

PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA

**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(HANSARD)**

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIFTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

FIRST SESSION

**WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS
WITHOUT NOTICE**

27 July to 9 August 2018

(Extract from book 11)

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

By authority of the Victorian Government Printer

The Governor

The Honourable LINDA DESSAU, AC

The Lieutenant-Governor

The Honourable KEN LAY, AO, APM

The ministry

(from 16 October 2017)

Premier	The Hon. D. M. Andrews, MP
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Minister for Planning	The Hon. R. W. Wynne, MP
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Legislative Council committees

Privileges Committee — Mr Dalidakis, Mr Mulino, Mr O’Sullivan, Mr Purcell, Mr Rich-Phillips, Ms Springle, Ms Symes and Ms Wooldridge.

Procedure Committee — The President, Dr Carling-Jenkins, Mr Davis, Mr Jennings, Ms Pennicuik, Ms Pulford, Ms Tierney and Ms Wooldridge.

Legislative Council standing committees

Standing Committee on the Economy and Infrastructure — Mr Bourman, #Mr Davis, Ms Dunn, Mr Eideh, Mr Finn, Mr Gepp, Mr Leane, #Mr Melhem, Mr Ondarchie, Mr O’Sullivan and #Mr Rich-Phillips.

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

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

participating members

Legislative Council select committees

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

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

Joint committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Law Reform, Road and Community Safety Committee — (*Council*): Dr Carling-Jenkins and Mr Gepp. (*Assembly*): Mr Dixon, Mr Howard, Ms Suleyman, Mr Thompson and Mr Tilley.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee — (*Council*): Ms Patten, Ms Pennicuik and Ms Shing. (*Assembly*): Mr Dimopoulos, Mr Morris, Mr D. O’Brien, Mr Pearson, Mr T. Smith and Ms Ward.

Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee — (*Council*): Ms Bath and Mr Dalla-Riva. (*Assembly*): Ms Blandthorn, Mr J. Bull, Mr Dimopoulos, Ms Kilkenny and Mr Pesutto.

Heads of parliamentary departments

Assembly — Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly: Ms Bridget Noonan

Council — Acting Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Legislative Council: Mr A. Young

Parliamentary Services — Secretary: Mr P. Lochert

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

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Deputy President:

Mr N. ELASMAR

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The Hon. M. WOOLDRIDGE

Deputy Leader of the Opposition:

The Hon. G. K. RICH-PHILLIPS

Leader of The Nationals:

Mr L. B. O’SULLIVAN

Leader of the Greens:

Dr S. RATNAM

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Atkinson, Mr Bruce Norman	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Mikakos, Ms Jenny	Northern Metropolitan	ALP
Barber, Mr Gregory John ¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens	Morris, Mr Joshua	Western Victoria	LP
Bath, Ms Melina ²	Eastern Victoria	Nats	Mulino, Mr Daniel	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Bourman, Mr Jeffrey	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	O’Brien, Mr Daniel David ⁸	Eastern Victoria	Nats
Carling-Jenkins, Dr Rachel ³	Western Metropolitan	Ind	O’Donohue, Mr Edward John	Eastern Victoria	LP
Crozier, Ms Georgina Mary	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Ondarchie, Mr Craig Philip	Northern Metropolitan	LP
Dalidakis, Mr Philip	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	O’Sullivan, Mr Luke Bartholomew ⁹	Northern Victoria	Nats
Dalla-Riva, Mr Richard Alex Gordon	Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Patten, Ms Fiona ¹⁰	Northern Metropolitan	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	V1LJ
Elasmar, Mr Nazih	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Ramsay, Mr Simon	Western Victoria	LP
Finn, Mr Bernard Thomas C.	Western Metropolitan	LP	Ratnam, Dr Samantha Shantini ¹¹	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Fitzherbert, Ms Margaret	Southern Metropolitan	LP	Rich-Phillips, Mr Gordon Kenneth	South Eastern Metropolitan	LP
Gepp, Mr Mark ⁵	Northern Victoria	ALP	Shing, Ms Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Hartland, Ms Colleen Mildred ⁶	Western Metropolitan	Greens	Somyurek, Mr Adem	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Herbert, Mr Steven Ralph ⁷	Northern Victoria	ALP	Springle, Ms Nina	South Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Jennings, Mr Gavin Wayne	South Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Ms Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Leane, Mr Shaun Leo	Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Ms Gayle Anne	Western Victoria	ALP
Lovell, Ms Wendy Ann	Northern Victoria	LP	Truong, Ms Huong ¹²	Western Metropolitan	Greens
Melhem, Mr Cesar	Western Metropolitan	ALP	Wooldridge, Ms Mary Louise Newling	Eastern Metropolitan	LP
			Young, Mr Daniel	Northern Victoria	SFFP

¹ Resigned 28 September 2017

² Appointed 15 April 2015

³ DLP until 26 June 2017;

Australian Conservatives until 3 August 2018

⁴ Resigned 27 May 2016

⁵ Appointed 7 June 2017

⁶ Resigned 9 February 2018

⁷ Resigned 6 April 2017

⁸ Resigned 25 February 2015

⁹ Appointed 12 October 2016

¹⁰ ASP until 16 January 2018

¹¹ Appointed 18 October 2017

¹² Appointed 21 February 2018

PARTY ABBREVIATIONS

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

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WRITTEN RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

30 July to 9 August 2018

Australian Paper Maryvale mill

Question asked by: Ms Dunn
Directed to: Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy
Asked on: 26 July 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I will not reconsider my decision. I decided that an EES is not required for the project, for the reasons published in my decision. In summary, while the project has some potential for environmental impact, particularly in relation to air emissions, greenhouse gas emissions and waste, these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the consideration under the Ministerial Guidelines. Further to that, these potential effects can be readily assessed and addressed through the Works Approval application process already required for the project under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I will not reconsider my decision that an EES is not required for the project, for the reasons published in my decision.

The Minister for Energy, Environment, and Climate Change released a waste to energy discussion paper in late 2017. The paper offered a preliminary position on waste to energy, to seek views from Victorian businesses, local governments and communities about what role waste to energy facilities should play in Victoria. The results of the consultation have informed government deliberations. We anticipate a public response to that consultation in the coming months.

In March 2018, Australian Paper's Energy from Waste Project was referred for a decision on the need for an Environment Effects Statement (EES) under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*. The referral provided enough information for me to make an informed decision, and in May 2018 I decided that an EES was not required.

The scope of the referral is sufficient given the nature of the project. The existing use of native forest and paper production in the Maryvale Mill has been assessed and approved under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. I cannot broaden the scope of the project assessment to include logging activities as the nature of this agreement has not changed since its original approval. The arrangement between VicForests and Australian Paper is enshrined under the *Forests (Wood Pulp Agreement) Act 1996*. Acceptability of that arrangement is not within the purview of the Minister for Planning.

Disability services

Question asked by: Dr Carling-Jenkins
Directed to: Minister for Families and Children
Asked on: 26 July 2018

RESPONSE:

The Disability Services Commissioner will continue to investigate deaths of people with disability receiving disability services during transition to the NDIS.

All Australian governments agreed to a nationally consistent approach to quality and safeguards for the NDIS. The new NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission commenced in NSW and SA on 1 July 2018 and will commence operations in Victoria on 1 July 2019.

The new Commission will implement a nationally consistent approach to NDIS quality and safeguards, to ensure participants access services and supports in a way that promotes choice, control and dignity.

The Commission will work collaboratively with the sector to ensure the rights of people with disability are upheld and that the services and supports provided through the NDIS are safe.

The Commission will bring together a range of different responsibilities in to one organisation, including complaints, compulsory reporting, worker screening, monitoring restrictive practices and provider registration. This will deliver a more integrated, efficient and effective approach to quality and safeguards regulation across the country.

The Commission will have the power to conduct investigations into deaths of NDIS participants.

The Victorian Government continues to work closely with the Commonwealth Government and the new NDIS Commission to ensure these new arrangements strengthen standards and address abuse and neglect for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Feral cat control

Question asked by: Mr Young
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 27 July 2018

RESPONSE:

Domestic cats, unlike domestic dogs, are free to roam outside their owner's property in many areas of Victoria, unless there is a municipal by-law relating to the confinement of domestic cats. Given that it is impossible in most instances to visually differentiate between a domestic or feral cat, hunters would be at risk of committing an offence under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1998* if the hunting of feral cats were permitted.

There is opportunity for accredited volunteer shooters to participate in feral cat control programs managed by Parks Victoria or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. These programs will be planned and implemented in areas of Crown land where there is a low chance of inadvertently impacting on free-roaming domestic cats.

Clergy mandatory reporting

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 27 July 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

This Government has led the way in reforming sexual offence laws in recent years, including creating new laws to quash an unfair legal loophole preventing survivors from suing some organisations for their abuse.

We are giving detailed consideration to the recommendation of the Commonwealth Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Commonwealth Royal Commission) that mandatory reporting laws should not exempt religious ministers from being required to report information disclosed in a religious confession.

The Council of Attorneys General has agreed that, as the privilege relating to the religious confession is part of the Uniform Evidence Law, a national response is desirable and commissioned further work to develop a nationally consistent approach to this important issue.

Sustainability Fund

Question asked by: Ms Truong
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 27 July 2018

RESPONSE:

The Andrews Labor Government has made record investments from the Sustainability Fund over the past four state budgets totalling more than \$600 million. This investment supports the Fund's strategic priorities that were updated in 2016.

The level of investment in waste programs has been the highest in the fund's history. The government has significantly increased spending from the Sustainability Fund, investing over \$100 million in waste and resource recovery over the last four years. This includes funding for programs to: develop markets for recovered resources; increase the investment for resource recovery infrastructure; and educate communities and businesses about waste and recycling opportunities.

This year the government provided \$37 million to stabilise and strengthen the recycling industry, in light of the market disruption caused by China's import restrictions on recyclable material.

The estimated balance of the fund as of 30 June 2018 was \$513 million as the Auditor-General's report highlights. However, \$489 million has been committed across the forward estimates, which will reduce the balance of the fund. The balance will continue to decrease over the forward estimates as further commitments are outlined in future budgets.

Dame Phyllis Frost Centre mothers and children program

Question asked by: Ms Pennicuk
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 27 July 2018

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

To date in 2018 there have been six applications from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander women to participate in the Mothers and Children's program. Two women have been considered by the committee, with four women released prior to their application being finalised.

In one of those two cases, an Aboriginal woman who was recently in custody with her child had a wrap-around support service model developed for her in-prison and to support her post-release. Upon release, the mother and her baby were living together and continuing to engage with Cradle to Kinder, Elizabeth Morgan House, Djirra, and Corrections Victoria's post-release service, ReConnect. In the other case, the applicant was assessed as ineligible due to the specific circumstances.

Cradle to Kinder is a statewide program funded by the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) that is delivered by a number of agencies, as well as an Aboriginal-specific program delivered by the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA). The priority cohort is vulnerable mothers aged under 25.

The Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) has supported extra services to work with Aboriginal mothers to enhance family and community connectedness whilst in custody and there has been a number of initiatives to provide additional support for Aboriginal women.

The Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer (AWO) is the first person consulted by the Mother and Child Support worker when an Aboriginal woman applies to have their child(ren) in custody. This provides the Mother and Child Support Worker with relevant family and services linkage information to build the application and contact relevant support services, including the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) midwife to provide cultural support for pregnant Aboriginal women when required.

Work has also occurred to increase support from and build engagement with the following services to provide wrap-around responses for Aboriginal women:

- Ngwala Willumbong (a drug and alcohol service provider) — the pilot program is engaged where possible to provide insight to the woman’s support network and needs and, if eligible, for referral to the Continuity of Health Program for release planning.
- Djirra provides family violence support, advocacy, or general civil legal support.
- Koori CROP (bail program) promotes family and community connectedness via linkages to community cooperatives.
- Odyssey House — drug and alcohol referrals are conducted weekly by an Aboriginal drug and alcohol worker.
- Child Protection (DHHS) and Lakidjeka (the Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service run from VACCA) have increased engagement and transparency with regards to case planning and engagement with the prison and the mother (to be).
- VACCA, Cradle to Kinder and the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service (VAHS) are contacted as important service links for Aboriginal women who apply for the program to try to provide adequate support for existing and unborn children.

An interdepartmental Mother and Child Project Control Group was established in October 2017, with membership from the Departments of Health & Human Services and Education & Training to provide expertise in the areas of maternal health, infant and child health, child protection, early childhood education, and foster and kinship care. The cultural needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mothers and children are paramount to this work, including developing strategies and programs to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women’s participation in the program.

A representative from the Aboriginal Commission for Children and Young People was actively involved in consultations around enhancements to the Mothers and Children’s program, and VACCA has been invited to provide comment on a number of key documents.

There are a number of considerations that occur when determining whether a mother is eligible to have her child reside in prison, with the best interests of the child paramount in the decision-making.

TAFE funding

Question asked by: Ms Bath
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 27 July 2018

RESPONSE:

Mary Faraone, Chair, TAFE Directors Australia has written a letter to The Hon Bruce Atkinson MP, President of the Legislative Council regarding this matter and I have been provided with a copy of this letter.

In relation to the matters raised by Ms Bath, Ms Faraone states in her letter that:

“The statement made by Ms Melina Bath is incorrect and I have a recording of the session.”

“At no time did I say that the Free TAFE policy is policy on the run.”

“As stated I have a recording of the event which clearly supports my position and it is a matter I request to be corrected as it maligns my position as Chief Executive of a Victorian TAFE and my position as Chair, TAFE Directors Australia.”

I trust that Ms Bath will do the right thing and correct the record on this matter as requested by Ms Faraone and offer an unqualified apology.

Free TAFE for Priority Courses will give more Victorians the chance to study at TAFE.

More than ever, the skills we need to build our state are learned at TAFE.

From 1 January 2019, Free TAFE for Priority Courses pays tuition fees for priority courses for students who are eligible for government-subsidised training. This includes:

- An initial 20 priority non apprenticeship courses, state-wide — a further 10 priority courses will be confirmed following consultation with industry, in time for students to enrol for the 2019 training year
- 18 Victorian Government-subsidised apprenticeship pathway courses (sometimes called pre apprenticeships).

TAFEs may take enrolments in 2018 for Free TAFE for Priority Courses that begin in 2019.

In choosing the courses, the Government has taken into account a range of factors, including:

- industries experiencing a high need for skilled VET graduates, and where there is a strong employment outcome from training
- courses that are closely aligned to areas of future growth for the Victorian economy and the community, such as:
 - supporting the Government's record investment in major road and rail projects, new schools and hospitals, which has created a massive demand for workers in these industries
 - supporting the prevention of family violence and the roll-out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme
 - supporting our priority industry sectors
 - supporting the Government's efforts to transform Victoria into the Education State, through training more education aides
 - supporting the Government's efforts to provide access to public dental care for eligible Victorians
 - supporting the workforce required to meet the demands of an ageing population.

The Government has also taken into account the needs of our regional communities, with courses in agriculture and dairy production on the list of free courses.

Ensuring gender balance is also important to give both male and female students opportunities.

The Department has a rich evidence base, which was called upon to select courses based on independent employment forecasts prepared by Deloitte Access Economics and real-time job advertisement data in order to identify which courses provide improved employment outcomes after training.

Since becoming the Minister for Training and Skills, I have been proud to visit, consult and speak regularly with learners, teachers, TAFEs, Learn Locals, training providers, industry and employers to inform the investments that only the Andrews Labor Government will make to ensure that all Victorians get the skills they need for the job they want.

Minister for Small Business

Question asked by: Mr Ondarchie
Directed to: Minister for Small Business
Asked on: 27 July 2018

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

The question was stupid, given it refers to an inanimate object, and I treated it with the respect it deserved.

FURTHER RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I stand by my original response, that the Member's question is inherently stupid given it relates to an inanimate object.

Prisoner day release

Question asked by: Ms Wooldridge
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 7 August 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Government has asked for an urgent review which will consider the process by which the decision was made for this prisoner to participate in the program. This review will also examine how the interests of victims should be considered when making such decisions.

Prisoner day release

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 7 August 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The transport arrangement for prisoners on permit arrangements in this case are clearly set out in the *Corrections Act 1986* and *Corrections Victoria's Corrections Administration Permits, Rehabilitation and Transition Permits & Interstate Leave of Absence Operational Guidelines*, and are consistent with the Correctional Management Standards for Men's prisons.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

No.

Prisoner day release

Question asked by: Mr O'Donohue
Directed to: Minister for Corrections
Asked on: 7 August 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The Government will consider the contents of the review upon its completion and whether it is appropriate to release publicly.

Ministerial conduct

Question asked by: Mr Finn
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 7 August 2018

RESPONSE:

I do not accept the assertions made in the substantive and supplementary questions.

Victoria Police have the proper protocols in place to ensure this investigation is at arm's length from Government.

Public housing

Question asked by: Ms Patten
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 7 August 2018

RESPONSE:

The Treasurer is examining the Build to Rent property development model and what it offers Victoria. The Treasurer has indicated to me that he is happy to facilitate a Departmental briefing for the Honourable Member.

AGL Crib Point gas terminal

Question asked by: Dr Ratnam
Directed to: Minister for Agriculture
Asked on: 7 August 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I am advised AGL is underwriting the cost of all works being undertaken by the Port of Hastings Development Authority (PoHDA) on the Crib Point Jetty to enable the development of the AGL Crib Point Gas Terminal.

AGL is required to undertake a broad range of investigations and obtain necessary environmental approvals under both Victorian and Commonwealth legislation.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

PoHDA has entered into a long-term agreement with AGL should the project gain all of the required approvals.

Crown Casino

Question asked by: Dr Ratnam
Directed to: Minister for Trade and Investment
Asked on: 7 August 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

The licence for the Melbourne casino is governed by the *Casino Control Act 1991*. Section 18 of the Act states that the licence remains in force until 18 November 2050. The casino licence can only be cancelled for reasons that are specified in the Act. One of those reasons is that the casino operator is no longer suitable to hold the licence.

The VCGLR has undertaken an extensive and thorough review of Crown, forming an opinion that Crown remains suitable to hold the casino licence and providing 20 recommendations in the areas of internal governance and responsible gambling. As the VCGLR is the independent regulator, the Victorian Government accepts its findings and expects Crown to implement all 20 recommendations in a timely manner. The VCGLR will carefully monitor Crown's implementation of these recommendations and will report to the Minister on its progress.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

I refer Dr Ratnam to the answer I gave to a similar question she asked on 20 June 2018 and reiterate the advice I gave in that answer.

Under the Tenth Deed of Variation entered into by the previous Coalition Government, the State will be required to pay compensation to the Melbourne casino operator, Crown Melbourne Limited, if it removes, reduces in number or amends or restricts the way in which gaming machines in unrestricted mode are permitted to operate.

The Andrews Government has introduced a number of measures to address gaming machine harm at Crown. These include the YourPlay pre-commitment scheme which is available on all gaming machines and is mandatory for players to use to set limits in order to play machines in unrestricted mode. The *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* has

also been amended to allow the Minister to make regulations in relation to the standards, requirements and content of a code of conduct. The Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council is currently reviewing how the code might be improved.

Public sector employee information

Question asked by: Mr Rich-Phillips
Directed to: Special Minister of State
Asked on: 8 August 2018

RESPONSE:

The response to the matter has been wide-ranging. The Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet has referred the matter to the independent Victorian Public Sector Commissioner for investigation, which will include the engagement of specialist forensic services. In addition, both the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training are undertaking internal inquiries.

Any individual who considers that his or her privacy has been interfered with may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner under the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

TAFE funding

Question asked by: Mrs Peulich
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 8 August 2018

RESPONSE TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTION:

I reject the premise of this question.

I have spoken at length in this house about the transformative investment that the Andrews Labor Government is making in the TAFE and training system, which includes a \$644 million investment in the 2018-19 Victorian State Budget.

My response to Ms Bath on 27 July 2018 emphasised the importance of making sure that TAFE is re-established as the engine room of the training and education sector in this state.

The Government's investments clearly place TAFE at the heart of the training system, whilst at the same time supporting all providers, with the investment in this year's budget of \$303.8 million for an additional 30 000 training places for TAFEs, Learn Locals and private training providers.

I am pleased to note that ACPET have stated in their email to members on 31 July 2018 that, 'Quality independent providers should be recognised and harnessed, together with a robust TAFE sector, to ensure students and industry get the very best education and training.'

The Free TAFE for Priority Courses initiative will change the lives of thousands of Victorians who have not previously had the financial means to access training that will lead to a jobs that are in demand — the significance of this investment cannot be overstated.

Since becoming the Minister for Training and Skills, I have been proud to visit, consult and speak regularly with learners, teachers, TAFEs, Learn Locals, training providers, industry and employers to inform the investments that only the Andrews Labor Government will make to ensure that all Victorians get the skills they need for the job they want.

I am pleased to note that that ACPET, along with other peak bodies, has been invited by the Department of Education and Training to discuss their views and the implementation of the Free TAFE for Priority Courses initiative.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:

As outlined in my substantive response, I reject the premise of this question.

TAFE funding

Question asked by: Ms Fitzherbert
Directed to: Minister for Training and Skills
Asked on: 8 August 2018

RESPONSE:

On 18 July 2018, Navitas made an ASX announcement that it will undertake a rationalisation program to address the profitability of different parts of its business.

Navitas indicated that in addition to Health Skills Australia, several of its operations outside of Australia will also close.

It is clear from this announcement that Navitas is closing Health Skills Australia as part of a broader business decision.

In particular, Navitas have noted they experienced a significant decline in enrolments at their colleges following Commonwealth Government reforms to vocational education funding, which saw caps imposed on loans accessed by eligible nursing students.

Health Skills Australia currently holds a 2018-19 VET Funding Contract

Since June this year, the Department has had productive conversations with Navitas about transitioning students to another quality training provider.

As with other training provider closures, the Department is working to ensure that there is minimal disruption to students with their studies.