

**PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA**

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(HANSARD)**

**LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

**FIRST SESSION**

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS  
WITHOUT NOTICE**

**25 May to 8 June 2018**

**(Extract from book 8)**

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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)

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

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

# participating members

### Legislative Council select committees

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

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

### Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

**House Committee** — (*Council*): The President (*ex officio*), Mr Eideh, Ms Lovell, Mr Mulino and Mr Young. (*Assembly*): The Speaker (*ex officio*), Mr J. Bull, Mr Crisp, Mrs Fyffe, Mr Staikos, Ms Suleyman and Mr Thompson.

**Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Committee** — (*Council*): Mr Ramsay and Ms Symes. (*Assembly*): Mr Hibbins, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Richardson, Ms Thomson and Mr Wells.

**Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee** — (*Council*): 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

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**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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**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

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

**28 May to 8 June 2018**

**Nurse-to-patient ratios**

**Question asked by:** Mr Purcell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 8 March 2018

**RESPONSE:**

The Safe Patient Care (Nurse to Patient and Midwife to Patient Ratios) Act 2015 (the Act) delivered on a key Government election commitment to enshrine into legislation nurse to patient and midwife to patient ratios (ratios) that were previously contained in the Nurses and Midwives (Victorian Public Sector) (Single Interest Employers) Enterprise Agreement 2012-2016 (the Enterprise Agreement).

The ratios that are now prescribed in the Act closely replicate ratios that were prescribed in the Enterprise Agreement. The Act prescribes four levels of hospitals that reflect hospital service capability, as well as three categories of hospitals for emergency department ratios. The composition and specificity of ratios for particular wards vary across different hospital levels and categories, but the same ratios apply for all rural and metropolitan hospitals within each level and category.

A ratio is a minimum requirement and does not preclude the operator of a hospital staffing a ward with additional nurses or midwives beyond the number required by the ratio if there is a clinical need to do so. This option can be utilised by operators of rural and regional hospitals when staffing numbers are assessed to be insufficient for the workload that exists at any point in time.

**Small Business Ministerial Council**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ondarchie  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business  
**Asked on:** 10 May 2018

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

I refer to my response provided to the Member in the House on 10 May 2018. Further, I would like to acknowledge and thank all members of the Small Business Ministerial Council for their contributions and representations.

One matter raised by the Council is the impact of payroll tax on small businesses across Victoria. Upon this representation, the Andrews Labor Government brought forward payroll tax threshold increases, \$625 000 from 1 July 2017 and soon an increase to \$650 000 from 1 July 2018. As part of this year's state budget, the Labor Government has further reduced the payroll tax rate for eligible regional businesses from 3.65 per cent to 2.425 per cent from 1 July 2018.

The Council has also raised concerns related to the regulatory burden faced by small businesses. Our government understands the barriers to growth that businesses may face due to delays for information and approvals. That is why we established our Small Business Regulation Review program, which was tasked to determine pathways to reduce such burdens on small businesses.

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

I reject the premise of the Member's question.

### Child protection

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

#### RESPONSE:

I am informed that:

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%.

The number of unallocated cases as at 1 June 2018 was 2364 compared to 2351 as at 30 November 2014. Since that time there has been significant growth in the number of children with an allocated worker due to the reforms and investment of the Andrews Labor Government.

The allocation rate has always been published as a percentage including during the entire time of the previous government. Because the number of cases unallocated can change by the minute, the rate is a more effective representation of the efficiency of the department and gives the community a greater understanding of its operations.

Our Government has increased transparency by publishing the allocation rate quarterly, something the previous government failed to do.

It is important to note that when a case is unallocated to a primary worker there is still a senior team member who has oversight and responsibility for the case.

The improvement in the allocation rate 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 continue to improve. 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:

I am advised that procurement began on 18 February 2016.

### Plastic bag ban

**Question asked by:** Ms Springle  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 24 May 2018

#### RESPONSE:

Following the Premier's commitment to banning single-use, lightweight plastic bags in October last year, we immediately launched a comprehensive, three-month consultation targeting retailers, community groups and households in Victoria about the design and scope of a plastic bag ban. We haven't rushed this process because we are committed to designing a ban that will be effective and lasting.

Banning plastic bags is not our only focus. The consultation also sought views about approaches to reduce other plastic litter, including food and beverage packaging, straws and balloons.

The Victorian community clearly cares deeply about these issues, as we received over 8000 individual submissions. It has taken time to review all these submissions. We will soon publish a report that will summarise what we heard from Victorians and outline our next steps to reduce the impacts of plastics on the Victorian environment.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change committed, along with other state, territory and federal environment ministers, to eliminating the use of microbeads in personal care, cosmetic and cleaning products in Australia by 1 July 2018. A voluntary industry phase-out is progressing well, with 94 per cent of these products now microbead-free. The Andrews Labor Government remains committed to eliminating microbeads, and the Minister will advocate for a national ban if the voluntary approach is not effective.

The Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change continues to advocate strongly for effective national action to reduce the impact of plastic pollution. National Environment Ministers recently endorsed a target of 100 per cent of Australian packaging to be recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025 or earlier. We also agreed to develop targets for recycled content in packaging.

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring that our policies and plans to tackle waste and plastic pollution are supported by the necessary investment. The last four state budgets included over \$80 million for waste and resource recovery initiatives—the largest ever allocation by any Victorian government. This includes funding for programs to develop markets for recovered resources, increase investment in resource recovery infrastructure, and educate communities and businesses about waste.

### **Snobs Creek logging**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

I am aware that some members of the local community and other stakeholders have raised concerns with respect to timber harvesting in the Snobs Creek area. Timber harvesting is a permitted forest use in the State forest areas around the Snobs Creek hatchery. VicForests' timber harvesting operations must however comply with the mandatory regulatory requirements to protect forest values including, but not limited to, the conservation of soil and water assets. The Snobs Creek corridor for example has buffers to protect the watercourse and these are included in a Special Protection Zone and Historic Reserve.

VicForests has been harvesting timber in the Snobs Creek catchment over the last 10 years. VicForests places coupes on their Timber Release Plan (TRP) to assess their suitability for harvesting. VicForests has a formal process of public consultation in the development of a TRP. This is in addition to actively engaging with local communities about its current and future operations. I encourage local communities to continue to engage with VicForests on any matter including, proposed and actual harvesting operations.

VicForests is aware that the Snobs Creek Hatchery is an important asset to Victoria and that it has particular water quality requirements. More than a million trout were released in Victoria in 2017 and most of these fish were grown at the Victorian Fisheries Authority's Snobs Creek Hatchery. VicForests is working together with the hatchery to ensure water assets are protected.

### West Gate tunnel project

**Question asked by:** Ms Truong  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

**RESPONSE:**

The Western Distributor Authority (WDA) is responsible for the West Gate Tunnel Project on behalf of the Victorian Government.

An ambient air quality monitoring program for the project has been established and air quality reports for most of 2017 were published as part of the Environment Effects Statement process. Monthly reports up to March 2018 have also been published for the community to access.

Monthly results will continue to be published online on a regular basis, once data is available from the stations and has been validated by the certified, independent specialists that operate the air quality stations.

The Environmental Performance Requirements for the project state that the results be made publicly available on a website related to the project or through the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) AirWatch website on a monthly basis. The results have been published on the project website in line with that requirement.

Results are available for the five existing stations with a sixth station being established at Millers Road, Brooklyn, in consultation with EPA. The results from this station will also be published once it is installed, and starts collecting data in the coming months when a location suitable to the EPA is finalised.

We want to ensure the community can access readily understood information and the West Gate Tunnel Project team will continue to make every effort to provide clear air quality results for the community, in addition to the live air quality data they can already find at EPA AirWatch for representative air quality stations.

The project team is also presently developing an interactive web page to assist with presentation of this material for the public in a simple manner.

### Dja Dja Wurrung parks management

**Question asked by:** Mr Young  
**Directed to:** Special Minister of State  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

**RESPONSE:**

The Dja Dja Wurrung draft Joint Management Plan is the second such plan to be prepared in Victoria. The Gunaikurnai Joint Management Plan was the first plan of its kind to be developed in Victoria. Both plans are due to be finalised in the coming months.

The Dja Dja Wurrung plan is for the parks and reserves appointed for the purposes of joint-management under the Dja Dja Wurrung Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA). The appointed lands are: Hepburn Regional Park; Greater Bendigo National Park; Kooyoorra State Park; Wehla Nature Conservation Reserve; Paddys Ranges State Park and Kara Kara National Park.

Key objectives guiding the development of the joint management plan include:

- recognising, valuing, promoting and incorporating Dja Dja Wurrung culture, knowledge, skills and decision-making processes;
- conserving, protecting and enhancing natural and cultural values;
- quality experiences, services and information that benefits the community needs of all Victorians; and
- widespread community support.

The joint management plan has been developed in line with relevant government legislation and is currently open for a mandatory two month public consultation period (running from 19 April 2018 to 18 June 2018).

Significant stakeholder engagement was undertaken in late 2017 with a variety of park users and stakeholders to inform the content of the draft plan.

This engagement is evidenced by the various actions and strategies within the joint management plan that propose collaboration between the Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners and specific interest groups.

A number of Community Information Sessions were held to support public consultation on the joint management plan. The opportunity to provide feedback on the plan has been promoted through various media and communications outlets.

All park user groups and stakeholders continue to have access to the parks and reserves. Some minor changes are proposed in relation to where certain activities may be undertaken to provide for the protection of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage.

These changes are clearly identified in the draft joint management plan at the executive summary in the strategy document and in the maps.

These changes are consistent with the principles of joint management and serve to provide greater surety and clarity for those undertaking relevant activities on public land by removing potential risks for Dja Dja Wurrung cultural heritage.

I encourage any person or group that has feedback on the joint management plan to submit it through the designated channels. All feedback will be collated and reviewed consistent with relevant legislation and guiding principles for the plan's development.

### **Residential care facilities**

**Question asked by:** Ms Crozier  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

I am advised that the media article on which the member's question has been based does not reflect the orders made by the court and contained a number of inaccuracies. As I have previously told the member she should not believe everything she reads in the media.

In 2015, the Andrews Labor Government allocated funding to increase staff in residential care units including for stand-up overnight staff this was further expanded in the 2018-19 budget. Funding was also made available for spot audits of residential care facilities.

The Andrews Labor Government has acted to enhance safety for children and young people and is getting on with the task of reforming the child protection and out of home care system.

### **GOTAFE**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

As I have previously advised, GOTAFE has no plans for a redundancy program.

GOTAFE, like many organisations, monitors and manages its staffing levels.

In particular, GOTAFE is working to align its resources to training delivery in areas of regional industry demand and areas of significant investment through Andrews Labor Government initiatives in training and skills, including Free TAFE for Priority Courses.

## TAFE funding

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Asked on:** 25 May 2018

### RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Free TAFE for Priority Courses will give more Victorians the chance to study at TAFE. This initiative will reduce the financial barrier to training for some of our most vulnerable students, by encouraging them into training that is aligned to priority occupations for the Victorian economy and community. The investment of \$172 million will make 30 priority non-apprenticeship courses and 18 pre-apprenticeship courses in these growth industries tuition fee-free. An initial 20 non-apprenticeship courses have been announced and a further 10 will be confirmed shortly following consultation with industry.

Free TAFE covers tuition fees for the duration of a student's course, which comprises the majority of fees that students face throughout their studies. Students will still be required to pay all other fees, such as for materials and student services.

This is analogous to government school funding policy whereby additional items that the student consumes or takes possession of (e.g. tools, books, uniform etc.) are covered by the parent.

For example, a student undertaking the Diploma of Nursing will purchase their own medical kit that they will take with them when they are working in one of our high-quality hospitals.

There are other fees that students will pay, such as a Student Services Fee. This is not course-specific but is there for students to contribute to the cost of providing such services as counselling, welfare services, learning support, and study support. These other fees, such as for materials and student services, vary across the 16 public providers and across the range of courses under Free TAFE. Also, these fees can vary depending on whether the student is studying part-time or full time.

Under the Government's plan, students will save between hundreds and thousands of dollars, meaning that their hard-earned savings will be available to pay the rent.

Embarking on training is a serious consideration for a lot of students who have to pay for courses.

By way of example, according to a recent interview with the ABC, "Ms Scarcella, 29, thought long and hard before committing to a two-year Diploma of Nursing at Holmesglen TAFE because it was about \$12 000 up-front."

Ms Scarcella had to use all her savings to pay for the course. (ABC News, 'How to take advantage of free TAFE classes in 2019', 2 May 2018 <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-02/free-tafe-course-student/9716470> )

As I mentioned, course tuition fees for government-subsidised students vary, depending on the course and TAFE they choose. For example:

- a student undertaking a Certificate III in Agriculture will save between approximately \$2500 to \$4600;
- a student undertaking a Certificate III in Individual Support will save between approximately \$1000 to \$3000;
- a student undertaking a Certificate IV in Building and Construction (Building) will save between approximately \$1350 to \$4750; and
- students undertaking a pathway into an apprenticeship will save between approximately \$500 to \$2000.

### RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

It is important to note that all communications and advertising campaigns are developed and conducted in accordance with the relevant whole-of-government guidelines and processes.

As with previous years, the Department and TAFE Institutes will disclose government advertising expenditure in their annual reports, in line with reporting requirements issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

### Corrections system

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

#### RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

Corrections Victoria has a range of measures in place to keep our prison system a safe environment for prisoners and staff, as demonstrated by the discovery and confiscation of weapons and contraband. Virtually all of the items which contribute to the 'edged weapons' category are fashioned from every-day items found in the prison.

#### RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As noted above, Corrections Victoria has a range of measures in place to keep our prison system a safe environment for prisoners and staff.

These detection measures, which help to minimise the introduction of contraband into prisons, include x-rays, metal detection, extensive searches, and intelligence operations.

Prison managers across the State are acutely aware of the need to employ a range of operational measures at their disposal to maintain the safety of their prisons.

### Registered training organisations

**Question asked by:** Ms Wooldridge  
**Directed to:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

#### RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The \$304 million in additional funding announced for government-subsidised training in the 2018-19 Budget will enable TAFEs, Learn Local and private providers to deliver more than 30 000 additional enrolments in the courses our economy and community need most.

Following the 2018-19 Budget announcement, the Department will shortly announce a process for training providers to apply for additional commencements in the 2018 calendar year. This process will be similar to the process for additional allocations that was run in 2017.

#### RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As I noted in my response in the house, I seek any further information and documentation from yourself regarding these matters so that you can be provided with a fulsome response.

#### FURTHER RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The Department, my office and I speak regularly with key stakeholders and registered training organisations regarding government initiatives, including initiatives announced in the 2018-19 Victorian State Budget.

**Corrections Victoria**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

The information you have about this incident is incorrect; I am advised that, on 1 June 2018 in the County Court cells, a prisoner was observed harming himself, and staff were required to restrain him from further self-harm. An ambulance was called and the prisoner was subsequently escorted to hospital.

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

Under this government the safety of prison officers, whether it be in the prison system or in the courts, is of paramount importance.

That is why we have invested in a number of areas to combat the risk of violence in the corrections system including:

- Comprehensive training for staff;
- Careful analysis of risks;
- An emphasis on dynamic security; and,
- Access to equipment such as capsicum spray, CCTV and body-worn cameras.

In terms of the court system the previous WorkSafe investigation was finalised on 13 February 2018 following some minor revisions to operating procedures, which were subsequently approved by WorkSafe.

**TAFE funding**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Training and Skills  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

My office has been in contact with a number of stakeholders, including ACEVic, regarding 2018-19 Victorian State Budget initiatives.

**FURTHER RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

The Department has had a number of discussions with representatives of ACE Vic and providers regarding Free TAFE.

Through Skills First, this Government has signalled its strong support of TAFE Institutes and the central role they play in the VET system in Victoria. This does not mean that Learn Local organisations are otherwise excluded from the VET system. Our Learn Local organisations will continue to play a major role in Victoria's training system, and the Victorian Government will continue to support this important sector.

In particular, the Government through the ACFE Board provides subsidies for pre-accredited training programs for people whose current or past life circumstances present barriers to training. The ACFE Board made grants totalling approximately \$26.8 million in 2016-17 for pre-accredited training and associated programs such as the Capacity and Innovation Fund, which supports local projects that address the learning needs of local communities. In fact, this Government increased the hourly pre-accredited subsidy rate from \$7.19 per hour to \$8.20 in 2016, which represented the first increase for many years despite Learn Locals facing rising cost pressures to continue to deliver high-quality training.



Indeed, within the overall budget is the continued commitment and support for a range of initiatives to which Learn Local RTOs have exclusive or preferential access:

- Learn Locals will continue to be able to offer eligibility exemptions to learners to up to 15 per cent of their students.
- Together with TAFEs, Learn Locals continue to have exclusive access to Skills First Reconnect to help the most disengaged learners enter/re-enter training.
- In addition to the continued commitment to concession reimbursement for eligible learners and fee waivers for indigenous learners under Skills First, Learn Locals have also been included in fee waiver arrangements introduced in 2018 for young people under the age of 22 that have been, or are currently, subject to Child Protection and Youth Justice Orders through the Skills First Youth Access Initiative.

In 2018, the Government also introduced a 20 per cent regional loading for pre-accredited training to assist regional Learn Locals to deliver high quality training to their local communities.

The Government's commitment to and trust in Learn Local RTOs is also recognised in the sector sharing exclusive self-referral/eligibility assessment of Asylum Seekers on Safe Haven Enterprise and Temporary Protection Visas. This has resulted in a significant increase in enrolments for a number of Learn Locals that have worked with these communities.

There are also increased opportunities for Learn Locals in supporting disadvantaged learners through the provision of pathways into further education and training. This is the greatest strength of the sector and an opportunity many Learn Locals are already working towards in partnership with TAFEs and their local communities.

It is important to note that the Government is investing an additional \$304 million for extra training to meet industry demand for trained graduates. This investment will fund TAFEs, Learn Locals and private training organisations to deliver more than 30 000 additional enrolments in the courses our economy and community need most.

But the Government is providing more than just training. Skills First is a commitment to a contestable, but more managed and integrated training and TAFE system. Under Skills First, the Government has:

- introduced more accountable contracts for Government funded training;
- restored supplementary funding for TAFEs;
- introduced a new industry-focused funded course list;
- established new subsidy rates for quality training; and
- established new targeted funding streams:
  - Workforce Training Innovation Fund
  - Regional Specialist Training Fund
  - Expanded Reconnect program.

**Murray Basin rail project**

**Question asked by:** Mr Ramsay  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**RESPONSE:**

I am advised that:

The Murray Basin Rail Project is currently within budget.

Work on stage two of the Murray Basin Rail Project is largely complete, with trains running on the Mildura line and the reopened Maryborough to Ararat line.

V/Line is overseeing the completion of works, including inspecting the works completed to date.

**Murray Basin rail project**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Sullivan  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**RESPONSE:**

I am advised that:

Work on stage two of the Murray Basin Rail Project is largely complete, with trains running on the Mildura line.

V/Line is overseeing the completion of works, including inspecting the works to date. If there are any issues with individual sleepers these will be addressed, however there have been no significant faults identified or reported.

Feedback from the freight industry and key stakeholders on the delivery of stage two of the Murray Basin Rail has indicated that delivery of stages 3 and 4 of the Murray Basin Rail Project needs to be coordinated with the Ballarat Line Upgrade, funded through the Regional Rail Revival program, to ensure continued access to the Ports of Geelong and Melbourne.

Given the above, V/Line is reconsidering future staging options for the remainder of the Murray Basin Rail Project. This will ensure that both the Murray Basin Rail project and the Ballarat Line Upgrade are coordinated during delivery to manage the impact on the movement of freight and passenger trains.

**National disability insurance scheme**

**Question asked by:** Dr Carling-Jenkins  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

I can advise that Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) has not received any reports of scams similar to that raised by Dr Carling-Jenkins.

However, Australian consumer affairs regulators are aware of the potential risks to vulnerable consumers associated with the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and have been actively working to provide information to support consumers.

Since 2016, the Education and Information Advisory Committee (EIAC) of Consumer Affairs agencies in Australia and New Zealand has been focussing on raising awareness of consumer rights in relation to the goods and services provided to consumers with disability. This has included a focussed national campaign to target industry

education through explaining the obligations of businesses supplying goods or services to consumers with disability and the compliance expectations that enforcement agencies have. CAV has participated in this campaign in 2017 and a further iteration is scheduled for later in 2018.

Since 2017, a working group within the Compliance & Dispute Resolution Advisory Committee (CDRAC) of Consumer Affairs agencies in Australia and New Zealand has been leading a project to ensure a nationally coordinated response to issues impacting consumers with disability, particularly those managing and receiving goods and services under the NDIS.

CAV has participated in this project, which has resulted in the mapping of a number of complaint escalation pathways available to consumers, depending on whether the matter relates to concerns about a provider, a complaint about a good or service provided, or suspected scam, abuse or fraudulent behaviour.

The purpose of these escalation pathways is to determine at a high level each agency's responsibility relating to NDIS complaints and who is the best to contact for information.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and the Quality and Safeguards Commission will be primarily responsible for identifying and addressing issues arising in the market. However, given the staged implementation of the NDIS, the Commonwealth and states and territories have put in place a number of agreements to ensure that the current quality and safeguard measures remain in place until the end of the 1 July 2019 transition period.

The CAV website ([consumer.vic.gov.au](http://consumer.vic.gov.au)) also contains information specifically for consumers with disabilities, as well as links to resources available from the NDIA and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.

#### **RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

I can advise that the Minister for Disability Services and the Department of Health and Human Services would be happy to discuss further (in a confidential manner) the particulars of this case and the advocate involved.

In addition the Minister for Consumer Affairs and CAV would be happy to receive further information (in a confidential manner) about the particulars of the case in order to consider how further information can be provided to the community (through the CAV website) about scams relating to the NDIS.

The Victorian Government is committed to maintaining and strengthening a robust disability advocacy sector during and after transition to the NDIS. Through the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program, annual recurrent funding of \$3 million is provided to 24 organisations.

As part of the 2018-19 State Budget, \$13.7 million will be provided to promote inclusion and support continued transition to the NDIS. This includes an investment over two years to strengthen the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program and provide support to 2000 people a year.

Victorian advocacy organisations can support people with disability and their families to navigate the NDIS and tackle discrimination on a range of issues including consumer affairs.

#### **Public housing renewal program**

**Question asked by:** Dr Ratnam  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 5 June 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

I am advised that:

No the figures are not correct. Nor has our policy been framed on the 16-year-old Kensington project. The Greens have relied on false information in their failed fearmongering campaign against this urgent, essential project to build more new social housing for people in need.

That's why VCOSS is appalled at your revocation motions against public housing projects. That's why the Council to Homeless Persons and the Victorian Public Tenants Association have opposed your actions in relation to these projects.

Instead of listening to the experts on the front line of homelessness, or the tenant voice that represents those living in appalling conditions, or the multiple Auditor-General's reports that Call for more investment and more homes for the today's tenant cohort, or your own Parliamentary Inquiry Report that after 10 months, 172 submissions and 61 findings and recommendations did not call for delay, let alone revocation of the project, you have desperately seized upon false information that was considered unfit for public release due to its inaccuracy.

The Kensington Housing Project Evaluation that you quote from was never finalised or accepted by the department, prior to the election of the government. It compared the land value of a project site of almost 5 hectares to the value of individual completed homes. This is not an accurate method of comparison for development site valuation. So the figures you quote and the analysis you base your questions on are not correct, and indeed meaningless.

I refer you to page 96 of the report of the Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into the Public Housing Renewal Program which states that the Valuer-General valued the land at \$5.5 million and that the final sale price was just under \$6 million. The site was sold at full market value and every dollar raised spent on social housing.

The Government looks forward to delivering high quality 21st century social housing for the people in our community who are tenants of these rundown unacceptable estates. We look forward to building better, diverse, successful communities.

We look forward to the Greens Party ending their practice of playing politics with people's lives.

### **Logging coupe planned burns**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Small Business  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

#### **RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

The State Smoke Framework 2016, developed by Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), ensures that relevant agencies work effectively with each other and the community, before, during and after significant and prolonged events that generate smoke or other emissions.

The provision of community advice and information is a key element of the Framework. During the period in question, EMV worked closely with key agencies and organisations to ensure relevant information was provided to communities, in accordance with the Framework. These agencies included the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) coordinated key senior emergency management leaders throughout this period using the State Coordination Team (SCOT) to achieve a shared understanding of the situation.

Vic Emergency, which is Victoria's primary website for the community to access relevant emergency management information, displayed community information on air quality. This was supported by both EPA and DHHS websites.

The Chief Health Officer provided a health advisory to the community on the situation and the actions community members should take, particularly vulnerable segments of the community, the elderly, those under 14 years of age and those with pre-existing health issues.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) issued seven warnings relating to air quality during this period, including:

- an Advice issued for the eastern suburbs, Yarra Ranges and Western Gippsland for air quality on 30 April.
- an Advice issued for a large part of Melbourne, North East Victoria (including the Dividing Range) on 1 May.
- an Advice expanded to capture more of Melbourne, Gippsland and North-East Victoria on the evening of 1 May.

The highest level of warning issued during this period was a warning for Ovens Valley.

A range of other communication media were used during this period to provide the community with information which was delivered by the Chief Health Officer and the EPA's Chief Environmental Scientist.

BoM provided weather forecasts to EMV, DHHS, EPA and DELWP to understand smoke behaviour and duration to inform community actions.

The workload of Ambulance Victoria was closely monitored along with hospital presentations to public hospitals to understand if a public health issue was emerging due to the smoke.

The Department of Education and Training was contacted and advised they were not seeing any adverse issues emerging from schools related to smoke.

DELWP Fire Management adjusted its planned burns program during this period using the intelligence provided by BoM, EPA and DHHS.

In addition to planned burns, there were also a significant number of burns on private property during this period, mostly to reduce stubble in preparation for cropping on farms. More than 5000 agricultural burns were registered with the Country Fire Authority between 16 April and 1 May. The use of wood heaters may also have contributed to smoke levels, particularly in local areas.

#### **RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

There was ongoing monitoring across the health network and school system to identify if there were any adverse health consequences emerging due to air quality. None were identified.

Under the Community Smoke, Air Quality and Health Standards, issued by the EPA and the Chief Health Officer, DHHS, and endorsed by the EMC, specific actions are linked to air quality values, as indicated by PM 2.5 measurement levels.

The Standards specify a range of actions that can be taken by community members, depending on the level of PM 2.5 measured, and their specific circumstances (e.g. age, any pre-existing health issues). These include avoiding physical activity, sheltering indoors, and temporary relocation/evacuation.

The levels of PM 2.5 referred to in the supplementary question did not reach the threshold for temporary relocation/evacuation.

Any consideration of temporary relocation or evacuation would involve the Chief Health Officer.

**Native forest logging**

**Question asked by:** Ms Dunn  
**Directed to:** Minister for Agriculture  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**RESPONSE:**

I am advised that in accordance with Clause 12 of the Agreement set out in the Schedule of the Forests (Wood Pulp Agreement) Act 1996, a review was provided to Australian Paper in 2011.

Clause 14 of the Agreement provides the Company a right to obtain pulpwood timber from both inside and outside the Forest Area on a non-exclusive basis.

Subject to Clause 32 (suspension of obligations due to damage or destruction of relevant forest by fire, disease, or other cause), the Secretary is bound by Clause 14(2) to make a minimum annual supply of pulpwood available of which at least 300 000 cubic metres must be from inside the Forest Area.

To ensure the effective management and utilization of the forests within the Forest Area, Clause 12 states that the Secretary shall carry out a review of pulpwood within the Forest Area at least once in each period of five years and shall make the results available to the Company.

I am advised that a further review of pulpwood within the Forest Area is planned in 2018/19 and will be made available to Australian Paper.

**Offender electronic monitoring**

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

**RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:**

As at 5 June 2018, there are 176 parolees subject to GPS monitoring.

It is part of Victoria's parole system, which is working effectively and efficiently and has community safety as its primary focus.

There are around half the amount of people on parole now than there was 5 years ago. There has been a 92% reduction in the parolees convicted of committing serious offences. More parolees are completing their parole.

These results are because the Adult Parole Board is better resourced, prisoners have to work hard to achieve parole and parolees are more thoroughly supervised.

**RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

The assertion in the question is incorrect. The response provided to Mr Finn's question on 23 May clearly refers to offenders on the post sentence scheme-not to parolees.

Regardless of this latest factual error in the question, the decision-making process regarding who is ordered and placed on electronic monitoring is a matter for the Courts or for the Adult Parole Board.

### Prison security

**Question asked by:** Mr O'Donohue  
**Directed to:** Minister for Corrections  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

#### RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

It is unclear what 'outstanding security issues' the member is referring to.

There are no current security issues at Barwon Prison that I have been advised of, that would compromise the safety and security of the community.

### Child protection

**Question asked by:** Ms Fitzherbert  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

#### RESPONSE:

I am advised that:

Again, the Member has quoted figures in a question without providing a source. If the Member is seriously interested in this important policy area then she would provide a source for the figures that she quotes in this place rather than using question time to politicise children in out-of-home care in order for Ms Crozier to produce disgusting infographics on Facebook with emotive and exploitative images of children in distress.

The figures referred to by the Member's question appear to correspond with information provided in May 2018 of at-risk young people in the five Enhance Response Model pilot sites. These young people are being supported by Victoria Police and Department of Health and Human Services to reduce their risk of sexual exploitation. A number of the children who are being supported by the Enhanced Response Model, are living at home.

It is important that the Member understands that this data is not a measure of actual sexual exploitation incidents — such incidents are recorded separately through incident reporting processes. Rather, the data represents young people being supported by this model.

As the Member would be aware, our Government has introduced unprecedented transparency regarding Category 1 incident reporting, publishing data quarterly on the department's website, something the previous Government failed to do.

Data for the quarter that the Member has asked about is available on the department's website.

This Enhanced Response Model builds on the Andrews Labor Government's work to improve responses to child sexual exploitation, including employing five specialist sexual exploitation child protection practitioners, funded in our first budget.

Under this model, a Victoria Police Sexual Offence and Child Abuse investigator is allocated to each young person who is identified as being at significant risk.

Supporting young people through this model is not a short-term undertaking. Police work with young people over a prolonged period of time to ensure their risk of sexual exploitation is reduced. By gaining young people's trust and cooperation police become more successful at identifying perpetrators and are able to increase their use of harbouring notices and Intervention Orders.

Child Protection staff ensure young people, who have often missed out on loving relationships get the support and care they need to recognise these exploitative situations. Even if there are no further incidents of sexual exploitation the young person will continue to be supported by the model in order to mitigate their risk.

The decision of whether to continue to support a young person with the Enhanced Response Model is reviewed periodically and is based on an assessment of risk that may change over time.

The 2016/17 Commission for Children and Young People Annual Report notes a 4% reduction in sexual exploitation incidents compared to the previous financial year.

The reduction is a result of a range of measures introduced by the Andrews Labor Government to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation of children in the community broadly as well as children in care.

These reforms include, mandatory minimum training for residential care staff, increased staffing including an extra stand up overnight worker in residential units, the introduction of sexual exploitation practice leaders and the Enhanced Response Model.

Of the above mentioned 44 children, 39 remain supported by the Enhanced Response Model.

It would require a review of each of the individuals case files to determine how many of the above mentioned 34 children supported by the model are residing in a residential care unit.

### **Child protection**

**Question asked by:** Mr Morris  
**Directed to:** Minister for Families and Children  
**Asked on:** 6 June 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

I am advised that

Between 1 July 2017 and 30 April 2018, no children were placed in a hotel or caravan park in Ballarat.

In November 2014, the Andrews Labor Government inherited a child protection system in crisis. In March 2014, in an audit of residential care services for children, the Victorian Auditor-General found that "...there has been a fundamental failure to oversee and ensure the safety of children in residential care." At a time when serious issues relating to residential care facilities was made public, the former Liberal Government failed to take measures to keep children living in residential care safe.

In June 2016, the Victorian Auditor-General tabled an audit following up on recommendations from the 2014 audit. This 2016 report noted that "the 2014 audit found that the residential care system had been operating over capacity and was unable to meet the needs of children. As a result, the Department had to buy additional capacity or contingency places known as 'unfunded contingency placements' at a cost of \$24 million in 2012-13." The Auditor General in 2014 found that "Demand for residential care was outstripping supply, and children were being accommodated in temporary and unsuitable emergency placements such as motels and caravan parks."

The 2016 VAGO report commended the early results of our Govt's reforms. It found that "investments in moving children out of residential care have resulted in a reduction in the daily occupancy of unfunded contingency placements from 141.9 places in 2012-13 to 38.7 places at the end of February 2016. Total spending on unfunded contingency placements fell from \$24 million to about \$11 million during the same time."

It also noted that since the change of Government "departmental policy changed from a focus on growing the capacity of the residential care system, to residential placement prevention and quality initiatives".

The previous government had no plan to reduce reliance on residential care and unfunded contingency placements.

Short term placements are utilised out of necessity to keep siblings together in a single placement, accommodate a child or young person whose complex needs prevents them from being placed in a standard out-of-home care placement, or to accommodate a child or young person who has been removed from their home in an emergency situation at a late hour when no alternative placements are available. As part of our government's reform of the



child protection and out-of-home care system the Andrews Labor Government is committed to reducing the use of emergency, short-term placements, particularly where those placements involve the use of hotels or caravan parks.

In 2017-18, the Andrews Labor Government invested \$2.9 million over three years, and \$0.7 million ongoing, for the rollout of a Home Based Care Retainer model with two funded targets in each division, that focus on reducing the use of emergency short term placements.

Under the model the department identifies foster carers in each division to be exclusively available, on a retainer basis to provide emergency, short-term care for children, young people and sibling groups unable to be placed in a funded placement. The model is based on a successful pilot already operating in the South Division.

The remaining Divisions are establishing the new retainer model and expect to be operational in the coming months.

Our Rapid Response model currently being trialled in the South Division also works with families to keep children safely at home and reduce the need for an emergency placement.

### **Qantas pilot training academy**

**Question asked by:** Mr Rich-Phillips  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

#### **RESPONSE:**

Qantas issued a Request for Information in relation to the establishment of a Regional Pilot Training Academy on 11 May 2018.

The Request for Information indicated that Qantas was seeking responses from airport operators and local governments across Australia, to be coordinated and submitted by State and Territory Governments by the due date of 8 June 2018.

My department, through Regional Development Victoria has been working with a number of regional airports and local governments in relation to this opportunity, and has provided a response from Victoria containing 13 submissions from locations seeking to attract the project.

In submitting the response from Victoria, the Government has also written to Mr Alan Joyce, the Chief Executive Officer of Qantas in relation to attracting this opportunity, inviting Qantas to work closely with the Victorian Government regarding any shortlisted sites in regional Victoria.

The 13 locations that have responded to the Request for Information are Ararat, Avalon, Bendigo, Hamilton, Horsham, Latrobe, Mangalore, Mildura, Shepparton, Stawell, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and West Sale airports.

Qantas will be evaluating the submissions received from across Australia and undertaking site inspections and further due diligence on shortlisted sites. The Victorian Government will continue to work with Qantas to attract the Regional Pilot Training Academy to regional Victoria.

**Malmsbury Project**

**Question asked by:** Ms Lovell  
**Directed to:** Minister for Regional Development  
**Asked on:** 7 June 2018

**RESPONSE:**

The Government supports the Malmsbury community in many ways.

Thanks to the advocacy of the Member for Macedon, the Government has established a Community Advisory Group to ensure the views of the community on the operation and expansion of Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct are heard.

The Member for Macedon has also secured support for Malmsbury for an important sport and recreation project.

On 18 January 2018, The Hon John Eren MP, Minister for Sport, announced funding of \$100 000 from the Community Grants and Infrastructure Fund, towards a \$150 000 project to fund the Malmsbury Cricket Ground and, more specifically, replacement and relocation of training nets, recladding of existing pavilion and a new boundary fence to replace the existing log perimeter.

I'd like to clarify for the member that The Malmsbury Project is a community group and not a specific project as such. The group has not sought support for funding for any initiative through any program in the regional development portfolio, however if the group did wish to approach the government to this end, we would welcome that.

Regional Victoria is receiving record investment from the Andrews Labor Government, \$8.5 billion since 2014.

Many people say the previous Liberal National was a do nothing government but that is not the view and lived experience in country Victoria. They did a lot, a lot of damage.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to support the Malmsbury community, as we do all regional and rural communities.