

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**7, 8 and 9 August 2018**

**(Extract from book 11)**

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## **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 <sup>1</sup>	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>8</sup>	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>9</sup>	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona <sup>10</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	RV
Davis, Mr David McLean	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Pennicuik, Ms Susan Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	Greens
Drum, Mr Damian Kevin <sup>4</sup>	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	V1LJ
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini <sup>11</sup>	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark <sup>5</sup>	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred <sup>6</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph <sup>7</sup>	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 <sup>12</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

<sup>1</sup> Resigned 28 September 2017

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

<sup>3</sup> DLP until 26 June 2017;

Australian Conservatives until 3 August 2018

<sup>4</sup> Resigned 27 May 2016

<sup>5</sup> Appointed 7 June 2017

<sup>6</sup> Resigned 9 February 2018

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 6 April 2017

<sup>8</sup> Resigned 25 February 2015

<sup>9</sup> Appointed 12 October 2016

<sup>10</sup> ASP until 16 January 2018

<sup>11</sup> Appointed 18 October 2017

<sup>12</sup> Appointed 21 February 2018

**PARTY ABBREVIATIONS**

ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party; DLP — Democratic Labour Party;  
Greens — Australian Greens; Ind — Independent; LP — Liberal Party; Nats — The Nationals;  
RV — Reason Victoria; SFFP — Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party; V1LJ — Vote 1 Local Jobs



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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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

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

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

*Headings reflect the portfolio of the minister answering the question.*

**Tuesday, 7 August 2018**

**Premier**

**11 476. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Premier’s 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.

As has been previously advised, all ministerial staff are employed by the Premier and are allocated across ministerial offices.

As has already been noted, at 1 July 2017, a total 250.38 FTE staff were employed by the Premier’s Office. I am advised that in terms of people who exclusively worked in the Premier’s office on a day to day basis there were approximately 60 staff members.

Providing a further breakdown of this data would require an unnecessary diversion of resources, given that the number of staff charged to the Premier’s Private Office cost centre varies from month to month reflecting expected staff movements, including parental leave and attrition.

*[Question 11 476 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 1 May 2018, page 1599.]*

**Treasurer**

**11 477. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer’s 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 11 477 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1890.]*

**Industrial relations**

**11 481. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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 11 481 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 20 February 2018, page 623.]*

**Attorney-General**

**11 493. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): 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 11 493 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5353.]*

**Education**

**11 494. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): 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 11 494 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1891.]*

**Premier**

**11 498. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Premier's 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.

As has been previously advised, all ministerial staff are employed by the Premier and are allocated across ministerial offices.

As has already been noted, at 1 July 2017, a total 250.38 FTE staff were employed by the Premier's Office. I am advised that in terms of people who exclusively worked in the Premier's office on a day to day basis there were approximately 60 staff members.

Providing a further breakdown of this data would require an unnecessary diversion of resources, given that the number of staff charged to the Premier's Private Office cost centre varies from month to month reflecting expected staff movements, including parental leave and attrition.

*[Question 11 498 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 1 May 2018, page 1599.]*

**Treasurer**

**11 499. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer's 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 11 499 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1891.]*

**Industrial relations**

**11 503. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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 year's — 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 11 503 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 20 February 2018, page 624.]*

**Attorney-General**

**11 516. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): 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 11 516 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5355.]*

**Education**

**11 517. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): 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 11 517 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1893.]*

**Premier**

**11 521. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Premier's 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.

As has been previously advised, all ministerial staff are employed by the Premier and are allocated across ministerial offices.

As has already been noted, at 1 July 2016, 217.59 FTE staff were employed by the Premier's Office. I am advised that in terms of people who exclusively worked in the Premier's office on a day to day basis there were approximately 60 staff members.

Providing a further breakdown of this data would require an unnecessary diversion of resources, given that the number of staff charged to the Premier's Private Office cost centre varies from month to month reflecting expected staff movements, including parental leave and attrition.

*[Question 11 521 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 1 May 2018, page 1600.]*

**Treasurer**

**11 522. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many full time equivalent ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer’s 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 11 522 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1893.]*

**Industrial relations**

**11 526. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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 11 526 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 20 February 2018, page 625.]*

**Attorney-General**

**11 538. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): 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 11 538 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5358.]*

**Premier**

**11 543. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Premier’s 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.

As has been previously advised, all ministerial staff are employed by the Premier and are allocated across ministerial offices.

As has already been noted, at 1 July 2016, 217.59 FTE staff were employed by the Premier’s Office. I am advised that in terms of people who exclusively worked in the Premier’s office on a day to day basis there were approximately 60 staff members.

Providing a further breakdown of this data would require an unnecessary diversion of resources, given that the number of staff charged to the Premier’s Private Office cost centre varies from month to month reflecting expected staff movements, including parental leave and attrition.

*[Question 11 543 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 1 May 2018, page 1600.]*

**Treasurer**

**11 544. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many female ministerial staff (including those working on secondment from departments or agencies) were working within the Treasurer’s 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 11 544 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1895.]*

**Industrial relations**

**11 548. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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 11 548 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 20 February 2018, page 626.]*

**Attorney-General**

**11 560. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): 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 11 560 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5361.]*

**Education**

**11 561. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): 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 11 561 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1896.]*

**Premier**

**11 565. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): How many new employees commenced work within the Premier's 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.

As has been previously advised, all ministerial staff are employed by the Premier and are allocated across ministerial offices.

As has already been noted, 69 new employees commenced their employment between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

Providing a further breakdown of this data would require an unnecessary diversion of resources, given that the number of staff charged to the Premier's Private Office cost centre varies from month to month reflecting expected staff movements, including parental leave and attrition.

*[Question 11 565 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 1 May 2018, page 1600.]*

**Treasurer**

**11 566. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): How many new employees commenced work within the Treasurer’s 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 11 566 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1897.]*

**Industrial relations**

**11 570. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Industrial Relations): 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 11 570 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 20 February 2018, page 627.]*

**Attorney-General**

**11 582. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Attorney-General): 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 11 582 reinstated by order of President on 20 October 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 17 October 2017, page 5364.]*



**Education**

**11 583. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): 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 11 583 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1898.]*

**Health**

**12 653. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the ambulance capital projects published on the Victorian Health and Humans Services Building Authority website where the Fast Facts section of the website lists 35 locations across Victoria for capital works, however, the program lists only 20 locations for current projects —

- (1) have projects at the other 15 locations been completed; and
- (2) what are the names of the other 15 ambulance branches at which those 15 not listed capital projects took place.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

There are 15 locations across Victoria where ambulance capital projects are progressing. The projects are at different stages of development with the department actively working in partnership with Ambulance Victoria to progress work on all branches to achieve completion.

The locations are:

- Ararat
- Broadford
- Craigieburn
- Werribee (Manor Lakes)
- Melton
- Mernda
- Moe
- Winchelsea
- Queenscliff
- Tatura
- Mornington
- Taylor Lakes
- Warragul
- Maribyrnong
- St Arnaud

The VHHSBA web site will be updated to show each of the 15 ambulance locations.

**Premier**

**12 661. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Special Minister for State (for the Premier): In relation to a letter, signed by the Premier, and addressed to residents in Eltham who have opposed the plan to sell off council reserves —

- (1) how many copies of the letter were distributed;
- (2) what was the cost;
- (3) who provided the mailing list; and
- (4) who paid for production of the letter and its distribution.

**ANSWER:**

As has been previously noted, the Member for Eltham had kept me aware of her local Council's plans to sell Frank Street Reserve, a priceless community space, and 16 other sites across the Nillumbik Shire. Residents across her electorate had expressed considerable opposition to the proposed sales, including a number who signed a petition addressed to the local Mayor.

This petition was personally presented to me on 18 April 2018. I undertook to provide a response to the approximately 170 residents who signed the petition expressing concern in their Council's plans.

The production and distribution of the letter was done in accordance with standard communication provisions.

Ultimately the Nillumbik Shire Council decided not to proceed with the sale of 14 of those sites which was a welcome relief to that community.

*[Question 12 661 reinstated by order of President on 19 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 June 2018, page 2701.]*

**Premier**

**12 733. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): 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:**

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.

As has been previously advised, all ministerial staff are employed by the Premier and are allocated across ministerial offices.

I am advised that in terms of people who exclusively worked in the Premier's office on a day to day basis there were approximately 60 staff members.

Providing a further breakdown of this data would require an unnecessary diversion of resources, given that the number of staff charged to the Premier's Private Office cost centre varies from month to month reflecting expected staff movements, including parental leave and attrition.

**Premier**

**12 734. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Premier): 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 Premier and Cabinet;
- (2) the Department of Treasury and Finance;
- (3) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (4) the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;
- (5) the Department of Education and Training;
- (6) the Department of Justice and Regulation; and
- (7) the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

**ANSWER:**

All ministerial staff are employed by the Premier and paid by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.



**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, 8 August 2018**

**Health**

**10 920. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):  
In relation to the Victorian Supercare Pharmacy in Ascot Vale —

- (1) on what date did the onsite nurse start taking appointments;
- (2) how many hours a week is the onsite nurse employed; and
- (3) how many appointments has the onsite nurse undertaken from commencement of offering that service to 28 February 2017.

**ANSWER:**

The onsite nurse started taking appointments at the Victorian Supercare Pharmacy in Yarraville South on 24 August 2016.

An onsite nurse is employed four and a half hours per day at every Supercare Pharmacy — for a total of 31.5 hours a week. The onsite nurse sees patients for four hours a day — for a total of 28 hours a week.

As at June 2018, more than 199 700 visits have been made to Supercare Pharmacies between 10 pm and 7 am since the initiative commenced, with patient numbers increasing every month. There have been more than 13 850 patients seen by nursing staff across the Supercare Pharmacies.

*[Question 10 920, part (3), reinstated by order of President on 8 May 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 27 March 2018, page 1422.]*

**Health**

**10 923. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):  
In relation to the Victorian Supercare Pharmacy in Knox-Wantirna —

- (1) on what date did the onsite nurse start taking appointments;
- (2) how many hours a week is the onsite nurse employed; and
- (3) how many appointments has the onsite nurse undertaken from commencement of offering that service to 28 February 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The onsite nurse started taking appointments at the Victorian Supercare Pharmacy in Wantirna on 25 August 2016.

An onsite nurse is employed four and a half hours per day at every Supercare Pharmacy — for a total of 31.5 hours a week. The onsite nurse sees patients for four hours a day — for a total of 28 hours a week.

As at June 2018, more than 199 700 visits have been made to Supercare Pharmacies between 10 pm and 7 am since the initiative commenced, with patient numbers increasing every month. There have been more than 13 850 patients seen by nursing staff across the Supercare Pharmacies.

*[Question 10 923, part (3), reinstated by order of President on 8 May 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 27 March 2018, page 1423.]*

**Water**

**11 483. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): 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 11 483 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 22 May 2018, page 2315.]*

**Water**

**11 506. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): 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 11 506 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 22 May 2018, page 2316.]*

**Water**

**11 528. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): 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 11 528 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 22 May 2018, page 2317.]*

**Water**

**11 550. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): 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 11 550 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 22 May 2018, page 2317.]*

**Water**

**11 572. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Water): 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 11 572 reinstated by order of President on 7 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 22 May 2018, page 2318.]*

**Police**

**12 544. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many police officers in the Greensborough response zone were assaulted in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years.

**ANSWER:**

According to data provided by the Crime Statistics Agency, 22 police officers were assaulted in the Greensborough response zone in 2015-16, and 7 police officers were assaulted in 2016-17.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to protecting our Victoria Police members as they go about their job keeping Victoria safe.

That's why we have delivered and continue to deliver tough new police harm reforms, developed in close consultation with Victoria Police and the Police Association, based on advice from the Protecting Police Working Group.

The Andrews Labor Government is sending the strongest possible message about protecting law enforcement officers from harm. If you seek to harm members of Victoria Police you will face jail time.

**Police**

**12 545. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many police officers in the Nillumbik/Eltham response zone were assaulted in the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years.

**ANSWER:**

According to data provided by the Crime Statistics Agency, 6 police officers were assaulted in the Eltham response zone in 2015-16, and 11 police officers were assaulted in 2016-17.

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to protecting our Victoria Police members as they go about their job keeping Victoria safe.

That's why we have delivered and continue to deliver tough new police harm reforms, developed in close consultation with Victoria Police and the Police Association, based on advice from the Protecting Police Working Group.

The Andrews Labor Government is sending the strongest possible message about protecting law enforcement officers from harm. If you seek to harm members of Victoria Police you will face jail time.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 637. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Andrews Government's construction timeline, will the Minister confirm that works at the end of the M80 at Greensborough to complete the M80 Ring Road upgrade, may not be completed until further works on the North East Link commences.

**ANSWER:**

The northern section of the M80 upgrade is currently in the Expression of Interest (EOI) stage and is on track to be delivered in the stated construction timeline.

*[Question 12 637 reinstated by order of President on 24 July 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 8 May 2018, page 1906.]*

**Ambulance services**

**12 648. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Ambulance Services): When will the upgraded ambulance station in the Eltham electorate be completed.

**ANSWER:**

The department is actively working with Ambulance Victoria to progress the new ambulance station in Eltham.

The station is currently in construction with completion due mid 2018.

**Public transport**

**12 662. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What was the cost of the free rail replacement buses between Eltham and the city during the period of the Hurstbridge rail partial shutdown.

**ANSWER:**

The total cost for the rail replacement bus services during the Hurstbridge line partial shutdown forms part of the overall project budget for the \$400 million Hurstbridge line upgrade.

*[Question 12 662 reinstated by order of President on 22 June 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 June 2018, page 2699.]*



**Police**

**12 782. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Corrections (for the Minister for Police): How many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 a.m. on the following dates —

- (1) 28 February 2018;
- (2) 31 March 2018;
- (3) 30 April 2018; and
- (4) 31 May 2018.

**ANSWER:**

The following outlines how many male prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00am on the specified dates:

Date	Number of male prisoners
28 February 2018	116
31 March 2018	138
30 April 2018	92
31 May 2018	132

**Police**

**12 784. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): In relation to the reduced speed limit to 50 km/hr on Bolton Street, Eltham —

- (1) how many times have police patrolled Bolton Street to make sure the new speed limit is enforced, as noted would occur on the VicRoads website; and
- (2) how many speeding infringements have been issued.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised by Victoria Police that:

- a) there have been six visits to Bolton Street, Eltham, by the local Highway Patrol; and
- b) as a result, nine speeding infringements and three traffic sign infringements have been issued.

The local highway patrol and Eltham Police continue to regularly conduct patrols and speed enforcement along Bolton Street, Eltham.

**Public transport**

**12 788. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What were the average daily patronage figures of the 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge on —

- (1) weekdays, for —
  - (a) February 2018;
  - (b) April 2018;
- (2) weekends, for —
  - (a) February 2018; and
  - (b) April 2018.

**ANSWER:**

The average daily patronage figures of the 343 bus service from Greensborough to Hurstbridge on weekdays, for —

- (a) February 2018 were around 100 boardings per day; and
- (b) April 2018 were more than 50 boardings per day.

The 343 bus does not operate on weekends.

**Public transport**

**12 789. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What were the average daily patronage figures of the 343 bus service from Hurstbridge to Greensborough on —

- (1) weekdays, for —
  - (a) February 2018;
  - (b) April 2018;
- (2) weekends, for —
  - (a) February 2018; and
  - (b) April 2018.

**ANSWER:**

The average daily patronage figures of the 343 bus service from Hurstbridge to Greensborough on weekdays, for —

- (a) February 2018 were over 200 boardings per day; and
- (b) April 2018 were more than 150 boardings per day.

The 343 bus service does not run on weekends.

**Public transport**

**12 790. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): What work is being undertaken to develop a business case for a multi-level car park at Watsonia Railway Station.

**ANSWER:**

Watsonia Station car park was upgraded in 2017 with an additional 101 commuter parking spaces added to the existing 464 spaces.

The Watsonia Station upgrade was part of the Victorian Government’s \$20 million commitment to fund additional parking spaces at 16 stations on railway lines experiencing high growth in passenger numbers.

In addition, the Victorian Budget 2018–19 will provide \$60 million for more than 2000 new and upgraded car parking spaces, more secure storage facilities for cyclists and better access for pedestrians at busy metropolitan train stations.

Further development opportunities for Watsonia Railway Station may be considered as part of future planning.

**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, 9 August 2018**

**Trade and investment**

**12 714. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment: In relation to the 1 June 2018 media release titled ‘Melbourne Lands Another of the Nation’s Best Tech Events’ —

- (1) how much has the Victorian Government committed to provide in order to secure the Australian Computer Society’s Reimagination Thought Leaders’ Summit and Digital Disruptors Awards;
- (2) how many years has the Victorian Government secured the Australian Computer Society’s Reimagination Thought Leaders’ Summit and Digital Disruptors Awards in Melbourne; and
- (3) will the Australian Computer Society’s Reimagination Thought Leaders’ Summit and Digital Disruptors Awards be held in Melbourne again in 2019.

**ANSWER:**

The Victorian Government provided support to secure the event, on par with other similarly-sized government sponsored events of this type, noting the specific cost is commercial in confidence.

The agreement commits the ACS to hold the 2018 event in Victoria and includes a first right of refusal option, providing the Victorian Government with an opportunity to host the event in 2019 and 2020, based on agreed targets and milestones being achieved.

**Early childhood education**

**12 777. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Education: In relation to the Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) funding to support 120 children ineligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), as outlined on page 40 of the Budget 2018-19, Budget Paper 3, as at 1 April 2018 —

- (1) how many children were transferred from ECIS and are now covered by the NDIS;
- (2) what is the eligibility criteria for a child who is under the early childhood intervention services to be transferred to the NDIS;
- (3) does the support for the 120 children cover all ineligible children;
- (4) how many children in Victoria have been considered as ineligible for NDIS support; and
- (5) what support will these children get from the Victorian Government.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

On 16 September 2015, the Victorian and Commonwealth governments signed a Bilateral Agreement to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) across Victoria over three years.

Children receiving State funded Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) will transition to the NDIS as their area rolls out.

In addition, Victoria has negotiated with the Commonwealth to have children on the ECIS waitlist prioritised for transition to the NDIS in the first two years of the rollout so they can benefit early from NDIS funded services.

Any child from birth to school entry who has either, a disability, or a developmental delay which is the result of an impairment and causes substantial functional limitations and who requires a coordinated, long term, multidisciplinary service response, is eligible for ECIS.

Information about numbers of children ineligible for the NDIS is held by the Commonwealth Government.

The NDIS residency eligibility criteria are narrower when compared to those applied in Victoria's ECIS eligibility criteria as the NDIS requires participants to meet Australian residency requirements.

For this reason, the Andrews Labor Government invested \$900 000 in the 2018-19 State Budget to ensure that approximately 120 children with a disability or developmental delay who do not meet the NDIS residency requirements are not disadvantaged and are able to access early childhood intervention supports. This will also help these children successfully transition to school and not miss a valuable opportunity to benefit from targeted support.

This funding builds on the \$800 000 already announced as part of the Government's broader \$61 million suite of inclusive education initiatives, to support Victorian children with disability or developmental delay who are ineligible for the NDIS due to their residency status.

The 2017-18 State Budget also provided additional funding of \$7.2 million over two years to enable more children to benefit from ECIS while they wait to transition to the NDIS. This funding will have the dual benefit of reducing the ECIS waitlist across the State and enable ongoing service provision for children while their NDIS plans are prepared. Our government put these measures in place due to considerable delays by the federal NDIA in preparing NDIS plans for children.

In January 2017, the Department of Education and Training transferred to the NDIA the remaining ECIS waitlist data for children in the areas originally scheduled for transition later in 2017. In some circumstances, where a child requires urgent support just prior to an Area roll out, the NDIS may consider early access to the scheme with the State's support.

At the end of the March 2018 quarter, the NDIA reported 2210 Victorian children were receiving support through the Early Childhood Early Intervention gateway. This number includes transferred ECIS clients and children new to the scheme.

My Department is actively supporting efforts to facilitate the transition of families of young children with developmental delay and disabilities into the scheme.

The transition of ECIS children to the NDIS is ongoing and will not be complete until all areas have rolled out across the state.