

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
WITHOUT NOTICE**

11 May to 25 May 2018

(Extract from book 7)

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By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

The ministry

(from 16 October 2017)

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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

**MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT — FIRST SESSION**

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Deputy President:

Mr K. EIDEH

Acting Presidents:

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

Leader of the Government:

The Hon. G. JENNINGS

Deputy Leader of the Government:

The Hon. J. L. PULFORD

Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O'SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

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

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁷ Resigned 9 February 2018

⁸ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁹ Appointed 12 October 2016

¹⁰ ASP until 16 January 2018

¹¹ Appointed 18 October 2017

¹² Appointed 21 February 2018

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

CONTENTS

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

11 MAY TO 25 MAY 2018

<i>Kangaroo pet food trial</i>	2281
<i>Major event ticketing</i>	2281
<i>Prison officer remuneration</i>	2282
<i>Beechworth Correctional Centre</i>	2282
<i>Youth justice system</i>	2282
<i>Public housing</i>	2283
<i>Parental healthcare rights</i>	2284
<i>Gambling regulation</i>	2284
<i>Firearm permits</i>	2285
<i>TAFE funding</i>	2285
<i>GOTAFE</i>	2285
<i>GOTAFE</i>	2286
<i>Beechworth Correctional Centre</i>	2286
<i>Corrections system</i>	2287
<i>Invasive animal control</i>	2287
<i>Brauer College</i>	2288
<i>Port rail shuttle</i>	2288
<i>Logging coupe planned burns</i>	2289
<i>Rubicon Valley logging</i>	2289
<i>Taxidermy regulation</i>	2289
<i>Offender electronic monitoring</i>	2290
<i>Solar energy</i>	2291
<i>Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre</i>	2291
<i>Child protection</i>	2292
<i>Offender electronic monitoring</i>	2292

WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Responses have been incorporated in the form provided to Hansard and received in the period shown.

11 May to 25 May 2018**Kangaroo pet food trial**

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 9 May 2018

RESPONSE:

Kangaroos are an important and integral part of Victoria's natural ecosystems and are protected under the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

In some areas of the state kangaroos are particularly abundant and there situations where kangaroos can cause damage to pasture, crops and biodiversity values or risks to human safety. In these situations, the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning can authorise the control of kangaroos under Authorities to Control Wildlife (ATCWs) to mitigate the damage they are causing.

In March 2014, the Kangaroo Pet Food Trial commenced in Victoria. The trial was not set up with the intention to control kangaroo numbers or to establish a viable commercial harvest industry. Rather, waste of kangaroo carcasses controlled under ATCWs where they are causing damage, that would otherwise be buried or left on site to decompose.

The trial was recently evaluated.

Following consideration of the findings of the trial evaluation and the results of Victoria's first kangaroo population survey, conducted last year, the Minister for energy, Environment and Climate Changes, the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP announced the extension of the trial for 12 months with no changes to trial areas.

The extension of the trial will allow time to assess whether kangaroo management activities under ATCWs and the trial are impacting on the health and sustainability of Victoria's kangaroo populations, and to see whether changes to compliance, monitoring and education will address the issues that arose. A second kangaroo population survey will also be conducted this year to track population trends and to inform future kangaroo management decisions.

Under the recent extension of the trial, some changes were made to the authorisation conditions to address some compliance and enforcement risks identified during the evaluation. This resulted in minor delays in the issuing of authorisations. These have now been applied and authorisations and tags are being issued. No further delays are expected.

In late 2018, the trial will again be evaluated to inform my decision as to whether kangaroo processing will continue in Victoria following 31 March 2019.

Major event ticketing

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Small Business
Asked on: 9 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

As part of a review of the Major Sporting Events Act 2009 undertaken by the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR), an extensive consultation process was undertaken with more than 70 varied organisations including sporting venues, cultural event venues, councils, sporting clubs/league, ticketing agencies, promoters, tourism industry and government agencies.

The stakeholders in question have not been conferred with to establish whether they are prepared to have their details released publicly. I understand DEDJTR is currently developing a process to seek this advice. Further information will be provided in due course.

Prison officer remuneration

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 10 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Department of Justice and Regulation does not make provision for bonus payments on achievement of service delivery outcomes.

Prison officers in the public system, along with all other members of the Victorian Public Service, may be eligible for an annual progression payment within their salary band if they achieve the performance standards set out in their Performance and Development Plan, in accordance with Clause 24 of the *Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2016*.

Performance payments for prison officers in private prisons are a matter for the private operator.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As indicated above, performance bonus payments are not paid to senior public prison officers for meeting service delivery outcomes.

Beechworth Correctional Centre

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 10 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Beechworth Correctional Centre was opened in February 2005 and, given the question does not specify a timeframe nor details of the alleged improper conduct, it is impractical for me to provide a response.

Youth justice system

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 10 May 2018

RESPONSE:

I am advised that:

The Youth Parole Board is an independent body established by section 442 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*. The board exercises jurisdiction over all young people sentenced by a court to a period of detention in a youth justice custodial centre. The board makes decisions concerning the granting of parole, variation or cancellation of parole and transfers to adult prison.

As outlined in the Youth Parole Board Annual Report 2016–17, the board makes decisions within a framework that balances the needs of the young person with community safety considerations. The board works closely with custodial staff and parole officers to assist young people involved with the youth-justice system to, address problems, smoothly transition into the community and successfully complete their parole period.

The Youth Parole Board has not provided advice to support the claims raised by the *Herald Sun* and subsequently, your question. The Youth Parole Board considers a wide variety of information, considering each case on its merits, including comments by the sentencing court and victim impact statements, reports from custodial staff, parole officers, psychologists and psychiatrists, medical practitioners and other professionals working with the young person in custody.

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with the job of keeping the community safe and holding young offenders to account. The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* clearly indicates there has been an increase in young offenders placed in custody and this is projected to continue as a result of tougher bail and sentencing reforms, which you and the Liberal Party attempted to scuttle.

The *Children and Justice Legislation Amendment (Youth Justice Reform) Act 2017* now requires the Youth Parole Board to be told about any critical incidents instigated by a young offender in custody, which may be taken into consideration when determining their eligibility for parole. In addition, the Board must notify Victoria Police when a young offender who has committed certain serious offences is released on parole.

In an inconvenient truth for the member, for the third quarter of 2017-18 there was a 57 per cent decrease in the number of incidents recorded across Parkville and Malmsbury Youth Justice Precincts. This data represents allegations and observed incidents. It does not reflect whether an allegation was substantiated.

I commend our youth justice staff for the important work they do to ensure the safety of young people and other workers, which is reflected in this decline in serious incidents.

Following the transfer of youth justice to the Department of Justice and Regulation, there has been a focus on ensuring the impact on young people and staff is appropriately considered when categorising incidents, which has resulted in more incidents such as all self-harm attempts and all assaults that not only result in admission to hospital, but have the potential to harm and are of serious intent. This was not the case under the previous Liberal government.

In fact, as the member should be well aware, the Liberal led parliamentary *Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria*, revealed your colleague Ms. Wooldridge changed the reporting system to hide serious incidents. This led to reduced public visibility of critical incidents and created a culture of underreporting within the youth justice system and to Victoria Police.

Public housing

Question asked by: Dr Ratnam
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 10 May 2018

RESPONSE:

The number of homes built with a given amount of funds could be directly influenced by decisions of the Greens to partner with the enemies of social housing in the Liberal Party to vote down vital redevelopments of social housing. If the Greens vowed not to partner with the Liberals in opposing social housing development in the Legislative Council, an estimate could be possible.

FURTHER RESPONSE:

I am informed that:

An accurate estimate is not available.

Parental healthcare rights

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 10 May 2018

RESPONSE:

I am informed that:

It is the responsibility of health practitioners to determine appropriate medical treatment for a patient, based on their expertise and experience. A health practitioner must then offer this treatment to their patients, and in the case of a child, their parent may consent to or refuse treatment.

A health practitioner is under no obligation to provide medical treatment that would be futile. This recognises that futile medical treatments may be onerous and cause unnecessary additional suffering for a patient.

Health practitioners are supported by hospital ethics committees to make appropriate decisions in what may be complex and difficult cases.

Palliative care is available across Victorian health services to assist health practitioners to provide quality end of life care, including pain management and comfort care, and support families and carers.

Gambling regulation

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Trade and Investment
Asked on: 10 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The new study into gambling and health announced on 24 April 2018 builds on previous studies undertaken in 2008 and 2014 and continues the Government's commitment to evidence-based responses to gambling harm.

The allocation of gaming machine entitlements well in advance of their expiration in 2022 will not have an impact on the Government's commitment to reducing gambling harm.

As has previously been advised, the reason for an early allocation of entitlements is to provide gaming businesses with the certainty required to make decisions about long-term investments. As 2022 draws nearer, investment in venues will continue to slow and venue operators will face difficulty borrowing to finance refurbishments or renovations. An early allocation will alleviate the commercial challenges for gaming businesses and will strengthen their ability to plan and invest for the future.

This is particularly important for regional and rural community clubs that are not-for-profit entities which provide important social and economic support and facilities for their communities.

In conjunction with the early allocation of gaming machine entitlements, the Government reviewed the harm minimisation measures that apply to gaming machines to ensure those measures are appropriate now and post-2022, having regard to emerging research and industry developments.

Following the review, the Government implemented new harm-minimisation measures in relation to gaming machines and improvements to the operation of existing measures.

Firearm permits

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 10 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Victoria Police advises that these items are not a registrable component of a firearm and Victoria Police's Licensing and Registration System does not capture this data.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Victoria Police advises that it identifies 'suppressors' and 'silencers' as being one and the same. Victoria Police further advises that for the period of 1 January 2013 to 30 April 2018 a total of 64 permits were issued by Victoria Police. A break-down of the number of permits issued per year for this period is provided below:

Year	Total number of permits issued
2013	0
2014	2
2015	10
2016	24
2017	27
2018 (to 30 April 2018)	1

Victoria Police advises that the increase in the number of permits issued from 2015 to 2017 is a result of professional hunters, vermin controllers and manufacturers providing sound justification for the issue of a permit.

TAFE funding

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE:

The Productivity Commission does not report a \$502 million underspend in 2016. The Report on Government Services (RoGS) reports \$698 million in Victorian Government own-sourced recurrent funding in 2016. This figure excludes Commonwealth sourced-funding, including the National Agreement for Skills and Workforce Development and other National Partnerships.

The actual expenditure for 2017-18 will be reported as part of the Department of Education and Training (DET) Annual Report in September 2018. The Productivity Commission is expected to release the ROGS report which includes 2017 training market data in February 2019.

GOTAFE

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE:

GOTAFE's number of FTE employees, as reported in its Annual Report, increased by 22 from 2016 to 2017.

I am advised that GOTAFE has no plans for a redundancy program.

GOTAFE

Question asked by: Ms Lovell
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Board of GOTAFE will lead the process for the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer, with the support of the Department of Education and Training.

This is priority action for the Government, Department of Education and Training and the Board, with the Board having commenced a thorough recruitment process.

The Department of Education and Training is supporting this process by having the Deputy Secretary, Higher Education and Skills Group, serve as a member of the selection panel.

Shortlisting of candidates is currently underway, and interviews are scheduled to commence by the end of May.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I am advised that there are no other senior vacancies at GOTAFE, with all executive roles currently filled by existing ongoing appointments.

GOTAFE's number of FTE employees, as reported in its Annual Report, increased by 22 from 2016 to 2017.

I am advised that GOTAFE has no plans for a redundancy program.

Beechworth Correctional Centre

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

As Minister for Corrections, I am from time to time made aware of investigations conducted under the *Ombudsman Act 1973* or other statutes, some of which may engage the *Protected Disclosure Act 2012*. At this point in time I understand that the confidentiality provisions in these Acts prevent me from providing information on these matters, apart from confirming that an investigation was conducted and a report has been provided.

However, I am currently seeking legal advice regarding any further information that can be disclosed.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I have no further information to provide on this matter, other than to reiterate what I stated during the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing, that I was advised of this investigation in correspondence dated 14 May 2018.

I am troubled that it is suggested that the existence of the report has been widely known for some considerable time, and trust that the honourable member will co-operate fully with any investigation into how he became aware of the existence of the report.

Corrections system

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I am advised that the investigations into each of those incidents have concluded.

All incidents in prison of a criminal nature are referred to Victoria Police and/or the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) for investigation. Furthermore, the Justice Assurance and Review Office (JARO), which is a business unit in the Department of Justice and Regulation (but separate from and independent of Corrections Victoria), provides an internal review and assurance function to advise the Secretary on the performance of the corrections system, as well as providing the Secretary with current, objective information on areas of risk, the adequacy of existing controls and opportunities for improvement. Corrections Victoria may also undertake internal investigations to review operational practice and procedures.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

At this point in time I understand that the confidentiality provisions within the *Ombudsman Act 1973*, *Protected Disclosure Act 2012* and *Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011* prevent me from providing details on investigations into conduct in prisons that are undertaken by Victoria's integrity bodies, where the investigation outcomes have not been made public by those bodies.

However, I am currently seeking legal advice on the information that can be disclosed about these types of investigations.

Invasive animal control

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE:

The declaration of the feral cat as an established pest animal is consistent with the Environment, Natural Resources and Regional Development Committee's final report into the inquiry into the control of invasive animals on Crown land. The declaration is intended to be published in the Victorian Government Gazette on 26 July 2018 and will come into immediate effect.

The differences between wild dogs and feral cats means that the declaration cannot be exactly the same, as unlike the management of wild dogs, there are significant animal welfare considerations to ensure that there are no inadvertent killings of roaming domestic cats.

Under this declaration hunters will be able to destroy feral cats if they are an accredited volunteer shooter who are part of organisations such as the Sporting Shooters Association Australia (Victoria) and are participating in targeted feral cat control operations on public land that are coordinated by the department or Parks Victoria.

Brauer College

Question asked by: Mr Purcell
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE:

The Andrews Labor Government is committed to making Victoria the 'Education State'. This has been demonstrated through the record-breaking investment in school infrastructure in the last four State Budgets, allocating more than \$3.8 billion to build, upgrade and maintain schools across the state. Central to this, is having the right school infrastructure in place to meet the needs of growing communities.

The Labor Government has now provided \$4.6 million to upgrade school infrastructure across Brauer Secondary College. This compares to a mere \$371 000 in minor maintenance works under the former government.

I am advised that the upgrade is being designed to enrolments of 850 students and that this allows for some growth into the future compared to their current enrolments of 726 in the current 2018 school year. The school's enrolment has remained stable over the last five years and is not expected to exceed 850 students by 2022— that is, the timespan of the school's current Asset Management Plan.

The Department of Education and Training uses a standardised, transparent and equitable methodology to determine the facility requirements of Victorian government schools using the facility entitlement schedules. As per these schedules, the school has excess space of teaching and non-teaching spaces based on its long-term enrolment needs. One of the objectives of the capital works program is to address excess space when presented because it creates a drain on a school's ongoing resources.

I am advised that the planned capital works program at Brauer College includes the demolition of five buildings, which have been assessed to be in very poor condition, including the current Block E (classrooms), Tech Building, Wellbeing Centre Building, VCE Common Room Building and a Games Room Building. The school will have more than sufficient space to deliver key activities that were previously delivered in the current footprint in its upgraded buildings. The design of the project has included careful consideration of the need to retain some buildings that are in excess of the schedules including an Australian Technical Centre building and a number of other existing buildings in good condition.

The Doctors in Secondary Schools Program has its own purpose-built relocatable building and will not be affected by the removal of those buildings identified for demolition.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Port rail shuttle

Question asked by: Ms Truong
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 22 May 2018

RESPONSE:

The Port Rail Shuttle Network project aims to take trucks off roads by connecting the Port of Melbourne to metropolitan freight hubs using the existing rail network.

The Victorian and Commonwealth governments have allocated up to \$58 million for the project. Funding will be available to upgrade rail connections and improve terminal access on public land to help private industry establish port rail shuttle services.

The process to date has received strong interest from companies able to deliver the outcomes sought by the Government. While the commercially confidential Request For Proposal process is still in progress, I cannot comment on individual bids or applicants.

Logging coupe planned burns

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 23 May 2018

RESPONSE:

VicForests advises that it did not attend a meeting on 7 May 2018 with representatives of the Department Health and Human Services and other government agencies regarding air quality concerns caused by planned burns in State Forests.

Emergency Management Victoria has well established procedures in place to manage significant or prolonged events where smoke or other air emissions have the potential to impact on community health.

These procedures include coordination arrangements amongst multiple departments and agencies including the Department Health and Human Services and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Rubicon Valley logging

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 23 May 2018

RESPONSE:

The Land Conservation Council (LCC) in its 1994 review recommendations, identified a number areas including the Rubicon Valley in which the primary management would be to protect the specific historic values but in which other uses, such as timber harvesting, would be permitted,

The LCC's recommendations are acknowledged in the Central Highland Forest Management Plan 1998.

VicForests is aware of the various measures (e.g buffers) that are required to protect specific historic values in the Rubicon Valley including limits to the maximum areas that can be harvested over specific time periods. There is no definition of 'limited timber harvesting' in the Rubicon Valley as comprising a particular silvicultural technique such as 'selective logging'.

Taxidermy regulation

Question asked by: Mr Bourman
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 23 May 2018

RESPONSE:

I am advised that deer are not the only non-native species requiring a Wildlife Taxidermy Licence to mount specimens — these requirements also extend to non-native quail, pheasants and partridges which are also defined as wildlife in the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

It is not a simple exercise to compare licence fees between different states and territories as licence entitlements and requirements vary greatly. In Victoria, licence fees are set to recover the costs associated with administering and managing the licensing system and the costs of compliance and enforcement of the regulations, in accordance with the government's cost recovery guidelines. The fees for a Wildlife Taxidermy were set in accordance with these guidelines.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning will review the requirement for a deer taxidermy licence under the *Wildlife Act* when the next opportunity arises to amend the *Wildlife Regulations 2013*.

Offender electronic monitoring

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 23 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The department currently has contracts with two providers for electronic monitoring technology and one contract for the provision of mobile network telecommunications. All contracts have been extended until the end of 2018. The terms of a new contract are currently under negotiation, and as such it would be inappropriate for me to comment further.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As of 24 May 2018, there were 18 offenders on the post sentence scheme residing in the community who are subject to electronic monitoring.

There are 77 offenders who are residing in Corrections run residential facilities, such as Corella Place. These facilities accommodate the more serious offenders on the scheme, where offenders are supervised 24 hours a day.

There are a number of types of electronic monitoring devices for offenders residing in the community and at our residential facilities.

It is important to note that electronic monitoring is just one of many mechanisms that are used to manage offenders, which also include strict reporting requirements, curfews and treatment orders as imposed by the courts.

Offender electronic monitoring

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 23 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The high risk offenders on the post sentence scheme are ordered to reside at Corrections run residential facilities, such as Corella Place. These offenders are supervised 24 hours a day.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Corrections Victoria takes the risk associated with tracking sex offenders very seriously. It is fully aware of the risks should a network outage occur, and has established management arrangements in place to deal with such risks — noting that the highest risk sex offenders are routinely required to reside in staffed residential facilities. Corrections Victoria is in the process of negotiating a new electronic monitoring contract with inbuilt risk-mitigation processes (an example of which could be the diversion of the signal to the best available network), which would further reduce the risks due to network outages.

Offender electronic monitoring

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 23 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

Corrections Victoria's electronic monitoring of offenders currently does make use of satellite technology. Electronic monitoring is, however, just one of many tools used to manage offenders, with most offenders also subject to strict reporting requirements, curfews and treatment orders imposed by the courts. Many are also required to live in staffed residential facilities. Corrections Victoria has established incident management arrangements in place to deal with issues affecting the electronic monitoring network.

Solar energy

Question asked by: Mr O'Sullivan
Directed to: Minister for Trade and Investment
Asked on: 23 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Victorian Government supports the economic development of the Goulburn Valley and the important role of agriculture in supporting local communities, employment and food production. In *Victoria's Regional Statement* (2015) the Andrews Labor Government recognised that the food and fibre sector underpins the Goulburn region's economy and the Goulburn Murray Water Connections project. The regional statement also notes that 'prime agricultural land' is a priority for the area.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

For this reason, the Minister for Planning agreed to the request from the Greater Shepparton City Council to decide on four applications for solar farm proposals mentioned by the Member for Northern Victoria. The Minister for Planning established a Planning Panel to carefully examine these proposals. Public hearings commenced on 14 May 2018 and will conclude on 28 May 2018. The Public Hearings are open for all members of the local communities to have their say on these proposals. The Panel will submit its report to the Minister mid-year, which will help to inform his decisions on the applications.

The Planning Panel will also advise the Minister on how to assess future proposals for solar farms in Victoria. He will work with his colleagues in the energy, agriculture and water portfolios to develop clear guidance to support future development of the solar industry that strikes a sensible balance between agriculture and renewable energy, generation. Key stakeholders, such as the energy sector, the Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Farmers Federation will be consulted in preparation of draft guidelines for solar farms. The draft guidelines will be available for public comment in the last quarter of 2018.

Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 24 May 2018

RESPONSE:

I am informed that:

Violent and anti-social behaviour that threatens the safety and security of youth justice centres is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All incidents of alleged criminal behaviour in youth justice are reported to Victoria Police.

It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the specific details of the incident, given the matter has been referred to Victoria Police for investigation. What I can say was that the incident was resolved quickly by our hard-working youth justice staff and I am advised that neither police or ambulance services were not required to attend the incident.

I would like to advise the member that the report of the incident in the *Herald Sun* contained several inaccuracies. I can inform the member that, the visiting team was not from Bendigo.

The Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct has been participating in a regular AFL football league program run by Reclink Australia, since 2001. This includes the period of the previous Liberal government when Mary Wooldridge was the former minister.

The program aims to engage young people experiencing disadvantage, including at-risk youth, to participate in sport and foster ties with the community. The program has been successful, so much so that in 2017 the Turnbull Government provided \$2 million to support Reclink Australia's National Program which will provide similar team based and individual sport and recreational programs across the country.

Even the federal member for Flinders, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, is a big fan of the program and attended the Reclink Football Grand Final series in St Kilda to make this funding announcement.

I understand the member has made recent comments in the media about the incident and implied that it occurred due to the inexperience of staff I would like to take this opportunity to remind the member that it was the previous Liberal government that slashed 600 jobs from the Department of Human Services as well as 20 youth justice staff.

Access to the program by young people involves a comprehensive risk assessment prior to each game to assess which young people are suitable to participate.

Through the Andrews Labor Government's overhaul of the youth justice system, we have provided over \$1 billion and created 286 new jobs in the youth justice system and provided staff with the tools and training to do their jobs effectively.

Child protection

Question asked by: Ms Crozier
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 24 May 2018

RESPONSE:

I am informed that:

Unlike the previous Coalition Government, our government has regularly published allocation rate data as well as a number of other performance measures on the Department of Health and Human Services's website, both by quarter and annually.

The Member should welcome the degree of transparency afforded by this Government given it was not the practice of her own government to do the same.

The allocation rate as at the last Friday of April 2018 was 85%. This contrasts with the allocation rate we inherited at November 2014 of 80.7%.

This is a direct result of the investment and reforms implemented by our government including the biggest-ever expansion of our child protection workforce.

The 2018-19 Budget provided continued funding for more than 450 child protection practitioner positions. As practitioners are recruited and skilled up to manage a caseload, the allocation rate is expected to improve. The budget also, provided an increase in case capacity for community agencies that will assist more than 400 children. Further investment in early intervention and prevention services will further stabilise overall demand on child protection.

Offender electronic monitoring

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 24 May 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The initial contract was extended in May 2016 to allow for a full single tender to be undertaken for the range of electronic monitoring employed by Corrections Victoria.

It is important to note that our management of offenders isn't reliant on one type of electronic monitoring. High risk offenders on the post sentence scheme are ordered to reside at Corrections run residential facilities, such as Corella place. These offenders are supervised 24 hours a day.