

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Tuesday, 1 May 2018**

**(Extract from book 5)**

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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 Purcell, #Mr Ramsay, #Dr Ratnam, Ms Shing, #Ms Symes, Ms Truong and Mr Young.

**Standing Committee on Legal and Social Issues** — #Ms Crozier, #Mr Elasmarr, Ms Fitzherbert, Mr Morris, Mr Mulino, Ms Patten, Mrs Peulich, #Dr Ratnam, #Mr Rich-Phillips, 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*): Mr Gepp and Ms Patten. (*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

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**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

**President:**

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**Deputy President:**

Mr K. EIDEH

**Acting Presidents:**

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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	AC	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, 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	VILJ
Elasmr, 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>7</sup>	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph <sup>6</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

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> Resigned 9 February 2018

<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**

AC — Australian Conservatives; ALP — Labor Party; ASP — Australian Sex Party;  
DLP — Democratic Labour Party; Greens — Australian Greens;  
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, 1 May 2018**

**Health**

**10 549. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health):  
In relation to the Government's PrEPX study —

- (1) what is the total allocation of funding for this study;
- (2) what proportion of this was contributed by the Victorian Government;
- (3) what proportion of funding was allocated by each of the partner organisations;
- (4) what proportion of the funding has been allocated to a PrEP education campaign;
- (5) what will the funding for the education campaign provide for;
- (6) how many people are participating in the study, by month, since the study began; and
- (7) what has been the attrition rate of participants, by month, since the study began.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The total amount of funding for the PrEPX public health research study is \$2 303 750.

The Alfred Hospital and the Victorian AIDS Council have each contributed \$200 000 toward the study.

Of the total amount, the Victorian Government contributed \$1.5 million toward the original study. After the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee recommended listing HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis or PrEP on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme on 9 February 2018, the Andrews Labor Government committed an additional \$403 750 to extend the study from 1 April to 30 June 2018. Total government funding for the study is \$1 903 750.

The Department of Health and Human Services is developing a communications and a workforce training plan to support the rollout of PrEP for eligible Victorians and primary health care providers following the listing of PrEP on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.

\$30 000 has been allocated for pilot specific education and raising awareness about pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP). The Victorian AIDS Council and other stakeholders also undertake education more broadly on PrEP. These include the PrEPX website; a video developed by the Victorian AIDS Council and the Alfred Hospital; and a Frequently Asked Questions PrEP section on the Victorian AIDS Council website.

The education campaign focuses on specific engagement and awareness-raising among smaller at-risk groups such as people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, women, transgender individuals and people who inject drugs. A particular focus was given to these groups as there are already ongoing social media and internet campaigns being undertaken by PrEP advocacy groups targeting the largest high risk group, men who have sex with men. Through this funding, information has also been produced about PrEP and how people can access or learn more about the PrEPX study. The education activities are delivered in print and online in targeted areas.

The PrEPX study began in July 2016. It has a total of 4140 participants enrolled as of 26 February 2018. It has enrolled an average of 207 participants per month.

Since the start of the study in July 2016, the attrition rate through formal withdrawal from the study has been/less than 2 per cent.

*[Question 10 549, parts (4), (5) and (6), reinstated by order of President on 2 May 2017. Hansard reference to original answer: 2 May 2017, page 1860.]*

**Special Minister of State**

**11 028. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In relation to claims from the Minister’s Office received from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 for car parking fees totalling \$13 140.28 —

- (a) what proportion of these charges are for the Minister’s car park;
- (b) what proportion of these charges are for staff members’ car parks; and
- (c) how many car spaces are rented for the Minister’s office.

**ANSWER:**

- (a) No portion of these charges totalling are for the Minister’s car park. The Minister’s carpark is at 1 Treasury Place and does not incur a fee.
- (b) and (c) Three (3) car spaces were rented for the Minister’s office in this period.

**Health**

**11 220. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Office of Medicinal Cannabis —

- (1) what is the total full time equivalent (FTE) allocation at the Office of Medicinal Cannabis;
- (2) how many FTE at the Office of Medicinal Cannabis are new positions;
- (3) how many FTE are existing positions transferred from other parts of Department of Health and Human Services and other Departments;
- (4) do these numbers include contractors and consultants;
- (5) how many contractors and consultants does the Office of Medicinal Cannabis employ; and
- (6) what is the establishment and operational cost, including governance, of the Office of Medicinal Cannabis in 2016-17 and 2017-18.

**ANSWER:**

Following four years of inaction on the issue from the previous government, the Andrews Labor Government is delivering on its 2014 election commitment to give access to a safe, secure, legal supply of medicinal cannabis for eligible Victorians in exceptional circumstances. We passed legislation in 2016 and provided funding of \$28.5 million through the 2016-17 Budget to deliver on this commitment, including through establishing the Office of Medicinal Cannabis to guide development of suitable products and develop the regulatory framework.

**Health**

**11 229. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): \$3 million was allocated to the Parkville Biomedical Precinct planning and development, and \$1 million has been spent to date, what has this been spent on.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

As is evident from the question asked, funding for this initiative has been expended on planning and development relating to the Parkville Biomedical Precinct.

**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:**

As noted in my last response, at 1 July 2017, 250.38 FTE staff were employed by the Premier's Office.

*[Question 11 476 reinstated by order of President on 29 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 15 December 2017, page 7065.]*

**Training and skills**

**11 492. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: 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:**

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

*[Question 11 492 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2017, page 318.]*

**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:**

As noted in my last response, at 1 July 2017, 120.20 FTE female employees were employed by the Premier's Office.

*[Question 11 498 reinstated by order of President on 29 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 15 December 2017, page 7066.]*

**Training and skills**

**11 515. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: 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:**

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

*[Question 11 515 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2017, page 322.]*

**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:**

As noted in my last response, at 1 July 2016, 217.59 FTE staff were employed by the Premier’s Office.

*[Question 11 521 reinstated by order of President on 29 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 15 December 2017, page 7066.]*

**Training and skills**

**11 537. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: 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:**

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

*[Question 11 537 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2017, page 325.]*

**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:**

As noted in my last response, at 1 July 2017, 129.19 FTE female employees were employed by the Premier’s Office.

*[Question 11 543 reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 15 December 2017, page 7067.]*

**Training and skills**

**11 559. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: 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:**

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier’s response to your question.

*[Question 11 559 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2017, page 328.]*

**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:**

As noted in my last response, 69 new employees commenced their employment between 1 July 2015 and 1 July 2016.

*[Question 11 565 reinstated by order of President on 27 March 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 15 December 2017, page 7067.]*

**Training and skills**

**11 581. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: 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:**

My answer was fulsome and complete. I refer you to the Premier's response to your question.

*[Question 11 581 reinstated by order of President on 21 February 2018. Hansard reference to original answer: 6 February 2017, page 331.]*

**Special Minister of State**

**11 596. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State: In relation to the Victorian Government IT Strategy, what level of resourcing has the Government committed to the IT Strategy in 2017-18, excluding resources directly related to the Service Victoria project.

**ANSWER:**

The 2017-18 actions arising from the original IT strategy are supported by committed funds of \$8.45 million set aside for the IT strategy.

In addition, all government departments continue to utilise 'business-as-usual' staffing resources to deliver the 2017-18 actions of the IT strategy.

Further the IT Strategy provides guidance to the government's IT portfolio, including departmental funds used for current IT project costs visible on the Victorian Government ICT Dashboard.

**Health**

**11 821. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Victorian Aboriginal Subsidised Spectacles Scheme (VASSS) —

- (1) why were Aboriginal Victorians unable to access subsidised spectacles under the VASSS for July and most of August 2017;
- (2) why has the VASSS funding been extended for only 12 months covering 2017-18 and not the multi-year agreements normally agreed; and
- (3) can it be guaranteed that access to subsidised spectacles will not temporarily stop again if the program is to be continued in 2018-19.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to closing the gap on eye health outcomes in Aboriginal communities, by increasing access to spectacles and eye care services, through programs such as the Victorian Aboriginal Subsidised Spectacles Scheme. The current Scheme is considered to be the 'Gold' standard in Australia,

and the only scheme that meets all of the *Principles for nationally consistent subsidised spectacle schemes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people* specified by Optometry Australia.

The contribution of vision loss to the Aboriginal health gap is estimated at 11 per cent, with vision loss for Aboriginal Australians nearly double that of non-Aboriginal Australians.

The funding allocated to the Victorian Aboriginal Subsidised Spectacles Scheme from 2013 to 2017 totalled \$750 000, and provided 6618 spectacles. With further investment into the scheme, as of January this year over 11 000 spectacles have been provided to Victorian Aboriginal community members with important improvements in eye health.

Due to its success, the Government has committed to extend the program.

### Health

**11 822. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the National Proton Beam Therapy Centre —

- (1) is the business case complete;
- (2) how much will the National Proton Beam Therapy Centre cost;
- (3) where will the National Proton Beam Therapy Centre be located;
- (4) the 2017-18 Budget estimates \$5 million will be spent on the National Proton Beam Therapy Centre in 2017-18, what will the \$5 million be spent on; and
- (5) the estimated completion date for the Proton Beam Therapy Centre in the 2017-18 Budget Papers is to be confirmed, why has the Government not committed to an estimated completion date.

#### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The National Proton Beam Therapy Centre project full business case is in development.

Estimated expenditure in 2017-18 will progress planning and development, including completion of the full business case.

### Prevention of family violence

**12 387. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence): How many family violence intervention orders against mothers have been taken out by foster carers from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

#### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services' reporting systems do not go into such in-depth detail to answer this Question on Notice.

### Prevention of family violence

**12 388. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence): How many family violence intervention orders against fathers have been taken out by foster carers from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Department of Health and Human Services' reporting systems do not go into such in-depth detail to answer this Question on Notice.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 431. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How much money is the Government spending on its marketing campaign 'Bolton Street Open for Business'.

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has finished the Bolton Street upgrade, after locals waiting decades for the councils to do something about community concerns around traffic and safety in the area

VicRoads worked closely with local traders and the community while works were being finished.

All communications with the community while this important upgrade was underway were undertaken within the project budget.

We know the road works were frustrating for the Bolton Street traders — but not as frustrating as another decade of gridlock.

**Planning**

**12 465. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Planning): In relation to planning for sustainable animal industries, the proposed changes to the planning regime provide for a homogeneous approach regardless of lot sizes and context within zones, will the Minister consider ensuring that 'better information and technical support' in the form of standard conditions or industry specific technical guidelines is incorporated in the planning regime for the various production types to guide decision making.

**ANSWER:**

*Planning for Sustainable Animal Industries* is the Victorian Government's response to the final report of the Animal Industries Advisory Committee. The response includes 12 actions, including actions that will deliver better information and technical support, model permit conditions and industry-specific technical guidelines. The actions related to the Member's request along with their status is provided below:

- Action 2 — *Provide early planning and development assistance through Agribusiness Development Facilitation and interactive web-based development tools.* This action has been implemented.
- Action 6 — *Establish a panel of animal industries specialists to provide technical support to local government.* The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) is consulting local government to identify the areas where technical support would be most useful, and the most practical and effective method for delivering that support.
- Action 8 — *Develop a new general Code of Practice for animal industries complemented by industry-specific technical guidelines.* DEDJTR has prepared a draft Code of Practice and industry-specific guidelines, with input from an industry technical reference group. These documents will be further developed in consultation with industry, local government and broader stakeholders. When complete, the Code of Practice will be incorporated into planning schemes.
- Action 10 — *Develop and make available short courses on sustainable animal industries.* This action has been implemented.

- Action 12 — *Develop clear guidance to improve quality of planning permit applications, and develop model permit conditions to guide local government.* In 2017, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and DEDJTR undertook public consultation on this and other actions. The feedback received in over 170 submissions from farmers, local government and other members of the public is currently being reviewed.

**Tourism and major events**

- 12 467. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): How much funding has been allocated by the State Government to the Defence Science Institute each year since 2010.

**ANSWER:**

This Question is a matter for the relevant Minister, Ben Carroll, in his capacity as the Minister for Industry.

**Tourism and major events**

- 12 468. MS PENNICUIK** — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment (for the Minister for Tourism and Major Events): What mechanisms are in place to ensure that any research sponsored by the State Government funding to the Defence Science Industry is not creating an export weapons industry or technologies that will contribute to the development of weapons systems (such as lethal autonomous weapons systems).

**ANSWER:**

This Question is a matter for the relevant Minister, Ben Carroll, in his capacity as the Minister for Industry.

**Police**

- 12 471. MR O'DONOHUE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): How many female prisoners were held in police cells at 7.00 a.m. on the following dates —

- (1) 31 December 2017; and
- (2) 31 January 2018.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 December 2017 at 7.00am there were three female prisoners in police cells and on 31 January 2018 at 7.00am there were four female prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

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

- (1) 31 December 2017; and
- (2) 31 January 2018.

**ANSWER:**

I am advised that on 31 December 2017 at 7.00am there were 68 male prisoners in police cells and on 31 January 2018 at 7.00am there were 153 male prisoners in police cells.

**Police**

- 12 474. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Police): As at December 2016, how many police officers were stationed at Eltham Police Station.



**ANSWER:**

As the member would be aware, for operational and security reasons Victoria Police do not publicly disclose staff numbers at police station level.

I am advised by the Office of the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police that, as at December 2016 there were 54.68 Full Time Equivalent police resources allocated to the Nillumbik Police Service Area, in which the Eltham Police Station is located.

**Education**

**12 482. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): What is the projected number of students from the 18 partner Government and non-Government secondary schools who will be using the facilities of the Banyule-Nillumbik Tech School when it opens later this year.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The Tech Schools initiative is proceeding apace. Three Tech Schools are now in operation and the remaining seven will open throughout this year.

Construction at the Banyule-Nillumbik Tech School is well progressed. When the Tech School opens in mid-2018 it will include digital labs, physical creation spaces, virtual conference spaces and exhibition spaces.

The Banyule-Nillumbik Tech School will offer advanced multi-age and multi-stage specialist STEM learning programs for secondary students from across the local area. These programs will utilise the latest-technology, such as CNC machinery, laser cutters, digital content creation and multimedia.

Tech School learning program delivery will occur both on site and through integration with the partner schools' curriculum. Industry partners are actively involved, including a pilot program focussed on biotechnology with CSL Behring and The Committee for Melbourne.

The high-tech hands-on programs will be offered free to more than 12 500 students from the 18 government, catholic and independent schools and are aligned with industries predicted to experience economic and employment growth — helping kids secure the jobs they need in the future.

**Health**

**12 519. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, has Northeast Health Wangaratta received any funding, and if so, how much and for what project.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In 2016 the Andrews Labor Government established the \$200 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, the largest fund of its kind in Victorian history, to improve health services and agencies in rural and regional Victoria. The funding is available to expand capacity, improve safety, quality and efficiency and deliver better care to patients no matter where they live. Round 1 of the fund allocated \$134 million across 93 projects around the state. Round 2 will see the balance of approximately \$60 million allocated to an additional 79 projects across the rural and regional health services.

Round 1 of the fund allocated \$15,175,00 to the redevelopment of Northeast Health Wangaratta, delivering the construction of a new twelve bed critical care unit, a new medical records unit, relocation of the oncology unit, expansion of the emergency department and associated engineering infrastructure.

Round 2 of the fund allocated an additional \$6,997,990 to complete building fabric changes to deliver an additional four maternity beds, a refurbished birthing suite and an obstetric assessment area. Further, this stage of the redevelopment will deliver an additional six medical beds.

### Public transport

**12 520. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Public Transport): In relation to the \$125 000 of funding for an innovative community transport service pilot in the Wimmera Region, announced on 7 March 2017 —

- (1) on what date did the pilot commence;
- (2) since it commenced, how many patients have been transported;
- (3) how many volunteers have participated as part of the pilot since it commenced;
- (4) with the first 12 months of the pilot funded by the Government, will the \$60 000 raised by the Centre for Participation, local council and health providers be adequate to cover the remaining 12 months;
- (5) on what date will there be sufficient evidence for the pilot to be evaluated; and
- (6) will that data be made public.

#### ANSWER:

The Wimmera Community Transport service is an innovative transport solution for the Wimmera region, bringing together community partners to guide its establishment.

Volunteers have been recruited to help run the door to door service between Kaniva and Horsham. The Centre for Participation (CfP) is also currently developing the travel companion service between Edenhope and Horsham and the after-hours transport service from Horsham to patients' homes wherever they reside within the Wimmera.

The Andrews Labor Government has contributed \$125 000 to the trial and Transport for Victoria is working with the CfP on the implementation of the service and the evaluation.

However, it is important to consider not only the quantitative aspects of this trial but also the qualitative outcomes. This considers how this transport solution will play a vital role in linking community members to health services and addressing social isolation in regional areas.

### Health

**12 527. MS PATTEN** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the operation of the Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016 and the Minister's previous advice that eligible patient groups will be expanded over time, based on best available evidence and the advice of the Independent Medical Advisory Committee (IMAC) —

- (1) how regularly is the IMAC scheduled to meet;
- (2) how many times has the IMAC met since the committee was formed;
- (3) how is the advice of the IMAC communicated to the Minister and the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (4) has the Minister and the Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services received advice from IMAC in relation to expanding eligible patient groups, that either the Minister or Secretary has not yet acted on.

#### ANSWER:

I am informed that:

The IMAC has met nine times to date and is scheduled to meet quarterly in 2018. The advice of the IMAC is communicated to the Secretary and Minister via departmental processes and briefings.

**Health**

**12 528. MS PATTEN** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Health): In relation to the provision of medicinal cannabis to Victorians and the Government announcing in October 2015 that it accepted all recommendations of the Victorian Law Reform Commission including recommendations that eligibility for the Victorian scheme should be based on conditions including ‘severe pain arising from cancer, HIV or AIDS’, when is it anticipated that medicinal cannabis will be available to Victorians suffering in this way.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Commonwealth regulatory landscape for medicinal cannabis has changed since the drafting and passing into law of the ground-breaking Victorian *Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016*.

As a consequence, approvals to access medicinal cannabis in Victoria are not restricted to ‘eligible patient groups.’ Any doctor may apply, on behalf of any patient, to the Commonwealth’s Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for approval to prescribe a medicinal cannabis product for any medical condition, via the TGA’s Special Access Scheme (Category B). Patients do not require any further additional approvals under the Victorian *Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016* (the Act).

In view of this changed Commonwealth regulatory landscape, on 17 January this year, the Minister for Health announced that the Act’s regulatory regimes for manufacturing licensing and for patient access, including the ‘eligible patient’ provisions, would not be brought into force; since doing so would have no effect other than to impose secondary layers of regulatory compliance on industry and on Victorian patients who wish to access medicinal cannabis. Consequently, there is no need to, nor effect of designating ‘eligible patient groups’ under the Act, and no role for the Independent Medical Advisory Committee in advising on such designation; and accordingly no such advice has been tendered. In due course, it is envisaged that the Victorian *Access to Medicinal Cannabis Act 2016* may be repealed.

The only current Victorian State-level regulatory requirement for patients to access medicinal cannabis is in the issuing of a Schedule 8 Treatment Permit under the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*, if the medicinal cannabis product the doctor wishes to prescribe is classified as a Schedule 8 drug. Medicinal cannabis products containing more than 2% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) fall within this classification. This is a process which applies to all Schedule 8 drugs, and is not cannabis-specific. Most Schedule 8 Treatment Permit applications in Victoria are currently being processed within 24 hours.

As at 31 January 2018, the Therapeutic Goods Administration had approved 77 applications for access to medicinal cannabis for Victorian patients. The majority of these involved Schedule 4 products which do not need any additional Victorian approval.

As at 13 February 2018, 29 Victorian Schedule 8 Treatment Permits have been granted to patients with a wide variety of medical conditions, including multiple sclerosis, cancer and various other conditions resulting in severe pain.

The cost of medicinal cannabis products is significant and they are not currently subsidised via the PBS. Until this changes, cost will remain a significant barrier to access for the vast majority of Victorians.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 536. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What is VicRoads doing in relation to the backlog of assessment of medical fitness for holding a licence.

**ANSWER:**

In 2015, VicRoads revamped its capability, capacity and processes to improve its processing time on ‘fitness to drive’ case file assessments from 15 days to 72 hours. Over the last two years, VicRoads has consistently met this service standard.

VicRoads continuously monitors customer demand and adjusts staff resources and work hours accordingly, when demand is higher than forecast. Work is prioritised based on road safety risk and customer inconvenience. The situation is monitored and managed dynamically daily.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 537. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Why does VicRoads require residents in regional Victoria to pay for medical specialists to come from Melbourne, if not locally available, to determine their fitness to drive.

**ANSWER:**

When VicRoads receives information that raises concerns about a person’s health and affecting their fitness to drive, VicRoads will ask the person for a medical report from their general practitioner. Sometimes, VicRoads will need more information about a medical condition raised in the general practitioner’s medical report and will seek a specialist report, in accordance with national Assessing Fitness to Drive licensing standards (*Austrroads / National Transport Commission, 2016*).

Where a specialist report is required to further assess a person’s fitness to drive, it is the responsibility of the driver to provide VicRoads, at their own cost, the requested report. As with which specialist the driver consults or where they may be located, VicRoads does not have a preference as long as the specialist providing the report is qualified to do so. VicRoads does not set specialists fees or practise locations.

VicRoads strongly recommends that drivers discuss fees and charges with the specialist before making an appointment.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 538. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What is VicRoads doing to ensure people that lose their licence due to a misreporting of a medical condition are able to appeal to remove those restrictions.

**ANSWER:**

When VicRoads receives information that raises concerns about a person’s health and affecting their fitness to drive, VicRoads will ask the person for a medical report from their general practitioner or specialist.

If the review process shows the driver meets the national medical licensing standards, they will be able to keep driving, but may have some conditions added to their licence, and/or be reviewed periodically. If the review shows no medical condition/s affecting their fitness to drive, the driver’s review file will be closed.

If the review shows that the driver does not meet the national medical licensing standards, they will not be able to continue driving.

VicRoads encourages customers to contact its medical review team if they believe information provided to VicRoads is incorrect.

If a person’s licence or learner permit is varied, suspended or cancelled due to a ‘fitness to drive’ assessment, they have the right to an internal review of the decision or can appeal the decision at the Magistrates’ Court.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 547. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the North East Link project —

- (1) how much of the Koonung Creek Parklands (in specific square metres) will be taken for the widening of the freeway between Burke and Elgar Road;
- (2) has, or will, the North East Link Authority conduct modelling of air pollution impacts, particularly near tunnel portals and if so, will the Minister release the modelling;
- (3) how will the local community be impacted by acquisitions or changes to the road network due to the Manningham Road interchange of the North East Link; and
- (4) as the project will affect the flow into the Banyule drain, will the trees between Lower Plenty and Banyule Road be destroyed by the North East Link.

**ANSWER:**

- 1) The North East Link Authority is aiming to keep upgrade works to the Eastern Freeway within the existing road reserve. Where this is not possible, small pieces of public land may be required to avoid acquiring homes on both sides of the freeway. It is too early to define the area of impact in square meters, however a focus of the design development will be to minimise impact on Koonung Creek Parklands and all public open space along the Eastern Freeway. The Authority is working with Melbourne Water, local councils and the community to manage any potential impacts.
- 2) A detailed assessment of any potential air quality impacts from delivery or operation of the project will be done during the development of the Environment Effects Statement (EES). This assessment will include modelling of air pollutants to understand existing conditions and predict any changes. The modelling will assess the tunnel ventilation system and inform the design needed to achieve air quality in accordance with all Environment Protection Authority (EPA) policies and State Environment Protection Policies. The results of the air quality modelling will be included in the air quality assessment publicly exhibited with the EES.
- 3) An interchange at Bulleen Road and Manningham Road will allow local people to use North East Link. They will be able to commute more effectively between north-eastern suburbs and have greater access to Melbourne’s freeway network. The Authority is working directly with people whose home or business could potentially be affected by the project. An upgraded intersection at Bulleen Road gives us the opportunity to improve pedestrian and cycling access near local schools and sports facilities.
- 4) As part of the EES, the Authority will be doing further surveys and analysis to determine the full extent of native flora and fauna that may be affected by the project. This process also includes an assessment of waterways and floodplains within or intersecting the project area.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 557. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): When was the decision made to install lights at the Bolton Street and Main Road intersection in Eltham for left turning traffic.

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has finished the Bolton Street upgrade, after locals waiting decades for the councils to do something about community concerns around traffic and safety in the area.

VicRoads worked closely with local traders and the community while works were being finished.

We know the road works were frustrating for the community and traders — but not as frustrating as another decade of gridlock.

There was one left turning lane at the location and the current Project will provide an additional lane. The traffic lights will enable motorists to turn safely as part of the new double left turn slip lanes and provide safe access to pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

The decision to install traffic signals at Bolton Street and Main Road intersection for left turning traffic was made in March 2017, following community engagement and input.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 558. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Why was the decision made to install lights at the Bolton Street and Main Road intersection in Eltham for left turning traffic.

**ANSWER:**

There was one left turning lane at the location and the current Project will provide an additional lane. The traffic lights will enable motorists to turn safely as part of the new double left turn slip lanes and provide safe access to pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

The decision to install traffic signals at this intersection was made in March 2017, following community engagement and input.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 559. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): Why has the Bolton Street, Eltham project updates not detailed the new lights being installed for left turning traffic at the Bolton Street and Main Road intersection.

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads has provided information regarding the new traffic signals at the Bolton Street and Main Road intersection progressively throughout the project via community project e-newsletters, letters, pamphlets and websites.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 561. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to congestion on Bolton Street in Eltham —

- (1) what measure is used to quantify congestion on Bolton Street;
- (2) what is the value of that measure on Bolton Street prior to the redevelopment; and
- (3) what is the expected value of that measure once the road redevelopment is completed.

**ANSWER:**

The benefits of upgrading Bolton Street is improved safety, amenity, access to local roads and better traffic flow. Traffic flow is improved along Bolton Street by providing a continuous right turning median; left turn deceleration lanes to local roads; additional left run slip lane at Bolton Street and Main Road intersection and left turn lane extension at Bolton Street/Sherbourne Road/ Bridge Street intersection.

**Early childhood education**

**12 563. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Education: In relation to kindergartens in the electorate of Eltham —

- (1) which kindergartens received funding in the latest round of the Inclusive Kindergartens Facilities Program;
- (2) what is the total amount of funding that each kindergarten will receive; and
- (3) what will it be used for.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

On 14 February I was pleased to announce the opening of applications for the \$6.4 million Inclusive Kindergarten Facilities Program. This formed part of the Andrews Labor Government's \$61 million suite of inclusive education initiatives announced in November 2017.

Given that applications for the IKFP are currently open, it is not possible to give details of any successful grant recipients. Successful applicants will be announced once applications have closed and assessments have been completed.

**Trade and investment**

**12 567. MRS PEULICH** — To ask the Minister for Trade and Investment: In relation to your written response to my Question without Notice relating to the Multicultural Business Ministerial Council and probity checks dated 20 February 2018 —

- (1) how many applications were received in relation to the membership of the Ministerial Council;
- (2) who from the Department conducted the governance and probity checks into Mr Mike Yang;
- (3) was Mr Yang on the original shortlist of candidates presented from the Department for your approval; and
- (4) was Mr Yang's appointment endorsed by Cabinet and if so, on what date.

**ANSWER:**

With Victoria being the most culturally diverse state in the country, the Labor Government proudly continues to support people from non-English speaking backgrounds in their small business ventures.

I am advised that the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources received a number of applications in relation to the most recent iteration of the Multicultural Business Ministerial Council. Mr Yang was on the original list of candidates provided by the department. The term of these positions concluded on 12 February 2018.

As outlined in my previous response, the department coordinated thorough governance and probity checks in accordance with standard procedures prior to the appointment of all members. The shortlisting process was informed by the successful completion of this process, as well as the strength of each candidate's application where they were required to outline their suitability for the council.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Council the position of Chair was endorsed by Cabinet.

**Treasurer**

**12 568. MS PATTEN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to chapter five of Budget Paper 5 which assesses forgone land tax revenue on 'land used by charitable institutions' at \$191 million for the current financial year and attributes 'assessment on single holding basis for land owned by charities' as \$19 million in forgone revenue for the same period —

- (1) what proportion of this forgone land tax revenue relates to religious institutions; and
- (2) what proportion relates to land owned by religious institutions not used exclusively as a place of worship.

**ANSWER:**

- (1) The tax expenditure for 'land used by charitable institutions' for the 2017-18 financial year is expected to be \$193 million, as estimated in the 2017-18 Budget. The State Revenue Office (SRO) is not able to reliably identify whether the owner of the land is a religious institution. However, it is estimated that around

\$36 million out of the \$193 million in land tax revenue foregone is related to land used for religious purposes (e.g. place of worship, religious hall, etc...), according to land use classifications under the Australian Valuation Property Classification Code (AVPCC).

- (2) For the land tax concession category ‘assessment on single holding basis for land owned by charities’, an estimate cannot be provided as the SRO is not able to reliably identify whether the owner of the land is a religious institution.

### Treasurer

- 12 569. MS PATTEN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Treasurer): In relation to chapter five of Budget Paper 5 which assesses payroll tax concessions for religious institutions in the current financial year as \$4 million, can the Minister categorise the type of workplaces within religions institutions these payroll tax concessions were applied to.

### ANSWER:

Religious institutions are exempt from payroll tax under the *Payroll Tax Act 2007*. There are approximately 20 religious institutions that have received a formal religious institution exemption. However, this should be seen as the minimum number of religious institutions receiving the exemption.

Religious institutions have only been required to apply for a formal exemption effective from 1 July 2012. This means that religious institutions that were exempt from payroll tax prior to 1 July 2012 would not have needed to apply for a formal exemption.

Also, a number of religious institutions may be recorded as receiving the charitable organisation exemption and not the religious institution exemption.

The limited information on the religious institutions means that it is difficult to categorise the type of workplaces within religious institutions receiving the payroll tax exemption.

The payroll tax exemption for religious institutions only applies to the wages paid to persons engaged exclusively in the work of the religious institution. It does not apply to wages paid to persons engaged in commercial activities that are unrelated to the religious purpose of the institution.

### Tourism and major events

- 12 570. 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, did the Minister take legal and policy advice as to the confidentiality provisions and what was that advice.

### ANSWER:

Apple Corporation entered into confidential agreements with Federation Square Pty. Ltd. as the landlord for Federation Square.

The Victorian Government regularly has discussions with a range of private companies about proposals across all sectors. Often these discussions are commercial in confidence and it is not appropriate to comment on them.

### Tourism and major events

- 12 571. 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, when did negotiations with Apple commence and conclude.



**ANSWER:**

Apple Corporation entered into confidential agreements with Federation Square Pty. Ltd. as the landlord for Federation Square.

The Victorian Government regularly has discussions with a range of private companies about proposals across all sectors. Often these discussions are commercial in confidence and it is not appropriate to comment on them.

**Tourism and major events**

**12 574. 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, has a binding agreement been signed and if so —

- (1) what are the principal terms of that agreement;
- (2) under what conditions may it be terminated;
- (3) how long is the term of the agreement; and
- (4) what are the rights and obligations of Apple and the Government (or its authorities) upon termination of the agreement.

**ANSWER:**

Apple Corporation entered into confidential agreements with Federation Square Pty. Ltd., as the landlord for Federation Square, and therefore it is not appropriate to comment on the terms of the agreement.

**Tourism and major events**

**12 576. 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 —

- (1) what planning amendments/changes have been made to accommodate this proposal, when were they made and by whom; and
- (2) what public consultation took place in relation to these planning changes.

**ANSWER:**

Apple Corporation entered into confidential agreements with Federation Square Pty. Ltd. as the landlord for Federation Square.

Details of Amendment C314 to the Melbourne Planning Scheme are publicly available through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's website.

On 10 December 2017, the Minister for Planning exercised the power under section 20 (4) of the *Planning and Environment Act (1987)* to exempt himself from the requirement to notice and to prepare, adopt and approve Amendment C314 to the Melbourne Planning Scheme. A notice of the amendment appeared in the Government Gazette on 20 December 2017.

**Industry and employment**

**12 577. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to the finance department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

With regards to the enclosed/attached Questions on Notice from Melina Bath MLC to the Minister for Agriculture (representing the Minister for Industry and Employment), please note that the Latrobe Valley Authority is administered via the Department of Premier & Cabinet. As such, the questions should be directed to that Department for response.

**Industry and employment**

**12 578. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to the worker transition scheme department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

With regards to the enclosed/attached Questions on Notice from Melina Bath MLC to the Minister for Agriculture (representing the Minister for Industry and Employment), please note that the Latrobe Valley Authority is administered via the Department of Premier & Cabinet. As such, the questions should be directed to that Department for response.

**Industry and employment**

**12 579. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to the grants department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

With regards to the enclosed/attached Questions on Notice from Melina Bath MLC to the Minister for Agriculture (representing the Minister for Industry and Employment), please note that the Latrobe Valley Authority is administered via the Department of Premier & Cabinet. As such, the questions should be directed to that Department for response.

**Industry and employment**

**12 580. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to the media and communications department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

With regards to the enclosed/attached Questions on Notice from Melina Bath MLC to the Minister for Agriculture (representing the Minister for Industry and Employment), please note that the Latrobe Valley Authority is administered via the Department of Premier & Cabinet. As such, the questions should be directed to that Department for response.

**Industry and employment**

**12 581. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to the governance department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

With regards to the enclosed/attached Questions on Notice from Melina Bath MLC to the Minister for Agriculture (representing the Minister for Industry and Employment), please note that the Latrobe Valley Authority is administered via the Department of Premier & Cabinet. As such, the questions should be directed to that Department for response.

**Industry and employment**

**12 582. MS BATH** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Industry and Employment): In relation to the business development department of the Latrobe Valley Authority —

- (1) how many employees perform their duties directly from the office located within the Latrobe Valley;
- (2) how many employees perform their duties directly from Melbourne; and
- (3) what is the contractual term for these employees.

**ANSWER:**

With regards to the enclosed/attached Questions on Notice from Melina Bath MLC to the Minister for Agriculture (representing the Minister for Industry and Employment), please note that the Latrobe Valley Authority is administered via the Department of Premier & Cabinet. As such, the questions should be directed to that Department for response.

**Energy, environment and climate change**

**12 584. MS DUNN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the use of Flash 21, does the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) or its contractors use Flash 21 fuel Gelling Agent during logging coupe regeneration burns or fuel reduction burns, and, if so —

- (1) has DELWP conducted an assessment of the health risks to staff or contractors and members of the general public posed by the compounds created by the degradation of Flash 21 upon and after use; and
- (2) has DELWP conducted an assessment of the risks to the natural environment, including aquatic toxicity and poisoned water sources, by the compounds created by the degradation of Flash 21 after use.

**ANSWER:**

The Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) planned burning program is an important part of reducing bushfire risk to communities.

A number of ground and aerial ignition devices are available to FFMVic personnel to achieve its planned burn targets. The aerial driptorch (ADT) is one such device.

Flash 21 has been used as the thickening product ADT gel for many years by many agencies with no safety issues.

FFMVic personnel operating this equipment and mixing the respective products are trained to the highest National standards.

Strict mixing procedures are followed and there have been no safety issues at ADT mixing sites since operations commenced. Personnel are equipped with approved protective personal equipment and material safety data sheets (MSDS) for the Flash 21 are available at each mixing site and from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

There are strict procedures in place to ensure the safety of ground personnel during ADT ignition operations.

Worksafe Victoria investigated FFMVic ADT operations in June 2014. The Worksafe Inspector found no issues with FFMVic ADT operations, the respective safety procedures or the products involved in this operation.

### **Energy, environment and climate change**

**12 585. MS DUNN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Haining Farm, will the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning release the inputs to the modelling used in the Haining Farm Bushfire Risk Analysis, and, if yes, where will this information be released.

#### **ANSWER:**

The data inputs used to model any change in bushfire risk following the redevelopment of Haining Farm have been collated and provided to the former Haining Farm Redevelopment Working Group.

I am advised that my office has offered you a briefing on this matter, which can be arranged to suit both offices.

### **Energy, environment and climate change**

**12 586. MS DUNN** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the Haining Farm, will the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning release the planting list of the 315 000 trees and shrubs that are to be planted at Haining Farm, and, if yes, where will this information be released.

#### **ANSWER:**

The final plan for Haining Farm includes restoration of 42 hectares of habitat for two of Victoria's most threatened species, the Helmeted Honeyeater and Lowland Leadbeaters possum. The development of the site is considered crucial to the survival of these species.

The habitat requirements of these species are quite specific and consistent with the historical ecological vegetation classes found at the site. The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will collate this information and provide it as part of the next community update which will be publicly available on the Engage Victoria website.

My office is happy to offer you a briefing on this matter at a time that suits both our offices.

### **Equality**

**12 587. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Equality): What is the annual salary being paid to Victoria's Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality.

#### **ANSWER:**

The annual salary of the Victorian Commissioner for Gender and Sexuality is paid within the VPS salary band of E02.

**Equality**

**12 588. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Equality): How much funding has been allocated to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse and Intersex (LGBTI) Taskforce since it was established in 2015.

**ANSWER:**

There is no specific funding allocation to the LGBTI Taskforce.

**Equality**

**12 589. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Equality): How much funding has been allocated for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse and Intersex (LGBTI) Equality Roadshow.

**ANSWER:**

The roadshow is funded out of the Combatting Homophobia initiative as set out in the Department of Treasury and Finance budget papers, which are publicly available.

**Education**

**12 590. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): In relation to the Safe Schools program, what has been the total financial cost of running the program since the Department of Education and Training assumed control of the program from La Trobe University in 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

In 2010, the Andrews Labor Government established the Safe Schools program to help schools foster a safe environment that is supportive and inclusive of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) students. The program recognises that creating a safe and inclusive environment is key to tackling bullying and harassment. Students cannot learn effectively if they are being bullied at school.

The Government has committed to make all government secondary schools, including P-12 and special schools, Safe Schools by the end of 2018.

A key part of the program is to provide professional development and training for secondary school teachers so that they are equipped to support LGBTI students.

The 2015-16 State Budget committed \$1.04 million over four years towards the Andrews Government's Safe Schools election commitment.

In 2017-18, a total of \$510 000 has been committed to the program (\$270 000 from the State Budget and \$240 000 from the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Health and Human Services). The Department will meet any additional costs internally from its existing budget.

**Equality**

**12 591. DR CARLING-JENKINS** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Equality): In relation to the Equality portfolio —

- (1) what was the total funding allocation and expenditure for the 2015-16 financial year;
- (2) what was the total funding allocation and expenditure for the 2016-17 financial year; and
- (3) what is the total funding allocation for the 2017-18 financial year.

**ANSWER:**

The information the Honourable Member seeks is publicly available on the websites of both the Department of Treasury and Finance, and the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee.

**Families and children**

**12 592. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Aboriginal children in state-funded care in Victoria, as at 1 March 2018 —

- (1) how many children are under the care of non-Aboriginal organisations;
- (2) how many children have been assigned with a cultural planner;
- (3) how many children have been transferred to Aboriginal community-controlled organisations; and
- (4) how many children are still waiting to be transferred.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

In December 2017 I launched Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care which allows the CEO of an Aboriginal Community Controlled organisation (ACCO), to have guardianship responsibility for aboriginal children. The Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency (VACCA) have been authorised under this program and will assume guardianship responsibility for the initial 36 children.

Data relating to the support of Aboriginal children in care are published in the Department's annual report.

No children are assigned to a cultural planner. The cultural planning model co designed with ACCOS are assigned responsibility for the development of a cultural plan to the child's care team. Cultural planning advisors are employed to provide advice and support to care teams where required however they are not assigned to children.

In addition, Aboriginal children in out of home care on contractible orders will be case managed by ACCOS in the future. Currently 28% of these children are managed by ACCOS.

**Families and children**

**12 593. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the \$5.3 million announced funding for the Foster and Kinship Carer Recruitment and Capacity Building initiative —

- (1) how much has been expended for recruitment as at 1 March 2018;
- (2) how many Aboriginal foster carers have been recruited since its launch;
- (3) how many Aboriginal kinship carers have been recruited since its launch;
- (4) which organisations have been granted funding; and
- (5) where are these organisations located.

**ANSWER:**

\$5.3 million was allocated for capacity building, recruitment of Aboriginal carers and additional case contracted kinship care targets. \$1.97 million has been distributed to 11 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations over two years to support the recruitment of carers, \$275 000 was distributed to departmental divisions to provide oversight and monitoring, \$3.01 million has been distributed to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations over two years for 88 Aboriginal kinship care case contracting targets.

Department of Health and Human Services reporting systems are not currently structured in a way to report an answer the number of Aboriginal foster carers recruited. We do not recruit kinship carers.

Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) who have been granted funding are:

ACCO
Rumbalara Aboriginal Cooperative
Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative
Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative
Winda Mara Aboriginal Cooperative
Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Service
Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative
Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative
Mallee District Aboriginal Cooperative
Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative
Njernda Aboriginal Cooperative
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

**Families and children**

**12 594. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the \$168 million funding for Roadmap for Reform, as at 1 March 2018 —

- (1) how much has been expended;
- (2) how many initiatives have been completed;
- (3) how many initiatives are yet to be completed; and
- (4) when are they expected to be fully implemented.

**ANSWER:**

Funding and expenditure will be reported in the budget in the usual way, as was the practice under the previous government.

All twelve roadmap initiatives have been implemented. There are no initiatives that are yet to be completed. All of the funded initiatives are expected to be fully implemented by 30 June 2018.

**Families and children**

**12 596. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Child Protection Summer Vacation Program —

- (1) how many children have participated since its inception; and
- (2) as at 3 March 2018, how many have been employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

The Child Protection Vacation Employment program is one of many key initiatives that provide eligible tertiary education students with work experience as a pathway to employment with the Department of Health and Human Services Child Protection program.

Data on numbers of employees in Child protection are published in the department’s annual report.

In September 2017, the Victorian Government announced \$1.5 million to double the Vacation Employment Program to 80 places.

This expansion is a part of the Victorian Government’s \$72.2 million investment to employ 452 new child protection workers — the biggest-ever boost to Victoria’s child protection workforce.

The twelve week rotation based program allows students to experience quality learning, engage in ‘real work’ and have the opportunity to secure full-time work at the end of the placement.

**Families and children**

**12 598. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to the Department of Health and Human Services West Division Child Protection ‘Foot in the Door’ Program—

- (1) how many children have participated since its inception; and
- (2) as at 3 March 2018, how many have been employed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The ‘Foot in the Door’ program is an innovative initiative implemented in Child Protection, West Division, to provide final year students, who are adults not children, with an opportunity to gain further experience in working in a dynamic program to support vulnerable children and families involved in statutory intervention.

Data on numbers of employees in Child protection are published in the department’s annual report.

This initiative enables the program to engage students (post-placement) on a three-month contract as a Case Practice Support Worker (CPP2) while undergoing a recruitment process for a Child Protection Practitioner (CPP3).

**Early childhood education**

**12 599. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Education: In relation to Victoria’s four year old kindergarten participation rates —

- (1) how many children have joined the program between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015;
- (2) how many children have joined the program between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016;
- (3) how many children have joined the program between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017; and
- (4) how many children participated in the full 15 hours per week program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The number of children funded to participate in kindergarten in 2015, 2016 and 2017 can be found in the Victorian Budget Papers.

**Early childhood education**

**12 601. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Education: In relation to Victoria’s four year old kindergarten program, how many dedicated preschool buildings does the Government operate in and how many of these are attached to schools.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The State Government is not a direct provider of kindergarten services and therefore does not operate, as per your specific question, in any preschool buildings.



**Early childhood education**

**12 603. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Education: How many state funded childcare providers currently exist in Victoria.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

The State Government does not fund long day care in Victoria. This is the responsibility of the Federal Government.

As at 1 January 2018, there are 2353 state-funded kindergarten services. Of these, 1199 are operated in long day care settings.

In addition, the Victorian Government funds occasional care through the National Occasional Care Programme, which provides care for children when parents or guardians have other commitments. Federal Education Minister Simon Birmingham has confirmed he will cut this program, as of July, leaving kids, parents and service providers without funding for occasional care.

The Victorian Government also funds the Family Learning Support Program which provides child care for parents and carers enrolled in and attending accredited or pre-accredited training at an eligible Learn Local organisation.

**Families and children**

**12 604. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to maternal child health services, how many children and families have accessed the Government’s targeted and universal services and what is the breakdown per local government area.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

It is unclear from the Member’s question, for which time period she is requesting information.

Information on the number of consultations delivered in any financial year is available in the Maternal and Child Health Annual Reports, published on the Department of Education and Training website.

**Families and children**

**12 605. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: In relation to maternal child health services, what data does the Department of Health and Human Services have in relation to families disengaging from maternal child health service visits and how many families have disengaged after the

- (1) first maternal child health service visit;
- (2) second maternal child health service visit; and
- (3) third maternal child health service visit.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Victoria’s Universal Maternal and Child Health Service delivers a free, universally accessible statewide service for all families with children aged from birth to school age.

The core component of the Universal Service is the provision of ten Key Ages and Stages consultations, which encompass an initial home visit, and consultations at 2, 4 and 8 weeks; 4, 8, 12 and 18 months; and 2 and 3.5 years of age.

Information on the number of consultations delivered in any financial year is available in the Maternal and Child Health Annual Reports, published on the Department of Education and Training website.

**Families and children**

**12 606. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children: As at 1 March 2018, how many families have accessed the Supported Playgroups program.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

As not all supported playgroup sites have entered their data for Term 1, 2018, this figure is not yet available.

The Andrews Labor Government provided \$22.1 million to expand the Supported Playgroups program across Victoria as part of the 2017-18 Victorian Budget.

**Early childhood education**

**12 607. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Early Childhood Education: In relation to the Koori Families as First Educators Initiative, which organisations have been granted funding to carry out programs and how much did each organisation receive, broken down according to local government area or Department of Health and Human Services division.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

On 1 February 2018, I was pleased to visit the Ballarat and District Co-operative in Ballarat, one of five organisations that will run the new \$3.9 million Koorie Families as First Educators initiative. This initiative is part of a suite of initiatives supporting the Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan and Marrung: Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026 (Marrung).

This investment follows research which suggests the quality of parenting and the home environment are the strongest influences on a child's development during the early years.

Koorie Families as First Educators will support Koorie families to provide a strong foundation for their children's learning and development by delivering high quality, culturally responsive, evidence-based parenting support programs in five areas of high need and limited program supports.

These five areas were identified through an analysis of need based on population data for Koorie children 0-4 years old, ChildFIRST referrals, Koorie children 0-3 years old on statutory orders, including those in out-of-home-care, and early childhood services available in each area, including those targeting Koorie families as well as mainstream services.

The initiative will be delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in recognition that these are well placed to provide culturally responsive parenting support programs and to link Koorie families with a broad range of local services. Evidence suggests that Koorie families are more likely to access services where they feel culturally supported and/or have an existing relationship. This approach also aligns with the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to supporting Aboriginal self-determination.

The following ACCOs have been selected to deliver this initiative:

- Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative (City of Ballarat)
- Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative (City of Greater Bendigo)
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (Rural City of Latrobe)
- Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation (City of Wodonga)
- Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (Northern Metropolitan Melbourne)

Approximately \$724 000 over four years will be provided for Koorie Families as First Educators to be delivered in each identified location. This funding will enable ACCOs to employ two full-time Koorie educators in each location to work directly with Koorie families.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**12 612. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): In relation to youth homelessness —

- (1) what data does the Government hold in relation to homeless children; and
- (2) how many children have left out-of-home care and are now homeless.

**ANSWER:**

This data is publicly available on the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website.

**Housing, disability and ageing**

**12 613. MS CROZIER** — To ask the Minister for Families and Children (for the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing): How many loan applications has the Government received in relation to the Social Housing Growth Fund, broken down per local government area.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed that:

The Social Housing Growth Fund is not a loan scheme. Perhaps the Member is confused by the extensive page of assistance available through the Andrews Labor Government's Home for Victorians package.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 618. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many Christmas hampers did VicRoads supply, or pay for, to traders in Eltham's Bolton Street in December 2017.

**ANSWER:**

In December 2017, fifteen Christmas hampers were provided to traders in Eltham's Bolton Street.

All marketing support to promote that Bolton Street traders were open for business while this important upgrade was underway was undertaken within the project budget.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 619. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What representations have been made to VicRoads in the last three years about traffic congestion or the need to upgrade Bridge Street, Eltham and what plans, if any, are there to alleviate the congestion problem.

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads has held many discussions with the community and stakeholders about traffic flow in the Eltham area.

The Bolton Street Upgrade was completed in March 2018 and will improve safety, the flow of traffic in the area and make it easier for people to get home and to local shops.

Furthermore, the Victorian Government has started planning for North-East Link, the missing link in the road network to reduce congestion in Melbourne's north, east and southeast. North-East Link will connect the north and southeast by providing the missing link between the Metropolitan Ring Road (M80) at Greensborough and the Eastern Freeway.

Once completed, North-East Link will significantly reduce congestion on local roads. The Environment Effects Statement for the North-East Link Project will help determine the current conditions and what requirements are needed for further operational changes across the network.

VicRoads will continue to monitor the network and recommend improvements to make it safer and more efficient.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 621. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What representations have been made to VicRoads in the last three years about traffic congestion on Fitzsimons Lane, Eltham and what plans, if any, are there to alleviate the problem.

**ANSWER:**

As previously advised, VicRoads is still investigating options to address traffic congestion along Fitzsimons Lane in Eltham. These investigations and recommendations are scheduled to be completed by mid — 2018.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 622. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What representations have been made to VicRoads in the last three years about traffic conditions on Sherbourne Road and Karingal Drive, Eltham and what plans, if any, are there to alleviate the problem.

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads has worked closely with the local community and traders to understand the Bolton Street upgrade and associated changes. VicRoads will continue to monitor the network and recommend improvements to improve safety and the efficient movement of people and goods in this area.

The Bolton Street Upgrade was completed in March 2018 and this will assist traffic to move more freely in the area.

The Andrews Labor Government has started planning for North-East Link, the missing link in our road network to reduce congestion in Melbourne’s north, east and southeast. North-East Link will connect the north and southeast by providing the missing link between the Metropolitan Ring Road (M80) at Greensborough and the Eastern Freeway.

Once completed, North-East Link will significantly reduce congestion on local roads. The Environment Effects Statement for the North-East Link Project will help determine the current conditions and what requirements are needed for further operational changes across the network.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 623. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): What representations have been made to VicRoads in the last three years about the need to upgrade the pedestrian crossing at the Wallowa Road/St Helena Road/Aqueduct Road intersection and what plans, if any, are there to alleviate the problem.

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads advises me that the Banyule City Council manages the above local roads. You may wish to contact the council directly to seek the information you request.

**Education**

**12 629. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills (for the Minister for Education): How many emergencies and/or incidents were reported to the school security unit at the Department of Education and Training from schools in the Eltham electorate during —

- (1) 2015;
- (2) 2016; and
- (3) 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Schools are required to report incidents to the Department of Education and Training Security Services Unit that pose a risk to the safety of a student, parent, visitor or staff member. These include a wide range of types of incidents including motor vehicle collisions, fires, incidents resulting in damage to buildings, outbreaks of disease, floods, bomb threats, or behaviours that could lead to a potential risk to someone else. Importantly:

- reports are often allegations and they are not substantiated at the time of receipt, and
- the number of reports across all schools in Victoria has increased in recent years, due substantially to the Department emphasising to all schools the requirement to report.

In terms of incidents recorded by electorate, the above information is not stored or recorded in this manner and the production of such figures would require onerous manual work and a significant divergence of resources.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 630. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the upgrade of Bolton Street, Eltham, how much money, from August 2017 to March 2018 has VicRoads spent on various promotions through variable message sign displays, community update emails, social media and newspaper advertisements.

**ANSWER:**

The Andrews Labor Government has finished the Bolton Street upgrade, after locals waiting decades for the councils to do something about community concerns around traffic and safety in the area.

VicRoads worked closely with local traders and the community while works were being finished.

All communications with the community while this important upgrade was underway were undertaken within the project budget.

We know the road works were frustrating for the Bolton Street traders — but not as frustrating as another decade of gridlock.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 631. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to Bolton Street, Eltham, why was the decision made to completely close Bolton Street for night works from 4 March 2018 when the Minister had previously stated that due to limited lighting there were safety and traffic risks for workers undertaking works at night.

**ANSWER:**

The final component of works is asphalt works, which are usually undertaken at night under a full closure. Additional lighting was provided during the nightworks to ensure the safety of workers.

**Energy, environment and climate change**

**12 632. MR RICH-PHILLIPS** — To ask the Special Minister of State (for the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change): In relation to the mine shaft dug by Mr Bob Brown in the Dunolly area pursuant to a licence issued by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) —

- (1) who at the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) approved the destruction of the mine shaft;
- (2) what contact was made by DELWP with DEDJTR to ascertain who held a licence to dig the mine shaft;
- (3) on what dates did DELWP officers visit the mine site in an effort to contact Mr Brown prior to destroying the mine;
- (4) did DELWP attempt to contact Mr Brown by registered post, email or telephone prior to destroying the mine;
- (5) how was the compensation of \$270.00 to Mr Brown for his buried tools determined; and
- (6) why hasn't compensation been offered to Mr Brown in respect of the destruction of the mine shaft.

**ANSWER:**

The open mine shaft was located within the boundary of a planned burn scheduled for Autumn 2018 and was filled in as part of safety preparation works. The decision to fill the open shaft was made by senior officers from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) as the safety of fire fighters conducting planned burns is paramount.

DELWP has been in contact with the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) about the mine shaft since 2016. DEDJTR confirmed that the scale of works required a prospecting or mining licence and that neither of these licences had been issued for that site.

DELWP officers have visited the site regularly since 2015, with over 12 site visits made to the site in question. DELWP also contacts prospecting or mining licence holders as part of the planning process for planned burns. Had the appropriate licence been held by Mr Brown his contact details would have been available to DELWP staff to notify him.

Based on advice from Mr Brown, DELWP has offered to compensate Mr Brown \$270 for hand tools that were buried when filling in the shaft.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 639. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): In relation to the Easter celebration on Bolton Street, Eltham on 31 March 2018, who has been invited to attend from —

- (1) Banyule City Council;
- (2) Nillumbik Shire Council;
- (3) VicRoads;
- (4) Government Ministers;
- (5) local Members of Parliament;
- (6) community organisations; and
- (7) members of the public.

**ANSWER:**

The Bolton Street event was a community event for families in the area and everyone was welcome to attend.

**Roads and road safety**

**12 641. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture (for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety): How many fun days has VicRoads organised at the completion of road projects under the Andrews Government.

**ANSWER:**

VicRoads advises me that it assesses project events on a case-by-case basis.

**Training and skills**

**12 646. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: In relation to the Banyule-Nillumbik Tech school —

- (1) on what date will it open its doors to students;
- (2) how many staff will be employed for the latter half of 2018 when it opens; and
- (3) what is the cost of constructing and establishing the school.

**ANSWER:**

Tech Schools in Victoria fall within the portfolio responsibility of the Minister for Education.

**Training and skills**

**12 647. MS WOOLDRIDGE** — To ask the Minister for Training and Skills: What was the enrolment of students at the Melbourne Polytechnic in Greensborough, for Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and short courses, including Government funded and fee for service enrolments, in Semester Two, 2017.

**ANSWER:**

I am informed as follows:

Four years after it closed because of funding cuts by the previous Liberal Government the Greensborough campus of Melbourne Polytechnic was successfully reopened, returning skills and training to the people of Greensborough and north-east Melbourne.

The Andrews Labor Government is proud of its \$10 million investment to reopen the Greensborough campus which is focusing on three main areas including health and community services, business and entrepreneurship and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Melbourne Polytechnic's Greenborough campus is becoming a vibrant, multi-purpose community and education precinct.

Labor is making sure that the people of Greensborough and surrounding suburbs get the skills they need for the jobs they want.

The co-location of partners on the site will create significant opportunities and benefits for the community and Melbourne Polytechnic, attracting potential students to the site and offering a variety of opportunities for cross-pollination and industry experience for students already enrolled at Greensborough.

TAFE Institutes are not required to report commercially sensitive training activity by campus.

**Agriculture**

**12 654. MS DUNN** — To ask the Minister for Agriculture: In relation to the Regional Forest Agreements that are in place until 2020, can the Minister confirm if future logging plans include logging in closed or open water catchments.

**ANSWER:**

Limited timber harvesting is currently permitted in water catchments and is subject to a strict regulatory framework. Any changes to this regulatory framework fall within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change.