management Act 1994.

Corrections

12 826. MR O'DONOHUE — To ask the Minister for Corrections: In relation to presentation of prisoners to court —

- (1) how many prisoners have not been presented to court by Corrections Victoria, in contravention of a court order in —
 - (a) 2016;
 - (b) 2017;
 - (c) from 1 January to 18 June 2018;
- (2) what is the total cost to taxpayers for these failures to present prisoners to court in —
 - (a) 2016;
 - (b) 2017; and
 - (c) from 1 January to 18 June 2018.

ANSWER:

The number of prisoners not delivered to court in contravention of a court order in the 2013/14 financial year under former Minister for Corrections, Edward O'Donohue was 277. In 2016/17 was 319 and in 2017/18 it was 296 (as at 18 June 2018).

The cost of court orders made against Corrections Victoria for non-delivery of prisoners in contravention of a court order in the 2013/14 financial year under former Minister for Corrections, Edward O'Donohue was \$276 846.58. In 2016/17 it was \$280 991.64 and in 2017/18 it was \$263 290.81 (as at 18 June 2018).

It is important to note that the 2013/14 financial year data does not include the months of July and August 2013.

This was at a time when the corrections system in Victoria was severely mismanaged by the previous Minister for Corrections, Edward O'Donohue.

A significant factor in the record costs ordered against Corrections Victoria was the Coalition Government's failure to manage Victoria's police cells. Mr O'Donohue presided over the highest number of prisoners in police cells due to his botched expansion of Victoria's prison system.

It is also important to note that there were far fewer prisoners in Victoria's Corrections system when police cell numbers reached their peak under Mr O'Donohue in 2013. Since 2013, Victoria's remand numbers have doubled and the sentenced prisoner population has grown by nearly 2000 people.

Public transport

12 833. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What are the 'planned maintenance works' due to be carried out on the historic trestle bridge in Eltham.

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Eastern Metropolitan for her continued interest in the Andrews Labor Government's investments along the Hurstbridge line as we are building the infrastructure needed for long-term solutions for the northeast.

To ensure the historic trestle bridge continues to be structurally sound for trains to run safely, an independent engineering assessment was undertaken earlier this year. In response to the assessment, Metro Trains Melbourne replaced deck timbers and timber girders to address areas of deterioration on the bridge. These works subsequently allowed a temporary speed restriction that had been put in place to be lifted in July. Additional girder replacements and pier strengthening works are scheduled to be undertaken during further upcoming planned occupations.

In addition, I am pleased to advise that, under the new MR4 contractual arrangements for Melbourne's train and tram services which commenced on 30 November 2017, there will be a 37 per cent increase in maintenance and renewal investment. This vast increase in maintenance spending will continue to improve network infrastructure and service reliability across the network.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

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

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

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

Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.

Wednesday, 5 September 2018

Police

12 742. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Justice and Regulation worked within your ministerial office located at 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Education

12 754. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 1 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) How many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Education

12 755. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to staff, working in your ministerial office located at 1 Treasury Place, East Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018, how many full time equivalent staff were employed by —

- (1) the Department of Education and Training; and
- (2) the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Veterans

12 767. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Veterans): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Premier and Cabinet worked within your ministerial office located at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

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, 6 September 2018

Attorney-General

12 756. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Attorney-General

12 757. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): In relation to staff, working in your ministerial office located at 121 Exhibition Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018, how many full time equivalent staff were employed by —

- (1) the Department of Education and Training; and
- (2) the Department of Justice and Regulation.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

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.*

Friday, 7 September 2018

Health

10 989. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
What was the number of residents residing in postcode 3093 who were waiting for public dental appointments at 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving the oral health of Victorians, and is investing \$226.1 million in public dental services in 2017-18.

The Government signed the new National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults, which covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 to ensure that Victoria continues to receive this vital funding from the Commonwealth.

However, the Government remains disappointed that funding under this new Agreement represents a cut of approximately 30% on previous Commonwealth investment.

In Victoria, this is a loss of almost \$30 million over two and a half years.

Had the Commonwealth maintained its previous level of investment, Victoria's dental health program would be able to treat approximately 20 000 additional disadvantaged people per annum.

In stark contrast to the Commonwealth Liberal Government, we have taken action to drive down dental waiting lists with a \$12 million boost to fast track people with urgent needs to the front of the queue.

I encourage the community who will be affected by the Turnbull Government's cuts to contact their local Federal Liberal MP's to urgently restore funding to public dental.

Health

10 990. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):
What was the number of residents residing in postcode 3094 who were waiting for public dental appointments at 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving the oral health of Victorians, and is investing \$226.1 million in public dental services in 2017-18.

The Government signed the new National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults, which covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 to ensure that Victoria continues to receive this vital funding from the Commonwealth.

However, the Government remains disappointed that funding under this new Agreement represents a reduction of approximately 30% on previous Commonwealth investment.

In Victoria, this is a loss of almost \$30 million over two and a half years.

Had the Commonwealth maintained its previous level of investment, Victoria's dental health program would be able to treat approximately 20 000 additional disadvantaged people per annum.

In stark contrast to the Commonwealth Liberal Government, we have taken action to drive down dental waiting lists with a \$12 million boost to fast track people with urgent needs to the front of the queue.

I encourage the community who will be affected by the Turnbull Government's cuts to contact their local Federal Liberal MP's to urgently restore funding to public dental.

Health

10 991. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What was the number of residents residing in postcode 3095 who were waiting for public dental appointments at 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving the oral health of Victorians, and is investing \$226.1 million in public dental services in 2017-18.

The Government signed the new National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults, which covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 to ensure that Victoria continues to receive this vital funding from the Commonwealth.

However, the Government remains disappointed that funding under this new Agreement represents a reduction of approximately 30% on previous Commonwealth investment. This will mean less funding for these important services.

In Victoria, this is a loss of almost \$30 million over two and a half years.

Had the Commonwealth maintained its previous level of investment, Victoria's dental health program would be able to treat approximately 20 000 additional disadvantaged people per annum.

In stark contrast to the Commonwealth Liberal Government, we have taken action to drive down dental waiting lists with a \$12 million boost to fast track people with urgent needs to the front of the queue.

I encourage the community who will be affected by the Turnbull Government's cuts to contact their local Federal Liberal MP's to urgently restore funding to public dental.

Health

10 992. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What was the number of residents residing in postcode 3088 who were waiting for public dental appointments at 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving the oral health of Victorians, and is investing \$226.1 million in public dental services in 2017-18.

The Government signed the new National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults, which covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 to ensure that Victoria continues to receive this vital funding from the Commonwealth.

However, the Government remains disappointed that funding under this new Agreement represents a reduction of approximately 30% on previous Commonwealth investment. This will mean less funding for these important services.

In Victoria, this is a loss of almost \$30 million over two and a half years.

Had the Commonwealth maintained its previous level of investment, Victoria's dental health program would be able to treat approximately 20 000 additional disadvantaged people per annum.

In stark contrast to the Commonwealth Liberal Government, we have taken action to drive down dental waiting lists with a \$12 million boost to fast track people with urgent needs to the front of the queue.

I encourage the community who will be affected by the Turnbull Government's cuts to contact their local Federal Liberal MP's to urgently restore funding to public dental.

Health

11 056. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): What was the number of residents residing in postcode 3095 who were waiting for public dental appointments in 2015 and 2016 at Healthy Bite Dental at Main Road, Eltham.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to improving the oral health of Victorians, and is investing \$226.1 million in public dental services in 2017-18.

The Government signed the new National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults, which covers the period 1 January 2017 to 30 June 2019 to ensure that Victoria continues to receive this vital funding from the Commonwealth.

However, the Government remains disappointed that funding under this new Agreement represents a reduction of approximately 30% on previous Commonwealth investment. This will mean less funding for these important services.

In Victoria, this is a loss of almost \$30 million over two and a half years.

Had the Commonwealth maintained its previous level of investment, Victoria's dental health program would be able to treat approximately 20 000 additional disadvantaged people per annum.

In stark contrast to the Commonwealth Liberal Government, we have taken action to drive down dental waiting lists with a \$12 million boost to fast track people with urgent needs to the front of the queue.

I encourage the community who will be affected by the Turnbull Government's cuts to contact their local Federal Liberal MP's to urgently restore funding to public dental.

Health

12 522. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to security personnel at hospitals with emergency departments —

- (1) how many of the 123 full time equivalent security guards are now fully deployed in their roles;
- (2) what de-escalation training will those security guards have undertaken before commencing their roles;
- (3) what minimum qualification and training requirements will be required of those security guards.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The deployment of the 123 full time security guards, announced in October 2017, is underway.

Health services are expected to provide training for staff in accordance with the principles set out in the department's *Guide for violence and aggression training in Victorian health services*. The training principles are based on a tiered approach for different staff groups, including security staff. Core training includes knowledge of predisposing factors and triggers for aggression and violence, recognition of early signs of agitation, communication skills and de-escalation techniques.

Tourism and major events

12 572. MS DUNN — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): In relation to signing the development agreement with Apple Corporation for the proposed flagship retail store at Federation Square, prior to the signing what public consultations took place regarding the siting of the Apple store.

ANSWER:

The Victorian Government Architect, Jill Garner, and the original architect of Federation Square, Professor Don Bates, have been closely engaged throughout the design process of the Apple Flagship Store.

Since being publicly announced in December 2017 Apple has engaged with Melbourne City Council through several design workshops, and has subsequently refined the Flagship Store design.

All relevant design documentation has been made publicly available online.

Health

12 699. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the four components of the \$50.9 million boost for palliative care funding in the 2017-18 budget update, which are for —

- (1) home based care;
- (2) a 24 hour expert advice line;
- (3) regional palliative care consultancy services; and
- (4) grants for end of life auxiliary services

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

Base funding for Victorian palliative care services is \$144.7 million for 2018-19, compared to just \$116 million in 2014-15.

Details of the \$62 million five year package were publicly announced on 16 November 2017.

Planning

12 763. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to ministerial staff, employed by the Premier, working in your ministerial office located at 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018 —

- (1) what was the number of full time equivalent employees and what were their specific job titles; and
- (2) how many of these full time equivalent employees were female and what were their specific job titles.

ANSWER:

I am informed that ministerial staff are employed by the Premier. Information regarding staffing numbers would be best addressed to the Premier.

Planning

12 764. MR RICH-PHILLIPS — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Planning): How many full time equivalent staff employed by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning worked within your ministerial office located at 8 Nicholson Street, Melbourne, between 1 January 2018 and 1 June 2018.

ANSWER:

I am informed that numbers regarding departmental staff on secondment are not held by my office but their own relevant agency.

Health

12 828. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the flying squad of specialists to be sent to hospitals to tackle bullying in 2018 —

- (1) how many Victorian hospitals have been visited by the flying squad;
- (2) which hospitals have been visited by the flying squad;
- (3) when were these hospitals visited by the flying squad; and
- (4) what have been the outcomes of the visits by the flying squad at each hospital.

ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The department has established a panel of independent experts, who specialise in human resources, industrial relations and organisational culture. These experts may be engaged by the department in response to identified concerns and health services may utilise the panel to undertake their own review and inform improvements in organisational culture.

In 2017 the department engaged an independent expert to visit three hospitals: Goulburn Valley Health, West Wimmera Health Service and Central Gippsland Health Service. In addition, a number of health services have also undertaken proactive reviews.

Victorian health services that have undertaken a review by an independent expert receive a report that outlines key findings and recommendations to their relevant boards. The reports cannot be released as they are completed under legal privilege to enable staff to honestly contribute without being identified.

In response to each of the departments commissioned independent expert reviews the health services have put in place action plans to address identified areas of concern. The department will continue to monitor progress post each review.

Energy, environment and climate change

12 831. MS WOOLDRIDGE — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): How many people in postcodes 3095, 3094 and 3088 have taken up the Government's \$50 energy offer.

ANSWER:

It appears that your enquiry is about the Victorian Government's Power Saving Bonus Program, which provides a \$50 incentive for Victorian households who use the Victorian Energy Compare website between 1 July and 31 December 2018.

I am unable to provide postcode specific data for the postcodes 3088, 3094 and 3095. The Honorable Member may also be interested to know that I am unable to provide postcode data for 3101, 3102, 3103 and 3104. However I can tell you that after the first two months of the program, there have been more than 420 000 visitors to the Victorian Energy Compare website. Of those 420 000 visitors, nearly 40% have taken up the Power Saving Bonus offer and submitted a claim for their household's \$50 payment.

Seven out of ten people can save money by using the Victorian Energy Compare website, with typical annual household savings of \$330 on energy bills in the first year alone.

Education

12 870. MS CROZIER — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to the Department of Education and Training's Program, how many young people have participated in each of the following areas —

- (1) Mallee;
- (2) Central Highlands;
- (3) Western Melbourne;
- (4) Hume Moreland;
- (5) Goulburn;
- (6) Ovens Murray;
- (7) Southern Melbourne; and
- (8) Bayside Peninsula.

ANSWER:

I am informed as follows:

Your questions lacks sufficient detail for me to be able to furnish it with a response.