



Hansard

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

60th Parliament

Tuesday 20 December 2022

Members of the Legislative Council

60th Parliament

President

Shaun Leane

Deputy President

Wendy Lovell

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Jaclyn Symes

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Lizzie Blandthorn

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council

Georgie Crozier

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council

Evan Mulholland (from 31 August 2023)

Matthew Bach (to 31 August 2023)

Member	Region	Party	Member	Region	Party
Bach, Matthew	North-Eastern Metropolitan	Lib	Luu, Trung	Western Metropolitan	Lib
Batchelor, Ryan	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	Mansfield, Sarah	Western Victoria	Greens
Bath, Melina	Eastern Victoria	Nat	McArthur, Bev	Western Victoria	Lib
Berger, John	Southern Metropolitan	ALP	McCracken, Joe	Western Victoria	Lib
Blandthorn, Lizzie	Western Metropolitan	ALP	McGowan, Nick	North-Eastern Metropolitan	Lib
Bourman, Jeff	Eastern Victoria	SFFP	McIntosh, Tom	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Broad, Gaëlle	Northern Victoria	Nat	Mulholland, Evan	Northern Metropolitan	Lib
Copsey, Katherine	Southern Metropolitan	Greens	Payne, Rachel	South-Eastern Metropolitan	LCV
Crozier, Georgie	Southern Metropolitan	Lib	Puglielli, Aiv	North-Eastern Metropolitan	Greens
Davis, David	Southern Metropolitan	Lib	Purcell, Georgie	Northern Victoria	AJP
Deeming, Moira ¹	Western Metropolitan	IndLib	Ratnam, Samantha	Northern Metropolitan	Greens
Erdogan, Enver	Northern Metropolitan	ALP	Shing, Harriet	Eastern Victoria	ALP
Ermacora, Jacinta	Western Victoria	ALP	Somyurek, Adem	Northern Metropolitan	DLP
Ettershank, David	Western Metropolitan	LCV	Stitt, Ingrid	Western Metropolitan	ALP
Galea, Michael	South-Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Symes, Jaclyn	Northern Victoria	ALP
Heath, Renee	Eastern Victoria	Lib	Tarlamis, Lee	South-Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Hermans, Ann-Marie	South-Eastern Metropolitan	Lib	Terpstra, Sonja	North-Eastern Metropolitan	ALP
Leane, Shaun	North-Eastern Metropolitan	ALP	Tierney, Gayle	Western Victoria	ALP
Limbrick, David ²	South-Eastern Metropolitan	LP	Tyrrell, Rikkie-Lee	Northern Victoria	PHON
Lovell, Wendy	Northern Victoria	Lib	Watt, Sheena	Northern Metropolitan	ALP

¹ Lib until 27 March 2023

² LDP until 26 July 2023

Party abbreviations

AJP – Animal Justice Party; ALP – Australian Labor Party; DLP – Democratic Labour Party;

Greens – Australian Greens; IndLib – Independent Liberal; LCV – Legalise Cannabis Victoria;

LDP – Liberal Democratic Party; Lib – Liberal Party of Australia; LP – Libertarian Party;

Nat – National Party of Australia; PHON – Pauline Hanson’s One Nation; SFFP – Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party

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Tuesday 20 December 2022

Opening of Parliament

Opening of Parliament by commission

Proceedings commenced at 11:03 am.

The Clerk: The Governor has issued the following proclamation:

CONSTITUTION ACT 1975

PROCLAMATION

I, Linda Dessau AC, Governor of the State of Victoria, acting under sections 8 and 20 of the *Constitution Act 1975* and all other powers vested in me, fix Tuesday 20 December 2022 at 11.00 am as the time for the commencement and holding of the first session of the Sixtieth Parliament of Victoria for the dispatch of business, at Parliament House, Melbourne. The Members of the Legislative Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly are required to attend at that time and place.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the State of Victoria, at Melbourne, this 13th day of December 2022.

LINDA DESSAU

...

Governor

The Commissioner, the Honourable Justice Anne Ferguson, Chief Justice of Victoria, entered the chamber and was conducted to the chair by the Usher of the Black Rod.

The Commissioner: Members of the Legislative Council, the Governor has caused a commission to be issued under the seal of the state constituting her commissioners to do in her name all that is necessary to be performed in this Parliament. This will more fully appear from the commission, which will now be read by the Clerk.

The Clerk:

**BY HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE LINDA DESSAU AC
GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA**

**TO THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE ANNE FERGUSON
CHIEF JUSTICE OF VICTORIA**

AND

**TO THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE KARIN EMERTON
PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEAL**

GREETING:

Acting under all available powers and with the consent of the Premier, I commission each of you, on my behalf, to open the first session of the Sixtieth Parliament at 11.00 am on the morning of Tuesday the twentieth day of December 2022 and to do all other things that it is necessary or usual for me to do on the opening of a new Parliament (other than to give my speech).

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of Victoria on this 19th day of December 2022.

Governor

Members

Members

Swearing in

The Commissioner: I have to announce that I have received from the Governor a commission to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to members. The Clerk will read the commission.

The Clerk:

**BY HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE LINDA DESSAU AC
GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA**

**TO THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE ANNE FERGUSON
CHIEF JUSTICE OF VICTORIA**

GREETING:

Acting under section 23 of the *Constitution Act 1975* I authorise you, in the Parliament Houses, Melbourne, on the twentieth day of December 2022, to administer the prescribed Oath or Affirmation of allegiance to Members of the Legislative Council.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of Victoria on this 19th day of December 2022.

Governor

Members, the Governor issued a writ on 1 November 2022 for the election of members to eight regions. According to the writ that I have received from the Governor, the following members have been elected:

Region	Member
Eastern Victoria	Melina Bath
Eastern Victoria	Jeff Bourman
Eastern Victoria	Renee Heath
Eastern Victoria	Tom McIntosh
Eastern Victoria	Harriet Shing
North-Eastern Metropolitan	Matthew Bach
North-Eastern Metropolitan	Shaun Leane
North-Eastern Metropolitan	Nicholas McGowan
North-Eastern Metropolitan	Aiv Puglielli
North-Eastern Metropolitan	Sonja Terpstra
Northern Metropolitan	Enver Erdogan
Northern Metropolitan	Evan Mulholland
Northern Metropolitan	Samantha Ratnam
Northern Metropolitan	Adem Somyurek
Northern Metropolitan	Sheena Watt
Northern Victoria	Gaelle Broad
Northern Victoria	Wendy Lovell
Northern Victoria	Georgie Purcell
Northern Victoria	Jaclyn Symes
Northern Victoria	Rikkie Tyrrell
South-Eastern Metropolitan	Michael Galea
South-Eastern Metropolitan	Ann-Marie Hermans
South-Eastern Metropolitan	David Limbrick
South-Eastern Metropolitan	Rachel Payne
South-Eastern Metropolitan	Lee Tarlamis
Southern Metropolitan	Ryan Batchelor
Southern Metropolitan	John Berger
Southern Metropolitan	Katherine Copsey
Southern Metropolitan	Georgie Crozier
Southern Metropolitan	David Davis
Western Metropolitan	Lizzie Blandthorn
Western Metropolitan	Maira Deeming
Western Metropolitan	David Ettershank
Western Metropolitan	Trung Luu

Region	Member
Western Metropolitan	Ingrid Stitt
Western Victoria	Jacinta Ermacora
Western Victoria	Sarah Mansfield
Western Victoria	Bev McArthur
Western Victoria	Joe McCracken
Western Victoria	Gayle Tierney

Members took and subscribed the oath or affirmation as required by law.

The Commissioner: Members of the Legislative Council, the Governor will attend the Parliament later this day to inform you and members of the Legislative Assembly of the reasons for calling this Parliament together, and as it is necessary before you proceed with business that a President of the Legislative Council be chosen, the Governor requests that you proceed to the choice of a President.

The Commissioner withdrew.

President

Election

The Clerk: The house will now elect a President. If you wish to nominate a candidate, please approach the microphone at the table after I have given you the call. Are there any nominations?

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (11:21): I would like to nominate Mr Shaun Leane.

The Clerk: Is there a seconder for the nomination?

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (11:21): I second the nomination.

The Clerk: Mr Leane, do you accept the nomination?

Shaun LEANE (North-Eastern Metropolitan) (11:21): Yes.

The Clerk: Are there any further nominations? There being no further nominations, I declare Mr Leane to be elected President.

The PRESIDENT (Shaun Leane) took the chair, read the prayer and made an acknowledgement of country.

The PRESIDENT (11:23): If people do not mind, I will take licence to make some brief comments. Do not worry, it is big writing. There are a number of pages, but I will be brief. I just personally want to acknowledge the traditional owners of all the lands in our great state of Victoria and pay my respects to their elders past and present, and also of course the elders that are participating today in what is a very important day. It is of great significance that they have been prepared to support us.

I wish to acknowledge the past President, Nazih Elasmr. He had this role I think during a very difficult time, and I wish to acknowledge the work that he did in this role.

I want to thank the chamber for electing me again. I also acknowledge the Premier for asking me to nominate to be the President. The Presiding Officers are very important positions, and I intend to take it seriously.

On a personal note, I want to acknowledge the support of Paula, who I believe is my eternal soulmate. Eternity is a long time, so there is stuff that goes with that. Like sometimes, particularly when we are shopping, I walk too closely behind her and I kind of step on the back of the heel of her shoe, and that can be annoying. But other than that, it is just fantastic.

My kids Jacqui and Moni are just fantastic people, and we are so lucky to have them. They have got a couple of great blokes, Tim and Mathew, as well. Our grandkids Jules, Winnie, Sam and Ben – anyone who is as old as me and has got grandkids knows how much joy they bring you; they just bring you so much joy.

I want to acknowledge the recent squad that I worked with, Vicki, Kirsten, Pete, Hannah, Nat, Clint and Zoe. They are fantastic at what they do and what they did but on top of that are just really quality human beings. I say hindsight is a wonderful thing, and I know that I can improve my contribution as President compared to the last time. I have thought about this, and I know I can be a better President, not just in the chamber, where I believe I can improve, but also in the important role that the President plays outside of this chamber.

At the start of the term, the Presiding Officers and department heads determine a bit of a mission statement for that term of Parliament, and I was fortunate enough to be in that discussion in the last term of Parliament. There was a lot of discussion that I think I and Colin Brooks did not understand about the roles of Presiding Officers and departments in defending the institution of Parliament. I did not really understand how we do that, so I actually said that the Presiding Officers' and the parliamentary departments' roles should centre around making sure that we assist MPs in every way we can to be the best representatives of the people they represent. I would like to change that a little bit. I would like to change it so that the Presiding Officers' and the parliamentary departments' roles should be to do everything we can to assist the members of Parliament and their staff to be the best representatives of the people they represent.

The electorate office staff, as we all know, do not get anywhere near the acknowledgement and the credit that they deserve. When we think about those staff, particularly those of the members that have come back from the last term and previous terms, the role they had to play in this last term was absolutely enormous and a credit to them. I would like to give a shout-out to my electorate officers James, Alex, Cathy and Adam, but I also want to give a shout-out to every MP's electorate officers for the last term for the amazing work they did under what I believe – and some of you may agree – was great stress, great duress. They should be applauded.

I will finish on two things. Firstly, my President digital trading cards will be available online in the next couple of weeks. That was a joke. But on a very serious note, for us as MPs, new and old: this is our workplace. We come here every couple of weeks, and this is our workplace. It is also the workplace of hundreds of other workers – hundreds of other workers. If we are unfortunate to have a late-night sitting and you have supper out there – think of when you were a kid, when for supper you used to hold a cup with two hands and have cocoa; well, it is kind of like that but worse – you will see hundreds of people queueing up at 2 am that support us in our work. We are not better than them. They deserve our friendship, they deserve our respect, and I think we should expect that from each other.

I will finish there. Once again, thank you for your support. Let us do some really good work this term.

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (11:29): President, as Leader of the Government I would like to express my congratulations and warm welcome for your return to the chair. As you know, President, a lot has happened in the four years since you first took this chair, and I think you have touched on some of that in your contribution. I think it is almost four years to the day that you were here. I reflect on some comments that were made at that time by the former Leader of the Government, who reflected on your ability to make him cry, and the reason that you are able to do that is your kindness, your empathy and the passion that you bring towards your job and the way you talk about it. I am not afraid to admit that on occasion you have made me cry, and I am sure you will again. No-one needs reminding of the challenges of the past four years, and you have touched on some of those. I would like to just concentrate on some of the highlights, the positives. You have talked about the incredible work of the staff, particularly electorate officers. But, Mr Leane, I want to reflect on your time, particularly in your previous occupation of this chair, and how you used that.

Mr Leane was President from December 2018 to June 2020, which coincided with the arrival of the global pandemic. A lot changed. There were a lot of challenges, but Mr Leane took the opportunity to partner with charitable organisations, including the Salvos, run by his best mate Brendan Nottle, to stand up the parliamentary kitchens to make more than 4000 meals a day to meet the growing demand of clients in our city but importantly, as he reflected on, to provide ongoing employment to the many people that worked here in the kitchens of Parliament.

Mr Leane was also the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Suburban Development from June 2020 to June 2021, and his efforts to get out and meet local councils were noted on numerous occasions. As other members who represent Northern Victoria know, it is a really large electorate, but he got around and had councils reflect on the fact that he had made the effort to go to places, up to the Shire of Towong and the like, and say, 'What a great bloke. He made us feel like not just one council out of 79 councils but really important in terms of our particular region and the people that live there.'

As a son of a World War II veteran I know that you brought a very special personal perspective to the role of Minister for Veterans, and along with the Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy I am sure you will bring elements of these portfolios to your role – again, roles that really involved people and your ability to focus on them and their needs.

This is a chamber of 50 per cent new people, which is pretty incredible, so welcome to the new members. But that is 20 people who have the great pleasure of soon coming to know our President's humour, kindness and fairness, and a former electrician who brings so much joy to this chamber. As he helps to guide our contributions and a high standard of debate, as I am sure he will do, I am sure you will become a friend of Mr Leane.

We are all here to do our very best for our constituents and the communities we represent, and, Mr Leane, in this regard you are a fine example. I also would like to join you in acknowledging former President Mr Elasmr, the man who has the great privilege of being in the hall in between two photos of Mr Leane. I also join you in thanking the staff and welcoming everyone here to the 60th Parliament. I would like to congratulate you, and I look forward to working with you in your role as President. Congratulations.

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (11:33): President, can I extend congratulations on behalf of the opposition and also echo some of those words that the Leader of the Government has said about the role you previously played in this place. You know, having been President, how important this role is for the functioning of this chamber. With that comes responsibility, and I have no doubt that you will execute the duties of this place with fairness, impartiality and propriety. Together we will work effectively, and I look forward to doing that. On behalf of the opposition I would like to also acknowledge and extend those congratulations to former President Mr Elasmr. I know that Mr Atkinson is in the house today too, and he has also had this prestigious role. So, Mr Leane, on behalf of the opposition, congratulations again, and we do look forward to working with you over this term.

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (11:34): Thank you, President. On behalf of the Greens I too would like to offer my congratulations on your appointment to the role of President once again. It is with confidence that we can all enter this term of Parliament with you at the helm. I would like to echo the sentiments of both the government and the opposition in terms of your track record already in this role and welcome your commitment to the work you want to expand on in this term of Parliament. There is some really important work that we as a chamber and as a Parliament can do this term, and the way we do it will be just as important as what we achieve together. So on behalf of the Victorian Greens we look forward to working with you and everyone in this chamber to make this place as democratic and as inclusive as possible to reflect the will of all Victorians as much as we possibly can.

Deputy President*Election*

The PRESIDENT: The house will now elect a Deputy President. Can I ask if there are any nominations.

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (11:35): I nominate Ms Lovell.

The PRESIDENT: Can I have a seconder, please.

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (11:35): I second the nomination.

The PRESIDENT: Ms Lovell, do you accept the nomination?

Wendy LOVELL (Northern Victoria) (11:35): Yes.

The PRESIDENT: Given that there are no other nominations, I declare Ms Wendy Lovell to be elected Deputy President.

I remind members that the Governor will receive me in the north library at 1:25 this afternoon. I ask members to meet in the central library a few minutes before that time in order to accompany me.

Sitting suspended 11:36 am until 2:04 pm.

*Address to Parliament***Governor's speech***Presentation*

The Usher of the Black Rod announced the approach of the Governor.

The Governor entered the chamber.

The Governor: President, I desire the immediate attendance of the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council chamber.

The PRESIDENT: Usher of the Black Rod, the Governor desires the immediate attention of the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in the Legislative Council chamber.

Members of the Legislative Assembly, with the Speaker, attended in response to the Governor's summons.

The Governor (14:11):

Introduction

Honourable President and members of the Legislative Council:

Honourable Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly:

Distinguished guests:

First, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we are gathering and I pay my respects to elders past and present, and I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are here with us today.

Following the results of the general election on 26 November I commissioned the Leader of the Victorian Labor Party Mr Daniel Andrews to form a government.

Accordingly, I have called you together on this day, the first session of the 60th Parliament, to outline the policy agenda and legislative intentions of the government in its third term.

Summary

The government has spent the last four years building the hospitals, schools and roads that Victorians need and removing level crossings as part of the Big Build. The government has introduced free TAFE courses, invested in renewable energy, created thousands of well-paid jobs and made wage theft and workplace manslaughter a criminal offence to ensure workers' rights are protected.

In its third term the government will continue to do what matters to create a stronger Victoria.

The government will deliver on improving hospitals, building new facilities and training thousands of nurses and paramedics, to make sure Victorians get the best care. Kindergarten will be free, saving Victorian families money and time, and bringing back the State Electricity Commission will create new jobs and secure Victoria's renewable energy future.

Over the next four years the government will focus on energy, health, education, transport and jobs.

Energy

Bringing back the SEC

Bringing back the State Electricity Commission will deliver government ownership of energy generation and create thousands of jobs building new renewables, like wind, solar and batteries.

The government will step up renewable electricity targets to 95 per cent by 2035, with emissions reduction targets of 75 to 80 per cent by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2045. One hundred neighbourhood batteries will also be installed across Victoria to create localised energy storage.

The government will seek to own a majority of new energy generation projects built by the SEC, ensuring that profits will go back into helping to keep bills down for Victorians.

The government will invest at least \$20 million to prepare the SEC for its new role in our energy market, including setting up an office in Morwell.

Six million dollars will be invested to create a purpose-built training centre for workers in our emerging offshore, and growing onshore, wind industry.

By building a government-owned energy company, the government will support 59,000 jobs through to 2035, with at least 6000 apprenticeships and traineeships, and will put power back in the hands of Victorians.

Health

The government understands that there is nothing more important than getting the very best care close to home.

Investing in our healthcare system

The government will fund a number of large-scale hospital projects across Victoria, which represents a significant increase in the size of the current health infrastructure delivery program.

This includes delivering the biggest hospital infrastructure project in Australia's history by building new Royal Melbourne and Royal Women's hospitals alongside Metro Tunnel's new Arden station to give patients across Victoria access to the very best of care.

From 2025 both the Parkville and Arden medical precincts will have brand new train stations and be linked, making it a 2-minute trip between hospital campuses and connecting them to the Monash Medical Centre in Clayton.

Once completed, the project will deliver an increased capacity of 10,500 elective surgeries per year, 1000 patients receiving critical care per year, 2500 births per year and 66,000 additional emergency department presentations per year.

Additionally, other new hospitals and upgrades to existing hospitals will include a new Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Melbourne's east, a new West Gippsland hospital, upgrades to Wonthaggi Hospital, Austin Hospital, Dandenong Hospital and Northern Hospital and a bigger and better Monash Medical Centre.

Investing in women's health

The government will continue its focus on women's health by delivering its \$71 million package to create 20 new women's health clinics at public hospitals, a new statewide service and more sexual and reproductive health hubs across Victoria. The government will also work with Aboriginal health organisations to deliver the first-ever dedicated Aboriginal-led women's health clinic.

Delivering new women's health clinics will completely change the way women's health issues are treated in Victoria and will provide comprehensive care for Victorians experiencing conditions like endometriosis, pelvic pain, polycystic ovary syndrome, and perimenopause and menopause.

In response to women feeling ignored, dismissed and often undiagnosed, the government will invest \$64.8 million to double the number of endometriosis and associated condition surgeries, delivering an estimated extra 10,800 laparoscopies over the next four years.

With an aim to find solutions, the government will establish an inquiry into women's pain management chaired by a panel of experts, who will hear directly from women about their experience accessing treatment.

The government will also invest \$5 million into women's health medical research to ensure better treatment and pain management for diseases that specifically impact women.

The government will expand its network of sexual and reproductive health hubs, providing \$6.4 million to establish an additional nine locations across the state and ensuring that women have access to services and advice on contraception, pregnancy and sexual health.

The government will establish a mobile women's health clinic to visit remote parts of the state to ensure all Victorian women have access to the care they need and will provide \$20,000 scholarships for 100 additional women's healthcare specialists to increase the state's network of specialist healthcare workers.

To ensure that lessons learned at the new women's health clinics can inform the inquiry and be used to improve patient care, \$4 million will be put into research support services and \$2 million will be invested to establish support groups and mental health programs for women tackling challenging health issues like endometriosis.

Improving access to fertility services

The government will continue to ensure that IVF is accessible to all and will invest an additional \$13.6 million into Australia's first public IVF service to help further expand access for women and families. The government will also ensure more availability and access to fertility services for Victorians living in regional areas by establishing satellite services in Bendigo, Mildura, Shepparton, Geelong, Ballarat and Warrnambool. Satellite services will also be established in Epping, Sunshine and Heidelberg.

Once fully operational, this investment in free IVF will mean up to 5000 people each year will have access to the services, saving up to \$10,000 for eligible Victorians.

Creating more paramedic positions

To ensure that sick and injured Victorians can receive the treatment they need when they need it, the government, in an Australian first, will create the new position of paramedic practitioner.

Paramedic practitioners will receive advanced clinical training to ensure they are able to assess, diagnose and provide urgent care to patients in the field and make clinical decisions, taking pressure off our busy emergency departments by eliminating the need for a trip to the hospital.

The government will invest \$20 million to establish the role of paramedic practitioner, with an agreed model of care that can strengthen the ambulance service while reducing pressure on the hospital system. Paramedic practitioners will be rolled out in rural and regional areas first, and there will be at least 25 paramedic practitioners trained for free through government-provided scholarships and on the road by 2026.

The government will also fund an additional 40 mobile intensive care ambulance paramedics. Having more of these highly skilled crews on the road will ensure patients are getting the best care in the most urgent circumstances.

The government will also establish an Australian-first centre for paramedicine in partnership with Victoria University. The centre will focus on training the next generation of ambulance paramedics, providing advanced teaching methods, with the capacity to train around 1500 paramedic students each year.

And to assess whether outsourcing remains the most effective model to deliver non-urgent transport, the government will review the existing procurement arrangements for patient transport ambulances.

Education

The government knows that education changes lives.

In its third term, the government will continue its investment in kindergartens, local schools and specialist schools to ensure that all Victorians have access to quality education.

Free kinder and more childcare centres

To deliver greater access to kinder and give kids the best start in life, the government will make three- and four-year-old kinder free, saving families up to \$2500 per child, per year.

The government will build and expand around 180 government-owned kinders so it is easier to find a place, ensuring that families will have more choice in finding a kinder closer to home.

The government will continue to support working families by opening 50 new government owned and run childcare centres in the communities that need them most, building them near schools where possible to avoid the double drop-off for busy parents.

Upgrading local schools

The government know the importance of access to great local schools, which is why they will build and upgrade schools right across the state.

The government will continue its delivery of good-quality schools by building and opening 100 brand new schools to ensure that all families have access to a great school in their area.

Improving specialist schools

To support families of kids with disability, the government will deliver a \$207 million package to transform specialist schools through upgrades and more support for students in the classroom.

The government will also extend outside-hours care to every specialist school in the state, with the next 25 rolling out from 2024, and will create onsite space for allied health appointments to better support families.

NDIS navigators will be introduced in all 89 Victorian specialist schools, employed by the government but working for families to help them navigate the NDIS system.

The government's expansive package will also include:

- \$8.1 million for more extracurricular activities for specialist schools
- \$11.3 million to deliver scholarships to attract more speech pathologists and occupational therapists to regional areas
- \$2 million for professional development for healthcare workers, including how to communicate with people with autism
- \$8.2 million for TAFE transition officers to support students with a disability
- \$25 million to build aqua therapy pools at specialist schools
- the establishment of a Premier's advisory committee
- \$100,000 for specialist schools to apply for access to Proloquo2Go, an app for those who are non-verbal
- and \$5 million to train more therapy animals.

The government will abolish the age threshold for a proof-of-age card so that parents of non-verbal children or children with an intellectual disability who wish for them to carry ID can do so.

The government will also undertake a review of current eligibility processes for specialist schools, including current cognitive thresholds, so that more families can choose the school that best suits their needs.

Transport

The government is continuing the infrastructure Big Build, including removing level crossings, completing the Metro Tunnel, building the Suburban Rail Loop and capping V/Line fares at metro prices so that Victorians can get home sooner and safer.

Removal of more level crossings

Reducing congestion and improving travel for all Victorians, whilst creating thousands of jobs, is critical, which is why the government will have removed 110 level crossings by 2030.

Completing the Metro Tunnel

The government continues work on the Metro Tunnel, which will enable more trains to run more often. Tunnelling is now finished, and five underground stations are taking shape beneath our city. These new stations will change the face of travel in Melbourne, and when airport rail is complete, trains in the Metro Tunnel will take Victorians to the airport in just 30 minutes.

Building the Suburban Rail Loop

The Suburban Rail Loop will change transport within Victoria. The loop will connect rail lines and make it easier for many Victorians to get to work, university, TAFE, hospitals and the airport. Regional Victorians will also benefit by no longer having to change at Southern Cross station, so they will get to where they are going faster. This is a big project that will create thousands of jobs.

More V/Line services, more often

In response to increasing financial pressures on Victorians, the government will cap regional public transport fares, making it easier for families and commuters in regional Victoria to get around by train and bus.

Capping regional prices will deliver savings to passengers, with daily peak fares from Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat all reduced to the daily metro rate.

The government will also add almost 200 weekend services on regional lines around Victoria and will build another 23 VLocity three-car sets to replace older trains so that there are enough trains to run these additional services.

Jobs

The government believes that every Victorian deserves a good, stable job with a decent wage. To help put Victorian workers and Victorian jobs first, the government is extending free TAFE, making studying nursing and midwifery free and delivering the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Extending free TAFE

To support the further education of Victorian workers, the government will expand eligibility for free TAFE so that all Victorians can study for in-demand jobs like health care, mental health, construction, early childhood and hospitality.

The government will change the once-in-a-lifetime limit so Victorians can take multiple free TAFE courses when they are continuing select training pathways and will build and upgrade TAFE campuses across the state so that Victorians can continue to study in quality facilities.

Investment from the Clean Energy TAFE Fund will support a number of TAFEs with a range of initiatives focused on renewable energy jobs.

And the government will legislate to ensure that TAFE funding is protected. Free TAFE is helping Victorians train for their future.

Making nursing free

To help train the next generation of healthcare workers, the government will make studying nursing and midwifery free.

More than 10,000 students will have the cost of their nursing or midwifery undergraduate studies paid for, while scholarships will be available for thousands more who complete postgraduate studies in areas of need, including intensive care, cancer care, paediatrics and nurse practitioner specialities.

The government will provide \$20 million to support the growing number of graduates and postgraduates as they transition to working in our hospitals, ensuring they have access to the clinical educators, preceptors and study time they need.

The government will also provide a \$5000 sign-on bonus for nurses who graduate in the next three years – rewarding those who choose to take up careers in Victoria’s public health system.

Commonwealth Games

Victoria will host the Commonwealth Games across regional Victoria in March 2026.

The games will bring together athletes, communities, cultures and businesses in an exciting program of events expected to support more than 7500 Victorian jobs, with the majority in regional Victoria.

As part of delivering the games, the state will invest in new and upgraded infrastructure that will provide both a first-class games experience and improved facilities for Victorians into the future.

More social and affordable housing will also be created as part of the athletes’ villages that will be constructed as part of the games, supporting more Victorians to have a place to call home.

Closing

Honourable members, I have outlined for you the government’s program for this Parliament.

It is a positive plan that demonstrates the government’s commitment to creating a stronger Victoria.

This Parliament is diverse and offers a range of different perspectives, which is critical for the functioning of democracy.

I trust that you will work together and serve the people of Victoria with integrity and conviction.

It is now my pleasure to wish you well and to declare open the 60th Parliament of Victoria.

Copies of the speech were delivered to the President and the Speaker.

The Governor and members of the Legislative Assembly withdrew from the chamber.

Sitting suspended 2:33 pm until 4:04 pm.

The PRESIDENT: Before we go to the next order of business, I want on behalf of all of us to acknowledge that on the first sitting day there is a lot of work done by the clerks, the Usher of the Black Rod, the attendants and every staff member. So on behalf of us all I acknowledge what a fantastic job they have done so far. We should be okay for the rest of the day, I hope.

Members

Ministry

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (16:05): The ministers in the upper house are me as Attorney-General and Minister for Emergency Services; the Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council is Lizzie Blandthorn, who holds the portfolios of disability, ageing and carers, and child protection and family services; Enver Erdogan holds the positions of corrections minister, youth justice minister and victim support minister; Harriet Shing holds the portfolios of water, regional development, Commonwealth Games legacy and equality; Minister Stitt has early childhood and pre-prep and also the environment portfolio; and Minister Tierney has training and skills, higher education and agriculture.

Members would be aware that all ministers take representing portfolios from the ministers in the other house, but the list is quite long and you will not remember it if I read it out anyway, so I am going to make sure that is available for people in the table office. I would also like to announce that Lee Tarlamis is the Government Whip.

Shadow ministry

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (16:06): I am pleased to inform the house that the Leader of the Opposition, John Pesutto MP, has given members of the opposition responsibilities in this chamber. I am pleased to be appointed as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council; I also have responsibility as Shadow Minister for Health and Shadow Minister for Ambulance Services. Dr Bach is Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council; he is also Shadow Minister for Education and Shadow Minister for Child Protection. Mr Davis is Shadow Special Minister of State and Shadow Minister for the Arts and Creative Industries. Ms Hermans is Shadow Minister for Emergency Services and Shadow Minister for WorkCover and the TAC. Mr Mulholland is Shadow Cabinet Secretary. Ms Bath is the Leader of the Nationals and also the Nationals Whip.

I will also note a number of shadow parliamentary secretary responsibilities in the Legislative Council. Ms Bath is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Volunteers, Mr McCracken is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Economic Development, Mr McGowan is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Scrutiny of Government and Mr Luu is Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for Multicultural Affairs. I also wish to inform the house that the Opposition Whip in the Legislative Council is Mrs Deeming, and Ms Heath has been appointed the Secretary of the Parliamentary Liberal Party. I also will not go through the shadow responsibilities for others in the house.

Greens leadership

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (16:07): I am pleased to announce on behalf of the Victorian Greens that I will hold the position of leader of the parliamentary team and Ellen Sandell in the other place will be the deputy leader of the parliamentary team, and we will provide further advice to the house about portfolio responsibilities and allocations early in the new parliamentary year. In the interim I will be the whip in the upper house for the Greens.

Questions without notice and ministers statements

Fire Rescue Victoria

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (16:08): (1) My question is to the Minister for Emergency Services. Minister, recent reports regarding a cyber attack against Fire Rescue Victoria revealed that they were forced to revert to manual operations, including even having to open large fire station doors by hand. Minister, can you confirm that there were no delays in response times at any time at any station?

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (16:08): I thank Ms Crozier for her question, and I can confirm media reports. Of course the acting commissioner for Fire Rescue Victoria has been out on numerous occasions speaking to the media about an IT incident, confirmed as a cybersecurity issue. It was identified last week, and all attention is being paid to identifying not only the cause but the impact and indeed any measures that need to be taken. There are government cybersecurity experts from both the state and the federal levels helping in relation to that. I am advised that community safety has not been compromised. Crews are continuing to be deployed to incidents, and Victorians should be confident that calling 000 is still the way to ensure that you get a fire response if you need one – if you are facing an emergency that needs firefighters to turn out.

As we speak I am receiving daily updates as to what has been happening. It is certainly a cyber attack from an external third party. There was some speculation that there was some internal thing; I can absolutely put that to bed. That is not an issue; it is in relation to an external third party. We are of course working to resolve the issues as quickly as possible. I am advised that no delays in relation to emergency services turnouts have been experienced. They have all hands on deck in relation to backup systems using mobile phones and existing pagers. In relation to country fire stations, they have just enacted what they had when they used to be CFA, and that is all working fine, as I am advised.

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (16:10): Minister, thank you for that response and for the reassurance. Minister, the government has received various reports into IT systems and cybersecurity in our emergency services over recent times, including at Fire Rescue Victoria. Can you confirm that all recommendations from these reports have been implemented?

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (16:10): Ms Crozier, it would help me somewhat if you were a little more specific in relation to your question. I am not aware of any specific recommendation or specific request that has been made by FRV or its previous agencies in relation to a matter that would have avoided what has happened in relation to this cybersecurity threat, so it is a little difficult for me to have a broadbrush response to such a broadbrush question. Hopefully, the information I have provided to you gives you an answer to the question you were attempting to ask.

Age of criminal responsibility

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (16:11): (2) My question is for the Attorney-General. Attorney, last week the advice to the council of attorneys-general from the age of criminal responsibility working group was made public. It contained a recommendation that the age of criminal responsibility be raised to 14 without exception. This is a recommendation that has been held in secret for two years. Victoria has only a small number of children under 14 in detention, but the report

explicitly pointed to the catastrophic harm all forms of early contact with the criminal justice system have. Every day we delay this overdue reform, the more harm that is caused to the most vulnerable young children in the state. Given this, will your government now commit to starting the process for raising the age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years?

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (16:12): I thank Dr Ratnam for her question and her ongoing interest in this matter, and of course I share her interest in ensuring that young people are not caught up in the justice system and indeed in our custodial arrangements. For the record, I was not Attorney-General when that report was commissioned. I note that you say it has been secret for two years, but it certainly was reported in the *Australian* 12 months ago to quite a level of detail that probably disputes the fact that it is a secret report. But, nonetheless, information contained in that is not a state secret. We all know that there are damaging impacts on young people who come into contact with the justice system, and the whole point is to keep them out.

We have had numerous conversations in this place in the past, and my position on this is well known. It is not just the number that I am worried about; it is what we do with these kids when they come into contact with the justice system. But coming back to raw numbers, as of 11:59 pm last night there were a total of six young people, including up to 14-year-olds, on remand, none of whom were Aboriginal and none who were aged 10, 11 or 12. We are dealing with very small cohorts of people. The young people in the youngest cohorts are ages 10 to 11. There have been no children since 2018 that have served a custodial sentence in that cohort. I know that the response is: it does not mean that just because there are small numbers we do not do anything. That is why we have to have the programs in place, whether it is through our educational facilities or whether it is through our other support services and the like. We want to have a coordinated approach so that young people are not caught up in the justice system.

My concern is that when we just talk about raising the age, just keeping a 13-year-old out of jail and putting them on hold until they are 14, it is not a great outcome – just changing the number. It needs to be more than that. We have to have a really good conversation about what other programs are in place and what diversion tactics are in place. And what I can say is that when you look at the stats, when you look at the figures, we are having a great impact, a meaningful impact, because the numbers are indicating that there are only a small group of people, a small group of kids, that are caught up in the system. Unfortunately, what we know from these kids is that a lot of them have come through child protection, they are in out-of-home care, they are complex kids that require a very dedicated response. Just raising the age is not going to help their future. We want to make sure we have a broad approach to ensuring that these kids can be looked after.

The conversation about raising the age is something that we are having at the national level. We will continue to have that. I am not giving you commitments today around what our government will commit to going forward, because there are a lot of conversations needed and a lot of work that needs to be done before you just change a number in a piece of legislation.

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (16:15): Thank you, Attorney, for your response. Just to respond, firstly, to the latest data you released about the number that are currently being incarcerated and the age profile of them, while I appreciate that it might be a small number now, it has not always been the case historically, and we also know that number does not reflect the true picture of what a lower age of criminal responsibility does to the overpolicing of children. They are the unaccounted-for children that are being connected to the criminal justice system, having harm inflicted upon them because the age has not been raised. I concur with you on the need for support services, and that is something certainly the Greens have been speaking about needing to be implemented in parallel. Speaking, however, about the national approach, with the ACT now well down the road to raising the age, it is self-evident that the only way to have a consistent national approach is if other jurisdictions match their commitment to raising the age to 14, because anything short of this will only result in inconsistency at the national level. So my question is: will Victoria help build a national

approach to raising the age by matching the commitment of the ACT, or is it a ‘national approach’ justification just for delay once again?

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (16:16): I think I have answered your question, Dr Ratnam, in relation to the processes that are underway at a federal level. It is a really collaborative SCAG that we have got, and a lot of jurisdictions are having conversations about what we do with young people in connection with the justice system. You have said that Victoria should match ACT. National consistency is always going to be better. As a member for Northern Victoria, where you have got offenders in Albury and you have got offenders in Wodonga, it is always better if you have got a similar approach, and I would have thought that New South Wales, having ACT in the middle of them, would have these conversations a lot in relation to their border issues and inconsistent laws. We will continue to have a national conversation. I am sure we will continue to have a conversation at the state level – a conversation with you. I have many stakeholders that raise these issues, none less than the Aboriginal Justice Forum. This is a major priority for them, and as I have said, it is a conversation that we will continue to have. But I am not going to make a commitment around matching ACT when there are other processes underway both at the national level and at the state level.

Ministers statements: floods

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (16:17): I rise to update the house on the response to and the recovery from the devastating flood event that commenced in our state in October and continues to impact large parts of our state. While the sun is out and it might be difficult to connect to communities right across Victoria who are still facing enormous challenges, including ongoing flooding, clean-up and plenty of recovery, it is something that many people are still focused on. I would like to particularly start by acknowledging, sadly, that two Victorians lost their lives in this flood event.

I also want to pay immense tribute, personal tribute, to the many, many people who gave their effort to responding, particularly our emergency services, including SES, CFA, FRV, FFMVic, Victoria Police, Life Saving Victoria and Ambulance Victoria, as well as many, many people who came from other states to lend a hand. Any major disaster is challenging, but our emergency services were incredible, and as I said, their efforts are ongoing. The SES has responded to over 17,000 requests for assistance. This is certainly a record in our state for any emergency.

It is obvious that communities are going to take some time to recover. They face a very long road in that endeavour, but I have seen firsthand how resilient these communities are – resilience where you would expect resilience to be gone. It is pretty unbelievable how people continue to come together, and I will probably use the opportunity many times to talk about people I have met in relation to the flood response around the state. But I did want to give a shout-out to people in Rochester. Rochester is a town that has been largely impacted. I will continue to update the house in relation to that community’s recovery, but I just do want to say that the women at the neighbourhood house there were phenomenal – Amanda, Jane, Cate and Hannah – standing up for that community, pulling things together in a role that was not necessarily part of their job description. But the community just really needed that support, and those women have been phenomenal. *(Time expired)*

Floods

Wendy LOVELL (Northern Victoria) (16:19): (3) My question is to the Minister for Water. Minister, during the October floods farms and residential properties in Bunbartha and Kaarimba that are not in the designated flood zone were flooded due to the levee bank surrounding Loch Garry breaching when the bars were not fully extracted from the loch, which would have allowed floodwaters to flow through the Bunbartha Creek system and natural waterways. Minister, what guarantees can you provide to those farmers and residential property owners whose properties are not in the flood zone that this will not happen again?

Harriet SHING (Eastern Victoria – Minister for Water, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy, Minister for Equality) (16:20): Thank you, Ms Lovell, for your question. President, at the outset I congratulate you on your role. It is good to be back in the Parliament.

I want to take this opportunity in answering this question at the outset to build on a number of comments that the Leader of the Government has made in her capacity as the Minister for Emergency Services. The October floods were completely devastating to so many communities across the state. It took a power of work to develop and maintain a level of resilience to be able to provide rescue response and relief efforts. The frontline response to the way in which communities such as Echuca and Rochester and indeed so many others were impacted is something that has taught us across government and indeed across the water sector so many things about the way in which we can not only build upon what has worked but continue to build back better.

When we talk about levees and we talk about the way in which flood incidents are managed, controlled and monitored, we know that there have been in the last 100 years around 4000 kilometres of levees constructed across Victoria. We also know that CMAs, catchment management authorities, and local government have been working really closely with communities to prioritise the sorts of levees that are required and indeed what is required to maintain them. There are quite specific guidelines in relation to the way in which levees are developed and maintained. They need to actually be able to serve the purpose for which they are established, and we know that some of these levees are developed and maintained in fact to a really high standard. That is not always the case, however. As those from regional and rural Victoria will know, many of the existing levees that operate and indeed continue to stand across rural and regional Victoria were built without any of the design standards that are necessary for them to do the work to actually keep water at bay.

In anticipation of flood events we need to make sure that we have integrity of levees that can be relied upon, and that is where – when we think about the \$26.7 million that has been invested over four years and the way in which that will be dedicated to providing support for future flood response and taking those actions around levees – we then know that we need to partner with local councils. We also know that flood plain studies and indeed that work to maintain good modelling and good optical and visual understanding of the impact of floods on local communities let us know when and how this climatic volatility – as a consequence of three successive La Niña events and one-in-100-, one-in-500- and indeed one-in-1000-year flooding events – can be in fact managed. I want to acknowledge the work of water authorities, including those involved in the levees that you have talked about. And the work goes on to continue to provide flood response now and into the future.

Wendy LOVELL (Northern Victoria) (16:23): There was no answer there. I do not think we even heard the words ‘Bunbartha’ and ‘Kaarimba’ mentioned. Minister, drainage in the area is poor due to channel 12 blocking the natural depression, and some landholders were forced to pump water for several weeks to drain it from their homes and paddocks. Minister, what actions will you undertake to ensure drainage in the Bunbartha and Kaarimba area is improved?

Harriet SHING (Eastern Victoria – Minister for Water, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy, Minister for Equality) (16:24): Ms Lovell, it is interesting that you should be raising these questions with me here in the chamber. You actually contacted me directly about these matters in the course of the flooding, and indeed it was a good thing to be able to confirm with you, through the department, the way in which this assistance has been provided. The authorities have been continuing to provide pump and other assistance to people who have been impacted outside of those flood areas. You in fact know this and would know this from local press coverage, which has addressed this particular issue. Again, I am very, very happy to continue to provide you with assistance should you need it.

Wendy Lovell: On a point of order, President, I did contact the minister personally by telephone and I did not actually get an answer to my query.

The PRESIDENT: That is not a point of order.

Duck hunting

Jeff BOURMAN (Eastern Victoria) (16:24): (4) President, first of all I need a bit of guidance from the house. There are now three ministers that have a say in duck season announcements. It is no surprise you are going to hear about this. Two of them are in this house. Who do I direct my questions to?

A member interjected.

Jeff BOURMAN: ‘Quack’ indeed. I am at a loss.

The PRESIDENT: Can I suggest, Mr Bourman, that you address it to one of the ministers, and we can sort out if it needs to be redirected in the carriage of you asking a question.

Jeff BOURMAN: Thank you, President. As long as it does not turn into a handball competition, I will be happy with that.

The government now has all the data it needs for determining any changes to the duck-hunting season, and that data – and I will send it to Minister Stitt, seeing as she is looking at me – has actually been published by the Game Management Authority. The announcements of any changes to the duck-hunting season seem to take longer and longer every year. So now that the government has the data it needs and to date has followed all the recommendations given in the previous data, when can we expect a confirmation of the 2023 season?

Ingrid Stitt: I am sorry I made eye contact with you, Mr Bourman. Thank you for asking me my first question in my capacity as the Minister for Environment. I am obviously absolutely honoured to hold this portfolio and follow in the footsteps of my colleague Minister D’Ambrosio. However, I have to advise that the lead minister in respect to duck hunting is Minister Kilkenny in the other place, who is the minister responsible for outdoor recreation, so it may be that Mr Bourman’s question is better directed to Minister Shing, who represents Minister Kilkenny in the other place on this matter.

Jeff BOURMAN: If I may, President, in my defence, we were actually not told who was representing who – because there were going to be a lot of people – until just then, so with the house’s indulgence could I have another go and send it to Minister Shing?

The PRESIDENT: Absolutely. We will put your complete question to Minister Shing.

Harriet SHING (Eastern Victoria – Minister for Water, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy, Minister for Equality) (16:27): Thanks, Mr Bourman, and thank you for your indulgence as we work through a relatively complex general order and the interlinking portfolio responsibilities between the two houses. I am very, very happy to seek an answer from the Minister for Outdoor Recreation, who I am sure will be very happy to provide you with a briefing in addition to the information you are after.

Jeff BOURMAN (Eastern Victoria) (16:27): Thanks, Minister Shing. I am sure Minister Kilkenny will get sick of me as well at duck season. Just following on, in the absence of an answer, because I thought we might have got one from the ministers here, can we expect the seasonal changes to be announced by 1 January 2023, which will for once give the hunters and business owners plenty of time to prepare for the season so that those businesses will have stock level at hand with time to spare instead of the usual last-minute purchasing?

Harriet SHING (Eastern Victoria – Minister for Water, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy, Minister for Equality) (16:28): Thank you, Mr Bourman. Again I am very happy to refer that matter to Minister Kilkenny in the other place and to ensure that you are furnished with an answer in accordance with the standing orders.

Ministers statements: TAFE funding

Gayle TIERNEY (Western Victoria – Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for Higher Education, Minister for Agriculture) (16:28): Thank you, President. I also wish to extend my congratulations to you in your elevated position as President of the Legislative Council.

On the first day of the sitting of the 60th Parliament in Victoria I am so proud to advise the chamber that I recently announced with Brendan O'Connor MP, the Commonwealth Minister for Skills and Training, a landmark 12-month skills agreement. Together we are investing over \$250 million into Victorian skills and training in 2023. This partnership will create 55,000 places in Victoria's world-class TAFE system. We are about building strong and real opportunities for all Victorians.

Since free TAFE was introduced in 2019, 125,000 Victorians have enrolled in quality courses that are the first step in a great career. Free TAFE has saved students more than \$320 million in fees. But more than that, free TAFE has increased access for women, unemployed people, students with a disability, regional Victorians and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Free TAFE has broken down so many barriers. Everyone has the right to access training that leads to a good job and a great career. We have delivered a system where all Victorians can get the skills they need for careers that are in demand and into the future.

We understand that we will need more skilled professionals, and an additional 55,000 places will be aligned to health, early childhood, community services, construction, agriculture and digital technology, just to name a few. I am so proud that the Victorian and Commonwealth governments have been able to work together and unite on the strong impact of free TAFE and the importance of public provision of quality training in this state.

Timber industry

Melina BATH (Eastern Victoria) (16:30): (5) My question is to the Minister for Agriculture. Minister, in the absence of long log supply, the CFMMEU forestry division secretary Michael O'Connor recently tweeted:

Opal management are in negotiations with the Vic State government to turn proposed 200 stand downs into 200 permanent redundancies. Thats the so called transition plan. A disaster for the Latrobe Valley which the union warned the government about for the last 2 years.

Minister, is it the Andrews government's policy to force these 200 workers and the potential 650 other workers at Opal's Maryvale mill into permanent unemployment queues as part of your timber transition plan?

Gayle TIERNEY (Western Victoria – Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for Higher Education, Minister for Agriculture) (16:31): I thank the member for her question, and the answer is no. What is happening is that there are active discussions underway between the government and Opal on pathways to minimising the job impact as a result of the timber shortage, defer any potential standdowns or redundancies for as long as possible to give workers additional certainty and to support the mill's transition to sustainable long-term operations.

We are providing a new dedicated Opal worker support service. It is designed for Maryvale mill workers, with services that align to their site. The service will provide relevant information and mental health support, along with case management, training support and employment assistance services for any Maryvale workers impacted in the future. This is a new service, and it is being rapidly activated by the department. Can I say that the government is consulting with all stakeholders involved in this very challenging situation. We absolutely stand by all potentially impacted workers, including those that are represented by the CFMEU manufacturing division.

Opal management has issued a series of public statements indicating it is reviewing a range of its business decisions, and the government has responded in a proactive way to this uncertainty by supporting workers at the mill. We are not in the business of fuelling uncertainty for workers. We are

making sure that there are services that will be there for workers. They are different services that are provided in terms of mill workers, because the mill worker services are about tailoring exit payments. This is not the objective at all in terms of the support services that we are setting up for Opal workers.

We stand side by side with those workers and we stand side by side with operators within the industry so that we can work through the very, very complex issues that are significant challenges to the industry now and into the future. We are not going to guess, we are not going to speculate, but we are making sure that workers in particular are supported.

Melina BATH (Eastern Victoria) (16:34): I acknowledge the minister's response. In terms of proactiveness, Minister, has the government identified any alternative timber sources, consistent with its legislative obligation to ensure these jobs are not actually lost?

Gayle TIERNEY (Western Victoria – Minister for Training and Skills, Minister for Higher Education, Minister for Agriculture) (16:34): A number of activities have been undertaken by VicForests as a result of the fairly recent Supreme Court decision. Of course VicForests has already lodged an appeal in respect to that, but of course it did require VicForests to undertake a whole range of work that would then unlock the coupes. That work is being undertaken, and I look forward to receiving a report from VicForests in terms of an update on exactly where they have got to in respect to that. But, as I said, in the meantime we will ensure that there is support for the industry and for workers as we work through this very, very challenging time.

Government performance

David LIMBRICK (South-Eastern Metropolitan) (16:35): (6) My question is for the Leader of the Government. As we are all human, humans make mistakes, and as organisations are made up of humans, organisations also make mistakes, including government. So my question to the Leader of the Government is this: what is a mistake that the government made during the last term that they learned from that they are going to apply a different approach to during this term of government – a significant mistake that they might have learned from?

The PRESIDENT: Mr Limbrick, I am happy for you to have another go at the terminology around this minister's actual responsibility. Maybe you want to have another go at trying to nail it down to the Leader of the Government's ministerial responsibilities.

David LIMBRICK: What actions has the Leader of the Government in this house taken in her role in cabinet to correct mistakes and change the way that they will act going forward?

The PRESIDENT: I cannot put that question. Sorry, Mr Limbrick.

Ministers statements: Tiny Towns Fund

Harriet SHING (Eastern Victoria – Minister for Water, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy, Minister for Equality) (16:37): One of the things that is so lovely about rural and regional Victoria sits within those towns of 5000 people or fewer. These are our tiny towns, and there are about 281 tiny towns across rural and regional Victoria and indeed across our interface councils as well, where we know there is a mix of built-up metropolitan areas along with those interface and indeed peri-urban catchments too.

It was with this in mind, as Minister for Regional Development and in the lead-up to the recent poll that returned a government membership of 56 seats in the lower house, that I met with and joined the extraordinary returning member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale in the other place, on 23 November to announce the \$10 million Tiny Towns Fund. This is a fund which is geared towards celebrating our smallest towns, providing grants of between \$5000 and \$50,000 to help our smallest communities to showcase their identities, their history, their culture, their stories and indeed their celebrations. This is about making sure that we can also support local projects, from murals through to street furniture,

playgrounds, splash parks and events, to really shine in the course of highlighting the best of the unique features of our smallest towns.

This will support communities in a range of areas, including those interface councils that I referred to earlier – in Casey, Cardinia, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Wyndham and indeed the Yarra Ranges. There is so much to celebrate in our tiny towns. There is so much to look forward to as we continue to enable them to shine. We want to make sure that along every step of the way in our commitment to regional Victoria our tiniest towns have the opportunities that they deserve.

Child protection

Matthew BACH (North-Eastern Metropolitan) (16:39): (7) My question is to the minister for child protection. Minister, why does the Andrews Labor government remove one in nine Indigenous babies?

Lizzie BLANDTHORN (Western Victoria – Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Minister for Child Protection and Family Services) (16:39): Thank you, Dr Bach, for your question and for the opportunity to speak for the first time in this house. It was indeed a privilege to be sworn in in this place this morning. Thank you for facilitating that opportunity. Indeed I am very humbled to stand here with the commission as minister for child protection. When the Premier asked me to take on the role of child protection, this important role, I had a think about why it was that I came to this place in the very first place. I actually went back to some of my very early speeches, including my inaugural speech, but also to some of the speeches that I gave in relation to the child and wellbeing bills, the adoption act and others. The fundamental rights of those who are most vulnerable in our community are the very reason that I had the privilege to be in the Assembly for eight years and why I am standing here today.

Matthew Bach: On a point of order, President, the minister has now been on her feet for 45 seconds. This is not a maiden speech. Her contribution thus far bears no relevance whatsoever to the question that was asked. She should be made to come back and answer the question.

The PRESIDENT: Thank you, Dr Bach. The clock has just changed to 4 minutes, but there were 2 minutes left, and I think the minister was relevant to the role of child protection. She will lead to her answer to your specific question very soon.

Lizzie BLANDTHORN: Thank you, President. It is very sad that those opposite – or perhaps Dr Bach himself – do not think that protecting those who are most vulnerable goes to the very heart of the question.

There is absolutely no doubt that protecting those most vulnerable goes to also protecting those who have special needs in our child protection system, and Indigenous children are a very important part of that. The Premier's comments in asking me to take on this role, and certainly in all of his public statements since I have had the fortunate opportunity and the privilege to take on this role, very much go to his passion and my passion for closing the gap in relation to Indigenous children in care. We have made it very clear – and certainly in the past couple of weeks, following the harrowing evidence that has been given so far at Yoorrook in relation to the truth-telling around Indigenous children in care, it is very clear – that it is the commitment of the whole of this government that the protection of all children, and in particular closing the gap for Indigenous children, is an important element of this portfolio.

Matthew BACH (North-Eastern Metropolitan) (16:42): I will ask an even more narrow supplementary. How many Indigenous Victorian children have been taken into care, Minister, since you became the minister for child protection?

Lizzie BLANDTHORN (Western Victoria – Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Minister for Child Protection and Family Services) (16:42): Thank you again for the question, Dr Bach. As I have said, the protection of all children in care is an important issue. The protection of Indigenous

children in care is also fundamental to the role of the child protection system. One of the other things that we have made clear in the past few weeks in listening, and indeed over our journey of the reform road map from 2016 to the review in 2018 and onwards, is that closing the gap for Indigenous children in care is an important element. We will not, however, pre-empt the truth-telling process that is happening at Yoorook and we will not pre-empt the conversations and the work that is being done around treaty. But at the same time, Dr Bach, we will be ensuring that all children in care – and all Indigenous children in care – are given the protection that they are entitled to.

Corrections system

Bev McARTHUR (Western Victoria) (16:43): (8) Thank you, President, and congratulations on your re-elevation to the role.

My question is to Minister Erdogan, the Minister for Corrections. Minister, since July 2022 how many emergency management days have been awarded to prisoners in the adult corrections system?

Enver ERDOGAN (Southern Metropolitan – Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice, Minister for Victim Support) (16:44): I thank the member for their question and interest in this area. I was wondering who would ask me my first question as a minister in my portfolio responsibilities, so thank you again, Mrs McArthur, for giving me this opportunity. As those opposite would understand, emergency management days are an important operational tool. There are longstanding arrangements around the way these operational tools are used by professionals in the field, so I think it is interesting that the opposition is trying to make this an issue when these arrangements around the use of emergency management days have been in place for longstanding –

Matthew Bach interjected.

Enver ERDOGAN: Even when you were in government, Dr Bach – before your time. So it is interesting. It is in fact our side of the chamber that tightened the laws around the use of these emergency management days to ensure that people that do the wrong thing are not rewarded with these days. But these operational tools exist for a purpose: to encourage good behaviour in our corrections system. I think it is a bit rich for the opposite side to try to make this an issue now, when it has been longstanding. I do want to say that the staff and professionals in this field do an enormous amount of work. They have done amazing work during the COVID-19 pandemic against all the difficulties they have faced. They have had this tool that they have used. Obviously, as long as these operational tools are used within the policy framework, I trust the advice of the professionals ahead of the advice of those opposite.

Bev McARTHUR (Western Victoria) (16:45): Thank you, Minister, for not answering the question. It was a specific question about days; you could not answer it. But the supplementary question is: how many days have prisoners been in lockdown due to understaffing which has put the corrections system and frontline staff at risk? Could we just have the specific answer.

Enver ERDOGAN (Southern Metropolitan – Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice, Minister for Victim Support) (16:46): Mrs McArthur has asked a very broad question about the corrections system and the way isolation policies are used. Obviously our government understands – and I guess for those of you in the gallery here today – that our corrections system is designed to keep the community safe and to reduce recidivism. There are a number of tools. Again, this is an operational question. When it comes to operational matters, it will not be my practice to comment on how the professionals in this area do their job. I will be taking advice from them, but ultimately these are operational matters. I think Mrs McArthur understands that. It is a tricky question to try to nail down this day, that day, when really I trust the advice of the professionals ahead of the advice of those opposite. These arrangements have been longstanding. As I stated to the earlier question, your substantive, these are operational matters that have been longstanding practice in the prison system, and the experts use this to encourage good behaviour and to get outcomes to ensure the corrections system operates efficiently.

Ministers statements: early childhood education

Ingrid STITT (Western Metropolitan – Minister for Early Childhood and Pre-Prep, Minister for Environment) (16:47): Thank you, President, and can I also congratulate you on your elevation to the presidency.

I am really honoured to be back in the chamber today to update the house on some of the commitments that the Andrews Labor government has made to ensure all Victorian children get the very best start in life. As part of our \$9 billion Best Start, Best Life reforms we will deliver an additional investment of \$24 million to create the best kinders for every child. Funding of almost \$15 million will be provided for one-off \$5000 grants so that kindergartens can purchase new toys and equipment to support play-based learning. We will spend \$3.7 million to create 10 new bilingual kindergartens across the state, supporting children to continue learning in their home language or to learn a new language. These additional bilingual kindergartens will build on the successful early childhood language program.

To help children develop a love of learning in the great outdoors, we will provide \$3.6 million to enable kinders to establish bush kinder and nature programs, combining my two great portfolios. 150 kinders each year over four years will be eligible for \$6000 grants. We will support our wonderful toy libraries with \$1.9 million to establish eight new toy libraries and support existing toy libraries with grants of up to \$10,000 to purchase new toys. This is on top of free kinder for every three- and four-year-old and the continued expansion of kinder hours for three-year-old children. These investments are life changing and demonstrate our government's commitment to early childhood education and care.

Written responses

The PRESIDENT (16:49): Part of the joy of having this position is to determine whether questions need to have written responses. I thank Minister Shing, who will get Mr Bourman answers from Minister Kilkenny, for two days. Minister Blandthorn will supply a written response to both Dr Bach's question and supplementary. Minister Erdogan will supply a written response within the standing orders to both of Mrs McArthur's questions. I am looking at Ms Lovell, and I invite her to raise a point of order if she thinks she deserves a response.

Wendy Lovell: President, I would seek a written response from the minister. The levee bank that I asked about in my question is a levee bank that is owned and managed by Goulburn-Murray Water. It is a levee bank that they charge landholders a maintenance fee to maintain, and yet the minister spoke nothing about that levee bank but spoke about levee banks in general.

The PRESIDENT: Minister Shing will get a written response within the standing orders for both of those questions. I was going to say, going forward, that this is a topic and an issue that Minister Shing and Ms Lovell would have a great deal of understanding about. It is impossible for the President to have an understanding of every issue across the state, so in going forward I will at times give advice that I will take it on notice and get back to the chamber. But thank you, Minister Shing, for that.

Constituency questions**Northern Victoria Region**

Wendy LOVELL (Northern Victoria) (16:51): (1) My constituency question is for the Minister for Community Sport. Four years ago I used my first constituency question of the 59th Parliament to ask the Andrews Labor government to commit their share of funding for the redevelopment of the Shepparton Sports Stadium. I again rise with the same request, because the Andrews government has repeatedly refused to support this very important project. The \$60 million project will see the construction of six new basketball and netball multi-use courts, including a show court with a 3000-seat retractable grandstand. The current stadium is in such a state of disrepair that it was unable to be used as Greater Shepparton City Council's primary recovery centre to house evacuees during the

recent flood crisis, due to a leaking roof. Will the minister provide a commitment to match the coalition's pledge of \$20 million towards the redevelopment of the Shepparton Sports Stadium?

Western Victoria Region

Bev McARTHUR (Western Victoria) (16:52): (2) My constituency question is for the Minister for Environment, and I am terribly sorry that she has left the room. But I welcome her to this new job, because I suspect, if this term is like the last, I will have a significant number of serious questions, so it is excellent now to have the environment minister with us in the house – shame she has just left the room. We have just lost her.

Members interjecting.

Bev McARTHUR: We have lost her. Anyway, Minister, in recent years Parks Victoria has, frankly, harassed responsible members of the climbing community, treating them as wreckers and criminals. I sincerely hope this relationship can be reset. Just this weekend a climber at Taipan Wall in the Grampians was aggressively questioned by rangers despite climbing legally. His car had been under surveillance and was recorded as parked on public roads at various locations while containing climbing equipment. He was then cautioned for having no photo ID. So I ask the minister: in her view, is this spying and aggressive questioning proportionate?

Southern Metropolitan Region

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (16:53): (3) My constituency question is for the attention of the Minister for Police in the other place, and it is in relation to some antisocial and criminal behaviour that is occurring in Fitzroy Street in St Kilda. A few weeks ago I met with concerned residents and traders, who were speaking to me about their concerns about the increase in activity in the area, and they were really wanting some action – more action than what was being provided by Victoria Police, even though they are doing a tremendous job in curtailing a lot of this activity. But it seems to have increased, and what these retailers particularly were saying – and lots of them had restaurants, they were musicians, they were involved in a range of industries – is they were very concerned about the negative impact on the area. So the question is: will the minister commit to a mobile police station or more police activity in the area to curb this antisocial and criminal behaviour?

Southern Metropolitan Region

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (16:55): (4) My constituency question is for the attention of the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, and it concerns the Surrey Hills and Mont Albert level crossing removal project. Freedom-of-information requests have uncovered the existence of a number of sound studies on those crossings, which the government is refusing to release. And indeed the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner has recommended – has indeed ordered – the release of those secret sound studies, and I think the community is entitled to know about these studies and the impact of the government's crossing proposals. So what I am asking the government to do is to relent on its freedom-of-information approach and to release these documents in a way that the community can actually see the sound studies. I think they are entitled to see them. So to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure: will she simply release the sound studies that the community are entitled to?

Eastern Victoria Region

Melina BATH (Eastern Victoria) (16:56): (5) My constituency question is for the Minister for Roads and Road Safety. Promised in 2015, the new Latrobe River bridge on Tyers Road was labelled at the time by the Premier as 'long overdue'. Under construction seven years later, the new bridge is a vital link between the Tyers residents and certainly emergency services and first responders; however, my constituents are frustrated and dismayed that the old bridge has now been closed for several weeks. Regional Roads Victoria suggests that it must remain closed until further notice. Apparently there are structural changes that need to happen. With the summer bushfire season upon us, the lack of direct access for the Tyers community is of great concern. Minister, will you provide additional resources to

ensure the old bridge is reopened immediately to allow the safe passages of both residents and emergency responders while construction of the new bridge is completed?

North-Eastern Metropolitan Region

Matthew BACH (North-Eastern Metropolitan) (16:57): (6) I wanted to raise a constituency matter today for the Minister for Housing. When it comes to public and social housing, there is much that we can agree upon across this chamber. Over a period of time now, like so many members I am sure, I have received correspondence from constituents who have had significant issues with their housing, and yet I have largely focused on other matters in my constituency contributions. I wanted to refer, in a de-identified way, to one constituent who recently contacted me with a story that is not uncommon, and I am sure it will ring true for other members. She talked to me about residing in a transitional property recently where she allegedly experienced violence. She spoke with me about having to flee that property and then her dreadful troubles in seeking to deal with another member of Parliament in order to seek to achieve the help that she needed. These are issues, as I say, that I hear about often and that we hear about often in this place, indeed President, in the region that you and I represent. My question is: how will the minister ensure that vulnerable people living in the north-eastern region have access to the safe public and community housing they need?

Northern Metropolitan Region

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (16:58): (7) My question is for the Minister for Education. I recently had the privilege of visiting the Pavilion School in Epping in my electorate of Northern Metro. The Pavilion is a fantastic school that supports marginalised and at-risk students to re-engage with education, but despite its critical work it is woefully under-resourced. The school supports over 80 students with just two classrooms and no meeting rooms or outdoor facilities. There is so little room for teaching classes that students attend school in shifts of just 2 hours maximum at a time, and around 30 students are on the waiting list for admission. The school desperately needs an expanded site to meet current and future demand, but while the school has been advocating to the Labor government for support, their requests have largely been ignored by previous education ministers, who have taken this community for granted. Minister, will you urgently commit to more funding for the Pavilion School, including a commitment for better facilities and funding?

Announcements

Clerk of the Legislative Council

Clerk of the Parliaments

The PRESIDENT (16:59): I will take the opportunity to formally advise the house that as a consequence of the retirement of the Clerk of the Parliaments and the Clerk of the Legislative Council Mr Andrew Young effective from 20 October 2022, the Governor in Council has made the following appointments effective from 28 October 2022: Mr Robert McDonald as the Clerk of the Legislative Council and Ms Bridget Noonan as the Clerk of the Parliaments.

*Bills***Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Restoration of Examination Powers) Bill 2022***Introduction and first reading*

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (16:59): I move to introduce a bill for an act to amend the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011 to restore certain examination powers of the commission and for other purposes, and I move:

That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.**Read first time.**

David DAVIS: I move, by leave:

That the second reading be taken forthwith.

Motion agreed to.*Statement of compatibility*

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (17:00): I lay on the table a statement of compatibility with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006:

In accordance with section 28 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (the Charter), I make this statement of compatibility with respect to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Restoration of Examination Powers) Bill 2022 (the Bill).

In my opinion, the Bill, as introduced to the Legislative Council, is compatible with the human rights protected by the Charter.

I note that this Bill, the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Restoration of Examination Powers) Bill 2022, restores powers to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission that were removed by the Parliament in 2019. To the extent that these restored powers mirror precisely powers that were removed, I would argue that the Bill and its impact on Charter rights is consistent with the earlier arrangements that were accepted by the Parliament.

It is my view that sufficient protections exist to protect Charter rights consistent with the objectives of the IBAC in rooting out corruption and ensuring clean government and that public money is not wasted or squandered through corrupt practices.

The IBAC has been shown to exercise its powers responsibly and with an awareness of the relevant rights.

David Davis MP

Second reading

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (17:00): I move:

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Andrews Labor government is embroiled in a series of corruption and maladministration crises: the red shirts rorts, the corrupt behaviour of transport agencies and the crooked issues with multicultural grants being squandered on factional or party-political objectives.

This bill restores certain critical examination powers to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission stripped from the agency by Daniel Andrews and the Andrews Labor government in 2019.

It has become clear that stripping the commission of these key powers to hold public hearings was a defensive move by Daniel Andrews and his government to close down future and forthcoming examination of Andrews Labor government ministers by IBAC.

The litany of corrupt activity is long.

This bill, in essence, restores the power of the commission to hold public hearings. Clause 4 of the bill repeals section 117(1)(c) and (d). This has the effect of repealing from the principal act the requirement for an IBAC examination not to be open to the public unless the IBAC considers on reasonable grounds a public examination can be held without causing unreasonable damage to a person's reputation, safety or wellbeing and the conduct that is the subject of the investigation may constitute serious corrupt conduct or systemic corrupt conduct or serious police personnel misconduct or systemic police personnel misconduct.

Section 117(3A)(a) of the principal act is also repealed. This has the effect of repealing the requirement that, if the IBAC holds an examination in public, the IBAC may hold any part of the examination in private on application by a person attending the examination in accordance with a witness summons or a person authorised by the IBAC under section 119A to appear at the public examination. Also repealed is section 117(3B), the requirement that in deciding whether or not to hold part of the examination in private, the IBAC may have regard to whether it is in the public interest to keep that part of the examination open to the public and whether holding the examination in private is necessary to prevent unreasonable damage to a person's reputation, safety or wellbeing.

Also repealed is the section 117(4) requirement of the factors the IBAC may take into account in determining whether or not it is in the public interest to hold a public examination or part of an examination open to the public, as applicable.

Also repealed is the section 117(5A) requirement that the IBAC must not make a public announcement of its intention to hold a public examination for the purposes of an investigation unless the IBAC has notified the Victorian Inspectorate of its intention to do so.

Clause 5 repeals section 162A of the principal act. This has the effect of repealing the requirement that, if the IBAC proposes to transmit a report to the Parliament under section 162, the IBAC must give an advance copy of the report to the minister and the Secretary to the Department of Premier and Cabinet at least one business day before the report is due to be transmitted to the Parliament.

With respect to persons who receive reports or information prior to publication, clause 6 of the bill omits the provision of an advance copy of a report under section 162(A).

Section 166(2)(ca) of the principal act is repealed. This has the effect of repealing the ability of the Secretary to the Department of Premier and Cabinet to disclose an advance copy of an IBAC report to the relevant officers of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

The community expects IBAC to be able to undertake its work without being unnecessarily impeded or hindered, and it has become clear that the recent changes preventing open hearings, or at a minimum making open hearings much more difficult, has had the effect of weakening IBAC and protecting certain wrongdoers.

The Premier has become a frequent flyer at IBAC, appearing twice, perhaps three times, in the recent period. It is not known whether the Premier's visits and questioning at IBAC are as a mere witness or as a person of specific and targeted interest.

What has become clear is that in other jurisdictions many hearings that are held in public would be held in private in Victoria. This has the effect of diminishing public scrutiny of IBAC hearings and processes. It was always understood that one of the key functions of IBAC hearings was an educative function and a transparency function.

With these changes IBAC will retain the ability to hold hearings in private where it is appropriate. This restoration-of-powers bill corrects a weakening of IBAC, driven by the Andrews Labor government's desire to shield itself from hearings and public scrutiny.

I commend the bill to the house.

Lee TARLAMIS (South-Eastern Metropolitan) (17:04): I move:

That debate on this bill be adjourned for two weeks.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned for two weeks.

Statute Law Amendment Bill 2022

Introduction and first reading

Enver ERDOGAN (Southern Metropolitan – Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice, Minister for Victim Support) (17:05): I move to introduce a bill for an act to revise the statute law of Victoria, to make minor amendments to the Competition Policy Reform (Victoria) Act 1995 and for other purposes, and I move:

That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to

Read first time.

Enver ERDOGAN: I move, by leave:

That the second reading be taken forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

Statement of compatibility

Enver ERDOGAN (Southern Metropolitan – Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice, Minister for Victim Support) (17:05): I lay on the table a statement of compatibility with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006:

Tabling of Statement of Compatibility

In accordance with section 28 of the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Charter), I table a statement of compatibility for the **Statute Law Amendment Bill 2022** (Bill).

In my opinion, the Bill is compatible with human rights as set out in the Charter. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview

The Bill makes minor and technical amendments to a number of Acts to ensure the meaning of those Acts is clear, accurate and reflects the intention of Parliament.

In particular, the Bill makes minor and technical amendments to the:

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, *Housing Act 1983*, and *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003* to fix typographical or grammatical errors in these Acts, update a reference and to further clarify the intended operation of the relevant provisions of these Acts (clause 3 and Schedule 1 of the Bill);
- *Competition and Policy Reform (Victoria) Act 1995* to reflect the renaming of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cth) with the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) by the *Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Consumer Law) Act (No. 2) 2010* (Cth) which was effective from 1 January 2011 (Part 3 of the Bill);
- *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004* (SOR Act) to insert in Schedule 2 an additional Commonwealth offence (section 474.25C of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth), introduced in 2017) as a class 2 offence for the purpose of that Act (clause 3 and item 5 of Schedule 1 of the Bill). This amendment was intended to be inserted by Parliament in the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Police and Other Matters) Act 2022* (JLAPOM Act) but was likely ineffective due to a typographical error caused by section 34(1) of the *Firearms and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021* commencing earlier than the JPLOM Act which removed a relevant reference in the SOR Act so the amendment to be made by the JLAPOM Act could not take effect; and
- JLAPOM Act to repeal the ineffective amendment in section 8(2) to the SOR Act (clause 3 and item 6 of Schedule 1 of the Bill).

I consider that the amendments under the Bill do not engage any rights under the Charter except for the amendment to the SOR Act.

The SOR Act supports Victoria Police to actively monitor registrable sex offenders and to reduce the risk of reoffending. An adult convicted and sentenced for a class 2 offence is, under the SOR Act, automatically added to Victoria's Sex Offender Register.

The additional Commonwealth offence was intended to be added to the SOR Act as a class 2 offence in 2022 in section 8(2) of the JLAPOM Act, however, this reform was likely ineffective and was not included in the SOR Act due to a typographical error.

The new offence under the SOR Act is using a carriage service (e.g. internet, text messages, email, telephone) to prepare or plan to cause harm to, engage in sexual activity with, or procure for sexual activity, persons under 16, except if the offence does not involve an act in preparing or planning to engage in sexual activity with a person under 16 years of age or an act in preparing or planning to procure a person under 16 years of age to engage in sexual activity. This offence is established by section 474.25C of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth). In practice, the Bill excludes conduct constituting an offence against paragraph 474.25C(a)(i) of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* of the Commonwealth as this conduct is not sexual in nature.

Human Rights issues

The Bill's amendments to the SOR Act engage the following rights under the Charter:

- freedom of movement (section 12);
- right to privacy and reputation under the Charter (section 13);
- freedom of expression (section 15); and
- protection of families and children (section 17).

While the amendment to the SOR Act ensures Parliament's intent in the JLAPOM Act is reflected, it will have human rights impacts in the same way as it did when it was a part of the original reforms in the JLAPOM Act which require consideration by the Parliament.

For the following reasons, having taken into account all relevant factors, I am satisfied that the Bill is compatible with the Charter and, if any rights are limited, the limitation is reasonable and justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom in accordance with section 7(2) of the Charter.

Freedom of movement

Section 12 of the Charter provides that every person lawfully within Victoria has the right to move freely within Victoria and to enter and leave it, and has the freedom to choose where to live.

In the context of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Mason J described the right in *Gerhardy v Brown* (1985) 159 CLR 70 at [102], as including protection by law from unnecessary restrictions by the State or others on an individual's freedom of movement, movement without impediment throughout the State, a right of access to facilities necessary for the enjoyment of freedom of movement, and a right of access to places and services used by members of the public, subject to compliance with regulations legitimately made in the public interest, such as traffic laws, and subject to the private and property rights of others.

The amendment to the SOR Act may limit this right to the extent that a person who is sentenced for the new class 2 offence is subject as a registrable offender to the requirements of the SOR Act, including:

- reporting requirements under Part 3 of the SOR Act (sections 18 to 21A of the SOR Act require a registrable offender to report their intention to travel outside of Victoria to the Chief Commissioner of Police within specified timeframes); and
- enlivening the jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court to make a prohibition order under Part 4A of the SOR Act against a registrable offender. A prohibition order may persist for up to five years, and may include conditions prohibiting a registrable offender from contacting, associating with or being within a specified distance of a specified person or class of person or place or class of place; and from engaging in specified behaviour, specified community activities, or specified employment or kind of employment.

While the amendment engages and may limit the right to freedom of movement by imposing duties on a registrable offender to report their intention to travel outside Victoria, and by allowing for the Magistrates Court to make a prohibition order that includes a condition that limits a registrable offender's freedom of movement, I believe it is reasonable and justified noting:

- the duty to report travel intentions imposes a procedural requirement prior to travel, but does not prevent a registrable offender from moving freely around or outside of Australia;

- a registrable offender's right to freedom of movement is anticipated by the SOR Act, which provides for a registrable offender to report a change of travel plans when out of Victoria;
- any limitation on the right to the freedom of movement imposed as a condition of a prohibition order is limited to a period not exceeding 5 years and is the result of a judicial process set out in the SOR Act. Any lawful limitation imposed on a registrable offender's right to freedom of movement must be reasonable in the circumstances; and
- each of the reporting requirements and prohibition order mechanisms protect the broader rights of the protection of children by providing for the Police to monitor a registrable offender's movements and/or certain high risk behaviours or activities to reduce the risk of the commission of a further offence involving sexual violence committed against a child.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that these amendments are compatible with the freedom of movement under the Charter.

Right to privacy and reputation

Section 13(a) of the Charter provides that a person has the right not to have their privacy, family, home or correspondence unlawfully or arbitrarily interfered with. Section 13(b) provides that a person has the right not to have their reputation unlawfully attacked.

An interference with the right to privacy and reputation is justified if it is both lawful and not arbitrary. An interference will be lawful if it is permitted by law which is precise and appropriately circumscribed and will be arbitrary only if it is capricious, unpredictable, unjust or unreasonable, in the sense of being disproportionate to the legitimate aim sought.

The amendment to the SOR Act engages the right to privacy and reputation since it means that a person who is sentenced for the new class 2 offence is a registrable offender under the SOR Act and must report certain personal details to the Chief Commissioner of Police for the period set out in that Act.

The details that registrable offenders must provide the Chief Commissioner of Police within seven days of being sentenced or released from prison includes their name, date of birth, contact details, internet provider, internet username identities, personal details of any children who they live with or have unsupervised contact with and employment details. A registerable offender must also report their personal details to the Chief Commissioner of Police annually and any change in personal details within seven days of this occurring (or in some circumstances, earlier).

This amendment engages the right to privacy and reputation to the extent that a registrable offender under this amendment is given no option but to share personal details with the Chief Commissioner of Police for the specified period and these details may reveal negative attributes of the registerable offender's character which may be perceived as an attack on their reputation. The Chief Commissioner of Police or a person authorised access to the Register is able to disclose personal information in the Register in limited circumstances under section 64 of the SOR Act.

However, I am of the view that this amendment does not limit the right to privacy and reputation. This is because the duty to report personal details to the Chief Commissioner of Police is required by law (i.e. the SOR Act) and is not arbitrary. The duty to provide personal details is not arbitrary because it is for a clear and legitimate purpose, and is appropriately confined; the SOR Act specifies the personal details required and specifies a clear process for a registerable offender to give their personal details to the Chief Commissioner of Police. The new class 2 offence is consistent with the types of offences specified as class 2 offences in Schedule 2 to the SOR Act. Section 63 of the SOR Act also has restrictions on who can access the Register and generally prohibits the disclosure of any personal information in the Register unless exceptions under section 64 apply.

Further, any limitation that may be identified would be reasonable under section 7(2) of the Charter, as it is for the broader and proportionate purpose of promoting the right of protection of persons, including children.

In my opinion, any requirement to disclose personal information under the SOR Act is neither unlawful nor arbitrary for the purposes of section 13 of the Charter.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that these amendments are compatible with the rights to privacy and reputation in the Charter.

Freedom of expression

Section 15(2) of the Charter provides that every person has the right to freedom of expression which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds orally, in writing, in print, by way of art or in another medium of their choice.

Section 15 also provides that special duties and responsibilities attach to this right, and that lawful restrictions may be reasonably necessary to respect personal rights and reputations, and to protect national security, public order, public health or morality. The right is not absolute and can be also subject to reasonable limitation under section 7(2) of the Charter.

The Bill engages the right to freedom of expression by requiring a person to do certain things, including reporting personal details to the Chief Commissioner of Police as summarised above in this statement.

Although these provisions may engage the right to freedom of expression, in my view any limitation is minimal with respect to providing or receiving information and is lawful, reasonable and necessary to advance the broader and proportionate purpose of promoting the right of protection of persons, including children.

Therefore, the Bill is consistent with the rights in relation to freedom of expression in section 15(2) of the Charter.

Protection of families and children

Section 17 of the Charter provides that families are a fundamental group unit of society and are entitled to be protected by society and the State. Every child has the right, without discrimination, to such protection as is in the child's best interests and is needed by the child by reason of being a child.

The amendment to the SOR Act engages and promotes this right by specifying that an adult who is sentenced for an offence against section 474.25C of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* of the Commonwealth (using a carriage service to prepare or plan to cause harm to, engage in sexual activity with, or procure for sexual activity, persons under 16) except if the offence does not involve an act in preparing or planning to engage in sexual activity with a person under 16 years of age or an act in preparing or planning to procure a person under 16 years of age to engage in sexual activity, is a registrable offender and must report personal details under the SOR Act. The reporting requirements under the SOR Act serve the purpose of protecting children by reducing the risk of a registrable offender re-offending, and in assisting Victoria Police to investigate any further offence involving sexual violence that may be committed against a child by the registrable offender.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that these amendments are compatible with the rights to protection of families and children in the Charter.

The Hon Enver Erdogan MLC
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Youth Justice
Minister for Victim Support

Second reading

Enver ERDOGAN (Southern Metropolitan – Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice, Minister for Victim Support) (17:05): I move, by leave:

That the second-reading speech be incorporated into *Hansard*.

Motion agreed to.

Enver ERDOGAN: I move:

That the bill be now read a second time.

Incorporated speech as follows:

The Bill before the Legislative Council, the Statute Law Amendment Bill 2022, is a regular mechanism for reviewing Victoria's statute books and makes a range of minor amendments to Acts to ensure the orderly management of the State's statutes.

The Bill is required as a matter of good legislative housekeeping to ensure the clarity, relevance and accuracy of statute law in Victoria is maintained. By correcting references and fixing errors, the Bill ensures that Victorian statutes are up-to-date, consistent and clear, and maintained in a regular and orderly manner. This serves the broader purpose of ensuring these Acts remain relevant and accessible to the Victorian community, and that Victorians can have confidence in the clarity and accuracy of these Acts that affect them.

The Bill:

- corrects minor ambiguities, omissions or errors in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*, *Housing Act 1983*, and updates a reference in the *Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003* to ensure the meaning of these Acts is clear, accurate and reflects the intention of Parliament;

- makes minor amendments to the *Competition and Policy Reform (Victoria) Act 1995* to reflect the renaming of the *Trade Practices Act 1974* (Cth) to the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth) by *Trade Practices Amendment (Australian Consumer Law) Act (No. 2) 2010* (Cth) which was effective from 1 January 2011;
- amends the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004* (SOR Act) to give effect to an amendment to Schedule 2 of the SOR Act that section 8(2) of the *Justice Legislation Amendment (Police and Other Matters) Act 2022* (JLAPOM Act) sought to make, but was likely ineffective due to a typographical error caused by section 34(1) of the *Firearms and Other Acts Amendment Act 2021* commencing earlier than the JLAPOM Act which removed a relevant reference in the SOR Act, meaning that the amendment to be made by the JLAPOM Act could not take effect; and
- repeals the ineffective amendment made by section 8(2) of the JLAPOM Act ahead of its 2025 automatic repeal date to ensure the SOR Act and statute books remain clear.

I will outline the reform to the SOR Act, which the Parliament intended to make in the JLAPOM Act and that will be made effective by the Bill.

The SOR Act supports Victoria Police to actively monitor registerable sex offenders and to reduce the risk of reoffending. It requires registerable offenders to report to Victoria Police at the commencement of their registration period, and periodically over that time to allow Victoria Police to record the personal details of a registerable offender.

The SOR Act prescribes four classes of offences for the purposes of the Act. A person sentenced for a class 2 offence is automatically registered as a registerable offender and must comply with the reporting requirements under the SOR Act.

The Bill makes effective the amendment intended by section 8(2) of the JLAPOM Act to list as a class 2 offence the Commonwealth offence of using a carriage service (e.g. internet, mobile phone) to prepare or plan to cause harm to, engage in sexual activity with, or procure for sexual activity, persons under 16 except if the offence does not involve an act in preparing or planning to engage in sexual activity with a person under 16 years of age or an act in preparing or planning to procure a person under 16 years of age to engage in sexual activity.

This offence is established by section 474.25C of the Criminal Code Act 1995 (Cth). In practice, the Bill excludes conduct constituting an offence against paragraph 474.25C(a)(i) of the Criminal Code Act 1995 of the Commonwealth as this conduct is not sexual in nature.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (17:05): I move:

That debate on this bill be adjourned for two weeks.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned for two weeks.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Amendment (Facilitation of Timely Reporting) Bill 2022

Introduction and first reading

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (17:06): I move to introduce a bill for an act to amend the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011 to facilitate timely reporting by the IBAC, and I move:

That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

David DAVIS: I move, by leave:

That the second reading be taken forthwith.

Motion agreed to.

Statement of compatibility

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (17:06): I lay on the table a statement of compatibility with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006:

This Bill seeks to ensure the timely tabling of Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) reports in Parliament and to expedite their tabling while preserving relevant protections of the rights of those upon whom IBAC may comment unfavourably.

The Bill preserves the position of the Supreme Court of Victoria while informing the court of Parliament's view that applications be determined with as much speed as the requirements of the Act and proper consideration of an application permits.

It strikes an appropriate balance in preserving the rights of those on whom adverse comments may be made by IBAC and the risk that legal machinery, shenanigans and roadblocks are used to stymie the release of a critical IBAC report in a timely way thereby allowing corruption to thrive and wrongdoers to escape just exposure by IBAC.

It is my view the Bill is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Equal Opportunities Act 2006.

David Davis MP

Second reading

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (17:06): I move, by leave:

That the second-reading speech be incorporated into *Hansard*.

Motion agreed to.

David DAVIS: I move:

That the bill be now read a second time.

Incorporated speech as follows:

This Bill seeks to ensure the timely tabling of Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC) reports in Parliament and to expedite their tabling while preserving relevant protections of the rights of those upon whom IBAC may comment unfavourably.

It arises because the Opposition has become aware of concerning delays in the tabling of a number of IBAC reports. These reports have been caught up in unnecessary legal delays and roadblocks.

It is in the public interest that these IBAC reports are tabled without undue delay and that any legal processes that result from recommendations are commenced and that any learnings from the report leading to legislative or educational steps are implemented expeditiously.

The Andrews Labor government is currently embroiled in at least three serious inquiries into corruption.

It is a matter of common knowledge now that the Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, has been questioned by IBAC pursuant to at least two (Operations Watts and Sandon) and possibly a third current inquiry (Operation Richmond).

IBAC was created by the Baillieu Government to clean up the mess left by Labor prior to 2010.

The whole Victorian community understands the importance of IBAC having the resources and powers, with adequate balance, to manage corruption and root out corruption in Victoria.

It is in the interests of all Victorians that state government corruption, corruption at municipal council level, corruption within state government agencies and corruption more broadly in the Victorian community be met with the strongest response possible because corruption impacts not only the moral position of public officials but also the public's trust in government and also has a significant adverse economic impact.

IBAC has an important role in educating the Victorian public sector and sending a clear signal that corrupt conduct will not be tolerated.

The Opposition is concerned at delays in the tabling of IBAC reports and we have separately made commitments as an opposition to increased funding to the IBAC (and to the Ombudsman).

We have also indicated that the independent agencies need to be on a more secure funding footing long term. Of course, adequate funding is just one important factor in enabling IBAC to complete its work in a timely

manner. We fully accept there are in addition other factors, including legal processes which have induced delays.

In addition to the increased funding already committed to and the more secure funding process, the Opposition has also indicated it will restore the previous position with respect to the tests for public hearings, effectively reversing the recent changes to IBAC legislation.

This Bill seeks expedite legal processes that may otherwise be used to unreasonably obstruct the tabling of an IBAC report by ensuring timeliness is considered.

Clause 4 makes clear Parliament's intention that the determination of claims through application under Section 59M be determined with as much speed as the requirements of this Act and the proper consideration of the application permit.

The Supreme Court must be free to make its decisions unimpeded but should be aware of Parliament's intention that applications be determined with as much speed as is relevant within the requirement of this Act.

Similar provisions apply to Section 100 and Section 147.

Clause 5 provides a three-month time period for a relevant principal officer of a public body or a person subject to a potential adverse comment or opinion in a report by IBAC to respond and enables IBAC to transmit its report to Parliament if such individuals fail to respond.

Clause 7 introduces a new transitional provision that ensures IBAC must give a relevant principal officer of a public body or another person an opportunity to respond to adverse material in a proposed report under Section 162 and provides for a three-month period consistent with other changes in this Act.

Clause 6 ensures that a special report may be transmitted to each House of Parliament under Section 162 despite any proceedings that are pending in court in relation to the subject matter of the report or any other matter or thing that may be relevant to the report.

These provisions strike an appropriate balance in preserving the rights of those on whom adverse comments may be made by IBAC and the risk that legal machinery, shenanigans and roadblocks are used to stymie the release of a critical IBAC report in a timely way thereby allowing corruption to thrive and wrongdoers to escape just exposure by IBAC.

We believe that critical IBAC reports should not be denied to the Parliament and thereby the people of Victoria in a timely way.

Lee TARLAMIS (South-Eastern Metropolitan) (17:07): I move:

That debate on this bill be adjourned for two weeks.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned for two weeks.

Children, Youth and Families (Raise the Age) Amendment Bill 2021

Introduction and first reading

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (17:07): I move to introduce a bill for an act to amend the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005, to make consequential amendments to the Crimes Act 1958, the Fines Reform Act 2014 and the Infringements Act 2006 and for other purposes, and I move:

That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

Samantha RATNAM: I move:

That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next day of meeting.

Motion agreed to.

Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (No New Oil or Gas Activities) Bill 2022*Introduction and first reading*

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (17:07): I move to introduce a bill for an act to amend the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2010 to prohibit the grant or renewal of petroleum titles that authorise petroleum activities to be carried out in the offshore area and for other purposes, and I move:

That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

Samantha RATNAM: I move:

That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next day of meeting.

Motion agreed to.

Anti-corruption and Higher Parliamentary Standards (Promoting and Strengthening Integrity) Bill 2022*Introduction and first reading*

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (17:08): I move to introduce a bill for an act to reform the standards for ministers, parliamentary secretaries, members of Parliament, ministerial officers and lobbyists by establishing the independent parliamentary integrity commissioner and amending the Members of Parliament (Standards) Act 1978, the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission Act 2011 and the Public Administration Act 2004 and for other purposes, and I move:

That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

Samantha RATNAM: I move:

That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next day of meeting.

Motion agreed to.

Parliamentary Committees Amendment (Preventing Government Dominated Investigatory Committees) Bill 2022*Introduction and first reading*

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (17:09): I move to introduce a bill for an act to amend the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003 to ensure that the membership and chairperson of Parliament's joint investigatory committees is sufficiently independent of the government and executive of the day when carrying out their functions and for other purposes, and I move:

That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Read first time.

Samantha RATNAM: I move:

That the second reading be made an order of the day for the next day of meeting.

Motion agreed to.

Papers

Children's Court of Victoria

Report 2021–22

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (17:10): I present, by command of the Governor, the Children's Court of Victoria report 2021–22. I move:

That the report do lie on the table.

Motion agreed to.

County Court of Victoria

Report 2021–22

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (17:10): I present, by command of the Governor, the County Court of Victoria report 2021–22. I move:

That the report do lie on the table.

Motion agreed to.

Victoria Law Foundation

Report 2021–22

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (17:10): I move, by leave:

That there be laid before the house a copy of the Victoria Law Foundation report 2021–22.

Motion agreed to.

Judicial College of Victoria

Report 2021–22

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (17:11): I move, by leave:

That there be laid before the house a copy of the Judicial College of Victoria report 2021–22.

Motion agreed to.

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

Local government rate-capping mechanism review

Lizzie BLANDTHORN (Western Victoria – Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers, Minister for Child Protection and Family Services) (17:11): I move, by leave:

That there be laid before this house a copy of the final report of the local government rate-capping mechanism review December 2021 and the Victorian government response to the final report of the local government rate-capping mechanism review.

Motion agreed to.

Consumer Policy Research Centre*Report 2021–22*

Enver ERDOGAN (Southern Metropolitan – Minister for Corrections, Minister for Youth Justice, Minister for Victim Support) (17:12): I move, by leave:

That there be laid before the house a copy of the Consumer Policy Research Centre report 2021–22.

Motion agreed to.

Visit Victoria*Report 2021–22*

Harriet SHING (Eastern Victoria – Minister for Water, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy, Minister for Equality) (17:12): I move, by leave:

That there be laid before this house a copy of the Visit Victoria Ltd report 2021–22.

Motion agreed to.

*Committees***Integrity and Oversight Committee***Performance of the Victorian Integrity Agencies 2020/21: Focus on Witness Welfare*

The Clerk: Pursuant to section 35(2)(c) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003, and following the release of the report on 6 October 2022, I lay on the table the report on *Performance of the Victorian Integrity Agencies 2020/21: Focus on Witness Welfare*, including an appendix, extract of proceedings and minority report from the Integrity and Oversight Committee, together with the transcripts of evidence.

The Independent Performance Audits of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission and the Victorian Inspectorate

The Clerk: Also pursuant to section 35(2)(c) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003, and following the release of the report on 31 October 2022, I lay on the table the report of the *Independent Performance Audits of the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission and the Victorian Inspectorate*, including appendices, extracts of proceedings and a minority report from the Integrity and Oversight Committee.

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (17:13): I move:

That both reports be taken into account on the next day of meeting.

Motion agreed to.

*Papers***Papers****Tabled by Clerk:**

Accident Compensation Conciliation Service – Report, 2021–22.

Adult, Community and Further Education Board – Report, 2021–22.

Adult Parole Board of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.

Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd – Report, 2021–22.

Albury Wodonga Health – Report, 2021–22.

Alexandra District Health – Report, 2021–22.

Alfred Health – Report, 2021–22.

Alpine Health – Report, 2021–22.
Alpine Resorts Co-ordinating Council – Report, 2021–22.
Ambulance Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
AMES Australia – Report, 2021–22.
Architects Registration Board of Victoria – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
Auditor-General’s Reports on –
 the Annual Financial Report of the State of Victoria: 2021–22 (*released on 28 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).
 Regulating Victoria’s Native Forests, October 2022 (*released on 6 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).
 Victoria’s Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Data, October 2022 (*released on 6 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).
Austin Health – Report, 2021–22.
Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) – Report, 2021–22.
Australian Grand Prix Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency – Report, 2021–22.
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Ballarat General Cemeteries Trust – Report, 2021–22.
Barwon Health – Report, 2021–22.
Barwon Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Bass Coast Health – Report, 2021–22.
Beaufort and Skipton Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Beechworth Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Bendigo Health – Report, 2021–22.
Boort District Health – Report, 2021–22.
Breakthrough Victoria Pty Ltd – Report for the period 16 March 2021 to 30 June 2022.
Calvary Health Care Bethlehem Limited – Report, 2021–22.
Cenitex – Report, 2021–22.
Central Gippsland Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Central Gippsland Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Central Highlands Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Cohuna District Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
Colac Area Health – Report, 2021–22.
Coliban Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Commercial Passenger Vehicles Commission – Report, 2021–22.
Commission for Children and Young People – Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).
Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
Confiscation Act 1997 – Asset Confiscation Operations Report, 2021–22.
Consumer Affairs Victoria – Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.
Coroners Court of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
Coronial Council of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
Corryong Health – Report, 2021–22.
Country Fire Authority – Report, 2021–22.
Court Services Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
Criminal Organisations Control Act 2012 – Report, 2021–22, under section 133 by Victoria Police.

- Dairy Food Safety Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Dental Health Services Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Development Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Disability Services Commissioner – Report, 2021–22.
- Docklands Studios Melbourne Pty Ltd – Report, 2021–22.
- Duties Act 2000 – Treasurer’s Reports of –
- Concessions and exemptions arising out of corporate reconstructions and consolidations for 2021–22, under section 250B(4) of the Act.
 - Foreign purchaser additional duty exemptions for 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2022, under section 3E of the Act.
- East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- East Gippsland Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
- East Grampians Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
- East Wimmera Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
- Echuca Regional Health – Report, 2021–22.
- Emergency Services Superannuation Scheme (ESSSuper) – Report, 2021–22.
- Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) – Report, 2021–22.
- Energy Safe Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Essential Services Commission – Report, 2021–22.
- Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board – Report, 2021.
- Fed Square Pty Ltd – Report, 2021–22.
- Film Victoria (VicScreen) – Report, 2021–22.
- Financial Management Act 1994 –
- Financial Report for the State of Victoria (incorporating the Quarterly Financial Report No. 4), 2021–22 (*released on 14 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).
 - Explanation from the Minister for Education under section 46(3)(a) of the Act, for the delay of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority Report, 2021–22.
 - Explanation from the Minister for Environment under section 46(3)(a) of the Act, for the delay of the 2021–22 Reports of the –
 - Caulfield Racecourse Reserve Trust.
 - Dhelkunya Dja Land Management Board.
 - Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
 - Gunaikurnai Traditional Owner Land Management Board.
 - Trust for Nature.
 - Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board.
 - Explanation from the Minister for Health under section 46(3)(a) of the Act, for the delay of 2021–22 Reports of the –
 - Benalla Health.
 - Casteron Memorial Hospital.
 - Central Highlands Rural Health.
 - Dhelkaya Health.
 - Gippsland Southern Health Service.
 - Kilmore District Health.
 - Kyabram District Health.
 - Omeo District Health.
 - Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute.

Portland District Health.

Explanation from the Minister for Planning under section 46(3)(a) of the Act, for the delay of 2021–22 Reports of the –

Cladding Safety Victoria.

Victorian Building Authority.

Explanation from the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events under section 46(3)(a), for the delay of the 2021–22 Reports of the –

Emerald Tourist Railway Board.

State Sports Centres Trust.

Fisheries Act 1995 – Report on the disbursement of Recreational Fishing Licence Revenue from the Recreational Fishing Licence Trust Account, 2021–22.

Fire Rescue Victoria – Report 2021–22.

Forensic Leave Panel – Report, 2021–22.

Game Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.

Geelong Cemeteries Trust – Report, 2021–22.

Geelong Performing Arts Centre Trust – Report, 2021–22.

Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation – Report, 2021–22.

Gippsland and Southern Rural Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.

Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.

Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.

Goulburn Valley Health (GVHealth) – Report, 2021–22.

Goulburn Valley Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water Corporation (GWM Water) – Report, 2021–22.

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority – Report, 2021–22.

Great Ocean Road Health – Report, 2021–22.

Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust – Report, 2021–22.

Greyhound Racing Victoria – Report, 2021–22.

Harness Racing Victoria – Report, 2021–22.

Health Purchasing Victoria (HealthShare Victoria) – Report, 2021–22.

Heathcote Health – Report, 2021–22.

Heritage Council of Victoria – Minister's report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.

Hesse Rural Health Service – Report, 2021–22.

Heywood Rural Health – Report, 2021–22.

Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission –

Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).

Special reports on –

Corruption risks associated with donations and lobbying, October 2022 (*released on 12 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).

Police misconduct issues and risks associated with Victoria Police's Critical Incident Response Team, October 2022 (*released on 25 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).

Infrastructure Victoria – Report, 2021–22.

Inglewood and Districts Health Service – Report, 2021–22.

Interpretation of Legislation Act 1984 – Notice pursuant to section 32(3) in relation to Statutory Rule No. 112 (*Gazette No. G45, 10 November 2022*).

Kardinia Park Stadium Trust – Report, 2021–22.

Kerang District Health – Report, 2021–22.

Kooweerup Regional Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Labour Hire Licensing Authority – Report, 2021–22.
LanguageLoop – Report, 2021–22.
Latrobe Regional Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
Legal Practitioners’ Liability Committee – Report, 2021–22.
Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014 – Practitioner Remuneration Order 2023.
Legal Services Council and Commissioner for Uniform Legal Services Regulation – Report, 2021–22.
Library Board of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 – Report, 2021–22 by the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, under section 148R of the Act.
Lower Murray Urban and Rural Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Mallee Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.
Mallee Track Health and Community Service – Report, 2021–22.
Mansfield District Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
Maryborough District Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust – Report, 2021–22.
Melbourne City Link Act 1995 – Deeds of Leases in relation to the Western Link Upgrade, under section 60(9) of the Act.
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust – Report, 2021–22.
Melbourne Market Authority – Report, 2021–22.
Melbourne Recital Centre – Report, 2021–22.
Mental Health Complaints Commissioner – Report, 2021–22.
Mental Health Tribunal – Report, 2021–22.
Mercy Hospitals Victoria Ltd – Report, 2021–22.
Mildura Base Public Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
Mildura Cemetery Trust – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board – Report, 2021.
Mount Hotham Alpine Resort Management Board – Report, 2021.
Moynes Health Services – Report, 2021–22.
Murray Valley Wine Grape Industry Development Committee – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
Museums Board of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
National Health Funding Pool – Victoria State Pool Account – Report, 2021–22.
National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner – Report, 2021–22.
National Parks Act 1975 – Report on the working of the Act, 2021–22.
National Parks Advisory Council – Report, 2021–22.
NCN Health (Nathalia Cobram Numurkah) – Report, 2021–22.
North Central Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.
North East Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.
North East Link State Tolling Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
North East Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Northeast Health Wangaratta – Report, 2021–22.
Northern Health – Report, 2021–22.
Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator – Report, 2021–22.
Office of Public Prosecutions – Report, 2021–22.
Office of the Public Advocate – Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).

Ombudsman –

Ombudsman’s recommendations – fourth report, September 2022 (*released on 28 September 2022 – a non-sitting day*).

Report – 2021–22 (*released on 20 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).

Orbost Regional Health – Report, 2021–22.

Parks Victoria – Report, 2021–22.

Peninsula Health – Report, 2021–22.

Phillip Island Nature Parks – Report, 2021–22.

Phytogene Pty Ltd – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.

Planning and Environment Act 1987 – Notices of Approval of the following amendments to planning schemes –

Ararat Planning Scheme – Amendment C46.

Ballarat Planning Scheme – Amendments C233 and C238.

Banyule Planning Scheme – Amendments C119, C162, C167 and C171.

Bass Coast Planning Scheme – Amendment C163.

Baw Baw Planning Scheme – Amendment C147.

Bayside Planning Scheme – Amendments C160 and C193.

Bayside, Kingston, Monash and Whitehorse Planning Schemes – Amendment GC197.

Boroondara Planning Scheme – Amendments C333 (Part 2) and C383.

Brimbank Planning Scheme – Amendment C212.

Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and Wyndham Planning Schemes – Amendment GC199.

Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley Planning Schemes – Amendment GC207.

Campaspe Planning Scheme – Amendments C118 and C121.

Cardinia Planning Scheme – Amendments C238 and C266.

Casey Planning Scheme – Amendments C259 and C287.

Colac Otway Planning Scheme – Amendments C111 and C119.

East Gippsland Planning Scheme – Amendment C162.

Glen Eira Planning Scheme – Amendment C248.

Golden Plains Planning Scheme – Amendment C91.

Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme – Amendments C241 and C242.

Greater Geelong Planning Scheme – Amendments C391, C408, C448 and C449.

Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme – Amendments C234 and C228.

Horsham Planning Scheme – Amendment C83.

Hume Planning Scheme – Amendments C211 and C264.

Knox Planning Scheme – Amendment C174.

Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme – Amendment C143.

Manningham Planning Scheme – Amendments C135 and C137.

Mansfield Planning Scheme – Amendment C52.

Maribyrnong Planning Scheme – Amendments C164 and C180.

Maroondah Planning Scheme – Amendments C134, C136 and C149.

Melbourne Planning Scheme – Amendments C364, C394, C402, C404, C409, C436 and C439.

Melton Planning Scheme – Amendments C182 and C230.

Mildura Planning Scheme – Amendment C113.

Moonee Valley Planning Scheme – Amendments C224, C225 and C230.

Moreland Planning Scheme – Amendment C212.

- Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme – Amendments C227, C228 and C282.
- Murrindindi Planning Scheme – Amendment C72.
- Nillumbik Planning Scheme – Amendment C150.
- Port Phillip Planning Scheme – Amendment C180.
- Stonnington Planning Scheme – Amendments C319, C323 and C327.
- Strathbogie Planning Scheme – Amendment C78.
- Surf Coast Planning Scheme – Amendment C142.
- Swan Hill Planning Scheme – Amendment C77.
- Victoria Planning Provisions – Amendments VC201, VC222, VC224, VC226, VC227 and VC228.
- Wangaratta Planning Scheme – Amendments C91 and C92.
- Warrnambool Planning Scheme – Amendment C205.
- Whittlesea Planning Scheme – Amendment C267.
- Wodonga Planning Scheme – Amendment C138.
- Wyndham Planning Scheme – Amendments C252 and C264.
- Yarra Planning Scheme – Amendments C280, C310 and C311.
- Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme – Amendments C148, C195, C213 and C214.
- Police Informants Royal Commission Implementation Monitor Act 2021 – Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants: Progress Report, 2021–22, under section 28(2) of the Act.
- Police Registration and Services Board – Report, 2021–22.
- Port of Hastings Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
- Portable Long Service Benefits Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- Ports Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Post Sentence Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- PrimeSafe – Report, 2021–22.
- Professional Standards Council of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Project Development and Construction Management Act 1994 – Nomination Order and Application Order of 25 October 2022, under sections 6 and 8 of the Act and a statement of reasons for making a Nomination Order of 12 October 2022, under section 9 of the Act.
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 –
- Documents under section 165AQ of the Act in relation to the making of pandemic orders implemented on –
 - 8 September 2022.
 - 22 September 2022.
 - Reports of the Independent Pandemic Management Advisory Committee, under section 165CG of the Act –
 - Review of COVID-19 Communications in Victoria.
 - Review of COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination Orders in Victoria.
- Public Interest Monitor – Report, 2021–22.
- Queen Elizabeth Centre – Report, 2021–22.
- Queen Victoria Women’s Centre – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
- Radiation Advisory Committee – Report, 2021–22.
- Remembrance Parks Central Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Renewable Energy (Jobs and Investment) Act 2017 – Victorian Renewable Energy Target – 2021–22 Progress Report, under section 8 of the Act.
- Residential Tenancies Bond Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- Robinvale District Health Service (RDHS) – Report, 2021–22.

Rochester and Elmore District Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Rolling Stock (Victoria-VL) Pty Limited – Report, 2021–22.
Rolling Stock (VL-1) Pty Limited – Report, 2021–22.
Rolling Stock (VL-2) Pty Limited – Report, 2021–22.
Rolling Stock (VL-3) Pty Limited – Report, 2021–22.
Royal Botanic Gardens Board – Report, 2021–22.
Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
Royal Women’s Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
Rural Northwest Health – Report, 2021–22.
Sentencing Advisory Council – Report, 2021–22.
Seymour Health – Report, 2021–22.
Shrine of Remembrance Trustees – Report, 2021–22.
South Gippsland Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
South Gippsland Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
South West Healthcare – Report, 2021–22.
Southern Alpine Resort Management Board – Report, 2021.
Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust – Report, 2021–22.
St Vincent’s Hospital (Melbourne) Limited – Report, 2021–22.
State Electricity Commission of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
State Trustees Limited – Report, 2021–22.
Statutory Rules under the following Acts of Parliament –
 Accident Towing Services Act 2007 – No. 128.
 Bail Act 1977 – No. 116.
 Building Act 1993 – No. 122.
 Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 – Nos. 118 and 119.
 Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 – No. 100.
 Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 – No. 94.
 Community Based Sentences (Transfer) Act 2012 – No. 92.
 Coroners Act 2008 – No. 109.
 County Court Act 1958 – No. 90.
 Crimes Act 1958 – No. 110.
 Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978 – No. 83.
 Dangerous Goods Act 1985 – No. 115.
 Domestic Animals Act 1994 – No. 77.
 Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 – Nos. 96, 112 and 113.
 Electoral Act 2002 – No. 127.
 Electricity Safety Act 1998 – No. 103.
 Environment Protection Act 2017 – Nos. 85, 86 and 120.
 Family Violence Protection Act 2008 – No. 123.
 Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958 – No. 82.
 Forests Act 1958 – No. 84.
 Health Services Act 1988 – No. 121.
 Juries Act 2000 – No. 78.
 Liquor Control Reform Act 1998 – Nos. 81, 111 and 124.
 Local Government Act 2020 – No. 126.

- Local Government Act 2020 – City of Melbourne Act 2001 – No. 104.
- Magistrates’ Court Act 1989 – Nos. 79, 101 and 102.
- Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990 – No. 97.
- Mutual Recognition (Victoria) Act 1998 – No. 107.
- Planning and Environment Act 1987 – No. 114.
- Port Management Act 1995 – No. 105.
- Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 – Nos. 88 and 89.
- Residential Tenancies Act 1997 – No. 125.
- Retail Leases Act 2003 – No. 99.
- Road Safety Act 1986 – Nos. 98, 106, 129 and 130.
- Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 – Nos. 80 and 95.
- Surveillance Devices Act 1999 – No. 117.
- Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003 – No. 91.
- Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Victoria) Act 1998 – No. 108.
- Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Act 2007 – No. 93.
- Wildlife Act 1975 – No. 87.
- Subordinate Legislation Act 1994 –
- Documents under section 15 in relation to –
- Orders under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 relating to the Managing exposure to crystalline silica: Engineered stone compliance code.
- Statutory Rule Nos. 55, 56, 70, 74, 77, 82, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 109, 110, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132 and 133.
- Legislative Instruments and related documents under section 16B in respect of –
- Declaration of the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks under the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Act 2020.
- Exemption order under section 120W of the Electricity Safety Act 1998.
- General Exemption Order 2022 under section 17 of the Electricity Industry Act 2000.
- Ministerial Order No. 1388 – Teaching Service (Employment Conditions, Salaries, Allowances, Selection and Conduct) Order 2022 under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006.
- Ministerial Order on licensee record keeping under section 18D of the Liquor Control Reform Act 1998.
- Municipal Association of Victoria Rules under the Municipal Association Act 1907.
- Secretary Approval: Nurse Immunisers – SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) VACCINE, under the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981.
- Secretary Approval: Pharmacist Immunisers – SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) VACCINE, under the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981.
- Victorian Duty of Candour Guidelines under the Health Services Act 1988.
- Suburban Rail Loop Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- Surveillance Devices Act 1999 – Reports, 2021–22, under section 30L, by the –
- Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission.
- Game Management Authority.
- Victorian Fisheries Authority.
- Surveyors Registration Board of Victoria – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
- Sustainability Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Swan Hill District Health – Report, 2021–22.
- Tallangatta Health Service – Report, 2021–22.

- Terang and Mortlake Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
- Terrorism (Community Protection) Act 2003 – Inspection Report by the Victorian Inspectorate on Victoria Police records inspected in February 2022, under section 37D of the Act.
- Timboon and District Healthcare Service – Report, 2021–22.
- Treasury and Finance Department – Report, 2021–22.
- Tweddle Child and Family Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
- V/Line Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
- Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
- VicForests – Report, 2021–22.
- Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal – Report, 2021–22.
- Victims of Crime Commissioner – Report, 2021–22.
- Victoria Legal Aid – Report, 2021–22.
- Victoria State Emergency Service Authority (SES) – Report, 2021–22.
- Victoria’s Mental Health Services – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Arts Centre Trust – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Disability Worker Commission and Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Electoral Commission – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Environmental Assessment Council – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Environmental Water Holder – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission –
2021 Report on the Operation of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities (*Ordered to be published*).
Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).
- Victorian Fisheries Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Funds Management Corporation (VFMC) – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth) – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal and Improving Parliamentary Standards Act 2019 – Guidelines No. 1/2022, effective 26 November 2022, under section 36 of the Act.
- Victorian Inspectorate –
Report, 2021–22.
Special report on IBAC’s referral and oversight of Emma’s complaints about Victoria Police’s response to family violence by a police officer, October 2022 (*released on 11 October 2022 – a non-sitting day*).
- Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Institute of Sport Trust – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Institute of Teaching – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Law Reform Commission – Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).
- Victorian Legal Services Board and Legal Services Commissioner – Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).
- Victorian Marine and Coastal Council – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Multicultural Commission – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Pharmacy Authority – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
- Victorian Planning Authority – Report, 2021–22.
- Victorian Plantations Corporation – Report, 2021–22.

Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority – Report, 2021–22.
Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation – Report, 2021–22.
Victorian Small Business Commission – Report, 2021–22 (*Ordered to be published*).
Victorian Strawberry Industry Development Committee – Minister’s report of receipt of the 2021–22 report.
Wannon Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.
West Gippsland Healthcare Group – Report, 2021–22.
West Wimmera Health Service (WWHS) – Report, 2021–22.
Western District Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Western Health – Report, 2021–22.
Westernport Region Water Corporation – Report, 2021–22.
Wimmera Catchment Management Authority – Report, 2021–22.
Witness Protection Act 1991 – Report, 2021–22 by Victoria Police, under section 20R of the Act.
Yarram and District Health Service – Report, 2021–22.
Yarrawonga Health – Report, 2021–22.
Yea and District Memorial Hospital – Report, 2021–22.
Youth Parole Board – Report, 2021–22.
Zoological Parks and Gardens Board (Zoos Victoria) – Report, 2021–22.

Proclamations of the Governor in Council fixing operative dates in respect of the following acts:

Agriculture Legislation Amendment Act 2022 – Part 1, Part 2, Part 3 (except sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 49), Part 5 (except sections 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87 and 88), Part 7 (except sections 112, 113, 114, 115 and 135) and Part 10 – 1 October 2022, Part 6 – 31 October 2022 and Part 4, the remaining provisions of Part 5, Part 11 and Part 12 – 1 January 2023 (*Gazette No. S506, 27 September 2022*).

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021 – Divisions 1, 2, 3 (other than section 87), 4 (other than section 88), 6, 8 and 11 of Part 6 and section 111 – 27 September 2022 and Division 5 of Part 6 – 1 March 2023 (*Gazette No. S506, 27 September 2022*).

Proclamations of the Lieutenant Governor in Council fixing operative dates in respect of the following acts:

Education Legislation Amendment (Adult and Community Education and Other Matters) Act 2022 – Section 54 – 21 September 2022 (*Gazette No. S489, 20 September 2022*).

Gambling and Liquor Legislation Amendment Act 2022 – Part 4 – 4 October 2022 (*Gazette No. S489, 20 September 2022*).

Liquor Control Reform Amendment Act 2021 – Sections 4(4)(a), 5, 7, 14 and 56 – 27 September 2022 (*Gazette No. S489, 20 September 2022*).

Monitoring of Places of Detention by the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (OPCAT) Act 2022 – Whole Act – 11 October 2022 (*Gazette No. S540, 11 October 2022*).

Public Health and Wellbeing Amendment Act 2022 – Sections 4, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 19 – 1 October 2022 and Section 9 – 1 January 2023 (*Gazette No. S489, 20 September 2022*).

Road Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2022 – Sections 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 – 5 October 2022 (*Gazette No. S524, 4 October 2022*).

Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance Scheme) Act 2022 – Sections 1 and 2 and Division 6 of Part 8 – 31 October 2022 (*Gazette No. S524, 4 October 2022*).

David Davis: On a point of order, President, we just heard many items tabled but in particular more than 200 annual reports. The Leader of the Government may wish to explain to the chamber why, despite a sessional order that would have enabled the tabling of those reports during October and those reports being required by law to be produced and tabled in October –

The PRESIDENT: Mr Davis, this is not a point of order.

David Davis: It is a point of order, President, and I seek a –

The PRESIDENT: I do not believe it is, and I will not call the Leader of the Government to respond.

Business of the house

Notices

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (17:17): I seek leave to circulate a notice of motion relating to sessional orders rather than read it out in full, and I have sent it to all crossbenchers and the Leader of the Opposition ahead of seeking to do so.

Leave granted.

Notices of motion given.

Meal break

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (17:25): I move:

That the meal break scheduled for this day pursuant to standing order 4.01(3) be suspended.

Motion agreed to.

Adjournment

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (17:25): I move:

That the Council, at its rising, adjourn until Tuesday 7 February 2023.

Motion agreed to.

Opening of Parliament

Reception of the President by the Governor

The PRESIDENT (17:25): I have to report that, accompanied by the Speaker, I presented myself to the Governor this day as the choice of the Council for its President, and she was pleased to address me in the following terms:

President

I have pleasure in congratulating you on your election to the high and distinguished office of President of the Legislative Council.

The able manner in which you have discharged the duties you have undertaken during your parliamentary career is recognised by the members of the Legislative Council who in their wisdom have selected you as their President.

I have confidence that you will fulfil the duties of this important office and hold fast to its traditions and customs.

Commission to administer oath or affirmation to members

The PRESIDENT (17:26): I also have to announce that I have received from the Governor a commission to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to members, and I ask the Clerk to read the commission.

The Clerk:

**BY HER EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE LINDA DESSAU AC
GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA**

**TO THE HONOURABLE SHAUN LEANE
PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF VICTORIA**

GREETING:

Acting under section 23 of the *Constitution Act 1975* I authorise you, from time to time, in the Parliament Houses, Melbourne, to administer the prescribed Oath or Affirmation of allegiance to any Member of the Legislative Council who has not already taken and subscribed the same since his or her election to the Legislative Council.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of Victoria on this 20th day of December 2022.

Governor

*Address to Parliament***Governor's speech***Address-in-reply*

Michael GALEA (South-Eastern Metropolitan) (17:29): I move:

That this house agrees to the following address to the Governor in reply to the Governor's speech:

GOVERNOR

We, the Legislative Council of Victoria assembled in Parliament, express our loyalty to Australia and the people of Victoria, and thank you for the speech which you have made to the Parliament.

We declare that we will faithfully carry out the important duties entrusted to us by the people of Victoria, to advance the best interests of all sections of the community.

President, may I also congratulate you on your election to your esteemed role today.

I wish to start by acknowledging the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people, the traditional owners of the land on which we gather today and on which my electorate is located. I pay respect to elders past and present and to all First Nations people present here today. As a state and as a country we still have a long journey ahead on the path to reconciliation. I am deeply proud to be joining a Labor government that is leading the nation with a treaty process that will bring us closer to true reconciliation.

I congratulate Premier Daniel Andrews on his re-election and thank him for his leadership, especially over the past few years. I extend my congratulations to all of the re-elected and newly elected members in this chamber and the other place. The 60th Parliament, sworn in today, looks very different from the first. Back in 1851 you needed to be male, British, white and wealthy to occupy a seat in this chamber. Today I am proud to sit in the first female-majority Legislative Council in Victoria's history and with at least three other members of the LGBT community here. This is a testament to the progress we have made as a state and as a Parliament.

My electorate of South-Eastern Metropolitan Region stretches from Clayton South to Beaconsfield, from Knox to Frankston, and represents a true microcosm of Victoria. From established suburbs to new growth areas and peri-urban villages, the south-east is a place where people from all walks of life and all corners of the globe come together to build a community and forge a better life for their families. It is therefore no surprise that Melbourne's south-east is the most multicultural region in Australia. We are blessed to have so many new Australians choose the south-east as their home. Throughout the campaign I have had the fortune of getting to know a wide variety of people from many different cultures, including but not limited to Afghan, Cambodian, Indian, Armenian, Greek, Italian, Turkish, Vietnamese and Sri Lankan Australians.

Like so many here, my family story originates overseas. My maternal great-great-grandfather was Salvino Galea, a Maltese ship captain who navigated merchant ships across the Atlantic, dodging

U-boats during the First World War. He probably never intended to leave Malta permanently. But he did so after a voyage took him to Liverpool, where, as the family story goes, he got to know a local girl, and it was not long before she was pregnant. Wedding bells quickly followed, and the family would stay in Liverpool for two generations. That was until 1970, when my grandparents Robert and Patricia moved the family to the other side of the world, settling in Wonga Park and then Montrose.

With them was my mum Heather, aged 11 at the time, and her two brothers. My mum had a difficult time growing up. She came from a troubled home and struggled for many years to find her place in the world. That was before she discovered yoga in her 20s, which probably saved her life. Having devoted her working life to it, she is now happily retired from yoga teaching. When I was growing up, life for my mum remained difficult, not that I would ever have known it myself. Mum gave me everything. As a working mother she singlehandedly raised me, gave me undying love, taught me independence and made sure that I had the best childhood possible. Living week to week and moving across Victoria every few years, she always put my needs first, often at her own expense.

Mum recently reminded me of a story from when I was six years old, which I had forgotten. Apparently some people were driving too fast in a residential street that our house was on, and I was worried someone would get hurt. Mum suggested that I call the council myself, so I did and asked them to do something about it. Council ended up putting in speed bumps. Thus Mum says that she is the one who first sparked my interest in politics – or, as she puts it, it is her fault. Words cannot express my gratitude for everything that my mum did for me. Against difficult circumstances and with great sacrifice she raised me to be the person that I am. I could not be prouder to call her my mother.

Our lives changed forever at the turn of this century when a wonderful man named Leigh walked into our lives. Leigh is my stepfather, though in every meaningful sense he has become my father. Leigh's family the Blashkis have a long history in Melbourne, with his ancestor Phillip Blashki having migrated from Poland in the 1850s. His journey was not without some hiccups. He had intended to migrate to the United States but turned up at Southampton docks on the wrong day. Phillip then thought he had reached Sydney on the boat, only to later realise he had actually disembarked in Melbourne – how very lucky that he did. His home town had been mistaken as his surname, hence the Blashki surname was born. Phillip went on to become a prominent Victorian public figure and philanthropist in the late 19th century. He was justice of the peace and a guest at the opening of the very first Australian Parliament here in Melbourne. The Blashki family have embraced me with open arms, and Leigh has been an amazing role model and father to me. I am proud to call myself Leigh's son.

I am also fortunate to have a wide family of support, and wish to acknowledge Madeline, Kirsty, Corey, Paul, Norma, Kim and Montana. Family is what you are born with, but it is also what you forge yourself. To my amazing partner Luke: you make my world whole. I love your creativity and passion. You always have my back and we are on each other's wavelengths. Thank you for always being there by my side. I am also touched to have Luke's mum Julie with us here today.

In my lifetime I have benefited from support and guidance from many inspirational mentors: from Di Lucas, my first teacher, who instilled in me the belief that I could be whoever I wanted to be, to Yvette Black, who taught me not only karate as a teenager but also resilience and clarity of purpose. Other mentors included Rhonda Thomas, Garry Regan, Adrian Hildebrand and Garry McGough.

After Leigh came into our lives he, Mum and I moved to the town of Gembrook on the outskirts of the south-eastern suburbs. The community of Gembrook shaped me profoundly and started me on the journey which has led to me being here today. When I was 13 years old I volunteered alongside another mentor, the late Bob Farr, on Puffing Billy. Aside from his main role as stationmaster, Bob relished dressing up as the Fat Controller for special events, a role with which he delighted locals and visitors alike.

As wonderful as the community was and is, it was nevertheless an isolating place to grow up in, with limited services and opportunities for young people. We had just moved from the middle suburbs of Melbourne, where I had started to discover my independence. This was something considerably harder to do when you lived a 30-minute walk from the nearest bus stop. I knew that Bob was involved with the local township group, so I asked him what they were doing to fix public transport in the area. He said to me, 'What are you doing to fix it?'

From that point on and with Bob's guidance and support, I organised a campaign to improve the local buses and advocate for a new route to Pakenham. Bob introduced me to our local state Labor MP, Tammy Lobato. Tammy jumped on the campaign with zeal, and together we gathered support and lobbied for the new service over several years. I remember being struck by Tammy's passion and dedication to our community, and in the end we prevailed. In 2010, the year I finished high school, a Labor state government launched the new route 840 bus service from Gembrook to Pakenham. The route still operates to this day, and it serves as a continual reminder to me of the power of community. It also reminds me that when communities organise and speak up, Labor governments listen and Labor governments deliver. Tammy showed me in the most tangible way that good outcomes can be achieved with politics.

That sparked a fire which has led me to be in this chamber today, and I am honoured that she is here with us too. Labor is fundamentally about fairness, opportunity and action. Fairness and opportunity means that every person should have the same chance to learn, to grow and to succeed; it is about equality of opportunity and ensuring that no-one gets left behind. Action means getting on with the job, listening to communities and delivering the services and the infrastructure that we all need. In short, to use an overused expression, it is about giving everyone a fair go.

Transport was the catalyst that brought me into politics, and it remains a passion of mine to this day. Much in the same way that a quality public education can give all of our young people an equal shot at the future they wish to build for themselves, access to quality public transport is important to ensure that all Victorians have the same opportunities to work, study and socialise without disenfranchisement.

This Labor government has a strong record of delivery when it comes to public transport. In my region alone we have upgraded and delivered new services; have removed 22 level crossings in the region, with every remaining crossing in South-Eastern Metro to be gone by the end of the decade; and will soon complete the Metro Tunnel, which will revolutionise travel on our rail network. But, as is always the case when you have growing communities, there is always more to be done. I am passionate about providing Victorians with the best transport systems possible, and I am particularly eager to work with my parliamentary colleagues on behalf of people in Melbourne's south-east to deliver the reforms, upgrades and improvements needed across the network. You should not need to live next to a train station to be able to use public transport, so continuing to upgrade our bus network to ensure last-mile connectivity is one such priority.

In my career I am fortunate to have spent the last 11 years working for the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association (SDA) as a union organiser in the service of many of Victoria's essential workers. Retail and fast-food workers carry an enormous load in our society, one which became especially visible during the pandemic. Tens of thousands of members continued to go into work every day and kept the shelves stacked and the checkouts running so that we could all stay fed. They did so under trying conditions. They faced supply chain issues, uncertain health risks and an unprecedented amount of customer abuse and violence. Aggression towards an employee in their workplace is always unacceptable. Whether they work in retail, the health system, hospitality or any other industry, I will always stand against it.

In addition to campaigns against customer violence, I had the privilege of working on other campaigns in my time at the union. This included campaigning to make multinational retailers such as Amazon pay their fair share, free and safe car parking for workers in suburban shopping centres and making

Easter Sunday a public holiday – a reform that was delivered in the previous Parliament by the Andrews Labor government. Supporting members in their most difficult moments was the greatest honour, though, in my time at the SDA. This included representing mothers against roster changes that would have made it impossible to care for their kids, advocating for young workers who had been unfairly treated, negotiating transfers for workers who had been made redundant and fighting for an 18-year-old woman who was sexually harassed and assaulted by an older co-worker by getting him removed from employment after her employer initially ignored her complaint.

None of our work at the union would have happened without the leadership of SDA state secretary Michael Donovan. Michael has devoted his life to the SDA and to its members. You will not find anyone as dedicated nor as knowledgeable as Michael when it comes to retail working conditions. Fondly referred to as Mr Public Holidays within the union movement, Michael's relentless efforts have meant that retail workers receive fairer entitlements during the Christmas and New Year period and can choose to spend time with their family and friends over Easter. I would like to thank Michael for his support, for his leadership and for his inspirational dedication to our members. I also wish to acknowledge assistant state secretary Mauro Moretta for his friendship, leadership and support.

Good colleagues are what make a workplace. There are so many wonderful people I worked with at the SDA. I would particularly like to acknowledge my senior organisers Trevor Libbis, Manny Zouros and Julie Davis; fellow organisers Kimi, Jill, Jason, Emma, Amy, Sarah, Vish, Bianca, Denise, Michael and Rob; and other colleagues Andrew, Michael, Clare, Bek, Adam, Karadji, Sachin, Anthony, Tony and John. It was a great joy to get to know our members and some managers in lighter moments as well. In particular I would like to acknowledge the work of the people in our sector who dedicate their own time to making their workplaces better by being store delegates. I would like to note a few who remain very important to me personally: Lisa Williams, Peni Mouzakis, Sue Nance, David Edyvane and Tammy Trimble. These five and countless others embody the spirit of unionism by looking out for their co-workers every day.

One of the most rewarding parts of working in the labour movement is the amazing group of people you get to surround yourself with. To my Labor friends who have supported me the most by giving up their time managing my campaigns, Yvette-Maree Marcelle and Josh McFarlane, thank you. To friends who have mentored me on my political journey, including Dean D'Angelo, Dimity Paul, Simon Curtis and Daniela De Martino, thank you.

And to many other Labor friends who have always been there for me – Matt Musilli, Matt McDonald, Aidan Wright, Liam Attoe, Kasuni Mendis, Amo Chakravarthy, Alan Padgham, Sammi Turner, Akshay Jose, Nichole Hayes, Hafiz Jan, Hovig Melkonian, Cam Petrie and Andrew Stephens – thank you as well. I would also like to acknowledge my federal Labor colleagues Raff Ciccone and Cassandra Fernando, who I have known since we worked together at the SDA, as well as Daniel Mulino, who mentored me on my first campaign. To put your principles into practice requires more than cheering from the sidelines. It requires participation, energy and effort. It requires you to do something about it. Each of these people demonstrate that every day, and they continue to inspire me.

I am also eternally grateful to my friends from outside of politics who have played no small part in keeping me sane these past few months and whose friendship I adore. These include my best friend Mark Howard, who is perhaps the smartest person I know, despite his unfortunate taste in football teams; my dear friends Ryley and Rachel Anderson, who I can always rely on; and other dear friends Stephanie Pallhorn, Lauren Nisbet, Nick and Kylie Chase, Deirdre Monteiro and Voula Kavadas.

My members from my time at the SDA will always be at the front of my mind in this chamber. Treating workers with dignity, respect and reward is a cornerstone of the Labor Party – indeed, it is our party's reason for existence. Other labour parties around the world have severed their links to the union movement over time, usually to their detriment. It is a great strength of this party that we retain our connection to working people through the union movement, and we must always strive to deliver for working Victorians. To that end I am eager to see this Parliament continue the reforms which give

working people in this state a fair go. I am proud that Victoria was the first state to criminalise systematic wage theft. We have also led the way with a sick pay guarantee trial for casual and contract workers. I am eager to make the case for further meaningful and practical reforms which will benefit working people in this state, such as applying penalty rates to long service leave, safe parking for workers and increasing the penalties for assaulting retail and fast-food workers.

The labour movement has an incredibly rich history that those of us on this side of the chamber are rightly proud of. I intend to spend my time in this place working hard to honour that legacy and do my bit to create a better future for all Victorians.

Members applauded.

Jacinta ERMACORA (Western Victoria) (17:52): I second the motion for the address-in-reply to the Governor's speech. President, I also congratulate you on your appointment.

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we stand here today in this place, the Wurundjeri people, and I acknowledge the Eastern Maar, Gunditjmara, Barengi Gadjin and Wathaurong people as traditional owners of the western region of Victoria. I acknowledge the land was never ceded and that the prosperity of settler people has been at the expense of First Peoples. I wish to recognise the difficult work of the Yoorrook Justice Commission, because as Uncle Rob Lowe said to me recently, 'If the stories are not told, then the healing can't happen'. One of my hopes for my time in this place is to play my part in promoting respect and understanding for the scientific, farming, economic and traditional knowledge held by First Nations people. I intend to listen to the stories of the past, and I look forward to working toward a treaty with First People in our state.

I am deeply honoured to stand in this place representing the people of Western Victoria Region. I congratulate all members here today and Premier Daniel Andrews for achieving a resounding endorsement by the people of Victoria at the election. As an incoming member I see a government with a vision, a big and bold agenda, that does what matters for Victorian people, and I am excited to play a part in that.

I have been involved in Labor in Western Victoria for about 25 years. I represented our region at the state conference thanks to the support of Labor members in the seat of Wannon, and I acknowledge Kylie Gaston here today representing those members; it is a very long way from Wannon to here. The friendships and mentoring that I have received over the years across the party mean a lot to me. Helen Coleman, Pam McLeod, Di Clanchy, Lisa Neville, Gayle Tierney, Lily D'Ambrosio, John Eren, Richard Marles, Jaala Pulford, Ella George and Sam Rae are but a few of the wonderful people who have guided me and worked with me on the needs of south-western Victoria in my various roles over the years.

To my knowledge, the last Victorian Labor electorate office located in Warrnambool was that of Malcolm Gladman, 1952 to 1955 – some 67 years ago – so having our Labor office in Warrnambool is almost revolutionary, and I am confident our community will appreciate greater access to government.

The dinner table during my childhood was the place where I first experienced the joy of passionate political debate. My parents Bill and Lorraine Ermacora delighted in encouraging me and my sister Luisa and my brother William to think critically and be engaged in the world around us. Most nights we would listen to the 7 pm ABC radio news – I am that old. Afterwards the radio would be turned off and away we would go discussing and debating our positions on the news of the day. Mum and Dad expressed their values through their community involvement and service. They showed us the value of volunteering, of taking up additional responsibilities and of being active and involved with others to better where we lived. I remember one day a man came to the house and invited Dad to stand for preselection for the Liberal Party. Dad told him he was very honoured, but it was the 'wrong party, mate'.

My parents supported me in every endeavour I undertook – fought through university in Melbourne, delivering lamb chops and firewood. Later, after I returned to our region, they even fielded constituent inquiries while I was a Warrnambool city councillor, as they were the only Ermacora in the book. They helped shoulder my stress during tough times, always offering a wise listening post. Without fail Mum and Dad would letterbox and work polling booths whenever I asked, and they did this for the candidates I was assisting. We lost Dad in January this year, and I cannot help thinking about how proud he would have been here today. I miss his application of politics to everyday life, the constant list of books he would recommend that I read, and I remember very fondly his humour.

My partner in life, my husband Francis Broekman, and our daughters Annika and Alena Broekman have always been a tower of strength and joy for me. We are a team, our family of four, and they have been through some pretty absurd experiences due to my involvement in politics. Family are both bystanders and inextricably involved, and I know growing up with a mother who was often on the front page of the local paper was not easy. I feel so thankful to Francis, Annika and Alena, always showing dignity, always having my back. I also thank my wonderful parents-in-law Mary and Harry Broekman and the whole Broekman family for their constant support of Francis and I, despite some of them being mystified at my involvement in politics.

We are all the sum of our past. Trauma, hunger and homelessness are primal drivers in the human condition. I am an Australian because of a life-changing tragedy that happened to a 14-year-old boy during World War I in Friuli in north-eastern Italy. He was assisting the war effort when he heard of his older brother's death before his parents were informed. He could not bring himself to tell his mum and dad. He came home each evening, waiting for three days before the authorities came to tell them. That young boy migrated to Australia in 1922 at the age of 22. His name was Guglielmo Ermacora. He was my grandfather. He and my nonna Olga ran a wine shop in Smith Street, Collingwood – not very far from here – raised their family and volunteered as migration advocates for the second wave of Italian migrants that arrived after World War II. The reason he was a migrant advocate is the same reason I am here in this place today: to play my part in making the world I live in a better place for future generations. Even the most ordinary migration story is full of drama and pain and loss but also full of hope for a better life. The contribution of the waves of migrants that have settled in Victoria is a beautiful example of hope and aspiration for our state. We must continue to welcome and nurture our new migrants, because we will be rewarded with generations of talented contributions to our diverse community.

I have been privileged to work in regional leadership roles across south-west Victoria for 18 years now. I have seen and taken part in change and progress. Following the example of Mum and Dad, I became involved in local community organisations and ran successfully for Warrnambool City Council in 2004 as a local government councillor and became mayor of Warrnambool. I saw how partnerships with government could achieve very positive outcomes for community. The affordable housing program in Dennington, Warrnambool–Port Fairy Rail Trail, numerous new civic facilities, construction of key link roads in growth corridors, a new industrial park to create jobs and the complete redevelopment of the main street of Warrnambool all played a role in positioning Warrnambool for the future during my time in local government. Each of these projects received local, state or federal funding.

Looking back, I would say that I have learned a great deal about the leading role that local government can play in regional development. A region can achieve enormous transformation through the powerful combination of good leadership and good government. These experiences have prepared me for getting to know the whole of the Western Victoria Region and advocating for their needs. Some challenges seem insurmountable at times, but I have seen enormous change in our region. When I think back to the early 2000s, when the gas plant and pipelines were constructed at Port Campbell, I could not have imagined that in a few short years wind farms would spring up across the landscape, that businesses and residents would install solar panels, that Wannon Water would install a wind turbine on its land at Portland and that Deakin University in Warrnambool would be developing

renewable hydrogen. Now, with the Andrews Labor government's return of the State Electricity Commission and renewable trade training at TAFEs, our region is well placed to continue the journey to carbon neutrality. I am confident that a combination of private sector and government investment will achieve affordable electricity, energy security, carbon neutrality, job opportunities and a thriving economy in our state.

As a state we are only as strong as the most vulnerable amongst us. Social justice, fairness and equality are my Labor values. I believe that the unique needs of outer regional communities can be viewed through the lens of diversity and inclusion. To this end I could not be prouder of the approach of the Andrews government – the massive investment in Warrnambool Base Hospital, mental health and the rebuilding of the TAFE sector, which has been transformative, especially in small towns, where it costs more to deliver vital skills to country people. The regional rail upgrade, where the Big Build comes to the regions, is another example of necessary regional equality. It is exciting that stage 1 of the Warrnambool line is now complete. Capping daily V/Line fares to metropolitan fares is a massive recognition by our government that it costs more to live in the country. This initiative alone will make it vastly cheaper for outer regional individuals and families to visit Melbourne to work, for health or for enjoyment. I was honoured to play a very small role in supporting Gayle Tierney and Kylie Gaston achieve a new library for Warrnambool so that everyone can access information and education in a beautiful purpose-built facility. Again this was achieved through a brilliant partnership between the Andrews government, South West TAFE and Warrnambool City Council.

Equality is another value that is brought to life by the actions of this government. Free kinder, construction of state-owned childcare centres and the incredibly important journey to treaty are recent examples, as is our progress towards gender equality. When I reflect on the workforce experiences of three generations of women in my family, I can see enormous progress as well as a long way further to go. My mother was required to resign from her job when she became engaged to Dad. Whilst my generation stayed in the workforce, many had to put up with sexual harassment and discrimination, and today many young women are delaying motherhood due to the high economic and social price paid.

We still have a long way to go, but the leadership of the Andrews government has been groundbreaking to say the least. Among other strategies, the Gender Equality Act 2020 brings in a set of tools to enable employers to make workplace changes. I am delighted to have had the opportunity as chair of Wannon Water to help implement these reforms at a practical level.

As a social worker in the 1990s I had the deep privilege of listening to survivors of sexual assault when I worked as a counsellor advocate at South Western Centre Against Sexual Assault in Warrnambool. The continuum of violence against women, whether it is a demeaning joke in a pub or aggravated sexual assault, continues to underpin the deep structures of exclusion for women in our community today. I want to thank the women and families who came forward to the Royal Commission into Family Violence and told their story so the Andrews Labor government could respond. I also thank the public servants, lawyers and non-government organisations that are working on delivering support to women because of the royal commission. This work is only possible because of the leadership of the Andrews Labor government.

I first joined the Labor Party in 1997. I had not done so earlier, even though I had known I would for a long time, because, to be honest, I found it a bit blokey. Since then, Labor has transformed from an organisation almost exclusive of women to one where women are front and centre. Many of the policy initiatives of this government have come about because women are at the table. I am so proud to be sworn into a government with 14 female ministers. Times are indeed changing, and the Andrews government has been instrumental in facilitating that change.

In closing, it was never about Parliament or bust for me. I have only ever wanted to represent my own regional community. Representing and advocating for the unique needs of Western Victoria and other regional communities is central to my reason for being here in this place. We know that it costs more

to live in the country, that our communities are less healthy, have lower education attainment levels, struggle to reach services and earn lower incomes. I have always felt that our voices and perspectives need to be heard and understood. I acknowledge the privilege I have to represent regional Victoria in this place.

The Andrews government is governing for the whole of Victoria, and I am so proud to have the opportunity to play my part. I pledge to always be frank and forthcoming, to always remember where I am from and to work with dedication and focus for the people of Western Victoria.

Members applauded.

Evan MULHOLLAND (Northern Metropolitan) (18:11): I am humbled to be standing here in this place this evening as the new member for the Northern Metropolitan Region. It is a solemn responsibility and a privilege I do not take lightly. I am deeply grateful to the people of the north, who have entrusted me with this office. The northern suburbs are in my blood. My mother and father, David and Jenny, actually met while working together at the old Collingwood City Council. My late grandfather on my father's side, also David, was a local businessman and a rabbiter in Northcote. On my mother's side my late nonna and nonno, Teresa and Domenico Caruso, arrived in Australia in the 1950s with nothing and started a life for themselves and their family in Melbourne's north, in Brunswick and then in Reservoir. Their life story, which is now part of my own life story, is one of familiarity to many constituents in the northern suburbs, but it really goes to show the promise of the north, that you can go from one generation arriving in Australia with nothing but a suitcase to the next generation and having your grandson represent our glorious multicultural community in the Victorian Parliament. I owe so much to their hopes, their dreams and their sacrifices. The north of Melbourne and indeed Victoria owe so much to the contribution of migrants just like my nonni. As a tribute to them I do hope to amplify the voices of migrant families in our multicultural community in the north and fight for them in this place. And now I will be working to ensure the next generation of Victorians can secure the great Australian dream, wherever they may come from.

As the new member for the Northern Metropolitan Region I am also aware of my perspective and my responsibility as a millennial MP to the challenges faced by my demographic. One of the most critical of these is the crisis around housing affordability. For young people in the north, as well as across Victoria, it is the single biggest issue. Young people in this state are increasingly abandoning the hope of ever buying a home. The current unattainable nature of the housing market for many, particularly in my generation, is not the circumstance under which you are going to feel confident to start a family or take a risk investing in your own business. It is popular for those addicted to jargon to talk about a demographic cliff, but what we are currently facing is an economic cliff stemming from our housing crisis. The birth rate in Victoria is the lowest in the country, at 1.48 children per woman. This means a growing share of ageing Victorians that need to be cared for by a diminishing generation of taxpayers. As our party's founder, Robert Menzies, said once in one of his famous radio addresses, on 22 May 1942:

Your advanced socialist may rave against private property even while he acquires it; but one of the best instincts in us is that which induces us to have one little piece of earth with a house and a garden which is ours; to which we can withdraw, in which we can be among our friends, into which no stranger may come against our will.

Renting leaves young Victorians without a stake in their community. It has been claimed by some in this Parliament that young people are 'happy to rent'. This is out of touch and does not reflect the aspirational nature of young Victorians. I believe it is immoral that large sections of our inner cities, flush with good transport, schools, health care and other infrastructure, remain almost flat, with obsolete overlays denying young Victorians a chance to buy their first home where they want to live.

If my party wants to remain relevant to young people, we must at every opportunity reject this short-sighted and unfair approach and champion home ownership. This does not mean concrete jungles of apartment towers everywhere. It means that it is within our economic and moral imperative to

champion policies that lead to the building of homes in which my generation can start a family and lay down roots. It means more medium density for infrastructure-rich middle suburbs.

Nimbys – ‘not in my backyard’ elites – mostly from the inner city, are often the first to call for more migrants into Australia. As someone who backs a big Australia, I think that is a noble cause worth championing, but these same privileged elites are always the first to demonise and oppose any proposal for sensible development that would house in a humanitarian way the very families they want to bring into Australia. At the first sign of any sensible proposal for medium density, protesters with green triangle placards swoop in quicker than a seagull to a chip on St Kilda beach. To put it plainly, these Green-tinged councils and political elites are the new xenophobes. While these do-gooders and hand wringers might think they are fighting a holy war against evil property developers, all they end up doing is sending young families packing to growth areas like Mickleham, Beveridge and Wallan.

These suburbs in my electorate are where infrastructure, schools, health care and amenities are already a decade behind growth, and the cost of building new infrastructure is enormous. I hope to fight for these communities every day while in this place. The answer is not a centralist, socialist nirvana of government-mandated affordable housing owned by corporates, industry super and big government. The answer is and has always been more supply. Those of a socialist bent may find this concept difficult to understand, yet it has been proven over centuries – build more of something, make it cheaper; build less, make it rare and more expensive. We have to do all we can to stop young Victorians in our migrant community from becoming an asset-less generation.

When we consider other opportunities we can provide to bolster vulnerable communities, I believe the Liberal Party must take back ownership of the conservative value of redemption. In an age where incarceration rates are rising, it is time to appeal to our better selves and the human good in people, exploring innovative ways to combat the root causes of crime. In our criminal justice system, it is time to take a different approach and differentiate between those that we are afraid of and those that we are just mad at. We can and must prioritise community safety and also find alternative punishments for people who should not be in prison. For non-violent offenders, I believe Victorians would rather spend a nominal amount at the start of someone’s interaction with the justice system than spend \$120,000 a year, every year, to keep them in prison. This is a proposition that makes sound economic sense, but more importantly, a better outcome for society.

I applaud the efforts of the many corrections officers and community correctional staff doing their best to stop offenders from reoffending, yet we know that once someone has been in prison it is very difficult for them to leave – 43.6 per cent of prisoners released during 2018–19 in Victoria were returned to prison within just two years. Many cannot find a job once they leave prison and end up back there, costing taxpayers millions over a lifetime. This recidivism disproportionately affects already vulnerable communities like First Nations people and those experiencing poor health and poverty.

There is a way we can provide Victorians with a second chance in life and also save taxpayers millions of dollars. Low-level drug possession, defaulting on fines and even some white-collar crime should not be valid reasons for Victorians going to prison. We should be looking at successful criminal justice reform efforts, largely in Republican states in the US like Texas and Georgia, where they have prioritised community safety and given people a second chance at life through alternative punishment and work programs, keeping people out of prison for good and receiving a fiscal dividend by being able to close prisons rather than open new ones. As criminal justice reformer and Republican representative Jerry Madden has said, ‘Democrats tend to focus on changing lives. Republicans’ – such as him – ‘tend to focus on saving money and cutting taxes.’ And so started a bipartisan reform effort. As he said:

I’m a conservative politician who’s saying let’s save taxpayers some money, but if I can change things so crime goes in a different direction, then I can in fact change lives. If I could do that at the same time as saving money and spending smarter, wouldn’t that be a great thing?

The legacy of the reform effort in Texas has been one of closing down 10 separate prisons in the past decade, and the prison population has dropped by 17,000, saving the taxpayer millions and millions of dollars. The same principles can be applied in Victoria. I firmly, firmly believe there are good human qualities to every Victorian, even those that have followed the wrong path at times. We should seek out the good in our fellow Victorians and always find a pathway to redemption. If this makes me a dangerous radical, I am proud to wear the label. We must and can do better.

While on the theme of redemption and second chances, the intolerance created by cancel culture in this country, particularly in Victoria, is highly disturbing. We have reached a point where merely holding an alternative view or being loosely associated with the views of others in some way can see you, your family, your career or anything or anyone you have been involved with heavily targeted by an angry mob. When someone is targeted for their faith, views or comments, we are creating a culture where offence is completely subjective.

Those who accuse my side of politics of waging a culture war are often the first to push for laws that will make unlawful all speech that might offend someone somewhere. Freedom of speech is the most important freedom we have. Without it we lose the ability to argue and defend all freedoms. In this again I quote the founder of our great party, Sir Robert Menzies, who said in his policy speech on 10 November 1949:

There may be some people who think that the only freedom that counts is to have a roof to sleep under, clothes to wear, food to eat.

... but they are not freedoms at all. Each can be obtained in a state of utter slavery.

The real freedoms are to worship, to think, to speak, to choose, to be ambitious, to be independent, to be industrious, to acquire skill, to seek reward. These are the real freedoms, for these are of the essence of the nature of man. Socialism will have none of them ...

Safe spaces and trigger warnings seemed a laughable campus fad a decade ago. Now they have wormed their way into our boardrooms, institutions and, more concerningly, our laws. Anti-vilification laws like the ones brought to this place in the last term should never again see the light of day. Laws on speech with ridiculously low thresholds like being 'likely to' cause offence should be consigned to the dustbin of history. In terms of cancel culture, subjective laws on speech will lead us to a point of no return. Never again should we see one side of politics met with a heckler's veto, charged for a police presence at a protest caused by the other side of politics, and never again should we see pregnant women arrested in front of their family for Facebook comments. For me, standing in this place makes me an even stronger advocate for freedom of speech.

Now I am ready to fight a different culture war. Our side of politics should stand up for the future of the arts sector and the important contribution this sector makes. As someone who has been heavily involved in the amateur theatre scene, on stage and off, and was president of a performing arts company in Melbourne's north, I can state from personal experience that community arts organisations are in crisis. Amateur theatre companies in the north either have closed or are on their knees. Grassroots organisations like ARC Theatre are the lifeblood of communities, providing joy and meaningful social interaction to so many people, particularly young Victorians. While the political class rolls out the pork barrel to sporting clubs, community arts organisations are not even getting the crumbs off the table. This is not to dismiss the important role that community sporting clubs play, but community arts organisations create a form of entertainment and community involvement that is a step beyond the extra bain-marie for the local cricket club. It is about time government policy reflected this. Too often in the arts, government gives precious taxpayer dollars to organisations that already have large philanthropic departments. We need to do better to support culture at a grassroots level.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge some people who helped me get to this place. To Matthew Guy: you gave me my first job in politics when I was a young uni student. I was inspired to follow the path to politics through your energy, enthusiasm and love for our state. I am proud to follow you into this place as another fellow former La Trobe Liberal Club president and a fellow Saints supporter too. I

have said this to you before, but it is true: I would likely not be standing in this place were it not for you.

To another old boss of mine who unfortunately cannot be here, former Senator the Honourable Mitch Fifield. While he left a great legacy in the Senate of voluntary student unionism, disability and aged care reform and media reform, Mitch's real legacy was unseen. While our opponents have the union movement and a plethora of activist organisations to train up the next generation of leaders, in some respects my side only have our members of Parliament. Mitch used his time in the Senate to recruit and mentor the next generation of leaders into his office. I was a beneficiary of his guidance and wise counsel, and the fact that many former Fifield staff are now leaders in business and public policy and are a growing number even in our Parliament is a testament to Mitch's enthusiasm for supporting the next generation of leadership and a benchmark I hope to follow.

I would like to acknowledge and thank John Roskam, one of the great intellectual leaders of our time. Thank you for your support and guidance of me throughout my six years at the Institute of Public Affairs. Thank you also to IPA chairman the Honourable Rod Kemp, Janet Albrechtsen and Geoff Hone for the support you have given me. While some people think the answer to our public policy problems is to get more IPA members into Parliament, in some respects I think the answer is establishing and nurturing more organisations like the IPA, who so strongly set the terms of debate and guide public policy in a more sensible direction.

It is said that if you want a friend in politics, get a dog. Thankfully this is not the case for me. Firstly, to my friend Senator James Paterson, who unfortunately cannot be here today: thank you for your friendship and support of me for over a decade. If I can make half the contribution you are already making in the Senate, I will be a happy man. It is such a thrill to be joining this place at the same time as my good friend in the other place the member for Kew, Jess Wilson. It feels like yesterday I was your loyal vice-president when you were president of the Victorian Young Liberals. I cannot wait to see the brilliant contribution you will make in the other place for the people of Kew and for Victoria. To my friend Michael O'Brien, the member for Malvern, in the other place: it is great to have another Marcellin old boy in the Victorian Parliament. Thanks also to my friend in the other place the member for Sandringham, Brad Rowswell, for your support, guidance and wise counsel.

There are great friends I have no doubt I would not be here without. I cannot name them all, but I would like to particularly knowledge Mark Briers, Max Williams, Aaron Lane, Stuart Eaton, Clare Chandler, James Wilcox, Andrew Hodgson, Adam McKee, Gemma Whiting, James Duncan, Simon Breheny, Gideon Rozner, Luke Tobin, Deborah Henderson, Byron Hodgkinson and Lydia Paterson.

To the countless Liberal Party volunteers: thank you for putting your faith in me. Your dedication makes me proud to be a Liberal. There are too many people to thank individually, but I would like to particularly thank Northern Metro Region electorate council chair Stuart McCraith and long-time party servants Gen Hamilton, Scott Pearce, Jemma Townson, Jacky Douglas and Con Frantzeskos for guiding me on my journey in the party to this place.

Finally, I would like to thank my family. To my mum Jenny: your 16 years of service on Banyule City Council showed me the value of public service. Hopefully I have inherited your stubborn Calabrian drive to achieve outcomes for your community. To my father David: you were well ahead of your time as a stay-at-home dad, working from home in your small businesses so you could support us and watch us grow up. Thank you both for your endless support of me. I would like to acknowledge my siblings. If you see someone walking around who looks like me with a visitors pass, that is actually my identical twin brother Alex. Also to my brother David and sister Olivia: as siblings often do, you formed my character from the earliest of days and my ability to hold my own in a dinner table debate. You also brought wonderful people into our family like Sophie and Sydel as well as a growing multitude of nieces and nephews who are so special, including Isla and Lachie, who are here today.

To my chief adviser and wife Brigid Meney, a political brain who would make a formidable member of Parliament in her own right should she ever take that path. Since we first met in the halls of federal Parliament many years ago you have made my life a joy. I do not take for granted the sacrifices you have made so that I can be here. I love you so much. To my son Ted – who at only two we did not trust to bring into the chamber today – and my very, very soon to arrive daughter, it is your future that will drive my efforts every day that I am an elected representative. I thought I came from a big family as one of four until I married Brigid, who is one of nine, so to all my in-laws, led by Chris and Mary-Clare – two people of profound strength and commitment – each brother- and sister-in-law, their partners and children, who have made our lives so much richer, I have felt like I have had an enormous cheer squad of encouragement and prayers every step of the way on my path to public service.

I would like to thank the good people of the north for electing me to this place. I will lead, listen and learn with you. In parting, my one helpful suggestion to my friends in the Labor Party: seats in the north are no longer yours to carve up to out-of-area factional picks who do not look or sound like the communities they represent. As you may have seen in the trends at this recent election, there is every likelihood that these seats will not be so safe anymore as a result should you continue down this path. I will be making sure of this.

I am so proud of the team of candidates the Liberal Party fielded in the northern suburbs. Their experiences, diversity and commitment to their communities were incredible. I am under no illusions that I am here, with a swing towards the Liberal Party, thanks to your hard work. I am not remotely content being in opposition; I am hungry for government. Victorians are relying on the Liberal Party to be strong, to reform, to challenge and to be accountable, and that is exactly what I am here to do.

Members applauded.

Renee HEATH (Eastern Victoria) (18:34): It is with heartfelt gratitude to the people of the Eastern Victoria Region and to the Liberal Party that I rise to make my maiden speech in this house on the opening of the 60th Parliament of Victoria. When I consider the weight of responsibility and the very real impact that the debates and the decisions made in this chamber will have on the lives of Victorians, I am both humbled and in awe.

Before I continue I would like to acknowledge some key people who have just been so important in this journey. There are so many I would like to mention, but I cannot mention them all. First I would like to mention my mum and dad, Brian and Lynne Heath. Thank you for your incredible love and support throughout my whole life. To my grandfather, who despite being well into his 90s is here today – a pretty inspiring effort. And I would just like to take this opportunity to remember my beautiful grandma Rose and my grandparents Kit and Arthur Heath, who have made such an incredible impact on my life.

I would like to thank my siblings – I just saw one of crying then – and my dear friends Sarah and Joel Churchill. I would like to thank Michael Rowell, Peter Starkey, David Farrelly, Chris Crewther, Briony Hutton, Aaron Brown, Wayne Farnham, Dale Harriman and David Burgess – thank you so much for your support every single day of this campaign. I would like to thank Peter Rawlings, Catriona and Andrew Ronalds, and Robert and Julie Knight for taking the chance of giving me a reference when I decided to run for preselection. I am just so very thankful for that. I would like to thank my dear friend and mentor Bev McArthur and the amazing support of the women's council of Victoria. Without you I just would not be here. I just want to mention some people that have been an incredible inspiration to me, and also some are here today: Michael Kroger, Helen Kroger, Carol Walters, Alan Tudge and Greg Hunt. Thank you so much for your inspiration. And then of course my girl gang, a lot of which is here, and the quad squad – from the bottom of my heart I want to thank you.

I was born and raised in Eastern Victoria, and to now represent this region in Parliament – its people, families, communities, business and industries – is the greatest privilege of my life. Eastern region is

incredibly strategic to Victoria. It is home to a wealth of natural resources and primary industries that provide water, power and timber to our states. Its farms produce the food that feeds our cities and dairy that is exported around the world. Its stunning natural beauty – from its pristine beaches and lake systems to the snow-capped mountains, the breathtaking High Country, the lush forests – draws tourists from all around Australia and abroad. Most importantly, its vibrant suburban and regional communities are filled with hardworking people who rally together during fire, flood, storm and pandemic. Without this region Victorians would not have the standard of living that we enjoy today. When Eastern Victoria prospers, our state prospers. That is why I am passionate to champion this region in the Parliament.

I approach this role with the dedication to the community that has always been a significant part of my life. My parents are pastors, and I grew up watching them show care for the elderly, the vulnerable, the underprivileged and those from broken homes. I come from a large family, and although we did not have a lot, there was always enough for another plate at the dinner table and a bed for those who did not have a safe home. This enriched our family and showed me purpose beyond myself. When I was in my late 20s I co-founded an orphanage in the Philippines. I led a team in fundraising and advocacy that secured enough support from Gippsland to give children a safe haven, food, clothing, education and health care. Our efforts extended to neighbouring villages, offering life-changing medical procedures and treatments to help many. Watching these people use the hand up given to them as an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty sparked my early interest in liberalism, because I believed I was seeing liberalism in action. I saw orphans break the cycle of dependence and build a new life where they called the shots, where they were not dependent on anybody else any longer but could live life on their terms. The endeavours I have been involved in have given me hope that the answers do not lie in government but rest in individuals and their empowering their communities.

Our region has been through a great deal in recent years. In November 2019 lightning ignited a series of fires across East Gippsland known as the Black Summer bushfires. Soon after, 326,000 hectares of land was ablaze and more than 60,000 people were evacuated from their homes in East Gippsland and Hume. My home town of Sale saw people as close as Bairnsdale, 50 kilometres away, evacuated. Our community sprang into action, ready to provide emergency accommodation and essentials for displaced people. I and my colleagues did everything that we could, using our skills to provide free chiropractic care to families affected by the fire and emergency personnel in local shelters.

By the end of December, three fires in East Gippsland had burnt with such intensity that they created their own weather systems, generating local thunder and lightning, with more than 230,000 hectares of land burnt. Harrowing images of children fleeing from Mallacoota to the ocean on rafts, enveloped by a blood-red sky, were truly haunting and apocalyptic. In Victoria the fires took five lives, destroying more than 300 homes and more than 6500 head of livestock. Three years on there are still fire-affected people displaced, without a home and trying to wade through government red tape and insurance claims, and this is to our shame.

A local recovery campaign encouraged people to visit fire-affected areas, buy from local businesses and fill up their eskies, and together we were going to get these towns back on their feet. But before anybody could do that, COVID hit. For the next two years we endured multiple lockdowns, with regional and remote areas often bearing the same restrictions as Melbourne, even though the infection rate was zero or low. Just 16 months after, violent storms hit. There were 97 SES call-outs across the eastern region as trees came down, buildings were damaged and power was cut off. The town of Traralgon suffered unprecedented floods. The Yarra Ranges was hit hard, with 5000 properties affected by flood and 3000 homes without power or internet for more than a month. Thirty-four communities lost NBN services and were unable to call 000 for assistance, and the recovery effort is still ongoing.

For our region, having been hit hard by these natural disasters and the pandemic, the ability to rebuild and to look forward with hope relies heavily on our industries and our businesses, but government policies are leading the eastern region into an era of uncertainty. The Latrobe Valley's remaining coal-

fired power stations will close over the next decade because of renewable energy targets, destroying thousands of jobs. The industries that have kept the lights on in Melbourne for almost a hundred years have been demonised and discarded without a thought. There are families behind every single job loss, every single industry and every single business shutdown. The hundreds of hard hats that were hung on the fence at the Hazelwood power station at its closure in March 2017 are the best indication of the feelings of the workers on the ground. Some of the hard hats read, 'shut down by Greens and Labor'. Another one said, 'hanging our hats on a worker transition'. The people of the Latrobe Valley have been let down time and time again.

In 2019 the government announced it would close the native timber industry by 2030. Many regional communities across Eastern Victoria are built on the back of the timber industry. It is estimated that a quarter of jobs in Orbost are in jeopardy. When our industries scale down, our once thriving communities decline as jobs are lost and families suffer. I stand before you today as a representative of a region that is hurting, a region that rightly feels neglected – even despised – by city-centric legislators, a region that feels its industries and economies are the first to be sacrificed to inner-city priorities, without so much as a thought or a plan for their families, jobs and economies. I will champion this region in Parliament. I will advocate for the rebuilding efforts and aid its recovery and policies to secure its future.

During the campaign there seemed to be a lot of fascination around my faith and how it would impact my role in public life. I firstly want to say my faith does not hold anybody else to account; my faith holds me to account. The second thing I want to say is every single person has a worldview that has been developed by their experience, and I am absolutely no different to anybody else. If it is community spirit that has inspired me to serve through leadership, it is my faith that has guided me.

I love the scripture James 1:17, which says every good and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, in whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. I love this scripture, because the greatest light in our physical world is the sun. Everything in the galaxy rotates around it, but it is immovable. Everything in the world adapts and changes but the sun never does. It is the ultimate reference point. If you are lost, you look up and you can find your way back. Everybody has a reference point – everyone – and it is your values, your belief and your world view. For me, my faith is my reference point. It is the sun that never moves, and when I am lost it is what I look to.

I want to say unequivocally that regardless of your belief you deserve political representation. You deserve the right to engage, debate, join a party and have a voice just like everybody else. I have come to this chamber to represent the people of Eastern Victoria Region. If you are a Muslim, if you are a Christian or a Jew, a Buddhist or a Sikh, or whatever it is that you believe, if you are gay or if you are straight, if you are a traditionalist or if you are progressive, there is a place for you and you deserve political representation. My aim in this house is to fight for freedom so that you can live according to your world view as closely as I follow mine. If you choose faith, I will fight for you. If you choose atheism, I will fight for you, and if you choose nothing at all, I will fight for you, because for too long Victorians have felt pressured by an ideological government pushing its way into the domain of our heads, our hearts and our homes – personal and sacred spaces that should never be regulated by the state.

This government has ventured into places it should not go yet has failed in jurisdictions that it is responsible for. Whilst the government has locked down our state, shut down our businesses, told us who could come to our homes and uncovered our medical records, people have been dying on the side of the road waiting for an ambulance. Budgets have blown out by billions. Roads and infrastructure have crumbled, corruption has been rife and integrity in public institutions compromised. I believe that this is the cost of overgovernance. My dream is not for a progressive government that operates beyond its jurisdiction but one that returns to its core business, going back to basics, serving the people, managing the budget, maintaining law and order and delivering infrastructure, transport and essential services like health and education. For two terms the government has failed on all these fronts, and it is time for a reprioritisation of policy. Victorians should not be told what to think, what to say, how to

worship or how to raise their children. This is symptomatic of a failed socialist experiment which has reinvented itself as a cultural movement in our time. It is time for the government to get out of families, get out of homes, get out of doctors' rooms and get out of classrooms, get out of churches and temples and businesses and get back to the areas that it is responsible for, which it is failing at dismally.

I believe in basing policy on the rights of the individual rather than the collective and on evidence not ideology. During the past eight years this government has divided Victorians along the lines of gender, race, class, sexuality, religion and any other measure of difference. Labor's lopsided equality has rewarded some to the detriment of others. It has not created a more caring society but a fractured one. For too long Labor has asserted that it is the party of dignity, equality and compassion while spruiking ideologies that divide, economic principles that create government dependence and policies that punish some and reward others.

I believe that the Liberal Party is the party of true compassion, and it is time for us to reclaim compassion. It is the ideals of the Liberal Party espoused by Sir Robert Menzies that have given rise to progress, social justice, service and volunteerism. The values of the Liberal Party give people the freedom to build their own lives, families, businesses and careers and to take risks, receive rewards and create opportunities for other Victorians from their success.

We must reclaim the five fundamental freedoms that are the great legacy of Western civilisation: freedom of speech, association, religion, assembly and movement. These took centuries to develop. These were forged out of the darkest moments of human history, including slavery, wars, genocide, persecution and prejudice. If we do not protect freedom, we risk repeating the harrowing lessons that have brought us to this point. These rights are universal, not partisan. They promote opportunities for all Victorians. If we are to govern for all people and to heal the divisions between us, we must return to the universal ideas that build our shared interests and unite us as Victorians.

I believe that it is time for us to shake off the pandemic mindset, and it is time for us to return to the foundations that have made us prosperous, united and free. As we step into this next chapter, let us trade shutdowns for innovations, social distancing for togetherness, government directives for personal responsibility and fear for courage. Let us look towards the future so we can build a better tomorrow. To do this we must provide the best start for the next generation. It concerns me a lot that despite record funding into education our standards are dropping. Research shows that over the last 20 years Australian children have lost one year of learning. The average 15-year-old in Australia is three years behind the average 15-year-old in Singapore in mathematics. We need to look at why this is occurring, and we need to correct it so that our children can have the best start in life.

Schools should not be a hub of indoctrination, rather they should be a centre of education. Students should not graduate as activists but rather as individuals that are equipped to become the scientists, the entrepreneurs and the thought leaders of tomorrow. Schools should teach facts, not narratives. Students should be taught how to think and not what to think. Our young people are the future, and we need to give them the freedom and the resources to create that future.

The last area I want to talk about is one that is extremely close to my heart, and it is the area of reconciliation. An incredible man who wrote a reference for me when I ran for preselection is part of the stolen generation. He is not somebody that is out there without a face; he is right here with us in this room today. Robert Knight is a humble yet brave man with a harrowing story. I would like to read you a bit of his story in his words. He writes:

I was taken from my family at seven years of age and put in police cells and institutions. A man was kicked to death in that same cell a week before they locked me in there. There was blood still on the doors. I was scared, crying all the time. Frightened, I couldn't understand why I was put in the cell. From there I was sent to a boy's home.

I can still picture my mum weeping her heart out at the train station while I was taken. I couldn't escape the carriage of the train I was put on.

I didn't see my mum until three or four years later. This happened to me and my eight brothers. My older brother's stories are more horrific than mine.

When I came back to my family, I had no respect for anyone. I was out of control. Even as an adult, I have seen some police officers who did some wrong things to me growing up.

The relationship between aboriginal people and non-aboriginal people was very bad.

While Kevin Rudd gave the apology, I cried right through it. It really touched me, but some aboriginal leader had to stand up and respond to the apology. For me having someone apologize needed a response from an aboriginal leader to have reconciliation. Like it says, 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that have trespassed against us'. True reconciliation can eventuate if someone is allowed to stand up and respond to that apology. Something was started, but it was not finished yet ...

I have experienced such ... restoration, I even became a police liaison officer.

Relationships have been built over time with non-aboriginal people, I have literally felt the hatred and bitterness leave my life.

My family is aboriginal, Renee's family is non-aboriginal. The relationship that started with me and her parents generation that gone onto our kids. Our families have now walked together for three generations and over twenty years. We have been reconciled. It's a small part, but if we can experience reconciliation, the nation can too. I know if she gets this job, she will carry that heart into the parliament, I know she loves my people.

What happened all those years ago was a result of horrific decisions made by governments. That is why I will never be able to accept the government telling me who matters and who does not. We are all equal. No-one is born inferior. No-one is born superior. It does not matter what your colour is. It does not matter what your gender is. It does not matter what your sexuality is. It does not matter what your belief system is. We are all precious. When the government tries to tell us who matters, we open the way for destruction. There has been so much talk of reconciliation and many proposals to achieve it, but the benchmark of reconciliation is not tokenism. The benchmark was articulated by Reverend Dr Martin Luther King, who said:

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

My dream is that his dream, spoken all those years ago, will become a reality in our lifetime, that we will come to the table of brotherhood and that that will happen in the homes of individuals, where we face our fears, address our prejudice and walk together, not as people who are the same but as people that connect and celebrate our differences. Restoration does not take place in Parliament alone. It takes place in hearts and homes everywhere, and that is up to us. Like my dear friend Robert, who is here with me today, said:

Something was set in motion when Kevin Rudd spoke those words, but I believe it will be complete in us.

My dream is that the decisions made in this chamber will serve all people, not just some – that they will bring people together and they will not divide, because a people healed are not a people divided. In closing, I am committed to fighting in this chamber for our region, to championing freedom and to making decisions for all Victorians, not just some, and that is my promise.

Members applauded.

Lee TARLAMIS (South-Eastern Metropolitan) (19:00): I move:

That debate on this matter be adjourned until the next day of meeting.

Motion agreed to and debate adjourned until next day of meeting.

Adjournment

Jaclyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (19:01): Just before I move the adjournment, merry Christmas and happy new year to everyone. It was lovely to meet you all. See you next year. I move:

That the house do now adjourn.

Alfred hospital

Georgie CROZIER (Southern Metropolitan) (19:01): (1) My adjournment matter this evening is for the attention of the Minister for Health. As we know, Victoria continues to be in a very alarming state around the health system. The health crisis has seen far too many Victorians suffer over the last few years. That is because of, obviously, not only the COVID-19 pandemic but also decisions by government – their policy direction and decisions that they have made over the past eight years. I particularly, only a few weeks ago, prior to the election, was talking about the mismanagement and underinvestment.

I want to make mention of the Alfred hospital in my electorate of Southern Metropolitan Region. I know Mr Davis understands the Alfred extremely well. It is a hospital – a major tertiary facility in this state – that has tremendous staff and tremendous facilities, but they are tired, and there are many issues that are plaguing the Alfred. When I was there just a few weeks ago, I was told that there were mice in the theatre. When I was on the pre-poll in St Kilda, a nurse came up to me and said she worked in the oncology ward and that it was leaking – every time it rained, in the oncology ward there were leaks. This is the state of a major hospital in our state that cares for thousands of Victorians who at times are very, very ill.

The government talks the big talk, but they have had years to fix up the Alfred. In 2020 I was calling for money to assist with this, and nothing was forthcoming. Nothing has been forthcoming in the recent election campaign, and here again today we heard various hospitals mentioned and various health infrastructure, but nothing –

David Davis interjected.

Georgie CROZIER: That is right, Mr Davis – nothing relating to the Alfred. It was left off the list. So the action I seek is for the minister to outline how the government is immediately going to address these dire infrastructure needs of the Alfred so that it can continue to work and provide the significant care it does to thousands of very, very ill Victorians.

Parole eligibility

David LIMBRICK (South-Eastern Metropolitan) (19:03): (2) My adjournment matter this evening is for the Minister for Corrections. Throughout the winter of 1993 the suburb of Frankston suffered under a dark cloud of terror as it became clear that a serial killer was on the loose and targeting young women in the area. By the time the perpetrator was arrested on 31 July 1993 three young women were dead. After many hours of questioning, he eventually confessed to the murders of Elizabeth Stevens, Debbie Fream and Natalie Russell. The details of these murders were so horrific that a forensic psychologist submitting evidence in his trial described a person that:

... found intentional maltreatment of victims intensely gratifying, taking pleasure in torment, anguish, distress, hopelessness and suffering of the victim.

In sentencing, Justice Vincent expressed the opinion that the perpetrator showed no remorse for his behaviour and that his only regret appeared to be that he was caught. Justice Vincent stated that there seemed no real prospect for rehabilitation and that the community needed to be protected from him, sentencing him to three life sentences, never to be released. The next year the Court of Appeal determined that it was the responsibility of the court to determine an appropriate non-parole period and granted him a 30-year period of non-parole.

That period expires early next year, and for the friends and families of the victims this is a source of tremendous grief, anxiety and anguish. For true crime readers of Vikki Petraitis's book *The Frankston Murders* or viewers of the recent documentary *No Mercy, No Remorse*, this may be a feeling that they can empathise with. For me it does not require any imagination to understand this feeling. As members who were present in the previous term of Parliament would know, in 1993 Natalie Russell was a dear friend of mine.

When I was elected in 2018 I never expected that this was an issue that I would be raising in Parliament. Whilst the perpetrator of these horrific crimes may be eligible for a parole hearing, for families and friends and victims, their sentence is lifelong. Over the past several months these families have been reaching out to the government, trying to set up a meeting with the Minister for Corrections or the Attorney-General so that someone could explain the parole process to them and help them navigate this traumatic time. I would like to congratulate Mr Erdogan on his appointment as the new Minister for Corrections. My request for the minister is to meet with the families and friends of the victims to help explain the parole process to them and what opportunities they might have to participate in that process.

Wild dog control

Bev McARTHUR (Western Victoria) (19:06): (3) My adjournment matter this evening is for the Minister for Environment and Climate Action and concerns the appallingly dishonest ABC 7.30 report last month on the Victorian wild dog program. The program was a study in misrepresentation, with selective inclusion, misleading omission and ever-present exaggeration. The dogs in the footage are in fact being controlled within the livestock protection zone, a 3-kilometre strip of public land adjoining productive farmland. Dingoes are unprotected in this limited area and are controlled before they move on to private land, where they threaten livestock. This distorted propaganda masquerading as journalism omitted several key facts. This livestock protection zone is the only area in which wild dog control is undertaken in Victoria, accounting for just 4 per cent of public land east of the Hume Highway. Wild dogs and dingoes are left undisturbed in the remaining 96 per cent; they live freely in the ecosystem. The population inside the park remains stable. It is not being driven to extinction, as the program implied.

The Victorian wild dog program traps on average 550 dogs a year. It has done so for the past 10 years, demonstrating the stability of the population. And it works. It disperses wild dogs – or dingoes, if you want to call them that – that move from the core of the park towards private land, where they threaten livestock, but also in the other direction it prevents domestic dogs moving into the park and crossbreeding with the dingoes that are there. This is sustainable and humane wildlife management. Using a small strip of land, it has achieved a 70 per cent reduction in livestock attacks on farms bordering the state parks in question. Defend the Wild claim that padded-jaw foothold traps are cruel and inhumane, yet their footage actually shows animals unworried by the traps themselves but terrified and trying to escape from the proximate threat of humans. Academic researchers fitting radio collars use these same traps. They have long been employed by scientists without cruelty.

My objection to the program is not just that it is misleading; the presence of activists and a film crew also directly distressed trapped animals, and in removing and transporting one animal, numerous state and federal biosecurity rules were breached. But the action I seek relates to the appalling threat to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning employees secretly filmed by Defend the Wild and broadcast by the 7.30 program. So, Minister, will you assure me you will prosecute the activists involved and, in line with your duty of care to staff, protect those DELWP employees now subject to appalling online and offline vilification and threats?

The PRESIDENT: That was a little bit over time, Mrs McArthur.

Bev McArthur: Oh, you are very generous on your first day, President, thank you. What a hero!

The PRESIDENT: Consider that a yellow card.

Suicide prevention

Samantha RATNAM (Northern Metropolitan) (19:09): (4) My adjournment matter tonight is for the Minister for Mental Health, and my ask is that she establishes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide prevention task force as part of Victoria's suicide prevention and response strategy.

Last month I participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, VACCHO. One of the most sobering parts of the night came during a question from the audience about the increase in suicides in Victoria's First Nations communities. In 2021 the number of First Nations people dying by suicide increased by 75 per cent compared to the previous year, while it declined for non-Indigenous people. In Victoria, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people currently die by suicide at a rate 3½ times higher than for the non-Indigenous population. Suicide is now one of the five most common causes of death for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, yet for non-Indigenous people it is only the 15th most common. These statistics should be distressing for all of us. For years First Nations people have experienced significant socio-economic disadvantage and poorer health and wellbeing outcomes. From health to education, to housing, to economic indicators, and despite multiple strategies to address this entrenched disadvantage, such as Closing the Gap, there is still so much more to do.

Progressing justice and healing for our First Nations community must be a priority for this new term of government and indeed for all of us in this chamber. The work of treaty is a significant milestone in the journey towards true self-determination and sovereignty for First Nations people, but it cannot be used as a cover for inaction. It must go hand in hand with justice reform to reduce the number of First Nations people dying in custody and being unjustly imprisoned, with housing reform to address the disproportionate number of First Nations people experiencing homelessness and with health reform to improve health and wellbeing, and this work must centre on First Nations voices, communities and organisations.

The Victorian Department of Health is currently developing a suicide prevention and response strategy, which is likely to be released in early 2023. As VACCHO have highlighted, this strategy must include a focused Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander suicide task force to develop initiatives to reduce the rates of death by suicide in First Nations communities. I ask the minister to prioritise establishing a new First Nations suicide prevention task force as part of the government's suicide prevention and response strategy.

Economy

David DAVIS (Southern Metropolitan) (19:12): (5) President, I want to begin by congratulating you on your re-elevation to the very significant role that you have and note the good work that you did in the last period, and I look forward to that continuing.

The point I want to raise in the adjournment tonight comes directly out of the address by the Governor today. I thank her for her address, but it was what was not in the speech that worried me. I noted there was no mention of the state's debt and the state's financial position. We know that \$166 billion is the likely debt that we are headed to in 2025–26. That is bigger than New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania combined. There was no mention of a debt reduction plan. There was no mention of a way to deal with that debt and the significant impact that that will have on taxation and the significant impact that that will have on Victoria's future. So the action I seek tonight is to ask the Treasurer to explain why the Governor's speech did not have any mention of debt – any outlined way to deal with the state's debt into the future.

Shepparton bypass

Wendy LOVELL (Northern Victoria) (19:13): (6) My adjournment matter is for the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure. The action that I seek is for the minister to match the coalition's election commitment and immediately provide \$260 million, being the Victorian government's contribution to stage 1 of the Shepparton bypass project, and also for her to advocate to Infrastructure Australia and

the federal government to allocate the additional federal funding necessary to complete stage 1. With the state election now over, we on this side of the house will work hard over the next four years to meticulously scrutinise the government on behalf of the Victorian people to hold them to account. By removing a Labor-voting independent and electing a coalition member, the people of the Shepparton district have sent a strong and clear message to the Andrews Labor government to provide the state's share of funding for the Shepparton bypass project. The people of Shepparton have been calling for the bypass for three decades, and the devastating October floods in the electorate highlighted the dangers of this government continuously ignoring the need for this project.

The flood crisis impacted many members of the Shepparton electorate, with many residents evacuated or stranded in their homes for many days. The river rose to a height of 12.06 metres and forced the closure of the Peter Ross-Edwards Causeway, a 3.7-kilometre stretch of road that is the sole connecting thoroughfare between Shepparton and Mooroopna. The severity of the floods also impacted other access points to the north and south, and without a second river crossing our city was divided, with Mooroopna completely cut off from the rest of the state. This meant that Mooroopna residents had no access to the hospital or other services located in Shepparton.

The floods proved the absolute necessity for a second river crossing between Shepparton and Mooroopna to allow access between the two towns. This was recognised by the Liberal-National coalition that committed \$260 million, being the state's full contribution to the estimated \$1.3 billion cost of stage 1 of the Shepparton bypass. This commitment was overwhelmingly embraced by voters who on 26 November removed Suzanna Sheed and elected a coalition member. The result was also a message to Minister Allan and the government that we are sick and tired of Labor ignoring the project and in turn the wellbeing of our community. Daniel Andrews has stated he will govern for all Victorians. He must not punish the Shepparton electorate for electing a coalition member by not funding the Shepparton bypass.

Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority

Melina BATH (Eastern Victoria) (19:16): (7) President, I also congratulate you on your restored position and look forward to working with you in a productive way in the house.

My adjournment matter this evening is for the Minister for Emergency Services, and I am pleased to see that she is at the bench tonight and listening with interest. It relates to ESTA and the dispatching of ambulances in emergency situations. I was contacted by constituents Russell and Janine Croydon, who live in Traralgon. They are keen cyclists. They were out on a cycling adventure around the town and were returning home when Russell in effect crashed. He crashed and ended up on the road not far from their home. He and his wife identified that clearly he had a broken leg – a shattered leg, a compound fracture. It was a mess. He was unwell, clearly, and lying on the ground in pain.

His wife Janine phoned 000 and requested the dispatch of an ambulance. The operator did not dispatch an ambulance but said 'There will be somebody to contact you within an hour – it will be a nurse or a paramedic – to workshop, in effect, your situation.' Now, you are the partner of someone lying on the pavement in grave pain, but the ESTA operator said, 'No, don't move him', in short.

After a time someone came to help. Janine put her husband into the back of the car and travelled with him to Latrobe Regional Hospital, where he ended up having two operations and significant pins; he will have a long time in rehab. Now, in the course of that event Janine also cancelled waiting for ESTA to call back with a nurse or a paramedic. This is no reflection on our wonderful professional paramedics that operate in our ambulance services, and I can attest to their wonderful work, but the question they asked me, and it is not an isolated incident, was: what constitutes an emergency – if there is a clear fall and a clear break – and why wasn't an ambulance dispatched?

So I would ask the minister to contact Russell and Janine Croydon – I have their details – and advise them of the steps she will personally undertake to ensure, in their words, 'that this doesn't happen

again', so that people are not left lying on the asphalt in the middle of the road in pain for potentially an hour or longer waiting for an ambulance to be dispatched.

Responses

Jaelyn SYMES (Northern Victoria – Attorney-General, Minister for Emergency Services) (19:19): There were six matters that were raised for other ministers, and I will pass them on. I would like to deal with the matter that Ms Bath raised tonight. Thank you for raising that, Ms Bath. At the outset, it is not actually a matter that you would raise for the Minister for Emergency Services, and I will explain why. The call takers at ESTA are doing an amazing job smashing their benchmarks at the moment, answering more than 90 per cent of their calls in under 5 seconds – a 95 per cent answered call rate in November.

The system is a vastly different system to what we were experiencing as a result of pressures from the pandemic, say, 12 months ago. It is an amazing workforce. I have spent a lot of time out there. When you call 000 and you explain that you need an ambulance it is clinical decisions that decide whether an ambulance is dispatched or not, and those clinical decisions are based on codes that determine the response that is required. So a code 1 is cardiac emergency, lights and sirens, ambulance always dispatched. When it comes down more to injuries and things that are not necessarily life-threatening – although I acknowledge the pain and suffering that your constituents obviously were under – it comes back to a decision that is made from a very precise script and a very precise set of criteria that the call taker would put into a system. Then it goes to a clinical expert, such as a paramedic or a nurse, who returns the call, and the callers every single time – because I listened every time there – are told to call back if the condition gets any worse or if they see any deterioration in the condition. If somebody is on their own and not with somebody that can look after them, it might change the code response as well. So it is not the call takers that make that determination; it is the set of criteria that is decided by Ambulance Victoria based on clinical advice. So the question that you have asked is actually about your concern about whether a broken leg should have a lights-and-sirens approach or it should not. They are clinical decisions that will be made by a paramedic or a nurse, which is solely a decision of Ambulance Victoria, not ESTA. ESTA's response is informed by that.

Having said that, how about I get a written response for your constituents that outlines all of this so that they can understand when ambulances are code 1 down to I think it is about code 7 and that there is constant contact with people that are seeking emergency assistance so that ambulances are not dispatched to low-level incidents, which of course can mean that they are not available for immediate cardiac arrests and respiratory issues and the like. I can get all of that written into much more plain English than I have gone through tonight, written by the people that are experts in this field, that really sets out and explains how calls are taken and when ambulances are dispatched and when they are not.

The PRESIDENT: The house stands adjourned. Everyone have a great break.

House adjourned 7:23 pm until Tuesday 7 February 2023.