



Question: 103 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Clark to ask the Minister for Education — I raise with the Minister for Education the needs of Box Hill High School, and in particular I ask the minister whether he will fund a performing arts centre and works to upgrade and enhance existing buildings at Box Hill High School in accordance with the commitment that was given by the coalition government.

Answer: The Minister for Education: I am informed as follows:
Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government and we are committed to spending \$530 million on school facilities during the period 2015 - 2018. As announced in the lead up to the election, Box Hill High School will share in this funding.
The Victorian Government is prioritising its school infrastructure commitments for funding in the May State Budget. The majority of these will be funded in 2015-16, and the remaining projects will be resourced in subsequent years. The Government will use all available data, including condition assessments, when allocating funding in this and future State Budgets.
The Department of Education and Training is commencing planning for all schools announced as election commitments by the Government, including Box Hill High School. I am advised that members of the school's leadership team attended a training session on 16 March 2015 to assist them in preparing a five-year Asset Management Plan for works at the school. Commencing planning now will ensure the best outcome for the school community when funding is provided in a future State Budget. I have asked the Department to continue to work closely with Box Hill High School on its plans for capital improvement.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 14/04/2015

Question: 104 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Thomas to ask the Minister for Public Transport — My question is for the Minister for Public Transport. One of my constituents, Mrs Betty Barned, a remarkable woman in her mid-80s, led a vigorous community campaign over two years for a weekday community bus service to ensure access to medical services, the library, the train station and other services for the many Woodend residents who either do not own a car or who can no longer drive. The minister will not be surprised to learn that the former coalition government was unresponsive to the needs of the Woodend community. In contrast, however, it was a great day in November last year when the then shadow minister made a commitment to the people of Woodend to deliver a community bus service. The information I seek from the minister is an update on the implementation of this important commitment.

Answer: Minister for Public Transport - I am informed that, as of the date the question was raised:
I am pleased to advise that I have asked Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to commence planning for the implementation of a community bus service in Woodend during this term of government.
PTV will consult with the community in the development of the Woodend Community Bus service.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 15/04/2015

Question: 105 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Crisp to ask the Minister for Planning — My question is to the Minister for Planning on behalf of Mr John Nicholson, Mr Laurie Jaensch and Mr and Mrs Wisneske of Mildura. I ask for information on options, including a policy determination or an amendment to the planning scheme, from the minister with regard to clause 52.23 of the Victoria Planning Provisions. This clause relates to shared accommodation which is being utilised by backpacker hostel operators to bypass local government planning schemes. In doing so, this removes the opportunity for neighbours to object to the proposed backpacker accommodation and to be involved in a process that may see the hostel go ahead or not go ahead, and, if it does, conditions applied. It is the belief of the affected constituents that the use of clause 52.23 is denying them their

democratic rights that have been established under local government planning schemes. If left unclarified, clause 52.23 will be extensively used for all types of accommodation.

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
The Victorian Government is committed to the provision of appropriate, affordable housing for all members of the community. This is supported by Clause 52.23 in the Victoria Planning Provisions, which facilitates the provision of shared housing without the need for a planning permit. However, I am advised that Mildura Rural City Council is of the view that no planning permit is required for a backpackers' lodge if it meets the minimum requirements for shared housing under Clause 52.23. I understand that this is a matter of concern to some members of the Mildura community. The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning is assessing the issue more broadly as the matter has been raised as an issue both in the metropolitan and regional area and I will consider this matter in due course and advise Mr Crisp, Member for Mildura, of my decision.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 05/05/2015

Question: 106 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Williams to ask the Minister for Roads and Road Safety — My constituency question is for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. I ask the minister to provide some information about options to improve pedestrian safety along the section of Princes Highway where Dandenong High School is located. Two years ago 13-year-old Dandenong High School student Shaye Kosky was killed at this site when she was hit by a car. Her mum, Stacey, has been campaigning for a reduction in speed limit from 80 kilometres an hour to 60 kilometres an hour ever since. I drive this section of road most days and given its proximity to the school on one side and Hemmings Park on the other it is quite common to see young people making a dash across the road. I understand there were about 20 casualty accidents at the site between 2008 and 2012. To add to the confusion, the speed limit is 60 kilometres an hour in one direction but 80 kilometres an hour in the other. Stacey and her supporters in my community have been pushing for consistency. I look forward to getting an outline of available options to rectify this issue so we can avoid any further tragedies at this site in the future.

Answer: I am informed that, as at the date the question was raised:
Under changes to VicRoads' Speed Zoning Guidelines, the section of the Princes Highway outside the Dandenong High School now qualifies as a remote 60km/h school speed zone. Accordingly, this site will be considered for future funding in light of surrounding road safety risks and nearby opportunities for pedestrians to cross the road.
VicRoads is also working closely with the Dandenong High School in regard to road safety education for its students, emphasising the importance for students to use the nearby pedestrian overpass outside the school, or the pedestrian crossing at the nearby intersection of James Street, to safely cross the Princes Highway.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 22/05/2015

Question: 107 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mrs Fyffe to ask the Minister for Health — My request is to the Minister for Health. I ask on behalf of my constituency that the minister advocates to the Premier for the government to provide funding from the government's Ice Action Plan to Life Education Victoria to enable it to expand its excellent and proven programs into more schools, thereby ensuring that more children are educated about drugs and health. Life Education Victoria works in prevention to increase resilience and health awareness. Government funding in Victoria at the moment is through the education department budget and has been gradually decreasing to \$357 000 per annum. This is in comparison to New South Wales, which provides \$2.1 million, and Queensland, which provides \$1.5 million. Both those states provide funding through their state health budgets. We all know that money spent on prevention is far more cost-effective than money spent on a cure. On behalf of my constituents I ask the minister and the government to increase their support for the vision of Life Education Victoria, a vision statement that says that it is to ensure education for generations of healthy young Australians to live to their full potential.

Answer: The Victorian Government is concerned about ice, and delivered its Ice Action Plan in the first 100 days of government, as promised. Ice use is a complex problem that

demands a long-term solution. The Ice Action Plan deals with the things that cannot wait. It's about supporting families, treating users and making our community safer. Under the Plan, the Government will invest \$4.7 million to help families identify and manage ice users and \$1 million to support frontline workers who are at risk of getting attacked at work. The Government will invest \$18 million to expand drug treatment and rehabilitation, so users can get the help they need, and set up a dedicated Ice Help Line that directs families and health professionals to the support they need.

A 1800 Ice Help phone line is being established so that people can get information, referral and access to other support when they need it. Teachers and other front-line workers can also call this number if they require clinical or other advice.

An additional \$1 million will include the development of a standardised ice training course for front-line workers such as teachers, so they know how to address ice use. Victoria also has a world-leading drug education curriculum and evidence-based resources that help schools develop resilient young people. The Government will also examine ways to build stronger pathways between drug treatment services and other health settings, including the General Practitioners in Schools initiative, where General Practitioners will visit 100 secondary schools.

The Government has committed to provide the same level of funding in 2015 to Life Education Victoria as was provided in 2014 - \$393,376.50. This is not a decrease in funding, unlike under the previous Government, when Life Education Victoria's funding was reduced by almost 20% between 2011 and 2013.

The Government is working with Life Education Victoria and the Department of Education and Training to determine the best approach for funding health and well-being programs in 2016, an approach which will be of greatest benefit and support to Victorian students, schools and families. The Minister for Education has responsibility for Life Education Victoria funding.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 23/04/2015

Question: 108 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Graley to ask the Minister for Education — My question is to the Minister for Education and it concerns parking at Berwick Fields Primary School. It is a fantastic local school with over 1000 students, and it continues to grow. This is causing significant difficulties for parents attempting to pick up and drop off their children. In fact there have already been two car accidents at the school since the start of the school year. One was so serious that a car was written off. Parents have told me that there is simply not enough parking and the available space is too small. Many parents are now parking on nature strips, private driveways, in the designated drop-off zone or in the nearby church car park. Unfortunately many are now being fined by the City of Casey, putting further pressure on already stressed family budgets. There is also significant confusion between parents, the school and the council about parking restrictions. We need someone to take responsibility to find a solution. Who will it be? The Department of Education and Training, VicRoads or the local council. Something needs to be done. I know this is happening at schools right across my electorate, and local families have had enough. I ask the minister to provide an update on what steps the Andrews Labor government is taking to address parking issues at schools like Berwick Fields Primary School.

Answer: I am informed as follows:

When acquiring new school sites, the Department endeavours to purchase properties with at least three street frontages to provide parents with a broad range of parking opportunities.

Traffic management adjacent to school sites, parking restrictions and traffic flow are the responsibility of local government and/or VicRoads. In this case, involving local roads only, the responsibility resides with the City of Casey but representatives of the Department's South-Eastern Region Office would be pleased to participate in local government and community discussions about options to address traffic concerns at schools such as Berwick Fields Primary School.

In the context of finding solutions to safety issues around schools, the Victorian Government has committed to improving pedestrian safety by establishing a pilot high-level School Safety Panel. The Panel will be piloted in the Brunswick area, an

outer-suburban area and a regional area. Schools in the pilot areas will be able to bring their traffic management problems to the attention of the Panel.

The Hon. James Merlino, MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 02/04/2015

Question: 109 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Mr Hibbins to ask the Minister for Mental Health — My question is to the Minister for Mental Health. The Prahran Mission drop-in centre in Chapel Street, Prahran, was forced to close after the previous government cut funding to non-clinical community-based mental health services. This closure has affected Prahran's most vulnerable residents experiencing mental health issues. Many residents, as well as former clients, have raised this issue with me, stressing the important and beneficial role the Prahran Mission drop-in centre plays in our community by assisting those experiencing mental health issues. Is the government's \$400 000 commitment to Prahran Mission specifically for the re-opening of the purpose-built drop-in centre in Chapel Street, Prahran?

Answer: I am informed that:

Prahran Mission has significant experience in engaging and working with vulnerable and disadvantaged Victorians, many of whom have an identified mental illness and psychiatric disability and an experience of long-term or recurring homelessness.

The organisation works with clients to address the factors that drive the cycle of entrenched homelessness and disadvantage and provide permanent pathways out of homelessness.

Government funding for mental health service delivery is targeted to meet the needs of people with severe mental illness and the programs delivered through restoring this funding must deliver community support and recovery outcomes.

We will work with Prahran Mission to design programs to directly support recovery outcomes for local constituents with mental illness.

Martin Foley MP
Minister for Mental Health

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 15/04/2015

Question: 110 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Ward to ask the Minister for Education — My question is to the Minister for Education. Bullying in any form is unacceptable. Ahead of the fifth annual National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence this Friday, can the minister provide an update on what support services are available to schools in my electorate for dealing with bullying and indicate why it is so important that the minister chairs a round table discussion with local students in my election about this critical issue.

Answer: The Minister for Education: I am informed as follows:
 The Victorian Government supports a whole-school approach to building resilience and promoting respectful relationships that includes a range of initiatives and strategies to prevent and respond to bullying, cyber-bullying, abuse and unacceptable behaviour.
 All Victorian schools are required to develop and implement a bullying and cyber bullying prevention policy collaboratively with staff, students, parents or caregivers and the wider school community.
 The prevention of bullying is a shared responsibility and school communities are

assisted by a range of staff whose role it is to implement wellbeing strategies at the whole-school level. Staff such as Primary Welfare Officers, Student Wellbeing Coordinators, Chaplains, and Student Support Service Officers provide important support in the prevention of bullying.

To further support whole school communities to effectively prevent and respond to bullying, the Department developed the Bully Stoppers initiative in partnership with national and international experts. Bully Stoppers has been in place for the past three years and has resulted in:

- The development of a nationally recognised online toolkit
- 251 Victorian schools receiving grants to implement strategies or programs that prevent and respond to bullying, and
- a series of community awareness raising campaigns.

In addition, over 1680 Victorian schools received funding to participate in eSmart Schools, which is a cyber-safety framework developed by the Alannah and Madeline Foundation to guide schools through the process of developing and implementing policies and practices that support the safe and responsible use of information and communications technology.

The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence is an annual event held in March, celebrating the work of jurisdictions across Australia to combat bullying, cyber bullying and violence.

Nationally, schools from all states register to participate in the fifth National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence, and this year over 306 Victorian schools registered to participate in the 2015 NDA.

In the lead up to the 2015 National Day of Action, the Department launched the Bully Stoppers - Being Cool Online campaign. Being Cool Online activities included Bully Stoppers online netiquette quizzes for primary and secondary students and a live blog on the Herald Sun website with adolescent psychologist Dr Andrew Fuller.

The campaign culminated on the National Day of Action with Andrew Fuller making a presentation to Year 7 students at Monbulk College, and the Australian Communications and Media Authority Cybersmart Team running a virtual presentation for 1200 primary school students from 56 Victorian schools.

I attended this event at Monbulk College, and valued the opportunity to speak to young people about bullying, cyber bullying as well as the safe, smart and responsible use of social media. It is vital that young people are empowered to work together to stop bullying when they see it, and equipped with skills and strategies to do this.

I look forward to attending this roundtable discussion, speaking with the participating students about the impact of bullying, and listening to practical solutions they suggest may effectively address bullying.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 14/04/2015

Question: 111 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Asher to ask the Minister for Education —
My question is also for the Minister for Education. I ask the minister if he will guarantee that the \$10 million Labor committed to Elwood College, now in my electorate, will be allocated in the 2015-16 budget. I refresh the minister's mind. He went to Elwood College and issued a statement on 10 September 2014 in which he said:

"This major new investment will give students state-of-the-art learning facilities so that the school can continue to provide a first-rate education."

On the same day his colleague, the Minister for Creative Industries, verbally advised the school that that money would be given in the upcoming budget in year one. Obviously the school was very excited about this. I ask the minister to guarantee that much-needed funding which he admitted is urgently needed at the school.

Answer: The Minister for Education: I am informed as follows:
Investment in education and school infrastructure is a priority for the Victorian Government and we are committed to spending \$530 million on school infrastructure during the period 2015-18. This investment will build on the existing school capital works program.
The Victorian Government is prioritising its school infrastructure commitments for funding in the May State Budget. The majority of these will be funded in 2015-16, and the remaining projects will be resourced in subsequent years.
The Department of Education and Training is commencing planning for all schools announced as election commitments, including Elwood College. I am advised that

members of the school's leadership team attended a training session on 10 March 2015 to assist them in preparing a five-year Asset Management Plan for works at the school. Commencing planning now will ensure the best outcome for the college community when funding is provided in a future State Budget.

I have asked the Department to continue to work closely with Elwood College on its plans for capital improvement.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 14/04/2015

Question: 112 CONSTITUENCY QUESTION — Ms Green to ask the Minister for Emergency Services — My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. The Yan Yean electorate is served by hundreds of Country Fire Authority volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe from fire and other emergencies. I ask the minister to outline what the Andrews government is doing to tackle the cruel and unnecessary cuts that were made to the Country Fire Authority by the Napthine government and any further information regarding the Labor government's commitment to build much-needed new fire stations at Plenty and Wattle Glen.

Answer: I am advised that:
The Victorian Government greatly values the work of volunteer and career firefighters of the Plenty Country Fire Authority (CFA) Brigade and the Wattle Glen CFA Brigade, who selflessly devote their time and skills to promote the safety and wellbeing of the community.
The Government has committed to a range of initiatives to better support firefighters, including the recruitment of 350 CFA career firefighters; new CFA stations and upgrades; installation of toilet and washroom facilities at up to 100 rural CFA stations; delivery of 50 Medium Tankers; and expansion of the Emergency Medical Response Program.
The Government has also committed to implementing presumptive legislation for career and volunteer firefighters. The proposed new Victorian legislation will reflect the cancers covered and service thresholds in the current Tasmanian legislation. The Government is currently developing the legislation and will consult with relevant stakeholders before finalising it.
The Government has also committed and fully intends to honour its commitment of \$1.4 million to build a new fire station in Plenty and \$500,000 to upgrade of the fire station in Wattle Glen.
Thank you for raising this matter with me.

Attachments: No Attachments

Answer Published Date: 13/04/2015