

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 13 October 1981

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Chairman:

Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:

Mr R. K. Abbott
 Mr J. C. Bannon
 Mr R. E. Glazbrook
 Mr K. C. Hamilton
 Mr T. H. Hemmings
 Mr J. Mathwin
 Mr J. K. G. Oswald
 Mr R. J. Randall

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Committee wish to allocate time today, or to take matters as they come? Could the Leader indicate whether he would like to allocate time or take matters as they come?

Mr BANNON: We would like to take it as it comes, but we indicate that we would expect to spend this morning and this afternoon on the local government and housing section and to take the arts this evening.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Could I request that the matters relative to ethnic affairs follow local government, with housing coming as a third heading in the general bracket?

Mr HEMMINGS: How does that affect us when we are dealing with page 69 of the Estimates of Payments, where there is a line for salaries for the Ethnic Affairs Commission?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: If that is the wish of the Committee, it simply means that I have to bring an officer down a little earlier. I point out that the Ethnic Affairs Commission is a separate statutory body and perhaps could be considered a little apart from local government but, if it suits the member for Napier better to include it in the general mix of questions, I can arrange for the officer to be here.

The CHAIRMAN: I think that would be helpful, because the Ethnic Affairs Commission is included in the vote of the Department of Local Government, and I would anticipate that we would not be getting directly to that for a while.

Mr HEMMINGS: When we are dealing with the salaries vote, if we excluded the Ethnic Affairs Commission, we would be happy. We could treat it separately.

The CHAIRMAN: We can do it at the end of this department. Does the spokesman for the Opposition wish to make an introductory statement before the Committee commences?

Mr HEMMINGS: No.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister wish to make an introductory statement before questions begin?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No.

Mr MATHWIN: As far as we are concerned, as the Government members, we agree with the situation.

Local Government, \$7 166 000

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts, and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Dr I. R. McPhail, Director, Department of Local Government.

Mr M. A. Herrmann, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Local Government.

Mr R. K. Olding, State Librarian, State Library Division.

Mr E. M. Miller, Chief Librarian, Public Libraries.

Mr B. Krumins, Chairman, South Australian Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination.

Mr HEMMINGS: Regarding Estimates of Payments from the Consolidated Account and the allowance for increased wage and salary rates and increased prices, we have been told that the payments on account of these increases are reflected in the figures for individual departments. What is the percentage increase that has been allocated for the Department of Local Government and for housing?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Is the honourable member seeking a percentage figure on the total Department of Local Government amount proposed this year, compared with the actual payments for last financial year?

Mr HEMMINGS: Yes.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I cannot give that percentage figure, but the figures are on page 70 of the Estimates of Payments from Consolidated Account for the year ending 30 June 1982. Those figures show a considerable reduction, from \$11 100 000 to \$7 100 000; obviously, they are not the figures to which the honourable member refers, because he is seeking information about increases.

Mr HEMMINGS: Perhaps I could clarify the question. On my calculations, \$78 000 000 has been allocated for increased wages and salaries and \$17 500 000 has been allocated for allowances for increased prices, which represents an increase of 5.8 per cent across the board. In regard to local government and housing, what is the percentage increase that has been allotted to the two departments? When we are dealing with libraries, with the increased price of books, and so on, we will need to know that figure so that we can follow a certain line of questioning.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I cannot really answer the question, because our figures also include adjustments in regard to staff. I refer the honourable member to the Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing figures at page 70 and the 'Miscellaneous' section on page 71. It may well be that I should aggregate the figures at the bottom of those two pages and that those aggregated figures may assist the honourable member. The proposed payments reflect the level of wages and salaries operative at 30 June 1981, including the full year cost of the previous year's wage and salary increase. The proposed payments do not include provision for prospective increases in wages and salaries that may be incurred during this current financial year.

Mr HEMMINGS: That is what I am trying to establish. The Minister's department must have received some indication of the sum allocated, which would be available to the Minister of Local Government and Minister of Housing and which is shown on page 4 of the Estimates of Payment. If the Minister cannot give that information, we will have to leave the matter.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have not been given that figure by Treasury at this stage, nor do we have a figure in our own calculations, because we do not know what those increases will be. We are not dealing just with proposed increases in salaries and wages that we may foresee. In the issue that the honourable member has raised we must also consider the question of adjustments of staff levels as well.

Mr HEMMINGS: On page 69 of the Estimates of Payments, which relates to page 30 of the Programme Estimates (Book 7), under the heading 'Minister and Offices' there is a proposed increase of four staff members above the present staff of three in the Minister's office. The duties of the staff in the Minister's office are shown in the yellow book as involving the preparation of reports and advice, issue of media releases, political research, follow-up of implementation of policies, and preparation of Cabinet submissions. Can the Minister supply the names, duties and salaries of the three people presently employed in his office?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: These three people referred to by the honourable member were: Mr John Webbe, who was Press Secretary, and who, since this information was prepared, has left my service; Miss D. V. Laidlaw, my Ministerial Assistant; and I was the third person in that group. Since the preparation of that information, staff arrangements have changed. The present position is that Mr B. P. Griffin is the Senior Administrative Officer, or my formal secretary; Miss Laidlaw is still employed; Mr John Jennings is the Press Secretary who has replaced Mr John Webbe; my Appointments Secretary is Mrs J. W. Kopp; there is a clerk, Mr A. Jalast; and a typist-receptionist, Miss A. Mastrogiacomo; giving a total of seven. I do not know whether the honourable member was seeking this information, but four of those seven people are public servants. Apart from myself, the two people who are not public servants are Mr Jennings, the Press Secretary, and Miss Laidlaw, the Ministerial Assistant.

Mr HEMMINGS: Did the people who are now in the office of the Minister come from the Administrative and Clerical Support area? I see that there is a reduction of four in that office. Were they straight-out transfers to the Minister's office itself?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Mr Griffin was appointed as a result of advertising that particular vacancy, and he came from the Minister of Transport's office. Mr Jalast and the typist/receptionist were in the department originally, and Mrs Kopp, who was employed by the Minister of Environment and Planning, transferred across from that department.

Mr HEMMINGS: It seems then that, with a staff reduction from 15 to 11 in the general administration area, no one has moved up from there into the Minister's office?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is correct.

Mr HEMMINGS: With the reduction of four staff in the general administration area, have those people been relocated elsewhere? As there has been a reduction, what support services will suffer in the general administration area?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are adjustments taking place now. Two officers, Messrs Haddow and Kilgour, had been involved in our community development board area. As community development boards are now managing well themselves out in the field, working in close co-operation with local councils, there is no need for those two officers to act in an advisory capacity now, and so they have been transferred to the Emergency Housing Office. This has not lowered the standard of service within the department. Mr Neylan was employed under a special arrangement for one year, and he will complete that work in January 1982. The department's ability to service local government will not be disadvantaged as a result of that, because he was retained for 12 months for specific purposes in regard to welcoming new settlers and generally endeavouring to improve citizenship ceremonies, and that sort of thing. So, it was really a consultancy for a period, and I am sure that his leaving will not be disadvantageous to us.

The fourth person involved was Mrs Bell, who for a time was working in the library, but she was then transferred to the Emergency Housing Office when we needed urgently

to increase personnel there. That was at the time when the demand for services from the Emergency Housing Office suddenly increased, and it was at the same time that the homeless youth were in Victoria Square. So, because of the adjustments concerning those four people, the standards of the department are not being adversely affected.

Mr HEMMINGS: Can the Minister tell the Committee how many advisory community development boards have been set up by the Government, bearing in mind that in the Government's policy speech it was stated that these boards would be set up in every local government area? How many boards have been established?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The records reveal an increase in the number of boards after the Government came to office, but they also reveal that in recent times there has been a tapering off in the desire of local communities to establish boards. That relates, of course, to the point I made a few moments ago, that there is not a need for such a support staff in our department as there was previously. In September 1979 there were 34 community development boards; 12 months later, in September 1980, there was 45; on 30 June of this year there were 61, which, incidentally, involved 68 councils, because there were some where one board served more than one council area. Then, in September 1981, there were 62, which involved 69 councils.

So that emphasises that tapering off to which I have referred. Also, 15 councils have formally indicated that they will not form community development boards. About 30 are hesitant and probably will not form community development boards. That leaves only 13 possibles, so in the general thrust of encouraging community development boards there is not the demand for support services now that there was previously. We still have two officers—Mr Brunner and Mr Kitto—within the department to provide whatever advice is sought.

Mr BANNON: Could the Minister reconcile for us the amounts shown under Office of the Minister in the estimates document with that shown on page 30 of the volume? I understand, of course, that reference to the Minister is included in the yellow book, so one would have to add about \$58 000 to the sum shown. Even doing that, there does seem to be quite a considerable discrepancy between, for instance, the proposed expenditure of \$215 000 (in the yellow book) and \$108 000. Even adding the Minister's salary, one is still well short of that. Similarly, in the actual payments, \$38 000 does not reconcile with \$110 000, even with the addition of the Minister's salary.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Under the Minister's office, the increase reflects the transfer of salaries of the public servants—the four people to whom I referred—and also, of course, as I think the Leader mentioned, the salary of the Minister.

Mr BANNON: It is the discrepancy I am interested in, not the increase.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not know whether the Leader made the point, but we did separate the Minister's costs as from 1 July. Previously they were aggregated into local government administration.

Mr BANNON: I am not sure whether the Minister understands my question. Perhaps his officers can assist. I refer to the proposed expenditure on page 69 of the Estimates book relating to the Office of the Minister and his administrative and clerical staff. The sum of \$108 300 is shown as proposed to be expended. One must add to that the Minister's salary and allowance if one wants to get the total figure for the Office of the Minister. Adding \$58 000 to \$108 000, it comes to \$166 000.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Where did you get the \$58 000 from?

Mr BANNON: That is shown under special Acts as \$57 965 a year, including \$8 745 for electorate allowance and \$2 860 for expense allowance.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is right.

Mr BANNON: That is \$166 000 on the salaries and wages component. The proposed expenditure for the Minister's office is \$215 000. What is the breakdown of that extra amount? Why is there a discrepancy between the two figures?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: You must add in the \$44 000 at the bottom of page 69.

Mr BANNON: That gives a total of \$206 000, but the amount shown is \$215 000. I am afraid that the member for Brighton has not been very helpful.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The \$44 000 is to be added to the \$166 000, which gives us a total of \$210 000. We are trying to reconcile that with the \$215 000 to which the Leader referred. My pay-roll tax and that of my staff also has to be considered. That is included in the \$279 441 pay-roll tax figure under local government administration. Also, the terminal leave payments of my staff must be taken into account in that \$215 000 figure.

Mr BANNON: So, those two figures then match?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes.

Mr BANNON: That is the same calculation done on the actual payments for 1980-81? That would reach the same result: a reconciled figure?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, that should be correct.

Mr BANNON: On page 30 of the yellow book, the functions of the Minister's office are described. Will the Minister say what is meant by 'political research'? What is the nature of that research; who is doing it; and for what purpose is it being done?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That deals with some work in which my Ministerial Assistant is involved from time to time.

Mr BANNON: Does this involve political opinion surveys? What is the nature of the political research?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, it simply relates to matters which concern the Government and which should not be handled by public servants. It is deemed proper that the Ministerial Assistant be given that work.

Mr BANNON: Then this is Party-political research? It is for the Liberal Party, of which the Minister is a member?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, it is related not directly to the Liberal Party but to the Government and its position.

Mr BANNON: So, it involves policy matters?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, it is more Government policy matters.

Mr ABBOTT: I am still referring to the line for the Office of the Minister. Do any of the staff in the Minister's office prepare family impact statements in conjunction with the preparation of Cabinet submissions and in accordance with Government policy? If so, how many family impact statements were prepared during the past financial year in the areas of local government and housing?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That would take quite a lot of research. As the honourable member said, family impact studies are part and parcel of our Cabinet submissions. Where it is deemed necessary that they be prepared, the departmental officers prepare them, but I would have to check on the total number of Cabinet submissions that we have made in the department, and that would be rather difficult.

Mr ABBOTT: Is it possible for the Minister to provide that information later?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I most certainly will have a very close look at the matter and, if it does not consume too much time, I will do what I can to help the member.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out to the Minister that, during answers to questions, he may state that he will obtain the

information later for the Committee, if the Minister so desires, and he can then have it provided in a form in which it can be incorporated in *Hansard*, if he desires that.

Mr ABBOTT: Why has the preparation of family impact statements not been listed in the volume of Programme Estimates as an activity throughout any area of local government and housing, and is no cost involved in preparation of these statements? Family impact statements were introduced as a world first and were given a lot of publicity. I should like to know what cost is involved. It is not shown in the Programme Estimates.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We do not cost our Cabinet submissions by the amount of time taken in their preparation based on the headings within those submissions. Certainly, no extra research or labour has been involved in the preparation of these family impact studies. They are simply part and parcel of the departmental work in preparing the overall Cabinet submissions and, for that reason (because we have not dissected the costs of preparing Cabinet submissions), the studies have not been mentioned under separate headings in the document to which the member refers.

Mr ABBOTT: According to a statement on page 19 of the Programme Estimates, one activity under the Minister's office spells out research and the preparation of reports and discussion papers, consulting with interested groups, preparing reports and draft Cabinet submissions, assessing draft legislation that has an impact on local government, and so on. There is nothing here in relation to family impact statements, and I ask why this is not listed as an activity.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Because the family impact study work is not specifically related to my departments. All Ministers, in preparing Cabinet submissions, include family impact statements, where they are relevant, with those submissions. Preparation of family impact statements is not an activity solely within the Department of Local Government: it is just part and parcel of Government policy.

Mr HAMILTON: What deal of importance does the Minister place on family impact statements? I believe, following the questions asked by the member for Spence, that it does not seem that the Government places a great deal of importance on them. Will the Minister consider, in the next Budget Estimates, providing that information to the Parliament so that we can assess how much importance the Government places on these particular impact statements in its activities?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I and the Government place great importance upon family impact statements, simply because the Government places great importance upon the family generally. In reply to the second question, I will consider that matter, as the member has asked.

Mr HEMMINGS: I go back to volume 7 of the Programme Estimates, at page 30, under 'Minister and Office'. Regarding the Minister's earlier reply to me about an increase of four in the staff of that office (and I think it is accepted that is a physical increase in the number of people in the Minister's office), I have done a quick check last week through the other portfolios, and it seems that there is a rather large number of personal staff for local government and housing, as opposed to other Ministerial responsibilities.

Why is it necessary that, for the year 1981-82, he needs (and if this sounds unkind, I say that I do not intend it in an unkind way) additional back-up staff, when until now the Minister has been able to cope adequately with the existing staff? When one looks at other Ministerial responsibilities, one sees that there has been no such drastic increase. Can the Minister explain why, at this time, he needs an additional four staff members in his Ministerial office, without his having listed what they are?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The answer is that they are charged to local government but they comprise a Ministerial staff unit that services me in the administration of my four Ministerial portfolios. I assure the Committee that there is a tremendous lot of work at the Ministerial office level in administering the portfolios of Local Government, Arts, Housing, and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs. Because of the work load of these four portfolios, there has been a need to assemble this number of persons in the Minister's office. They all have their specific duties, to which I have referred, and I think that perhaps it is fair to say that, when I first took office, there was not a unit assembled in this way. That was probably because the nature of the former Minister's work was not identical to that of my work.

Mr HEMMINGS: If we can move to libraries, I need to—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): I want to know whether the line 'Office of Minister' has been completed. Are there any further questions on that line? If not, we will move to the next line, which is 'Public Libraries Division'.

Mr HEMMINGS: I need to refer to the Libraries Division and the State Library Division, because we are all aware that last year the allocation came from the Libraries Division line. Last year, \$3 936 000 was voted for the Libraries Division, and \$4 508 000 was actually spent; \$670 000 is proposed for the Public Libraries Division and \$3 467 000 for the State Library Division, so that \$4 137 000 is the total proposed for this year, involving a reduction of \$371 000 for those two divisions. Will the Minister explain the rather drastic reduction?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The principal reason is the situation of Government librarians. Government policy is now that each department shall be directly responsible for the librarians who are physically located in that department. Previously, the librarians were part of the library establishment. I refer to the case, for example, of a librarian who is working in the Engineering and Water Supply Department. Previously, a charge was made against the division's salary allocation. The effect of the new policy is a reduction in staff of 32 from local government staff numbers and a corresponding increase in the relevant departmental staff. However, there will be a reduction of 10 people in accordance with our commitments for restraint and smaller government. Some vacancies that are expected to occur in 1981-82 will not be filled. In other words, the reduced numbers are brought about not by retrenchment but by attrition. Essentially, this will be in the clerical and other operating areas, but there will be a small reduction of services provided to the public as a result of this action. It is expected not only that those numbers should be reduced by 10 but also that there should be a saving of about \$133 000.

Mr HEMMINGS: The Programme Estimates (pages 28 and 29) state that many Government departments need their own specialised libraries and are now taking the responsibility for those libraries. Under issues/trends, it is stated that this programme will virtually cease at 30 June 1981 as individual agencies take full responsibility for the staffing of their libraries.

In 1980-81, 44 people worked in the department, and that staff level is to be reduced in 1981-82 to nine, which is a reduction of 35. That seems to conflict. The Minister stated that there will be a reduction of 10 because of natural attrition and he also mentioned the figure of 32, whereas a figure of 35 is shown. Will there be a relocation of those people who originally worked on the programme, which ceased on 30 June 1981, or will those people be placed on the unemployment market?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The three people who make up the difference between the 32 and 35 were actually relief staff who were employed in the library. There is no question of people being put on the unemployment market, as the honourable member suggested. The Government does not put people on the unemployment market: it runs down its numbers, where necessary, by attrition, as I stated a moment ago.

Mr HEMMINGS: It is encouraging to hear the Minister say that people will not be placed on the unemployment market and that the Government is working on attrition. However, when one talks about attrition, one must recognise that it can take two to three years to achieve a reduction, yet the proposed employment levels for 1981-82 are set at nine as opposed to 44 in 1980-81. Will the Minister give more specific details about how the numbers will be reduced by attrition? One could perhaps hazard a guess that the people engaged in that programme would be either in their late 20s or early 30s. One would not expect them to have reached retirement age. Will the Minister say how attrition will work in that area?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The library expects to be able to meet that target of a reduction of 10 people by attrition. We must take an estimate based on the retirement rate and the transfer rate; sometimes, people seek to transfer to other Public Service departments, and so on. We believe that we can make this arrangement. We also know and expect that some specific retirements will occur, and this information was taken into account when the estimate of 10 people was made.

Mr BANNON: I take it that there has been no change in policy and that this Committee, while addressing questions through the Minister, is not against officers of the Minister giving direct information to the Committee where it is on a purely factual basis?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): The Leader would well know that it is the policy that the Minister can answer as he desires. If he wishes to call on the advice of his staff, that is entirely up to him.

Mr BANNON: Supplementary to questions asked by my colleague about staffing, I notice at page 7 of the Programme Estimates that there is reference to the provision of a centralised library lending service to the public, with a reduction in staff of four this financial year. How is that reduction to be achieved? What positions are to be abolished?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I take it that the honourable member refers to the adjustment from the employment level of 101 in 1980-81 to the level of 97 for 1981-82. That represents part of the adjustment that I mentioned earlier in regard to restraint. It involves the closing of the library one night each week, on public holidays, and other adjustments that are being made to conform to the new programme. It is expected that the number can be met by these adjustments.

Mr BANNON: Will the Minister indicate precisely what positions these people hold, and at what level, and what functions they perform?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The library does not know precisely what positions will be involved. There may have to be a shuffling around of people. We are talking of reducing staff from 101 to 97. There may have to be some adjustments within the staff structure to achieve that figure of 97. We cannot give further information, because we do not have our pencil marked on any one specific position.

Mr BANNON: It sounds like pot luck: if somebody leaves or a vacancy occurs the position will be left unfilled. I am not sure what the Minister means by 'adjustment of staff'. Are the functions of staff members to be changed? Are their positions to be down graded or altered in any respect?

Is the Minister simply saying that if four people leave during the year they will not be replaced?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is simply a reduction from 101 to 97. We estimate that we will be able to continue our programmes with a lesser number of employees. We have based our estimate on senior departmental staff experience and views that a reduction of four can be achieved.

Mr BANNON: Can the Minister indicate on what information basis the hours of opening of the State Library have been reduced? Can he point to a diminution of public demand for State Library services, or to some other change in demand made on the State Library generally that has made this possible?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There is small demand, generally speaking, on public holidays. There has to be some reduction in services if we were to save approximately \$133 000 in our expenditure. The areas where we thought the service to the public would be least affected were the areas in which it was decided that these adjustments would be made. We have ceased sending out notices on loaned books until the computer activity is on stream; that will mean less manual work until that time arrives. It was simply a case of endeavouring to optimise the standards of service to the people, while, at the same time, being faced with a situation where some adjustments had to be made.

Mr BANNON: I am still interested in knowing how the Government has discerned that the public is not interested in having a library service available on public holidays and on all nights of the week. I would like the Minister to provide details of the level of borrowing from the State Library over the past year. Have those levels decreased from 1979-80 as between 1980-81, and is a further decrease anticipated this year which will mean that there is a reduced public demand for the services provided?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There has been an increase of 5.49 per cent in overall borrowings. Actual figures for borrowings this year were 1 041 894, as against last year's figure of 987 643. The demand was not as great on public holidays as the librarians thought it would be, so that was an area in which an adjustment was made.

Mr BANNON: So, the Minister is saying that there is evidence of a change from the past borrowing patterns and use of the library to that existing now, and that there has been a reduction in usage of the library on public holidays?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I am not necessarily saying that. It may well be that the number of inquiries on public holidays have been weak during the history of the library compared with that on other days.

Mr BANNON: I would appreciate specific information from the Minister about that.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Only the reference library has been opened on public holidays. We are not talking about the ordinary service.

Mr BANNON: I would still like some figures showing how many people—

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): Order! We have had a number of calls and the member for Morphett has indicated that he wishes to ask a question.

Mr OSWALD: One of the corporate management objectives of the department is to promote the establishment of local public libraries and assist local authorities in the planning, development, funding and maintenance of their public libraries. How is this promotion carried out within the Department of Local Government? I also have a supplementary question which alludes to the Leader's question. What effect has the development of local public library services had on the use of the State Library, and has there been an increase in applications for new libraries from local authorities?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There has been a tremendous increase in the demand for public library services. As the honourable member would know, a plan was established by the former Government as a result of what we now call the Crawford Report. That plan was to open 99 libraries over an eight-year period. The present financial year is the fourth year of that programme, and we plan to open 10 services this year. There will then be 46 new libraries, and a total of 94 libraries. Those statistics, I think, indicate that progress is being made with the overall programme.

It is true that we are being forced to slow up to a small degree this year, as against a strong thrust that we provided last year in this overall programme. We are confident that we can further increase momentum next year. We are also confident that the Crawford Report target will be achieved at the end of the eight-year period. One of the difficulties that we are encountering now is that many local government bodies that were not interested in the establishment of public libraries early in the programme (and in those early years, naturally, planning was in train for the whole eight-year span) all seeing the success of the early years and the success of public libraries in neighbouring local government areas, and are making their applications to get on the queue.

We are finding this increased demand a pressure that is somewhat worrying. Also, the Government subsidy is not only to establish new libraries, but for the maintenance of the existing libraries, and as each year passes the maintenance portion increases, because the number of libraries increases. This also gives us some concern in that a larger proportion of the overall allocation is going to maintenance, and this means less for the establishment of new libraries. Overall, however, it is a very successful programme.

The honourable member asked whether the effect of the public library programme has shown out in any decline in demand for services at the State Library. It would seem from the figures that I provided earlier that that effect has not been evident. However, in the children's area it is evident, because naturally the children tend to go to their local libraries for their services rather than go to the State Library on North Terrace for services.

Mr OSWALD: What do you actually mean by the maintenance of existing libraries? Do you mean a programme involving the replacement of books, or are you referring to something else?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is divided into a book subsidy and an administration subsidy. The department subsidises new book stocks in libraries as well as subsidising the administration of each library. The subsidisation is done on a dollar for dollar basis with local government.

Mr HEMMINGS: I understand that the decision to close the State Library on public holidays will take effect on Christmas day 1981?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes.

Mr HEMMINGS: Could the Minister say whether it is proposed to close the library on another day, and whether there has been any feedback to the State Librarian from members of the staff in the State Library on how they would be affected by the early closing? Have their views been taken into account, and when will the matter be finalised?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The most likely day will be either Monday or Thursday. It concerns closing the whole of the library for one night. In regard to whether the views of the staff will be taken into account, I can assure the honourable member that the library has a very active staff organisation which has its own executive and makes its decisions, some of which are not always accepted by members of the staff. However, most certainly the staff will have their views taken into account, and full consideration will be given to

the opinions that come from that staff body on these questions and on other questions as well.

Mr HEMMINGS: If Thursday night is selected as the best night to close, how will this affect the newspaper section, the South Australian Collection, the Archives and the map collection? I understand that it would be necessary to have another night, possibly Wednesday night, when those particular areas would close, because they are needed on Thursday night?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The question whether it is closed on Monday or Thursday night is not yet certain. Full consideration is being given to this, and every endeavour will be made to minimise inconvenience to the public. I repeat that every consideration is being given to the views of those who work there.

Mr HEMMINGS: Could the Minister let me know what implications there will be for the staff at the State Library as a result of these closures? It has been put to me that they could affect rostering, which ultimately would affect the leave provisions of employees in the library.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It most certainly will affect penalty payments and leave payments; there is no denying that.

Mr HEMMINGS: The public has been affected, and now it seems that the staff will be affected in relation to leave provisions. Could the Minister give us more details on that?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The particular day of closing has not been decided as yet. The Director of the State Library informs me that he is expecting some replies from the staff today on this question. As I have indicated, changes will be made, and changes must be made to fit the overall expenditure into the Budget allocations. The staff and their welfare will be given every possible consideration. The machinery to liaise with staff, as I have indicated, is established, and I cannot commit myself any further than that at this time.

Mr HEMMINGS: Can the Minister say how much notice will be given to the general public regarding any closure? Is 26 October still being suggested as the day on which to effect the cut?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Incidentally, it involves the closing of the library one night a week, not one day a week: four weeks notice will be given.

Mr BANNON: The Minister said in answer to an earlier question that notices are no longer being sent out to borrowers who have failed to return their books, pending the introduction of a computerised book-borrowing system. Could he tell us, first, what is the system being adopted, and what the cost of commissioning the system will be?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The name of the system is 'Data phase', and the cost of it is \$535 000.

Mr BANNON: Is the system compatible with that used by other libraries, and can it be locked into an interstate network of library information?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: This system is only for circulation of books. It is a project which did involve a considerable amount of investigation elsewhere in Australia and, indeed, overseas before it was chosen as being the one most suitable for this State. Some people have indicated that they wish to use it. The Parks, which is in the honourable member's electorate, want to become involved. Also, Munno Para and Noarlunga councils have indicated that they want to become part of it. Other systems which are now being established are compatible, such as those in Burnside and Unley.

Mr BANNON: So this system is of limited application, certainly not linked with some interstate system. What is the position in relation, for instance, to the reference collection?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Australian bibliographic network, to which the honourable member may be making some reference, is a different system altogether from the

one being installed here. For that reason, we have not that connection interstate, as I think the honourable member is referring to. We have links interstate for the ordering of books and book stock, but not on the principle of circulation.

Mr BANNON: To what extent will it make more efficient the recall of books or the ascertaining of books which are overdue, become lost or vanish from the system?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: At present, we are having great difficulty in chasing up overdue books and proving where they are and who has them, and so forth. It is known that this new system will greatly improve the existing arrangements. For example, we hope to save \$100 000 a year in lost books, and that is just one of the savings that are going to be achieved by the introduction of this new computer system.

Mr BANNON: Is the Minister confident that this system will be able to operate with optimum efficiency and that sufficient funds are being allocated to it? What was the main factor in choosing this system rather than others which may have been more comprehensive and more compatible with an interstate information network, which I understood was the original purpose of computerising the library?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The system which has been chosen was the best system that was available. It is not true to say that the original plan was to have an interstate link, as the honourable member is suggesting. The objective was to find for South Australia the best system to overcome the serious losses and the outmoded system that applies in the State Library. We believe very strongly that the change which has been introduced, as I said, after a great deal of investigation will be ideally suited to our particular situation here.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister indicate, in line with his answers given to my Leader, the total losses or outstanding books that have not been returned in 1980-81 to the library?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No. I am afraid we do not have that figure, but I am quite prepared to obtain it for the Committee.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister also advise me what duplication is currently being carried out for the programming of the computers and what confusion, if any, exists in those libraries as between the old system and this new computer system?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There is no duplication, and there is no confusion. The staff are all being trained adequately to meet the new circumstances.

Mr BANNON: Details of the State archives are listed on the programme book at page 10. I note there that under issues and trends reference is made to the fact that on the basis of experience prior to the State centenary in 1936 the volume of public inquiries made in the archives is likely to increase fivefold in the years leading up to 1986. It is also true that our archives play what you might call a double role, that is, the role of a general historical archive with documentary records, as is pointed out there, of private individuals and organisations, and also the role of Government archives, that is, the retention and collection of essential Government documents.

It has been argued (I think very strongly and correctly) that, really, the two functions are different and that, in any restructuring or reorganising of archival services, it would be appropriate to see these functions having different needs and skills and different housing requirements.

Returning to my point about the prediction that the volume of public inquiries is to increase markedly (and I suggest that that is happening not only because of the bicentenary: that will come on top of a general increase in interest, particularly stimulated by genealogical and local

history interest), what extra resources does the Government intend to provide to the archives to meet this demand and why is there, in the current year, no extra staff or no significant financial provision being made?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We are gearing up for some of the changes that the Leader envisages. We have completed negotiations with the Commonwealth archives for the State archives to take over property at Somerton Park that was formerly used by the Commonwealth, and over the next three years we plan to progressively install shelving in that property. From the point of view of the organisational changes that have been indicated by the Leader as being necessary, we have set certain plans in train. These include the proposal that the Principal Archivist (Mr J. Love) be seconded for six months to prepare new archives legislation and to work with the Public Service Board to analyse the present use and future needs in the area of Government record management.

We propose at this time that the present Archives Branch be divided into two sections, one dealing with record management and the other with research. These two sections are seen as the embryo of possible new branches within a separate Archives Division. The staff of the present branch are preparing functional statements for each of the sections, which will become the basis for discussion with the Public Service Board. Indeed, the Public Service Board has approved this general approach to organisation, and the formal structure of the archives, we hope, will be finalised in parallel with the exercise being carried out by the Principal Archivist.

These initiatives have been introduced already in order to meet the need for a more active approach to the conservation and use of records, both private and public, and also with the knowledge that heavy demands will be placed on these records in the next few years as we lead up to the 150th jubilee. We have also had discussions with the newly established History Trust in a general way so that the trust is closely involved in this overall planning process.

Mr BANNON: I hope that the Minister can provide a little more information than by just reading his Ministerial brief, which was not directly on the question. In fact, some statements were really superfluous to the question I had asked. Could the Minister give details of the cost of the Somerton Park property and its estimated capacity, and could he say when records will be removed to it?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have gone so far as to approve the cost of this shelving. Cabinet approved that recently.

Mr BANNON: Could I have the cost of restoring the property as well?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The property is leased. It is not an acquisition of freehold property.

Mr BANNON: At what cost?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The rental is \$28 000 per annum. The \$76 000 that I mentioned included renovation. That is over a three-year period. What was the other question?

Mr BANNON: When will you actually move documents into it, and when will it become available for use?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: They have started to move in already.

Mr BANNON: When is it estimated that it will reach its holding capacity?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In three years.

Mr BANNON: What does the Government intend to do after that time?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have some long-range plans after that for further accommodation if it is needed. This includes the possibility of taking over some of the Norwood property owned by Public Libraries, which is a very large property, but we have not gone very far with those plans as yet.

Mr BANNON: Obviously, the prime need is not for a number of temporary expedients with limited capacity but for some long-range plan to develop new buildings or locations for permanent Government archives. In this respect, I ask the Minister what attempt has been made to identify the holdings of various departments that could more properly be housed in an archive, and I ask him to quantify the cost of those holdings. I have heard it said that many departments have large amounts of material that is occupying prime office space, useful space, in buildings owned or leased by the Government that could well be moved to some central facility and that, if the cost savings of that were set off against the cost of some major new building or new initiative, the net cost would be reduced considerably. I ask the Minister how far down the track the Government has gone in investigating that matter and what information he can give about it.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not think the Leader could have heard what I said in my lengthy—

Mr BANNON: I heard about Mr Love's inquiry.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, because that is at the heart of the problem. I totally agree with the Leader that this is a growing problem, and it has been growing for the past 10 years or so. Not much has been done about it. Something must be done, and I have said that the Principal Archivist has been given a six-month brief to prepare new archives legislation and to work with the Public Service Board (and I am repeating the words that I used a few moments ago) to analyse the present use and future needs in Government record management. I agree with the Leader that the general question of the use, storing and recording, where necessary, of Government records is a major problem in the Public Service. We are moving to meet that challenge, and we are moving in the way that I have described.

Mr BANNON: I endorse what the Minister said about this being an urgent need and all the evidence is that the archives is understaffed and under-funded and that there is an anticipated rapidly increasing load. In the light of this, what steps are being taken to replace Mr Love during his secondment? Will an extra staff member be supplied to the archives at least to maintain the present bare minimum service?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have made no arrangements to replace Mr Love. We realise that it will not be an easy matter while these investigations are under way, but we must endeavour to battle through with the existing staff.

Mr BANNON: I am very surprised at the Minister's attitude. Why is there no intention to do this? Surely, if this is conceded to be an area of priority, where there are immediate day-to-day problems, the Minister should attempt to do something about it. He simply says that it is an unfortunate situation. Can the Minister give the Committee some indication that he will move to correct that situation?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There has been an unfortunate situation at the archives for many years, as the Leader knows. We are setting in train processes that will lead to improvement of the situation. One of those processes is that Mr Love will report to us on how he believes that these matters can be rectified. While the pressure on staff will remain, it is one of those situations in which, for a time, it is not possible to assist, but we hope that, by these plans being set in train, before long we will see light at the end of the tunnel and the situation in this whole area will improve greatly.

Mr BANNON: Is it true that about a quarter of the State Library's newspaper collection has been withdrawn because it is deteriorating faster than it can be microfilmed?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is very difficult to put a figure on it, but it is true that a proportion of the collection has

been withdrawn pending microfilming. The rate of microfilming in recent times has increased dramatically.

Mr BANNON: I notice on page 6 of the Programme Estimates that there is reference to the production of 1 000 reels of South Australian newspaper microfilm. I am pleased that the Minister advises that there is some acceleration in the programme. Earlier this year, the member for Ascot Park asked a number of questions about the microfilm programme, the answers to which revealed a quite unsatisfactory situation. I would like to follow up those questions. For instance, how did the library obtain sub-standard microfilm of the *Advertiser*? We were told that the copy film was not entirely satisfactory. How did that position come about?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It seems that the problem lay between the *Advertiser* and Kodak, the film processor. It is true that the difficulty to which the Leader has referred did occur. We purchased a duplicate film from the *Advertiser*, and, while the library staff knew that its condition was not good, it was still believed that it was best to have the film processed through Kodak so that at least the library had some processed film. The library staff knew that the film was not in as good a condition as it might have been.

Mr BANNON: The Minister has said that the copy was made by Kodak Australasia. In answer to the question, it was stated that the State Library ordered the film from the *Advertiser*, the filming was not done by or on behalf of the library, but the copy for the library was made by Kodak for the *Advertiser* on the library's behalf. I do not see how those contradictory statements can be reconciled. Was this an example of leasing out to private contract a job that could have been done more competently and professionally by the library staff under the direct supervision of the State Librarian?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No. The *Advertiser* produced its own film for its own purposes and allowed a copy to be made.

Mr BANNON: Regarding the microfilming of the *News*, in reply to a question by the member for Ascot Park it was stated that an approach had been made by News Limited for assistance in the microfilming programme but, as the News Limited requires the microfilm in a format different from that required and produced by the State Library, no conclusion was reached. What has been the resolution of this problem? How was the format of the microfilm required by the *News* different from the library's needs? Did this minimise the library's chances of having the microfilming of the *News* after 1962 partly funded by that newspaper?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The *News* proposed to use 16 mm film, which was not acceptable to the library. The *News* has now agreed to use 35 mm film, and is providing some 30 hours a week time to the library for collation.

Mr BANNON: Is it paid for that time?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes.

Mr BANNON: Page 9 of the Programme Estimates shows a reduction of three in the number employed to promote the establishment of public libraries. Will the Minister explain why that reduction has occurred? Does this indicate that, in fact, the demand for local public libraries has been reduced and that there is no further function for those promoting such establishment, or is there some other reason?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: These three people were employed on the Western Region demonstration programme, which is no longer needed because councils in that region have their own libraries.

Mr BANNON: I note from the targets/objectives of the division that there is an intention to establish new libraries, provide demonstration mobile services, and bring libraries

into an operational stage, to increase community use of local public libraries by means of seminars, talks and promotions, and to optimise relationships between costs and a number of other functions which, I suggest, are involved in the general promotion of public libraries among local government. How will one person be able to carry out those functions? If it is not the function of one person, will the Minister indicate what other staff and resources are being put into the expansion work of the public libraries programme?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I think that I can make two points in reply. The first is that the Chief Librarian is actively involved in this promotion area (and, I might say, is doing a remarkably fine job). Secondly, as I said earlier today in answer to another question, so many councils that previously were reluctant to come forward and take an interest in or to seek library services have now had time to observe their success elsewhere and applications are coming in at such a rate that there is no need to promote new interest in that area. From the point of view of the public, the use of these new services is so great that people seem to be finding out all about their new library facilities and are using them in ever increasing numbers. The use of public libraries increased by 17 per cent in the past 12 months.

Mr BANNON: Can the Minister explain why the staff and financial allocation to increase and improve community use of libraries appears under the provision of State Library services to the public in the programme book?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It simply refers to the use of the State Library. It should actually have had 'State Library' in there.

Mr BANNON: So the persons and amounts stipulated there are for the promotional activities of the State Library?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes.

Mr BANNON: There has been a reduction of two staff members there. Can the Minister indicate what functions are performed by the staff included under this line?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The main areas are extension activities, such as film shows, story telling, and puppet theatre.

Mr BANNON: Has the Government any views on, and has it taken up the question of, contributions from the Adelaide City Council towards the running of the State Library and its lending service aspect?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We are concentrating at the moment on endeavouring to interest the city council in a library in North Adelaide and possibly in Hutt Street. We have had some meetings with representatives from the Town Hall but, as yet, we have not made a great deal of headway in this matter.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Randall): I would indicate to the Leader that it has been the procedure to have roughly three questions from one side of the Chamber and then three questions from the other side. I have a call from the other side of the Chamber. The honourable member for Brighton.

Mr GLAZBROOK: There must be thousands of books which are outdated or no longer used. What happens to them? Are they sold and, if so, does the money come back into revenue?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have sales occasionally, sometimes controversial sales; nevertheless, the officers do their best to be fair with the public and with the trade. That is the method by which disposal is brought about. The proceeds are brought back into the library for the acquisition of new book stocks.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Would that also apply to local government bodies, where the libraries are subsidised in book purchase schemes? Would they go through the same process

and take the revenue from book sales back into their libraries, or would that money go back to their general revenue?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We sell their books and the money comes back for new book stock.

Mr GLAZBROOK: So the proceeds from such sales come back to the State Public Library and are put back into the system from that point?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The books are owned by the department, the State, in effect, and therefore it disposes of them and utilises the money for new books.

Mr BANNON: Can the Minister give the names of the new libraries to be established during this financial year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The new public libraries will be at Kapunda and at Loxton, and there are two mobile libraries—one at Mount Barker and one at Port Pirie. There will be a contribution towards the new library on Goodwood Road, within the Unley council area. That contribution will be for book stock. There will be two school community libraries—one at Ceduna and one at Cambrai. Then we have some standing commitments that we intend to meet. There is to be a new library at Port Augusta; there will be the completion of the Victor Harbor library; there will be new libraries at Clare and St Peters; and there will be an extension of the library at Thebarton.

Mr BANNON: Are there any examples of groups of councils working co-operatively in relation to the provision of mobile or static library services?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There is a partnership at Port Pirie with adjacent councils, such as the District Council of Mount Remarkable, the District Council of Gladstone, and the District Council of Redhill, which have joined in with that plan.

Mr BANNON: What is the latest situation in relation to the dissolution of institutes?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are still 124 institutes left and we hope to dissolve between 30 and 40 this year. The general movement towards the abolition of institute arrangements is proceeding very smoothly and amicably. Some book stock is being transferred over, and the people who have been involved traditionally in the Institutes Association appear to be very happy and most certainly they are co-operative in the changeover to the new public libraries plan.

Mr GLAZBROOK: On page 7(9) of the Programme Estimates mention is made of the sub-programme 'Promoting establishment of public libraries'. A few minutes ago the Minister referred to the school community libraries, and mentioned one at Ceduna and those at a couple of other places. Is there any particular emphasis or thrust on the establishment of more school community libraries, particularly within the metropolitan area, bearing in mind the number of schools that we have with resource libraries?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, there is no movement towards that plan in metropolitan Adelaide. Quite understandably, the school library concept is ideally suitable for rural communities; that is where they are being established, and that arrangement appears to be very acceptable to both the school staff and the school councils, as well as the rural people and the people from towns in the country who utilise this amenity. There is one example of this concept in metropolitan Adelaide at Aberfoyle Park, where a joint-use library is under consideration. However, that is the exception rather than the rule.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Would the type of funding and cost of that be jointly borne by local government and the Education Department on a 50/50 basis?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is not exactly on a 50/50 basis. For instance, in the country the Education Department bears the cost of the salaries which of course gets away from the straight-out 50/50 package.

Mr BANNON: I indicate, Mr Acting Chairman, that the Opposition would now like to turn to ethnic affairs.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Randall): Before we turn to the ethnic affairs line, I point out that there is another member on the book who has the call for the public libraries line.

Mr MATHWIN: What type of vehicle is provided for mobile libraries, and has any consideration been given to the use of older buses? The Minister would be well aware that the Sir Baden Pattinson mobile library that has been operating in the Marion area for many years is accommodated in a bus which has had some very heavy terrain to negotiate in that area, but it has been a most successful mobile library. What type of vehicles are provided for mobile libraries, and has the use of buses been thought of?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are three types of buses available: there is the bus-type arrangement to which the honourable member referred; there is the cabin and chassis arrangement, with a trailer behind; and there are the semi-articulated ones, although we do not have any of that type in South Australia.

Mr MATHWIN: Could the Minister take the question on notice and provide me with some idea of the cost of these vehicles? I did not quite understand the last definition that he gave me concerning the type that we do not have in South Australia, but, if we have the converted caravan type, we should have some estimate of the costs of those, and certainly some estimate concerning the fitting of a bus.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, I can obtain the figures of the actual costs of these types to which I have referred. The Port Adelaide and Noarlunga councils also have bus arrangements for their libraries. I can check on the costs of these vehicles and their general running costs and report that information back to the Committee.

Mr MATHWIN: I take it that there is an arrangement whereby a bus is on loan or on hire from the transport division of the Minister's department, or is the vehicle bought by the library?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, the councils have actually bought them.

Mr MATHWIN: The councils, and not the department?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No. The department subsidises them, but they are actually owned by the councils.

Mr MATHWIN: And the councils pay the full running costs?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Government subsidises the running costs.

[Sitting suspended from 1 to 2 p.m.]

The CHAIRMAN: There are two changes in the membership of the Committee: Mr E. S. Ashenden replaces Mr J. K. G. Oswald, and Mr S. G. Evans replaces Mr R. J. Randall. Mr P. Edwards, General Manager, South Australian Housing Trust, has joined the departmental advisers introduced by the Minister this morning. We will proceed to consider the sum of \$5 922 300 proposed for the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

Mr BANNON: In asking this question, I make a preliminary point that one of the problems with programme and performance budgeting is the lack of detailed information that we have on statutory authorities and commissions. It is a particular problem, of course, in the health area, where the health vote is just one mass allocation. It has been partly overcome in that area by the issuing of a supplementary book which gives further details, and I think that is a very good practice and one to be encouraged. The problem we have with Ethnic Affairs Commission highlights this, I think.

Whereas last year the Ethnic Affairs Commission was a branch of the department, then detailed estimates were

provided within the lines we are considering, this year, and in relation to spending for this year, we are provided with very little detail indeed. In fact, we simply have an allocation for total salaries and an allocation under 'Contingencies' for transfer to the Ethnic Affairs Commission. The detailed breakdown is not available. While I am sure the Minister would have the information available this year and we can deduce some of it from what we have, I would ask the Minister that in future years details be provided so that we are able to question the proposed spending.

Turning to the information we do have (and, of course, in this respect the yellow book does not help, because as a commission Ethnic Affairs no longer figures in the yellow book), I ask the Minister what staff has been allocated to the Ethnic Affairs Commission and what is the difference in numbers for last year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have 32 on the staff of the Ethnic Affairs Commission. We have not made any changes to numbers of permanent staff, except that Mr Alex Gardini, who previously was ethnic affairs adviser (that was the office he held under the previous Government and that was the office he continued under the new Government after September 1979) has gone over to work directly under the commission, as one of its senior officers. He has the role at the moment of Principal Research Officer. There are, of course, the eight commissioners. Mr Bruno Krumins, who is with me on my left, is the Chairman. He is a permanent officer, and the balance of seven commissioners are part-time commissioners.

Mr BANNON: Can I clarify this: the staff count of 32, then, would include Mr Krumins, as a full-time commissioner, but not the seven part-time commissioners?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is right.

Mr BANNON: In the 1980-81 proposals, 33 staff were to be in the department. Can the Minister explain what is the reason for the reduction of one, if in fact such a reduction has occurred, or was it that the proposed level of 33 was not attained during 1980-81?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The target of 33 has not been met. The figure stands at the moment at 32, including the Chairman, but excluding the part-time commissioners.

Mr BANNON: Could the Minister give us a breakdown of that staff of 32, either in broad categories or detailed function?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are three court interpreters-translators. They are full-time officers. Does the Leader want their names?

Mr BANNON: If the Minister has them it would be useful.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Their names are: Mr J. Parachos, Ms M. C. Spacca and L. Timpano. Their salary range is in the \$16 500 to \$19 000 group. I can give the exact figures if the Leader wants it.

Mr BANNON: No.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Then there are a number of health interpreter-translators. Their names are K. Dounis, N. Denitto, A. Furman, G. Kaleniuk, I. Koumoulos, M. Pozennal, A. Stenos, and N. Tran. One of those, incidentally, is a clerk; the others are interpreter-translators, and their salary range is from about \$13 200 up to about \$17 700.

Then there are ethnic information staff, and the following are the information officers: J. Bayer, T. Brewster, F. Correlli, A. Cunial, and S. Lorger. There are also Messrs G. Nikou, Mrs H. Papiannou, A. Prinios, Mrs I. Rudzinski, Mrs T. Sam, Ms K. Vozarikova, and Ms L. Zalewski. Some of these information officers are full-time people; others are not. Their salaries range from about \$13 200 to \$14 300. Then, we have the administrative staff, comprising Mr A. Gardini, to whom I referred earlier, as well as Messrs G. Giannopolous, L. Glouftis, Mrs M. F. L. Hall, Ms N.

Kalogiannidis, and Mr Krumins himself. There is also Mrs N. Labbonzetta, Mrs P. Lambiris, and Mr J. Panagiotou. That should add up to the required number.

Mr BANNON: How many of the ethnic information staff are part-time? I want not the names but just the numbers.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The information staff includes four part-time people, and the balance are full-time people.

Mr BANNON: Would the Minister give details of the costs of the commission? Obviously, there is the salary of the Commissioner, which is a matter of public record. What are the fees for the part-time Commissioners? What amount, if any, is paid to them?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Chairman is on an EO1 classification, and the salary is \$32 420 per annum. The part-time Commissioners' fees are paid at the rate of \$17.50 an hour. That was recommended by the Public Service Board and approved by the Government.

Mr BANNON: How often does the commission meet?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In its early months, the commission has been meeting twice a month, but now it has gone into its regular practice of meeting once a month.

Mr BANNON: Could the Minister provide advice on the secretarial back-up to the commission itself? Will he say what are the commission's administration expenses as opposed to the other functions of the section?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are no separate secretarial or administrative back-up resources to the commission, which simply uses the administrative staff that it employs for the board administration.

Mr BANNON: Will the Minister describe the structure of the commission? In other words, there is the Chairman, as its head, and the part-time Commissioners. Where do the other functions of the commission fit in?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The break-down under the Chairman, Mr Krumins, who is also the Chief Executive Officer, is in two arms, one involving the Ethnic Services Branch, under which Mr Giannopoulos is acting as Manager, Ethnic Services. The second arm comprises the Research and Policy Branch, with Mr Gardini being the Principal Project Officer.

The Ethnic Services Branch is further subdivided into three areas: administration, interpreting and translating services, and information services. Under the Research and Policy Branch there are two break-downs, namely, into projects and community liaison. Then, getting back to Information Services, there is central and regional. These are still subject to some readjustment because, naturally and quite properly, the commission is feeling its way and evolving the best possible structure that arises from its experience. In general terms, that is the plan.

Mr BANNON: Regarding interpreters, an advertisement by the Public Service Association on 8 October referred to ethnic interpreter services being seriously affected. Will the Minister say whether there have been any cut-backs in the interpreter area and, if there have, where and to what extent?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There have been no cut-backs. Indeed, there has been an expansion because of the programmes conducted in conjunction with the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, the cost of which is being shared between the Commonwealth and State Governments. That arrangement terminates on 30 June 1982.

Mr BANNON: So, to the Minister's knowledge, there would be no basis in a claim that ethnic interpreter services are being seriously affected by Government cut-backs?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, there is no basis for that claim at all.

Mr BANNON: What about the numbers employed as contract interpreters? I think that 150 is the figure that has been used.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are 178 contract interpreters.

Mr BANNON: What will be the Commonwealth contribution to interpreting services this financial year, and how does it compare with that of last year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is shared on a 50/50 basis.

Mr BANNON: Is the total amount determined by what the State is prepared to contribute, what the Commonwealth is prepared to contribute, or by some agreement on what will be spent?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The initiative came from the Commonwealth, and the State was asked to match it, if it was prepared to do so, and it was even in the knowledge that these arrangements would have to be looked at further, because they expire in mid-1982. We are currently preparing an argument to put to the Commonwealth so that we can be assured that the programme will continue after 30 June 1982. But, as yet, we have not submitted that in detail to the Commonwealth. I will obtain the interpreting services figure for the Committee.

Mr ABBOTT: I understood the Minister to say that not all people on the ethnic information staff are full-time translators and interpreters. Do they qualify for the interpreters' translators' allowances under the standard set by the Ethnic Affairs Commission? If so, what are the allowances?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We are dealing with interpreters and translators, which is not to be confused with ethnic information staff. The honourable member wants figures relative to interpreters and translators who are on the staff. Those I gave were all full time, but there are contract interpreters.

Mr ABBOTT: The Minister mentioned that the interpreters and translators were not all full time.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: They are ethnic information staff, of which four were part time. Does the honourable member want the remuneration of those four part-time officers?

Mr ABBOTT: Yes, in relation to the allowance.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will get the figure.

Mr HEMMINGS: Could the Minister say how many special classes have been established to enable a non-English speaker to learn English as it applies to his trade, skill or profession?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The classes to which the member refers are conducted under the Further Education Department. I will have to get those statistics from the Minister of Education.

Mr HEMMINGS: One of the problems that people from ethnic minorities suffer is that in their work place they need to understand the English language as it relates to their job. One of the promises made in 1979 was that special classes would be set up for them. To my knowledge, no class has been set up. More importantly, no-one from the Ethnic Affairs Commission has gone into the work place to try to understand problems experienced by ethnic minorities. No real allegations have been made in this State, but one only has to read ethnic newspapers in the Eastern States to see that certain groups are, in effect, being used because they do not understand the language, and that is why I think that we should be moving in this direction. In 1979 part of the Liberal policy was that special classes would be established to deal with this problem. How many such classes have been established?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I agree with the honourable member that this is a serious problem, but the commission was only established in June. One of its aims, which was publicised earlier, was that a series of committees was to be established, arranged and supervised by the Ethnic Affairs Com-

mission, to assist in areas of considerable need, one of which areas involved the migrant in the work place. I agree that that aspect has still to be fully investigated and put in train by the commission. But, the commission is establishing itself very carefully and cautiously. It has continued the committees that existed within the Ethnic Affairs Branch but as yet has not established new committees, which it will do in time and which will include the subject matter that the member for Napier has mentioned. Another reason why there has been some hesitancy on the commission's part is that some of the subjects which were to be considered for committee work have been found to be subjects involving national problems and outlooks.

We intend to negotiate with the Federal Minister and with people in other States to see whether some of this committee work can be done nationally, rather than locally. One such area concerns migrant women. But, the commission will look into the problems of the migrant in the work force, and as it develops more experience and settles down with staff adjustments and structural change that area will be considered.

Mr HEMMINGS: Has the committee to inquire into migrant children's needs been established? If so, has the inquiry been completed, and what does the Minister intend to do as a result?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Again, the member for Napier raises a matter which the present Government included in its general policy at the last election. The Government included general problems of migrant children in education and other areas within the overall education inquiry that was carried out by the Government. It also encouraged ethnic communities to make submissions to that inquiry on education.

We allocated Mr Gardini, who is a very senior officer in that area of education, to prepare a submission along these lines and also to offer to collate submissions from ethnic communities and generally make himself available to assist ethnic people in regard to this inquiry. We considered that that promise would be met by the inquiry into education, including in its work a full investigation into the problems of ethnic children. The inquiry has tended to take in this aspect more under the umbrella of education than under the umbrella of the Ethnic Affairs Commission.

From my observations of the manner in which the Education Department continues to foster and encourage education of ethnic children, I believe that we in this State are very well advanced and we are doing a very good job in the Education Department, particularly in the primary school section, in the manner in which assistance is given to ethnic children.

Also in keeping with our concern for ethnic children, the present Government increased its allocation to ethnic schools from \$14 to \$28 per student so that the ethnic communities, on Saturday morning and in other out-of-school periods, could teach their children the culture of their home lands and their language and keep culture alive so that we can retain the multicultural society concept.

What is more, recently when the Commonwealth entered this field of funding children from ethnic communities on the same principle, by providing \$30 for each child per annum for ethnic school needs, the present Government maintained its figure of \$28, which meant that an aggregate amount of \$58 was achieved. It is true that, having come to government, we did not take this matter in isolation: we took it in the general overall aspect of our inquiry into education. We allocated resources to assist that inquiry and I believe that what we are doing for the ethnic communities and the education of their children is going a long way towards the goal that I believe all of us have; that is, to optimise the opportunities for people who are disadvantaged

because of language to gain ample primary and secondary education.

Mr BANNON: A sum was allocated last year in the Estimates for fees and expenses for the Ethnic Festivals Grants Advisory Committee. I understand there was also an Ethnic Grants Advisory Committee. Does that committee still exist and do the members of the committee receive fees or expenses?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The committee continued for some time after the formation of the commission. I was informed only last week that the commission has reorganised the Ethnic Grants Committee somewhat and now has it structured as the commission, so there has been some change in the personnel on the committee. I can provide the names of the new members of the committee if the honourable member desires.

Mr BANNON: Yes.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Chairman of the Ethnic Grants Committee is Mr Nick Minicozzi and the members are Mr I. Rozenbils, Mr M. Somers (who is from the Indian ethnic community), Father N. Despinoudis (who is from the Greek Community) Mr B. Von Kolpakow (who is of Nordic origin), and Mr T. Pacholski (who is from the Polish community). There is also a representative of the Ethnic Affairs Commission on that committee, who has no voting rights, and there is also an Executive Officer from the staff, who has no voting rights. Mr Rosenbils is from the Ethnic Communities Council and Mr Minicozzi, the Chairman, is from the Italian community. No fees are payable to these people.

Mr BANNON: Have there been any changes in the Ethnic Festivals Grants Committee?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There have been changes, which, again, have been brought about by the commission's reorganisation of its affairs. The new committee comprises Mr Mykyta, who is the Chairman and who is from the Ukrainian community, Mr Nick Ianerax (who is of Italian origin), Mr Terry Mazarakis (Greek), Mr Otto Steck (German), Dr S. Pacevicius (Lithuanian), and Mr Ron Tan (Vietnamese). The commission has an observer on that committee, Mr Milosevic. There is an executive officer, who has no voting rights and who is a member of the staff. No fees are payable in that instance.

Mr BANNON: A sum was shown last year, which has been subsumed into this line of transfer for ethnic research. Will the Minister indicate what specific research project or projects were undertaken last year and whether there has been an allocation for this year and, if so, what does the commission envisage? The research line was shown under 'Miscellaneous', with an asterisk referring to the fact that it is now provided under local government contingencies. Last year \$3 000 was allocated, of which \$2 708 was spent.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That figure of \$2 708 was South Australia's contribution to a national research project on aspects of ethnic research, at a total estimated cost of \$60 000. The funds were administered by the Department for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. Stage 1 of the study involved newly arrived settlers, their occupations, housing, income, and mobility. That has been completed. Stage 2 has also been completed, I understand, and there will be a Ministers' conference in Victoria on Friday this week, at which we hope to obtain a report on the second stage.

There is a similar project being considered now on newly arrived settlers with regard to family reunions and aged migrants. That, I understand, will be discussed next Friday at the conference. If the State agrees to be part of that scheme, then some money can come from this overall allocation for that purpose.

Mr BANNON: Could the Minister indicate what is the status of the Galbally proposals and what benefits, either

in terms of programmes or cash, are flowing to the State Ethnic Affairs Commission as a result of those reports?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Galbally proposals, so far as Commonwealth planning is concerned, do help this State in that money comes here for Federal purposes under the umbrella of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. One example of this contribution which is of value to us is the resource centre which has been established by the Commonwealth in Adelaide. Ethnic communities benefit from the presence of that resource centre. Those initiatives of Galbally such as the resource centre and, of course, others with regard to the hostel arrangements, apply in many respects to the period of first settlement here. That is the area to which the Commonwealth funding, through Galbally, in my view, is more orientated. Nevertheless, it is helpful to this State that those initiatives have occurred. Of course, the interpreter/translator arrangements we discussed a few minutes ago were proposed by the Commonwealth as a result of Galbally recommendations, so we have more of a direct assistance by the implementation of those recommendations. Indeed, in general terms, I think that the Galbally report, together with its acceptance by the Federal Government and its implementation, is of considerable benefit to the ethnic communities here and to our State generally.

Mr BANNON: Can the Minister say what amounts have been earmarked for ethnic festivals and general ethnic grants in this year's Budget?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The amounts are not shown in the Estimates on page 71, but the budgetary arrangements of the commission include a figure of \$40 000 for ethnic festivals grants and \$40 000 for ethnic grants through the Ethnic Grants Advisory Committee. These two amounts of \$40 000 are part of the \$203 500 under 'Contingencies' on page 70.

Mr BANNON: So they are, in effect, the same amounts as provided last year. That represents a real cut of the order of 10 per cent to 15 per cent. Can the Minister indicate for what amounts applications were made under both those headings last year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not have the actual number of applications lodged, but the statistics I have show that actual applications for ethnic festivals totalled \$130 899 but that only \$40 000 of that was successfully appropriated. The actual number of grants made was 38, so it was spread considerably, averaging just over \$1 000 per application.

Mr HEMMINGS: Under 'Overseas visits of Minister, Minister's wife (where approved) and officers' there is an amount equal to that for the Premier—\$30 000. When did the Minister last go overseas? Where is he going this year? Who will accompany him? What is he going to study, and will a report be published?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I have not as yet sought Cabinet approval for this proposal, so I do not know whether or not I will be going. The provision is there, in the event of my being able to proceed. If I did travel I would do so under the four portfolios which I hold. The general thrust of the local government investigation and research that I would carry out overseas would deal with the Local Government Act. As the honourable member knows, we are in the course of rewriting the Act, and I think that it would be beneficial to both the Government and me to have a first-hand knowledge of changes in local administration which have taken place in recent years and are taking place now in such countries as the United States, Canada, Britain and some parts of Europe. The rewriting of the Act is a major project. It has been envisaged for about 13 years in this State. Some work on it has been carried out, and in the last two years we have stepped up that work so that we are getting our plans to a point where definite and major changes are

being considered. Some of those changes ought to be compared with practices overseas, in my view.

One can learn so much by personal contact with people in such an area as local government overseas under these conditions of change, that we would be more certain than that the proposals we would be bringing to Parliament would be the best possible proposals that could be fashioned from the whole world scene rather than just from our own local situation.

In regard to my portfolio of the Arts, I would very much like to make close investigations into the question of sponsorship of the arts. That is something that is practised very aggressively and with vigour in the United States, and, I understand, in Canada. In Britain, too, one can gain a great deal of information from experienced people as to the ways and means by which sponsorship of the arts, not only by large institutions but by a great number of small bodies, can be encouraged and arranged. I believe that that is the situation in Europe, too, but perhaps to a lesser extent.

In my view, this State will have difficulty in the years to come in funding the arts to the extent that they should be funded. One means by which adequate funding can be provided for the arts is by the private sector's making a proper contribution to it. We might well see the day when general managers of our large artistic institutions spend just as much time in board rooms, and with business people and other interests, trying to secure funds through sponsorship, as they spend in their own offices. With that change becoming inevitable, I think a very close look at the practices and planning for such sponsorship ought to be undertaken; that is something which, if I travel overseas, I would like to investigate. In the area of housing, particularly public housing, we, of course—

Mr BANNON: It is going to be hard for the Minister's health; it sounds so strenuous.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In regard to housing, especially in the area of public housing, in my view, there is an urgent need to look at trends in public housing in many countries of the world, because it might well be that we will have to find ways and means of reducing the cost per unit of public housing, and through other avenues, too, I think public housing overseas ought to be looked at at Ministerial level. In the last area, that of ethnic affairs, I would like to visit some of the towns and districts from which migrants have come, and from which they are still coming, because of our need to maintain the multi-cultural society that is proving very successful in its establishment here.

Mr BANNON: The Minister will be needing a lot of staff.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, I will be taking only one member of staff; then I might work my wife!

The CHAIRMAN: I point out to the Minister that the traditions of this Committee are such that we normally have approximately five minute answers.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I have been distracted by amusing comments from my right, Sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Those members are completely out of order. The Minister may continue.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I need not press the point. We all know that some of the ethnic communities that are still in very close contact with their homelands and their home towns can be helped if the Minister here who works closely with them has an intimate knowledge of the homelands, and the towns and districts from which they came.

Mr HAMILTON: I do not know whether the Minister has been dealing with ethnic affairs, housing, or with overseas trips.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member must ask his question.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister say what surveys have been conducted in relation to the need for accommodation for aged ethnic people within the community? The Minister will recall attending at the Morphetville Race-course last month a function conducted by the Greek-Australian Association, and I would imagine that there would be a great deal of co-operation between those ethnic groups. Can the Minister advise what are the specific needs, what long-term projections have been carried out by his department, what are the needs of those various ethnic groups for accommodation for the aged, and what are the numbers in each specific group until about the year 2000? I would imagine that the Minister's department has done some survey work into these needs.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We are looking at this area much more closely now than was the case some time ago, the reason being that it was generally thought that aged persons from some ethnic communities were being and wanted to be cared for by their own families, because that was the traditional manner by which aged persons from those ethnic communities were cared for back in their homelands. However, in recent times it has become very noticeable that aged persons from ethnic communities are tending to want to live closer together amongst other aged persons, and it is quite understandable that they want to finish the latter years of their life talking about their experiences in early life, and so forth.

The first action the Government took in an attempt to assist in this area was the establishment of a committee which was to look at the needs for amenities and facilities for people in this category; that committee is still carrying out its investigations. As the honourable member says, some of us were at a function where one of the communities has established its own aged persons organisation with the objective of building an aged persons complex. The Government will give every possible assistance by way of advice to such communities to help them with those goals, and we have noticed that some of the communities are at different stages with their plans. The Italian community, for example, at Modbury is at a stage where the village is almost finished and people are acquiring homes in that complex. One or two of the smaller communities have established their own complexes as well. The Housing Trust is prepared to give every possible assistance to these groups, and we want to encourage them. However, they quite rightly want to proceed with some independence and develop their own style of ownership or occupancy to satisfy themselves.

Some of these styles might be, for instance, where the person contributes a certain percentage of capital, and so forth. Others might be on a basis of only renting the accommodation. So, the change is evident here; some ethnic communities are wanting and achieving the acquisition of these village complexes for their aged people. As a Government, we respect their wishes. We believe that they have every right to proceed along those lines, and we want to give them as much encouragement as possible.

Mr HAMILTON: When does the Minister anticipate that the report into the needs of aged ethnic people will be available, and will he make it available to members of the Opposition?

Mr MATHWIN: I take a point of order, Sir. A lot of us have been waiting patiently to get down to the lines. I imagine from my experience that the honourable member is talking of 'Miscellaneous', and I do not see how he could get projects and reports under a line relating to only \$14 000. I cannot see that this question relates to the line to which he is referring. I would like the call for a few questions on projects myself.

The CHAIRMAN: To which line is the honourable member referring?

Mr HAMILTON: I was referring to Ethnic Affairs Commission information and I was seeking information from the Minister. As I had been out of the Chamber, I did not know which line we were on.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The answer to the question is that that report is in the process of being drawn up.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I will just sort out the point of order raised by the member for Glenelg. The honourable member is permitted to discuss anything in the vote under this heading. To get some order into its discussion, the Committee had been proceeding through the headings under this vote. As the member had indicated to me some time ago that he wanted to ask a question, and, since other members were given preference, I shall permit him to continue, but I ask him to relate his comments to the heading before the Committee.

Mr HAMILTON: The Minister has answered my questions; I thank him.

Mr HEMMINGS: Under 'Contingencies, Local Government Administration', we have a figure proposed this year of \$8 000 for payments to consultants. We voted last year \$8 200 and actual payments were \$11 533. What consultants were used in 1980-81 and in what areas? How many reports have been received? How many have been acted upon? If so, where? As a supplementary question to that: could these investigations have been carried out by public servants?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The figure of \$11 533 shown as actual payments for 1980-81 is made up of a payment to Mr Vin Neylan, former Executive Officer of the Good Neighbour Council, and a payment to Murray Edmonds Management Services for assisting the Local Government Act Review Committee of \$4 616. Mr Edmonds researched the 1970 Local Government Act Revision Committee's report to ascertain: first, what recommendations had been implemented; secondly, what recommendations were obsolete; thirdly, what recommendations had yet to be implemented? Neither of these people (that is, Mr Vin Neylan nor Mr Murray Edmonds) is a public servant. Mr Neylan was retained for a 12-month period by the department at the time when the Good Neighbour Council was, in an active sense, going out of existence. I stress 'in an active sense' because in some respects with a voluntary group it is still continuing. He will be retained until early next year. Mr Murray Edmonds is an expert in Local Government Act work, because he was previously employed as a full-time officer in the department in the term of the previous Government.

Mr HEMMINGS: Can I take it, then, that the work that these consultants carried out will be acted upon?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes. I hope that because of Mr Vin Neylan's presence, the general welcoming aspect to new settlers in this State will be improved, and it will most certainly be improved by the time he finishes his task. Of course, the contribution by Murray Edmonds Management Services is an important factor in the rewriting of the Local Government Act.

Mr HEMMINGS: And the figure of \$8 000 proposed for 1981-82 is for a continuation of their work?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That is there to finish off the payments to Mr Neylan, and will continue that consultancy until the date of termination, which is 4 January 1982.

Mr MATHWIN: I would like to ask some information of the Minister in relation to the purchase of motor vehicles, for which \$73 000 is proposed. Last year the actual payment was \$20 377. Will the Minister say what type of purchases the department is making for that figure?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The figure of \$73 000 for the current year is to replace 11 vehicles in accordance with the Government's policy, which is that replacement takes

place at 50 000 kilometres or 2½ years. Incidentally, the department proposes, in line with general restraint, to reduce its fleet of vehicles by one during this current financial year. Did the honourable member want to know the types of vehicle? Did he ask that?

Mr MATHWIN: No. I do not think there is any need for that. I would be interested in the changeover figure.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: They are the changeover arrangements.

Mr MATHWIN: For 11 vehicles?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes.

Mr MATHWIN: They are not very good managers. Local government, under the same sort of idea, changes its vehicles over for next to nothing. It is the same principle of paying no purchase tax, is it not?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The proceeds of the sale of the old vehicles are paid into general revenue. That might be the point that is a bit confusing. Perhaps I should have said that earlier. In other words, the department carries the outlay totally for the new vehicles.

Mr ABBOTT: Under the heading 'Local Government Administration', only \$1 400 is proposed for overseas visits of officers. How many officers will be going overseas, for what purpose, and where? On the figures, it seems that they can go only as far as Kangaroo Island.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It was one officer and he got as far as Malaysia.

Mr MATHWIN: And swam back!

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, he went economy class, I hope. Dr McPhail has been overseas this year. The Government approved his trip, which was to visit Kuala Lumpur to attend the Pacific Asian Congress of Municipalities. I opened a similar congress in Adelaide in September 1979. The department was pleased to keep its connection with the conference, and Dr McPhail delivered a special address entitled, 'The role of an elected system of local government in metropolitan Adelaide'. A contingent of important people went from South Australia to this conference, including Mr Brian Anders, President of the Local Government Association; the Secretary-General, Mr Hullick; Alderman Hearne, one of the vice-presidents of the association, went from Marion; and, of course, Mr Gordon Johnson, who is on our Grants Commission, a former State and Federal President of local government associations.

Mr EVANS: If the Minister does not have the figure at the moment, could he obtain the estimated return to the Government through general revenue from vehicles to be sold, so that Committee members can assess the changeover value? As Government departments do not pay sales tax, and as there are two methods of selling, either trading in vehicles or putting them up for auction (the traditional method for Government departments), it is important to know what we are likely to recoup from either 11 or 12 vehicles, seeing that one vehicle will be eliminated from the fleet.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will endeavour to obtain those figures, if changeovers have occurred. Where they have not, we will have to estimate what we expect to obtain, which I will have to get from Treasury.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): Are there any further questions? There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Works and Services—Department of Local Government,
\$2 730 000

Acting Chairman:
Mr J. Mathwin

Members:

Mr R. K. Abbott
 Mr E. S. Ashenden
 Mr J. C. Bannon
 Mr S. G. Evans
 Mr R. E. Glazbrook
 Mr K. C. Hamilton
 Mr T. H. Hemmings

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts, and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Dr I. McPhail, Director, Department of Local Government.

Mr M. Herrmann, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Local Government.

Mr B. Krumins, Chairman, Ethnic Affairs Commission.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination. Are there any questions?

Mr HEMMINGS: Could the Minister outline the breakdown of the \$2 400 000 for local government authorities in providing effluent drainage projects?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The breakdown involves proposed expenditure for this current year. Work in progress at Littlehampton is \$312 000, and at Strathalbyn, \$798 000. New works are at Freeling, \$300 000; Echunga, \$180 000; Balaklava, \$294 000; Ardrossan, \$120 000; Streaky Bay, \$120 000; and \$120 000 in survey and design relative to those new works. Then there are completed works upon which expenditure remains at Ceduna or, more properly, Thevenard, \$76 000, and Meadows, \$80 000, totalling \$2 400 000.

Mr HEMMINGS: Could the Minister outline whether specific targets can be achieved for 1981-82 in completing design work at Hawker?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: These have been on a long waiting list. Time has been available for us to make adequate preparation for these works, and there should not be any delays.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions? There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Minister of Local Government and Minister of Housing,
 Miscellaneous, \$6 695 000

Acting Chairman:

Mr J. Mathwin

Members:

Mr R. K. Abbott
 Mr E. S. Ashenden
 Mr J. C. Bannon
 Mr S. G. Evans
 Mr R. E. Glazbrook
 Mr K. C. Hamilton
 Mr T. H. Hemmings

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts, and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Dr I. McPhail, Director, Department of Local Government.

Mr M. Herrmann, Chief Administrative Officer, Department of Local Government.

Mr P. Edwards, General Manager, South Australian Housing Trust.

Mr HEMMINGS: I think the Minister agreed earlier that, as we have only one line under 'Miscellaneous', dealing with housing, can general policy questions be directed under this line?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: That was originally agreed.

Mr HEMMINGS: Under 'Miscellaneous' there are three items which I feel should be tied together, in light of criticism I will make of the Minister in seeking information. The sum of \$1 500 was allocated last year for the degree course in local government administration; there were no actual payments and nothing is proposed this year. Last year \$10 000 was allocated for the Keith Hockridge memorial scholarship, \$9 004 was actually spent, and the allocation this year has been drastically reduced to \$1 000. Last year, \$6 000 was allocated for the scholarship course for senior local government administrators and there has been a 50 per cent reduction this year.

Some people have told me that they believe that this reduction is paltry, petty and unnecessary and should be seen as a lack of commitment on the part of the Government to increase its performance standards in local government. I am inclined to agree with those statements. Is the Minister satisfied that a degree of excellence has been achieved by local government and, if so, was this why three areas that actively promoted efficiency in local government have been severely curtailed?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: First, the allocation of \$1 500 for the degree course in local government administration provided for a contribution to the South Australian Institute of Technology for holding a degree course for senior officers in councils. The course is functioning with full enrolment. The Government's contribution was not required by the institute this year and, therefore, it has been deleted from the line.

In regard to the Keith Hockridge memorial scholarship, last year provision was made for an overseas scholarship, which was awarded to Mr R. Langman, the Town Clerk of Hindmarsh. Mr Langman studied investment of funds and problems facing local government in a time of financial restraint. The small sum appropriated this year provides for printing of the report that is to be prepared by Mr Langman. The Government has decided that this scholarship should be awarded only once every two years in lieu of an annual collection as occurred previously.

This is based on the fact that we must apply some restraint in our expenditure, because this department, as have other departments right across the board, has had to make some cut-backs in funding, because we did not receive as much money from Canberra as we had hoped for. We believed that, in balancing and considering all of the miscellaneous items where some reductions might be made, it would be fair and still quite reasonable for this scholarship to be granted on a two-year basis, rather than annually. There will still be considerable benefits for local government from the experience that these people gain when they travel overseas and by way of the report that follows.

Last year, two scholarships were provided for senior local government administrators at the Canberra college. The participants last year were Mr I. Burford, District Clerk, District Council of Le Hunte, and Mr G. Dickson, Deputy District Clerk, District Council of Munno Para. Again, we have had to apply some restraint in this area, and we now

propose to provide only one scholarship instead of two. No nominations have been made to us as yet. The provision of one scholarship will still assist the standard of district and town clerks in local government. The councils that are directly associated with the successful applicants, and local government generally, can learn from reports that are issued by each recipient who attends the Canberra college.

Mr HEMMINGS: There has been a drastic reduction of \$651 000 in the provision for subsidies to local government libraries, which represents a reduction of 16.5 per cent before allowing for inflation. Bearing in mind all that has been said previously about the libraries and how the public in general will not suffer, as the Minister said, how will this reduction of \$651 000 affect local government? How many local government bodies have applied for increased assistance and what is the current waiting list for funding?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Some of the latter information that the member has sought was provided this morning. There is one major factor in the member's submission that I must hasten to correct, although I appreciate that he would not have known the background. The allocation of \$3 300 000 this year has had added to it a sum of \$637 000, which was surplus departmental funds held in a deposit account as at 1 July 1981.

In other words, the libraries division did not spend all of the money that was appropriated for its expenditure last year. Therefore, when Treasury considered the library's allocation for this year, naturally it took into account that credit balance. When one takes into account that balance, one sees that the total departmental funds are actually \$3 937 000, not \$3 300 000 as printed. While that involves a very small adjustment, it is not far from being a line ball with last year's figure.

Mr HEMMINGS: I appreciate that information, but as the Minister has said, there is no way I could have known that on the information before us. Even if \$3 937 000 is allocated this year, taking a rate of inflation and what I have researched from the Parliamentary Library, the cost of books and everything else will increase by from 20 per cent to 25 per cent this year. There has been about a 20 per cent to 25 per cent increase each year. That represents a cut in real terms to local government. In the light of additional information that the Minister has supplied, will he say how many local government bodies have applied for increased assistance and what is the current waiting list?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Again, we dealt with a lot of this information this morning, but I can understand how these items are arising again under the 'Contingencies' items.

As I said this morning, in general terms we are on target with the eight-year plan. We moved ahead a little more quickly last year than was necessary. It gathered momentum last year to the very point, as I explained a moment ago, where all the money that was allocated could not be spent. This year, again, in keeping with our restraints, we have had some reductions, but we believe that, with the credit that has come forward, with council contributions and other income (incidentally, these additional figures mean that \$5 291 000 will be the total moneys expected to be available to subsidise library programmes this year), we can keep on stream with the programme. If it gets a little behind this year, we hope to make that up next year. In any case, we have every confidence that the final target will be achieved by the end of the eight-year programme.

It is the Government's wish that everything possible be done to complete this commendable plan by that target date. As I explained this morning, other difficulties are becoming apparent. One is the vastly increased number of applications from people who, in the early years, were not interested in libraries, who did not have faith in the plan and held back. It makes it hard to budget when councils

of that ilk suddenly decide that they want to be in the programme, because that tends to suddenly increase the application rate. I give them full credit for wanting to be in the scheme, but it does make it somewhat difficult to plan ahead.

The other problem we are facing is that the more libraries that are finished the greater becomes the maintenance cost, and that maintenance cost of existing libraries, of course, has to come from this year's allocation. Included in that maintenance cost is not only the subsidy arrangements with the local government people for salaries (the 50/50 arrangement), but we make a contribution to their bookstock as well. As the member for Napier quite rightly says, the cost of books is increasing, and that is not helping. Nevertheless, we can manage and will overcome the problems of that increasing maintenance sector of the total allocation. Bearing in mind the situation, I think our programme which I placed on record this morning, when I listed all the libraries being funded this year in various ways (whether it was new libraries or the completion of services and programmes, including the mobile library scheme), is quite good.

Mr HEMMINGS: I was rather surprised to see a strong motion, which I will quote, placed before the Mid North Local Government Association meeting which I attended in August this year. As the Minister knows, that association comprises 19 active district councils. The motion states:

That the region, in conjunction with the L.G.A., bring to the attention of State and Federal Parliamentarians the considerable concern felt by local government of the impact of their funding and other policies which disadvantage councils particularly:

(1) the shift of responsibilities transferred to local government which has not been accompanied by a corresponding allocation of Federal and State financial resources to the levels necessary for maintaining the system; and

(2) the absence of any positive moves by the State Government to carry out its election policies in easing the financial plight of local government by contributing its own resources through the Grants Commission in the form of untied grants to local government.

That rather strong motion was answered, I think by the Minister of Transport, with a statement that the Government realised the situation concerning local government and that the Premier would be looking into it. Has the Minister had consultations with the Premier about an increased contribution by the State in the form of untied grants, or was that really just a fob to the Mid North Local Government Association?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, I have not discussed this subject with the Premier. I am rather surprised at the report that the member for Napier has given concerning the strength of feeling in this local government region about this subject. The honourable member, being a former local government representative (and a senior one, too), would know that the grants money from the Commonwealth to local government increased by 16.6 per cent this year, going from \$25 000 000 to \$31 000 000, which came into South Australia for distribution throughout local government.

At the same time, the Federal Treasurer issued a statement, as I recall, that he expected the increase to be nearly 19 per cent next year, so if it is true that local government is still complaining that it has not got enough money after the receipt of funds of that kind, which are untied moneys and can be spent by local government however it wishes, then I must be a little cautious in giving full consideration to the resolution that has just been mentioned. It is my view that local government should provide more and more local services. I want to see local government accept responsibility for the provision of services at the local level, because when the total grants cake for the States is cut up in Canberra this State gets only 8.6 per cent of that sum, whereas on a population basis we should get about 9.2 per cent.

The difference this year would have been a sum in excess of \$2 000 000. The reason why it is still 8.6 per cent is that the Commonwealth believes that local government in this State is not providing as many local services as does local government interstate. That was one of the major reasons why the Commonwealth fixed the 8.6 per cent figure, to which, incidentally, I have now objected strongly. Nevertheless, local government is being asked to provide more services, and I hope that it will accept that responsibility and carry out the wider provision of services.

The Government is investigating restructuring the building fees for local government, and that will mean that its income might increase. The Government will investigate any other reasonable manner by which local government income can be increased. But I would like to see local government accept somewhat graciously this increase of 16.6 per cent and spend it wisely in providing a wider range of services, rather than, as has apparently been the case in the example mentioned by the member for Napier, complaining that it has been asked to do more than its fair share and that it is not getting sufficient reimbursement for those increased programmes.

Mr HEMMINGS: I refer to the last line under 'Miscellaneous' which refers to the Working Party on Information Services, for which I understand there is no allocation this year, because it has completed its report. When will the Government release the report and, more importantly, when will it implement the recommendations?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I feel sure that this report was made public at the time. We are going back quite a long time now to about May last year.

Mr EVANS: I wish to refer to the Housing Trust, and I take it from your earlier comment that you were allowing general questions in that area; is that correct?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): If the member for Fisher can relate his question to the line 'South Australian Housing Trust—Administration expenses', he can ask his question.

Mr EVANS: What I want to know from the Minister is how much more revenue is coming to the Housing Trust per year, compared with, say, the year 1978-79, more particularly during the immediate past year, now that the policy has been changed where interest rates gradually increase for those people who can afford it, people who have the benefit of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement money. Under the new scheme it means that substantially more money would be coming to the trust to be used.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Before I answer that question, could I have the Committee's indulgence and go back for a moment to the point made by the member for Napier concerning the Working Party on Information Services report. I will double check on whether it was made public or not; it certainly was made available to parties whom we wanted to comment on it. It may not have been made public, but I will look into that matter and report on the actual situation.

I take it that the member for Fisher is referring to interest increases that mortgagors are paying on both first and second mortgages held by the trust, and that he is seeking information about the increased revenue that the trust must now be receiving as a result of, I take it, relatively recent increases in those interest rates.

Mr EVANS: Until 1979 all of the mortgage money that was made available to persons who obtained moneys from the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement money was fixed at a rate of about 5½ or 5¾ per cent, and in the next group it was 6½ or 6¾ per cent, and no Government, be it Federal or State, had been prepared to take up the challenge of making those people who could afford to pay a

higher interest rate gradually pay such a rate until it was 1 per cent below the Commonwealth bond rate.

As a result of an agreement between the Commonwealth and the States, those interest rates were to increase gradually. I believe that the Commonwealth has made more money available to the States and, by that means, also to the Housing Trust. I want to know how much more money we are receiving from that area now that people who can afford it are gradually paying an increased interest rate on that money which came from the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement area.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The money that comes from the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement arrangements is money on loan which is used both for financing through the State Bank and for Housing Trust purposes involving the construction of houses principally for letting to welfare tenants. The rate of interest on that money cannot be directly related to any income derived from it, because in many respects it simply goes into the general mix of Housing Trust funds. Again, referring back to what I said earlier, I think that the member for Fisher is pressing the point that in recent years the people who have mortgages from the Housing Trust, both first and second mortgages, have been charged an interest rate which some years ago was quite low but which, with the general escalation of interest rates, has gradually increased in recent years. Indeed, the trust's policy now is to align its interest rates on its first mortgages with the Savings Bank of South Australia's interest rates and to align its interest rates on second mortgages with the second mortgage interest rate as charged by the State Government Insurance Commission. The added revenue to the trust from these increasing interest charges can be a figure which over a period we can assess, but that is not directly related to the interest rate paid on Commonwealth-State housing money by the trust, which money, of course, is aggregating each year as the Loan allocations come forward annually, and which money, in aggregate, is really a different matter, I suggest. The money in question is extra money which is ploughed back so that more houses can be built. It is a figure, I hasten to point out, which is not really escalating as far as the number of mortgages is concerned, because since the present Government came to office it has prevented the trust from selling houses and carrying the finance itself. Our policy has been that the trust should be on a comparable basis to private enterprise in its sale of homes, so there have not been any new mortgages from the trust to clients since the end of 1979. So the aggregate number of mortgages has really either remained dormant or, of course, may have reduced somewhat because some of them might have been discharged over the last two years.

Mr HEMMINGS: On the line, 'Local Government Assistance Fund', I see that the proposed vote is exactly the same as was allocated and used last year. Again, this represents a cut in real terms. Will the Minister say how many applications are in the pipeline for the receipt of grants? What organisations have applied, and what does this represent in money terms?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: For the current year the department has not as yet called applications. So we are not in a position to indicate the volume of inquiry or applications which one might expect for this current year. We will shortly be publicising the fact that the money is available but, of course, it is not truly available until Parliament approves this Budget.

Mr HEMMINGS: How many applications were refused last year because there was no money available, \$500 000 having been spent?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not have the number of applications we received last year, but the total sum sought

last year was about \$1 500 000, so one might expect that this year it might be three times again the amount available.

Mr HEMMINGS: I felt it would be more, but it rather surprises me that it would be as much as that. Does the Minister see a problem arising because no more money could be allocated this year to take up the back-log?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Government thought that the same allocation as last year was quite reasonable and fair. The fact that we receive applications for a lot more money than is available is not really surprising, because in any situation where you publicise grant money as being available it is only human for community development boards, instrumentalities and local government to optimise their applications. We did insist last year that small communities had to match our grants, which means that the community amenity ultimately is really worth in aggregate double the sum which we have allocated, because of the contribution from the local community towards whatever project is approved.

Mr HEMMINGS: I refer to the line dealing with administration expenses for the Emergency Housing Office, for which the sum of \$375 000 has been allocated this year. It is my opinion that the increased allocation, although commendable, is clearly inadequate when one considers the following five points. First, private market rents increased by 40 per cent from January 1981 to August 1981. Secondly, an amendment to the Residential Tenancies Act proclaimed in April raised from three weeks to four weeks rent the maximum security bond that may be charged by landlords. Thirdly, the demand for Emergency Housing Office services increased by 70 per cent in 1980-81. Fourthly, only five extra staff have been employed to assist youth and aged people. Finally, and perhaps most important, the trust is charging the Emergency Housing Office \$28 000 for administrative overheads that were previously absorbed by the Department of Urban and Regional Affairs. Will the Minister say what has been the effect of recent severe increases in private market rents on the ability of the Emergency Housing Office to assist its clients?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: As I understand the question, it related to the ability of the Emergency Housing Office to cope with its applicants and task.

Mr HEMMINGS: Apart from my preamble, the question related to the effect of the recent severe increases in private market rents on the ability of the Emergency Housing Office to assist its clients.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Naturally, the increase in private rents and in that market generally makes it difficult to provide accommodation for people who contact the Emergency Housing Office. Nevertheless, that is just one of the many challenges that the Emergency Housing Office is facing up to and, indeed, during a period of such increasing rents, appears to be overcoming.

For example, the number of applicants assisted through the Emergency Housing Office in July this year was 130; in September it was 185. It appears that, with accommodation in the private sector, despite rental market difficulties, those applicants are being satisfied. The office subsidises some rents, in an endeavour to help applicants, it assists with bonds, and in other ways. Not much can be done about the rental market, but every effort is being made to satisfy those in need who seek emergency housing aid from the E.H.O.

Mr HEMMINGS: Perhaps the Minister made an unfortunate choice of words when he said that it is a challenge to the Emergency Housing Office to meet the increased demand. I accept that the people working in the Emergency Housing Office do their utmost to provide assistance, but, as I said in my five earlier points, the increased allocation to the Emergency Housing Office is not sufficient. What has been the effect of the Residential Tenancies Act amend-

ment, increasing from three to four weeks rental the rental bond that may be charged, on the Emergency Housing Office's ability to assist clients? One problem that the Emergency Housing Office faces is that people who seek assistance do not have that money available. The amendment has made the situation even worse for people seeking assistance.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: This financial year 262 applicants have been satisfied with bond assistance. The Minister of Consumer Affairs could report in general terms on the effect of increased bonds, because he monitors that and it comes under his administration. Nevertheless, just over \$30 000 has been used to subsidise and help people this current year. Whilst, no doubt, this may present a further problem because of bond money having been increased by Parliament, it seems the Emergency Housing Office is still finding its way clear to help such people. An increasing number of young people is being assisted.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Regarding the control of rents particularly and also regarding housing improvements, on page 343 of the Auditor-General's Report for this year reference is made to rental rebates that were granted to tenants, which amounted to \$12 400 000 and which was almost double the figure of \$6 600 000 for the previous year. Will the Minister explain the dramatic increase?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: An increasing number of the tenants being provided with accommodation by the Housing Trust come under the general category of welfare tenants and their rents are subsidised by the trust. In other words, they do not pay a rent commensurate with the market value but a rent commensurate with their income. One can visualise a pensioner or an unemployed person on unemployed relief being a tenant of the trust in this situation paying a percentage of income. In the very low bracket, people pay about 16 per cent of their income.

The low rent is subsidised through trust funds and the aggregate of those subsidies in the past year increased to \$12 400 000. Fifty-one per cent of the trust's tenants are in this category of welfare tenants and are not paying the normal rent that the trust would charge if the occupants of those houses were in the normal income bracket.

Mr GLAZBROOK: If there was such a dramatic increase in the past 12 months, what increase has been budgeted for this coming year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: One can expect an ever-increasing amount, because the trust as an organisation is becoming a welfare operation. In other words, the private sector should be able to take care of people who have normal incomes and who can either purchase or rent accommodation. The people who need assistance from the State and whom the State should help are now forming the long queues at the Housing Trust. They will go on and on forming such queues in looking for low rents and State-subsidised accommodation.

More and more aged people want their own accommodation in aged people's homes, because fewer of these people live with married daughters and families than was the case years ago. Their demand is ever increasing. There are more single-parent families now than there were years ago. This area of activity will completely absorb the trust's future activities.

Mr GLAZBROOK: The Minister stated that 51 per cent of the trust's tenants benefit from the rental rebates (as was stated in the Auditor-General's Report). What was the increase in percentage of people on subsidised rentals in the previous year when the allocation was \$6 600 000?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not have that figure with me. It would certainly be in the vicinity of 47 per cent to 48 per cent.

Mr GLAZBROOK: How would the figure double if the subsidy has increased from \$6 600 000 to \$12 000 000?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The assessments for rents have increased, too. The rent which the trust would normally charge for that unit of accommodation in which there is a welfare tenant is increasing, because the rent of the neighbour next door, who is paying normal trust rent, is increasing, so the figure taken into account for the purposes of the calculation, as well as the actual money received, is an increasing sum as rents increase.

Mr ABBOTT: The Minister indicated that 262 applicants were successful in receiving assistance with the bond to be provided. How many people applied for that assistance and were not successful?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: If we take the year to date, 989 applications for assistance have been received from families, but the number of families assisted is 1 018. The reason for this is that there was a carry-over as at 1 July, and people who had applied for assistance, say, in June were given that assistance in July, so there is something of a contradiction there, but they are the statistics provided. In the youth area, 582 people sought assistance at the Emergency Housing Office this year to date and 532 have been assisted. In the area of the aged, 102 people have sought assistance and 103 have been assisted, so there again, as with the families, it is more or less a 100 per cent satisfaction ratio. Other single people who sought assistance numbered 254, and 268 have been assisted. It would appear from those figures that not a large number of people who seek assistance at the Emergency Housing Office are not, in fact, assisted.

Mr ABBOTT: I want to refer to the scheme introduced last year to assist low-income families to buy a home. That scheme revolved around rental purchase with a small deposit of \$500 being paid and the State Bank then advancing funds to the Housing Trust to enable the trust to buy the home of the customer's choice. How many families have been helped by this scheme, and does the interest rate of 5¼ per cent on mortgage money still apply.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: To date, two families are awaiting settlement arrangements and taking possession. I understand that the interest rate figure is 5¼ per cent. However, I will check that and, if it is a figure other than that, then I will advise the Committee.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister inform me of the number of persons waiting for four-bedroom trust homes and the number waiting for three-bedroom trust homes?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We find that impossible to answer, because, until the final application is processed, the exact number of bedrooms is somewhat in doubt. If we take as a general rule the larger family home applications in what we call the central area of metropolitan Adelaide, the waiting list is as long as three years. However, if people are prepared to go further out, for example to Elizabeth, it might be possible to accommodate them after 12 months.

Mr HAMILTON: It has been put to me that there are many instances in which people who are waiting for three-bedroom homes could be placed in four-bedroom homes, for which I understand there is a shorter waiting period.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The trust does not have many four-bedroom homes for letting and the demand at the trust for four-bedroom homes is not particularly great.

Mr HAMILTON: Could the Minister provide me with those figures, because that proposition has been put to me?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes. I can obtain from the trust some statistics that would satisfy the member for Albert Park on this point.

Mr HEMMINGS: Returning to the statement I made previously that demand for Emergency Housing Office services had increased by 70 per cent in 1980-81, will the

Minister say what action will be taken to reduce the waiting period for an appointment at the Emergency Housing Office, which at present is two weeks? Those of us who represent areas where there are real housing problems know that the Emergency Housing Office is there, in effect, to provide immediate assistance which the South Australian Housing Trust cannot provide at a particular point and where people cannot get any assistance on the private rental market. If we have a two-week waiting list, then that surely destroys the function that the Emergency Housing Office is supposed to carry out. What does the Minister intend to do to decrease the waiting period?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have increased the staff from 10 to 14 people. We have also increased their range of activity in that they now accept applications and queries from young, as well as from aged persons. We felt that the increase of four people was a considerable contribution to overcoming the problem. I question the emphasis being placed on two weeks because, if there is a crisis situation, I feel sure that an immediate interview is arranged and that not everyone is informed that they must wait for two weeks before they can be given an interview. That is the purpose of overcoming the crisis situation in housing: having the Emergency Housing Office where it is. Where people are in extremely urgent need and where crisis situations are involved people can get an interview immediately.

Mr HEMMINGS: Can the Minister advise the Committee what extra clerical staff have been allocated to the Emergency Housing Office to service the additional staff employed this year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The new staff provided are certainly not clerks. I would not want too much red tape and bureaucracy emerging in such an organisation and I do not know that there is a great deal of clerical work to do. If an officer in the Emergency Housing Office is trying to assist an applicant to obtain emergency housing, the less clerical work that such a member of the staff is involved in, the better. For this reason we have not cluttered up the place with clerks, and nor do I intend to.

Mr HEMMINGS: Is the Minister saying that no extra clerical staff have been provided? Perhaps the Committee has to accept his view that increased clerical staff will only clutter up the situation. If that is the answer, we will have to accept it, but my original question was how many additional clerical staff have been employed. I take it that there have been none.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The people we have appointed are interviewers, counsellors, people with contacts in the private sector and in other places, people who are there to obtain emergency accommodation for the unfortunate party that they have seated on the other side of the desk. There has not been a demand for clerical assistance, and so the matter has not been considered.

Mr HEMMINGS: What extra administrative expenses have been incurred by the E.H.O. as a result of the Housing Trust's having assumed responsibility for its budget and management?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: To provide the exact breakdown of that information is rather difficult. With regard to the officer in charge who was appointed, I suppose a proportion of his salary might be deemed to be extra administrative cost. However, the Housing Trust bears the cost of that unit of labour, so that is not charged against the increased allocation which we want to see channelled into bonds and rent subsidies and other ways of helping unfortunate people in these situations. I would think that very little administrative costing could be allocated as a result of the Housing Trust's involvement with the Emergency Housing Office.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I note that the interest paid last year represented 33.17 per cent of the trust's total income. I

note that 46.63 per cent or nearly 50 per cent of the trust's income is going out on subsidies and interest paid. Relative to the new negotiation that the trust has with the South Australian Superannuation Trust for the sum of \$25 000 000, what interest payments are being made on that money and how will that affect the percentage that we are paying from the trust's income?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The interest that will be an outgoing, against those extra funds provided for the trust and its building programme, will be interest that is agreed upon between the lender, who in the instance cited was the Superannuation Fund, and the borrower, which is, of course, the South Australian Housing Trust. The figure for this current year, incidentally, is \$10 000 000. A few days after that announcement the Government also indicated that a rather similar plan had been agreed to, and that \$5 000 000 for this current year for housing construction as an additional injection was to be forthcoming from the S.G.I.C. to the trust; and, again, the interest to be calculated or agreed upon for that loan will be mutually agreed upon by the lender and the borrower.

Similarly, the Government also recently announced another further \$5 000 000 of funds which the trust intends to raise by promissory notes. Again, the interest will be agreed upon between the borrower and the lender. The exact interest figure on the \$10 000 000 from the Superannuation Fund has not as yet been agreed upon; it is subject to negotiation not only in regard to actual percentage but also upon the indexed principle of interest charged which is the subject of discussions between the Public Actuary, acting for the Superannuation Fund, and the trust and its advisers. Therefore, at this point I cannot tell the honourable member exactly what that interest rate will be.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I refer to page 343 of the Auditor-General's Report and to the second item listed under 'Expenditure', namely, 'Rents paid (including leased housing)'. For the year ended 30 June 1981 the amount was \$301 000, but in the previous year it was \$3 000. Can the Minister explain to the Committee what that amount represents and the reason for the vast difference between the \$3 000 paid in 1980 and the \$301 000 paid in 1981?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The reason is that we started a new programme, a new initiative, in this State in an endeavour to increase housing stock for these welfare tenants who were waiting in that queue at the Housing Trust. That programme involved the leasing of premises from private owners and then providing that same accommodation to the trust's applicants at welfare rates. The scheme began in 1980 and was in full bloom in 1981. That figure of \$301 000 is the aggregate amount paid to those landlords by the head lessee, namely, the Housing Trust. There are approximately 117 houses in this category, and that is the explanation for that \$301 000 in 1981 as against the very small figure in 1980 of \$3 000 because it was in the latter year that the scheme commenced.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Will the trust be pursuing this line further and will more homes be leased for this purpose of welfare housing in this coming year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, subject to funds being available for this lease arrangement, and also, of course, subject to anticipation that the Commonwealth-State housing money will be forthcoming, because this is an area of subsidised rents as well.

Mr ABBOTT: I understand that in the Government's plan to assist homeless young people five houses it owns will be sold, or it is hoped to be able to sell those homes, so that the money can be spent on 12 smaller homes for use by the homeless young people. That is in that plan that was announced earlier in relation to the 50 homes that

would be made available. How many of the five houses the Government wants to sell have been sold to date?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: None have been sold as yet. I hasten to say that we announced the scheme publicly only two to three weeks ago, but negotiations are in train between the Department of Community Welfare and the Housing Trust to keep the scheme going and to achieve results as quickly as possible.

Mr ABBOTT: I understand that in those arrangements the 12 new houses will all be in the western suburbs and that they will be administered by the Port Adelaide Central Mission on behalf of the Government. What financial assistance, if any, will be made available to the Mission for this purpose, and will extra staff be required by the Mission to control those homes?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Actually eight of the 12 in the proposal are to help the western region. Those eight as a group involve the Port Adelaide institution to which the honourable member refers. The assistance that the trust at this stage envisages will be that the institution will not have to pay a rent to the trust for that accommodation.

Mr ABBOTT: What about financial assistance to the Mission? Will any extra staff be required by the Mission?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Department of Community Welfare, I understand, is making a contribution to the Mission, and a figure of \$10 000 has been mentioned. What the exact detail of their proposal is I am not certain, but they are going to involve themselves in the plan.

Mr ABBOTT: Who will be responsible for maintaining those homes? Has the Government's Emergency Housing Office sought any Commonwealth assistance by way of matching grants in this particular scheme?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Housing Trust will be responsible for the maintenance. As far as the Housing Trust is concerned, there will not be any application to the Commonwealth for any assistance in this scheme, because the funds for subsidies, of course, are all lumped together in the general allocation from the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth-State housing arrangement.

Mr EVANS: As it is the Government's policy to move out of the area of building houses for sale, what is the present position with the Housing Trust regarding industrial and commercial buildings such as shops, factory buildings and office accommodation? Is the trust still building such facilities; if so, for how long, seeing that it is an area which the private sector could pick up? Secondly, does the trust have any of these properties unoccupied at the moment? If the Minister does not have details of the exact number at the moment, could he obtain them, together with details of the approximate floor area, and the anticipated rental return from those properties on an annual basis if they were occupied? Also, are there any areas where the trust has a waiting list for such facilities? What amount of land would the trust still hold where it could build such facilities if it wished to take up such a programme on a continuing basis?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: First, the trust does get involved and remains involved in the industrial property field. It is involved in that field, because it is a means by which we are competing with interstate interests who try to capture new developments, and with parties who are coming to establish new industry here. We are, therefore, forced in an endeavour to achieve industrial growth in this State, to provide this service to business people and commercial and industrial interests by way of owning premises and leasing factories back to such people, and being involved in any other arrangements with which the Government agrees and which are brought forward by the Department of Trade and Industry. In other words, any people interested in expanding or establishing industry in this State can have

some negotiation with the Government to see whether the Government can help them in regard to their premises.

Mr HAMILTON: Is that information readily available?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We can give you the number of factories which the Housing Trust owns. In fact, it is in this Auditor-General's Report before us. We can give details of those arrangements if you so require them. But I stress that the reason the Government is remaining involved in that area is that we want to help employment in this State. We want to help the workers who are not working at the moment, in other words. One way we can do this is by assisting the employers and the industrialists in this area. We know from feedback from people who are satisfied that this State in many respects gives the best deal to such new developers, and it does help us to get the State moving again as far as employment in the secondary area, particularly, is concerned.

Regarding commercial properties owned by the trust, such as shopping blocks throughout the metropolitan area and elsewhere, the trust has recently adopted a policy of giving out the management of those centres to private enterprise professional property managers. Those rents, to which Mr Evans referred, are fixed at market rates. We believe that, by the trust giving work to private enterprise, that specialised form of service is provided best by that sector.

It is true that one or two relatively small shopping centres have been built in the past two years by the trust. Those developments have occurred in estates in which the trust has firmly established housing, applicants are firmly settled, and, as promised, a proper shopping centre was provided to serve those areas. So, the trust has completed that type of construction. Now that the trust is not building houses for sale, such estates are not being fashioned up by the trust and, therefore, as it does not need to involve itself in that kind of work, it is disappearing.

Mr EVANS: I appreciate the benefits of encouraging private enterprise to come to this State. Has the Housing Trust done a cost benefit study on the trust pulling out of this area but, where there is a need, encouraging a business entrepreneur to move into this State, whether he be interested in industrial or commercial undertakings, with the trust looking at a scheme similar to rental housing? In other words, the Government offers the benefit to that operator to come to South Australia, negotiating the property that may be used from the private sector and thereby releasing a large sum of money that the trust has tied up if not in developed properties in properties zoned or set aside for commercial purposes in the future. Has the trust or the Government carried out a cost benefit study to ensure that much public money is not being unnecessarily tied up which could be used in other areas? This could apply also to rental, industrial or commercial properties, from the point of view of people who need to be supported if encouraged to come here.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Government would have to undertake any cost benefit inquiry of this kind. The main party involved would be Trade and Industry. But, I emphasise that the benefits of an industrialist coming here and employing, say, 200 people are difficult to cost monetarily, because it interweaves not only throughout the economic area but also throughout social and other areas as well. A cost benefit study would be difficult. One would have to consider the interstate position. If an industrialist got a better deal with factory premises interstate, he would not establish here. That emphasises the difficulty.

However, I stress that if the Housing Trust can dispose of any of its assets through a businesslike and beneficial transaction, it will do that. The Government required the trust to sell some of its homes to tenants so that money

could come back into the pool of resources for more houses to be built to satisfy those people on the waiting list. If the trust could sell its mortgages at a businesslike rate, it would. Indeed, it has been making inquiries about that. The aim would be to increase funds for building new homes.

The same could apply industrially, but far greater considerations need to be borne in mind than perhaps at first meet the eye. The Government will not jeopardise employment or the interests of those involved in industrial establishment, simply for the sake of getting more money. We are now getting in more money to build. As mentioned, millions of dollars this financial year are being injected into the trust to help the homeless and to improve employment in the building industry. We hope that we will benefit as a result.

Returning to Mr Evans' point, the Government agrees with the principle that if the trust can dispose of its assets to increase funds for housing it will consider that. But, it certainly cannot be done right across the board in the industrial area. In the trust's report for last year, which has only just been made public, there is evidence of four premises sold to companies, which indicates the trust's willingness, where all considerations are in the interests of proper business management and decision making, to consider the issue. Those four sales of industrial properties back up what I have said.

Mr EVANS: I believe that the Commonwealth makes money available to the States at 4½ per cent, under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. I am referring particularly to money for housing construction for purchase on mortgage, the majority of which money is made available in this State through the State Bank. The Commonwealth pays 10.5 per cent to make that money available. The taxpayers of Australia are paying a subsidy of 6 per cent to those people who qualify for those loans for mortgages on their homes.

In 1979 or thereabouts, a decision was made for the first time that people who had this money in the future, whether under an old agreement or under any future mortgage agreement, would have to pay an increasing percentage of interest, starting at 5¾ per cent and increasing at 1 per cent a year until the rate was 1 per cent below the long-term bond rate, where the person could afford to pay that money.

The Commonwealth Government did not ask for the return of the extra interest funds: this money was to remain with the States, to be made available for future mortgages for successful applicants. What is the increased sum that has been made available to this State from that source because of the changed policy on interest rates for, say, the year before the policy change took place and for each subsequent year since the policy change? I know that the Minister may not have that information at present, but I would appreciate his making it available to the Committee later.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will contact the State Bank, which comes under the Treasurer's administration, and I believe that I can obtain the figure that the member is seeking. Two points may be made. First, many of these people in the very low income bracket whom the State Bank is able to satisfy by providing finance begin by paying 5¾ per cent interest and, as the member has stated, the interest rate increases now. It increases by ½ per cent annually, but, bearing in mind the 4½ per cent that has to be paid to the Commonwealth and the administrative costs, there is not a great deal of difference between the early rates. Most certainly, the bank benefits because of increasing interest rates. That is undeniable.

It is also very significant that those increasing interest rates provide the bank with more funds to lend to applicants

who are waiting at the bank's door and who cannot obtain loans elsewhere, because they have low incomes. The increased interest revenue from the State Bank has been one of the principal reasons why the bank, until now, has been able to retain its lending rate at 55 mortgages a week. Of course, there are other reasons why the bank is maintaining such a lending rate, one of which is that the bank is topping up its funds for housing loans from other sources. I will endeavour to obtain the figures that the member seeks and make them available to the Committee.

Mr HEMMINGS: In the light of what the Minister stated earlier in reply to the member for Fisher, in regard to commercial properties and about the Government's encouraging the trust to dispose of mortgages and rental homes, does the Minister say that the Liberal Party's stated policy that was put out by the Liberal Party in August 1979, namely that it intends to nurture the private sector of the building industry at the expense of the Housing Trust and the Land Commission, whose activities would be restricted, has been achieved?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Government promised that it would make every endeavour to expand the private sector of the building industry. Some of the steps that we have taken in regard to the Housing Trust have helped to achieve that goal. We said to the private sector, 'You build all the houses that the public of South Australia needs to buy: we will concentrate the Housing Trust's efforts to help the most needy section of the community, in whom this Government has a great interest.' That is why all the funds that are available within the Housing Trust are being channelled into rental welfare accommodation.

In regard to the Government's policies in respect of industrial properties, where the proposition is businesslike and where employment will not be adversely affected, the trust still treats with tenants and other people who may wish to purchase industrial freeholds. That this is being done is evidenced by the fact that, as stated in the trust's latest annual report, four industrial concerns have purchased their freeholds.

Mr HEMMINGS: Regarding administration expenses, control of rents and housing improvements, there is a considerable reduction of \$358 000 reflected in the sum allocated this year of \$263 000. Some months ago, when the Minister transferred the control of rents to local government, he stated that there would be cost savings by the Housing Trust and redirection of funds to the needy. Since the salaries of the trust inspectors now come not from the Housing Trust but through the Department of Local Government, directly from Treasury, it could be costing the trust more to redirect those people who were originally involved in control of rental to other areas of the trust's operations. As a result of this transfer of the control of rents, how many trust inspectors have been allocated alternative operations within the trust and how much is it costing the trust to effect these transfers?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Four inspectors and one clerk have been transferred from this section of the Housing Trust to the maintenance section of the trust.

Mr HEMMINGS: At what cost?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: These people have simply taken up new positions in the trust because there has been a reshuffling of staff within the organisation, brought about mainly

because of the early retirement scheme that the trust has implemented. Really, the cost to the trust in regard to these people remains the same.

Mr HEMMINGS: The Committee is aware that the youth services programme was started in July 1979 on the basis that the State would match every Commonwealth dollar. It seems now that the programme is unlikely to be funded after 1981-82. Will the Minister tell the Committee what action the State Government has taken to ensure the continuation of the youth services programme after 30 June 1982?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, I cannot. That does not come under my administration. It would, I think, be handled through the Youth Bureau, which is under the administration of the Hon. Dean Brown. I am sure that he would have made some inquiries of the Commonwealth concerning the continuation of that programme.

Mr HEMMINGS: Can the Minister say how many people have been evicted, under the powers given to local government in the control of rents and housing improvements, since those powers were handed over? I know of two, possibly more.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We would have to do a survey of all councils to obtain that figure.

Mr HEMMINGS: Will the Minister supply that?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That would mean we would have to write to 125 councils.

Mr HEMMINGS: Perhaps I could make it easier by asking for those councils in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will endeavour to obtain that information for the Committee.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Following on a question asked by the member for Fisher, can the Minister tell me how many trust properties there are in shopping centres, and what is the value of those properties?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The annual report of the trust does not give the actual number of shops or centres. It does give a valuation of those premises, as at 30 June 1981, at \$18 871 000, a relatively small increase in the value at the end of the previous year of \$18 337 000. If the honourable member wants me to obtain the actual number of shops (though I would suggest the actual number of shopping centres might be more helpful), I am quite happy to obtain that figure for him.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Perhaps the Minister could also include the locations; obviously, some would be in new areas. Perhaps rentals could be included in that information.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I notice that last year the trust spent \$253 000 on research and development. Will the Minister explain what sort of research and development that entailed? I notice that it is a new expenditure.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It involved a total change in accountancy procedures internally. Also, there have been quite a number of innovative experiments in which the trust has involved itself; for instance, energy conservation was one which concerned housing. There were other developments, such as the build-on or expandable house, which the trust has been experimenting with in an endeavour to provide relatively small accommodation to families immediately on marriage, with the ability to add to and yet not detract from the aesthetic design of the home as the family grows. There have been other experiments in which the trust has been involved to bring the total up to the figure mentioned.

Mr GLAZBROOK: The Minister mentioned extensions to or adding to homes. Bearing in mind the number of trust properties which would have fairly large areas of land around the homes, large allotments, does the trust see that as a way of providing additional accommodation for people,

by accommodation being attached to the family home when they get married to avoid a long wait for housing?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The trust is anxious to provide extra accommodation on most blocks of land, but there are some councils (and some members of Parliament) who find dual occupancy objectionable, which disappoints me very much, indeed. Nevertheless, when we talk of expandable homes and build-on homes, we all know the difficulties that the developer is confronted with because of local government regulations, controls, and so forth. Nevertheless, in our endeavour to spin out our money to provide the optimum number of living units for the 20 000 people in our queue for homes, it is just ridiculous to provide units of accommodation in excess of the applicant's needs, when, if we can keep that space down to provide them with comfortable accommodation for their present situation, and provide the opportunity for expansion of that property, then that is very wise and prudent planning, in my view.

Mr HAMILTON: I seek clarification of the first question raised by the member for Brighton about Housing Trust shopping centres. Many of us had similar questions in our minds, so I hope that the Minister will provide that information to all members of the Committee. The Minister will recall that, in April this year, he issued a press release about the initiatives taken by the State Government in respect of youth housing. Central to the package was the allocation of 50 houses from Housing Trust stock for youth accommodation. Groups such as Shelter and the Council to Homeless Persons have pointed out that this is an offer that cannot be taken up by community groups if they are unable to find funding for administration of the houses. I understand that to date only 11 houses have been taken up, five of those being taken up by one organisation. How many groups have indicated their interest in the Government's offer of 50 houses under the scheme announced in April 1981, and how many are presently housing young people under that programme?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Eleven houses are already allocated under this scheme. The boost of the 12 houses with which the Department for Community Welfare is assisting will help, principally because of the institution that is going to be immediately involved with eight of those houses. I do not have with me details of the number of welfare and charitable bodies that have shown interest in this matter, but we have welfare and social organisations which are interested to involve themselves and in which organisations there are many dedicated people who want to contribute to solving this overall problem.

One of the difficulties that we have run up against is community resistance to this type of housing in certain residential areas, and that unfortunately is reflected in local government decisions as to whether or not certain properties can be used for this purpose. That is a resistance that we are trying to overcome, but it is not easy. However, the scheme has been launched and, hopefully, we can accelerate the number of homes that are to be occupied as this Community Welfare scheme proceeds, and also as we conclude more and more arrangements with the group to which the honourable member referred which must provide a supervisory role in such houses.

Mr HAMILTON: Can the Minister say what approaches have been made, and when, to the Federal Government for additional funds for youth housing under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement, and can he say what was the response from the Federal Government?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I recall writing a letter to the Commonwealth Minister in regard to this matter. By that correspondence the Government endeavoured to obtain more funds from the Commonwealth, but we were unsuccessful. We were informed that we had to accept the overall

package of funds for housing this year, and that money for youth housing was indeed included in that overall figure.

Mr HAMILTON: Has the State Bank agreed to the Minister's request to lend money on mortgage to a youth co-operative housing association?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The planning is not to approach the State Bank; the plan involves one of the building societies, which we hope will be the lending authority. The lending authority will provide the bulk of the funds for the purchase of this group of houses. The balance of the purchase price will be provided by the Housing Trust, and so the project that the Government has entered into, which is the first one in this State, is not one that involves the State Bank. Therein lies one of its many advantages in that it does not take funds that are urgently needed by others in need. In effect, it takes new funds into the welfare areas, those funds coming from the building society involved.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I note that the trust spent \$49 000 on community projects last year, as against \$800 000 the year before. Can the Minister tell me what are these community projects, and the reason for the decrease in expenditure from \$800 000 to \$49 000?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Is the honourable member referring to page 343 of the Auditor-General's Report?

Mr GLAZBROOK: Yes, at the bottom of the expenditure line under 'Community Projects'.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: These community projects generally refer to houses which the trust contributes for the community need of people wishing to have meeting places and to socialise and to generally overcome the problems of loneliness and isolation, houses such as those in Salisbury, where married women who do not work meet of a forenoon and discuss between themselves general matters, and relate to one another so that a feeling of community can be engendered amongst them.

It has been found that it is a very worthwhile community amenity, because indeed there is a great deal of loneliness amongst women, especially young married women, who do not work and who are in some instances considerably distanced from commercial and other activity in which other women find a certain degree of togetherness, and so forth, and do not have the same problems. It would appear from these figures that, whereas there was a considerable contribution in the previous year of 1980, that has lessened considerably in the 1981 year, presumably because the need has been more or less satisfied as large housing communities were established and occupied.

There has been a trend for more and more people to come back into the central area by way of obtaining trust accommodation, as compared with the older schemes of putting people in the outer suburbs, where new suburbs were built overnight, so to speak, and where that kind of facility was really needed.

Mr GLAZBROOK: Bearing in mind the Minister's comments on that, is the trust considering any redesign of its elderly citizen units and cottages? I am sure most honourable members would have come across the situation that I found when I visited such places. There is a whole group of units and cottages for the elderly, there is no general area where people can meet, and they tend to become very isolated: apart from visits from domiciliary care and social workers these people very seldom mix. In any new design being considered, has the trust considered any common room facilities for residents in an effort to help overcome the sort of problems that the Minister mentioned earlier?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, the community problem as it relates to older people is a difficult one to forecast. The trust found in some of its elderly citizens villages some years ago that it thought there was a need for these common community rooms. The trust put them in, but they were

not used, which is rather strange. So, there must be a degree of caution concerning the planning of these extra amenities for elderly people. In other words, there must be a generous expenditure in providing facilities, but the actual facilities themselves must be planned so that the occupants gain the optimum benefit from that expenditure. However, the trust is aware of the need to be sensitive and humane in the planning of groups of elderly citizens' homes. From my observations, I think it has done a very good job. There was a point at one time where some of the common rooms which were built were put there and yet were not utilised to the extent that the Housing Trust had hoped that they would be used. Nevertheless, the General Manager of the Housing Trust is present, and I am sure he will take into account the point that has been raised.

Mr GLAZBROOK: It has been put to me by many people in trust accommodation that there seems to be a great range of rents charged over the varying types of accommodation provided. I wondered whether the trust is looking to a system of coming down to a more common denominator in rents, bearing in mind that we often might find residents living in the same block paying a variety of rents, which creates some difficulties amongst those people, because they seldom understand the reasons for that. We also come across the situation where rents are different even within units of the same type removed by several streets from each other. I wonder whether the trust has any philosophy on that line?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is a problem of which the trust is mindful. Of course, there is much rumour within such communities, and quite often information which some occupiers supply me with and want me to investigate proves not to be factual. In other words, they believe that somebody across the street is paying less rent than they are, and yet the accommodation is similar. There are other factors, perhaps the most important of which is the one I mentioned earlier, whereby welfare tenants pay a rent commensurate with income, not based in any way on market value rent or a percentage of market value rent. I repeat: the rent is based on a percentage of income, so we can have two tenants in identical trust homes, one paying much lower rent than the other, the reason being that one may be on unemployment benefits of \$60 to \$70 a week (or whatever the rate of unemployment is), and the other might be on a salary or a wage of \$250 or \$280. That person would, of course, be paying a normal rent based on market value—not necessarily market value, but based on market value. This kind of thing does cause confusion, because neighbours do not know the incomes of the people who live alongside of them.

An honourable member: In many cases they do.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In many cases they think they do, but if they do know it, somehow or other they have to have explained to them that our welfare rents, being 51 per cent of the 43 000 units of accommodation on our books, are on a different basis.

Then there is another group of tenants who have been in trust accommodation for a long time, and whose rents were low when they went in, and some arrangements existed by which their rents would not be increased greatly. The process of gradually moving those rents up to, let us say, the rent next door is a slow one and takes a lot of time, because if it is unfair to some of these people to give them big and sudden increases in their rents. So, these factors have to be borne in mind. When the member for Brighton talks about some common approach to overcome these misunderstandings and these difficulties, the Housing Trust finds itself in a position where it cannot wipe the slate clean and start all over again overnight. However, there are endeavours to have those who can afford to pay a fair rent indeed paying

a fair rent. On the other hand, the system of welfare rents, of course, will stand, because people on low incomes should not have to pay market rents. They simply cannot afford to do so.

Mr ABBOTT: How many local government authorities now support the concept of the Government's granny flat policy? Is the demand growing for this type of development? How many zoning regulations have been amended so far to accommodate this type of development?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: A very small number have openly come out and supported the scheme; I believe the number in metropolitan Adelaide is three. Some are sitting on the fence, and some at this stage—and they are in the majority—have indicated some opposition to the plan. The Local Government Association is still holding discussions with the Department of Environment and Planning, and the department is hopeful that, when those discussions are finally concluded and local government fully understands all the aspects that surround the granny flat concept, local government will be more supportive than it is at present.

Mr BANNON: I refer to the line 'Community centre projects'. The amount of \$1 614 000 is proposed for 1981-82. Could the Minister say what projects are covered under that line?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The principal project under this line is the Parks Community Centre. Then there is the plan that involves the Thebarton council, which was the former Thebarton community centre scheme. A small amount of \$35 000 involved will go to the legal service down at Parks, because the Government has decided to continue funding that service this year.

Mr BANNON: Why does that come from this fund source, rather than from the Attorney-General or Legal Services Commission?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is looked upon as one of the facilities at the Parks, although I must say I have had discussions with the Attorney about the plan generally.

Mr BANNON: Could the Minister say how much money has gone to the Thebarton project?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: An amount of \$100 000 is provided in this aggregate figure of \$1 614 000 to Thebarton.

Mr BANNON: Looking at page 17 of the Programme Estimates, one finds that the proposed expenditure on the Parks Community Centre is \$1 514 000. If one then deducts from that the proposed receipts, which obviously will offset that—

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It was actually added on.

Mr BANNON: The sum of \$1 514 000 is the Government's allocation, to which is added \$364 000, which is the receipts from the community centre. That gives us \$1 878 000.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: What page is that in the yellow book?

Mr BANNON: I am looking at page 17.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We are allocating \$1 479 000 to the Parks Community Centre this year. Then, the Parks will be retaining its income, which, based on that of last year (I do not have its estimates for this year in front of me), would have been approximately \$300 000. They expect it to be \$364 000 this year, so that builds up to the aggregate amount that they will have this year.

Mr BANNON: Just on the past year's results? It is stated on page 16 of the programme book that the Parks achieved its target of \$320 000 income, yet on page 17 of the resource allocation sheet it is shown as receiving only \$300 000 of a proposed \$328 000. Have those figures been incorrectly transposed?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I can check that. I understand that the figure which the Treasury handed back to them and which was the revenue that they had collected was

\$300 000. However, there may be some reason for the extra \$24 000.

Mr MATHWIN: I refer to the line relating to grants to organisations, for which \$22 700 was allocated last year and for which this year's allocation is \$24 500. Will the Minister give me a breakdown of those grants and say what organisations are involved?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It is proposed that the Astronomical Society of South Australia receive \$500; the History Society, \$1 000; the Library Promotion Committee of South Australia, \$1 000; the Royal Geographic Society, \$5 000; and the Royal Society, \$5 200. Incidentally, those sums are the same as last year's allocations.

Apart from those allocations, it is proposed that the Local Government Association be given \$1 000 towards expenses for Local Government Week in March 1982. There is a contribution of \$500 towards the Local Government Engineers Association because in August it staged a national conference. There is a further major allocation of \$10 000 for the Industry Training Committee. This allocation is made towards the administrative costs of the committee in relation to local government training. This committee receives contributions from the Commonwealth, the State and the Local Government Association.

Mr BANNON: Reverting to the Parks Community Centre, will the Minister say when it is proposed that the legislation granting statutory authority status will be introduced, and what is the reason for what I would say is an inordinate delay in introducing this legislation?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I hope to introduce the Bill in Parliament in the next two to three weeks. The reason for the delay has been the long time that has been taken in negotiating with all interests involved at the Parks. It has been back and forth with the interim board and other people involved down there. Certainly, it has not been my personal wish that it should take as long as this. However, in an institution of this kind, there is, as the honourable member knows, a need for a great deal of consultation with those who will be affected by the legislation. We have endeavoured simply to bend over backwards to consult and inform such people before finally introducing the Bill.

Mr BANNON: The Minister will be well aware of considerable concern in the community about the impact of the cut-backs in funding and staffing that are being experienced at this community centre, which represents a very large investment of public funds and a very wide group of functions and facilities in one of the most needy areas of the State. This project has received tremendous support, although obviously it has had its difficulties. However, in the latest phase I think it is fair to say that it has been receiving great public acceptance and considerable use. Yet, we have a situation where at the moment a series of closures and cut-backs in hours are being forced on the Parks and its facilities.

Will the Minister explain to the Committee why the Government is not providing the adequate funds necessary to ensure that, for instance, the sports complex, child care centre, library, theatres, and other sections of the Parks are kept open when there is public demand for the facilities that are provided?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I refute any allegation that they are not being given adequate funds this year. Certainly, funds for the Parks have been reduced a little. On their overall figures, and excluding the question of their revenue, the allocation last year was \$1 523 103, and this year the Government proposes to allocate to them \$1 479 000, which, in money terms, is not a very large reduction at all considering the overall cut-backs that this Government has had to impose right across the board in its budgetary situation. When we look at the general reductions elsewhere

and this relatively small reduction, I believe that the people who benefit from the Parks will still be able to gain a great deal of satisfaction from that institution.

[Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.]

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I have had an opportunity to look again at these figures on Parks, which we had just begun discussing, and under that heading I gave some figures prior to the dinner adjournment, which in view of the further research we have done into the matter I would like disregarded by the Committee. I have some new figures, which I would like to supply and which deal with the question that the Leader raised.

The proposed allocation by the Government to Parks in this current year is \$1 479 000. To that figure should be added the latest estimate by the Parks board of their proposed income for the 1981-82 year, and that figure is \$442 400. That makes a proposed gross income of \$1 921 400. When that is compared with the actual situation last year, the actual net expenditure last year was \$1 523 103, and to that should be added the actual income at Parks last year, which was \$329 814. That makes a total for last year of \$1 852 917. In reconciling those two main figures of the aggregate proposed funding and income for Parks this year and what was actually their moneys last year, there are two comments in regard to the yellow book, figures in which proved to be somewhat disconcerting. On page 17, the \$1 514 000 shown as the 1981-82 proposed recurrent expenditure includes the Government's proposed \$1 479 000, and to it has been added the \$35 000 for the legal services operation, making \$1 514 000. I think that is, quite understandably, a little confusing.

The second confusing figure at page 17 of the yellow book is the \$364 000, which was shown as total progressive receipts proposed. That was the figure which, when this book was prepared, was proposed by Parks as income for the current year, but since that book has been prepared the charges and fees which are to apply there have been increased by the board and, as a result, that \$442 400, which I mentioned earlier, is arrived at. I am sorry that the yellow book has been superseded by the later figure which has been arrived at by Parks. Whether Parks achieves the \$442 400 is another question, but that is certainly what they are aiming for.

I think the only other confusing figure deals with the \$300 000 which Treasury refunded last year to Parks as being income which Parks received and paid into Treasury. The actual income was \$329 814. Last year Treasury returned \$300 000 of it, and I understand that the \$29 000 is being carried forward and is going to be returned this year by Treasury to Parks. I hope that those figures make the situation a little clearer and, also, that it is a satisfactory explanation for the rather confusing figures to which Mr Bannon referred on page 17 of the yellow book.

Mr BANNON: I thank the Minister for that clarification, which has been of considerable assistance in understanding the precise position as outlined by the Minister. The community centre, therefore, would expect a reduction on allocation from the Government, which is more than matched by an increase in estimated receipts from the payments received directly by the centre. Just before the break I was dealing with problems arising from the financial restrictions that are applying at Parks, and I mentioned that the Minister would be aware of some of the problems which I think go well beyond his jurisdiction but which call for some urgent attention by the Government itself.

The first matter that came to my attention was the closure and the restriction of hours of the child care centre. It had been opened on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and Tuesday nights in particular allowed a women's netball

competition to take place in the centre. Many of the women taking part in this particular competition, which was organised on a 16-team basis, were single parents who were not able to make alternative arrangements for minding their children. In the case of young children, in particular, they obviously cannot have them standing around the stadium while the competition is taking place, so the provision of child care was essential to them for their participation in the event.

When I heard that the impact of this closure was for the whole competition to be placed under threat because of problems of many of the women who had been involved in it having to withdraw, I thought this matter to be important enough not only to take up with the Minister to get some action but also to draw to the attention of his colleagues, the Minister of Health and the Minister of Recreation and Sport, for obvious reasons. Preventive health care is meant to be a priority on the part of the Government. Sport and Recreation is obviously essential in this area, which has an enormous number of social problems. The replies I have received have been most unsatisfactory.

The Minister of Health referred me to the Minister of Local Government but added that she believed that it was really an issue for consideration by the Board of Management of the Parks Centre. The board is an interim board, subject to the discretion of the Minister and subject to the funds that he ultimately provides, and must work within those constraints as best it can.

In the case of the Minister of Recreation and Sport, he felt that this was a responsibility of his colleagues, so he washed his hands of the whole business, even though it referred to a particular recreation and sporting event; a very strange attitude indeed. The Minister still has not done more than acknowledge my request to have this matter investigated. I wrote to him on 16 September and, as he knew these lines were coming up for examination, he may be in a position to respond on the question of the closure of the children's house in the evenings and the problems that has created for other facilities and services provided by this community centre. The letter of 16 September referred specifically to the netball competition on Tuesday night, and was acknowledged on 5 October; it requested that the matter be re-examined, and I am awaiting a reply.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not have that letter here. I regret that a reply has not been sent. Do you want me to reply to that particular heading now?

Mr BANNON: Yes.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: When it appeared that, against aggregate income last year of approximately \$1 850 000, the centre would have to get through this year on approximately \$1 920 000 it was evident that there certainly was not very much fat around the kidneys, and so I informed the board, through the General Manager, that the board had to exercise great care and look very closely at all its areas of operation, so that this general approach of restraint could be exercised and so that the board would get through the year with its funding.

The board made its decisions in regard to the children's house as a result of a general review and its plan to rationalise its services as much as possible. The number of children using the house on Tuesday nights was only 14, despite the fact that 14 teams were taking part. The board felt that this number was insufficient to warrant the cost of opening the children's house. That was the situation in regard to the Tuesday night. The children's house was opened two years ago on Wednesday nights at the request of a specific group of people. In the early days attendances were 30 children, but this has dwindled to only five. In view of that situation and that trend, the board does not at present contemplate reopening the house on either of those nights.

The board certainly did look closely at the matter. It had in mind the need to conserve its outgoings and its funds generally, and it made those decisions in regard to the children's house after taking into account those facts I have just mentioned.

Mr BANNON: Could the Minister provide the explanation for further major cut-backs in the availability of facilities at the centre in relation to the sports complex, which I understand is not open to the public until 4 p.m.? It will no longer be opening on the evenings of Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In particular, the facilities that are being denied public access are the swimming pools, but there are also other areas. I have had numerous letters and complaints concerning the restriction in times of availability of this important sports and swimming pool area.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In regard to the matter of the sporting section, the board made a decision as a result, again, of a general review and rationalisation. The old hours were 8 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., and the new hours were fixed at 4 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. on weekdays. In the board's opinion, approximately only 50 people per week would be affected by the change. However, the board has received more complaints about this change than was anticipated. These complaints generally are related to the notion of denying access to the community rather than specific user needs. However, in view of the reaction to this change the board is currently re-examining this particular area.

Mr BANNON: As I understand it, most public libraries in the State are open on a Saturday morning, which is often the only time in the week that working parents can use the service. However, in the case of the Parks it has been forced to close on Saturday mornings. I understand that the children's house and the theatres will be closed completely for five weeks in the January/February holiday period. Sufficient funds have not been provided to prevent these cutbacks.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The estimated funding for the library section at the Parks has been increased from an actual figure in 1980-81 of \$169 287 to \$284 896, and so there has been a reasonable increase in that funding. A unique feature about this funding is that, whereas funding for public libraries elsewhere in local government areas is subsidised by the local government body, that is not the case here and, in effect, apart from a very minimal contribution from the Enfield City Council, the Government picks up the tab for the major proportion of that outgoing.

The Parks library opens the longest hours in metropolitan Adelaide except for the State Library, and is still currently open approximately 50 hours per week and every day except Saturdays. Most other suburban libraries incidentally are not open Saturdays. Extended hours operate, so that no-one is denied reasonable access to the library. In view of the funding situation and the long hours that it is open, the board feels justified in making the changes it has made.

It is not absolutely true that the theatres will close for five weeks in January. In fact, a number of functions will be held in the theatres. So far, the board has booked, in the school holiday programme, the computer summer school, a wedding ceremony, and a theatre company for a one-week season. All of the social areas will continue to function and will be organised by the administrative staff. The period after Christmas is traditionally very quiet in the theatre business, and so far the board has had to refuse only one booking, because it was technically very complicated in terms of sound and lighting. Any bookings that require minimal technical facilities, such as conferences, will still be accepted.

Mr BANNON: A matter which is causing considerable concern and which I would like the Minister to explain to the Committee concerns rumours circulating in the Parks

area. For instance, I have received a letter from one of my constituents to the effect that the sporting complex and other sections of the Parks may be sold or leased to private enterprise. Will the Minister say whether the Government is actively contemplating such a move and, if so, why?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have made some inquiries and we have endeavoured to interest the General Manager in looking into the possibility of some private or other public institutions taking over sections of the Parks, because we thought that it might be more economical for that to be considered. At the same time, the standards of service to users of the Parks need not necessarily be lessened; indeed, they might even be improved.

A proposal has been made concerning the possibility of leasing the sporting section of the Parks. I have sent this proposal to the interim board to obtain the board's views of the proposal. I have not yet received a reply from the interim board in regard to that matter. The Government certainly will not discard any proposition that comes up from time to time in which private operators or other institutions may become involved in the Parks, but at the same time we want to ensure that the users of the Parks are not disadvantaged by such proposals. At the same time, it may be possible for a considerable sum to be saved by such a different approach.

However, after the legislation passes Parliament, the new board is fixed, and a statutory authority takes over the management and control of the Parks, the main initiative for any change would stand with the new board. However, as one of our general over-views at the Parks, and bearing in mind the total expenditure that is involved, which is approaching \$2 000 000 this current year, about \$1 500 000 of which is straight-out tax payers' money, I believe it was quite right and proper for a responsible Government to look at all possibilities of saving money at the Parks and at the same time retaining the standards of service and activity that are already enjoyed there.

Mr BANNON: Have any particular individuals approached the Government with an offer to buy, lease or take over facilities at the Parks and, if so, who are they?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have had an approach from a gentleman, who, I suppose, could be described as an entrepreneur, to lease the sporting section, as I mentioned a moment ago. I do not believe that at this stage I should make public that party's name, because his proposal, or the proposal of the company that he controls (and I am not sure whether the company operates in his name or under a corporate name), has been referred to the board for its comments.

While the matter is at that stage of discussion, without a final decision having been made, I do not believe it would be prudent to make public that person's name. I am quite prepared to give an undertaking to discuss the matter further with the local member, who is the Leader, and to disclose the person's name to him. Otherwise, I believe that I should wait until there is a final decision one way or another.

Mr BANNON: Does the Minister believe that the centre is being run inefficiently or that it is far too expensive and, if so, what is the evidence of this?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I did not refer to efficiency or inefficiency in my comments. From my observations and knowledge of activity at the Parks, I believe that the people who are employed there are tremendously dedicated and that they do a very good job. I also know that \$1 500 000 of public money is a lot of money in anyone's language.

Mr BANNON: There is a \$16 000 000 capital investment there.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: At \$16 000 000, it was one of the most wasteful projects in Australia.

Mr BANNON: Nonsense!

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Well, that is my opinion. At present, I am not certain whether the local people are using the Parks to the full. This is a point on which I reserve judgment. I do not know whether or not the people for whom the Parks was constructed, namely, the lower income people in that region of metropolitan Adelaide, are attracted to use its facilities and its services as it is designed and developed. In this regard, I was pleased to approve, in the allocation this year (and it is the first year in which such an allocation has been made) \$40 000 for promotional costs. This will enable the centre to be promoted more amongst the disadvantaged people and other people who live in the area so that they might be attracted to the centre and gain better enjoyment and happiness from its presence.

The total capital cost in the area to which I refer has very little bearing on this subject. A much cheaper venue might have been even more attractive to local people, but, of course, that is arguable. As the Committee knows, the Parks was a national experiment: it was the only centre of its kind in Australia, and all eyes around Australia were turned upon it to see whether or not it would work. In other words, it was an experiment, and \$16 000 000 for experiments of this kind might have been in fashion in the era when Mr Whitlam was Prime Minister, but that kind of expenditure on this kind of development is not in fashion now.

Mr EVANS: Can the Minister inform the Committee how many people are employed at the Parks Community Centre, and whether any community money was put into that centre by local organisations, or was it totally Government expenditure? Also, what is the total cost to the Government of all other community centres in the State as compared with the Government's cost of maintaining the Parks project?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There will be 83 persons employed there this financial year. Turning to comparison with other community centres, one cannot make any such comparison with other community centres, because there are no other centres of this nature.

Mr BANNON: There is a high school, a community college, a health centre, child-minding centre, a sports gymnasium, a swimming pool centre and library. Sum them up in their individual components and you have about \$40 000 000 worth down there. It is an outrageous statement to say it is more expensive than—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! We will have one question at a time. The Leader has had a good opportunity to question the Minister and will have another opportunity to do so in due season.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I think the member for Fisher was referring to other community centres under the heading of the community welfare area. Many such venues are called centres of this kind, but this is different. The second centre that might have been comparable in a small way with Parks was the centre planned for Thebarton. It was evident when the present State Government came to office that this State could not afford to continue with that project, and, of course, there were no funds forthcoming for it from the present Federal Government, so the State Government made the decision to transfer the employees who were working in the centre's properties at Thebarton to the control of the Thebarton council. For that reason, in the Estimates before us there is \$100 000 which we pay to the Thebarton council so that that council, in turn, can continue the employment of those social workers and other staff who were the original nucleus of the Thebarton Community Centre staff.

Mr EVANS: Perhaps I can re-emphasise the point that I am attempting to make. I am fully aware that the Parks is unique, and that it has many and varied facilities. What I am seeking from the Minister (and I realise he may not have the information with him now) is the comparison with centres such as the Western District Youth Centre, the Blackwood Community Centre and the centres on the Murray River, at Whyalla, and Mt Gambier, which are not as big and complex as the Parks, but which are serving communities, whether they are in one unit or several, in a way similar to that in which the Parks is supposed to serve its community.

I wish to know whether the rest of the State is being disadvantaged by the amount of money being spent to maintain the Parks in a certain area as against the facilities that are available to other communities in the State. To the Minister's knowledge, what amount of money is the Government spending on other community centres to maintain the service that they give to the community? Also, was any community money, other than taxpayers' money from the State or Federal Government, invested in the Parks? In other words, did the local community raise any money, as other communities have had to do to achieve their goals, or was it put there on a platter?

Mr BANNON: Just get out of the Adelaide Hills down into those suburbs and see what you are talking about.

Mr EVANS: If one wants to draw a comparison, and if one looks at the centres at Noarlunga and Christies Beach, one would see circumstances and socio-economic problems there similar to those in the area of the Parks.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: To undertake some kind of study to develop that comparison one would have to, of course, receive much information from the Department for Community Welfare and, indeed, other departments. It would possibly involve recreation and sport. Principally, one would have to analyse the whole programme of the Department for Community Welfare so far as its community centres are concerned, and that really is a difficult task to pursue. Even then, one could get to the actual capital expenditure, but to make comparisons on a cost-benefit basis would not be at all easy.

The main funds for the Parks have come from the State and Federal Governments. The contribution from local government has been minimal. One reason for that, of course, is that the centre is not centralised in one local government area. This, in some respects, is unfortunate, because otherwise I would be very pleased to try to influence such a local government area to take an even bigger interest in its management control. However, it is on the boundaries of two of our major council areas, namely, Woodville and Enfield. Each of those councils has its own facilities, anyway, apart from the Parks. For instance, Woodville has its own library, as has Enfield, yet we have this library on the boundary, and that is a facility that is taking up a lot of our funding.

Mr BANNON: It is a school library, too.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: It serves the school.

Mr BANNON: It does not serve it; it is the school library as well as the community library; there is a massive saving because of that one fact.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: If the honourable member wishes to query the costing in depth, there are several departments involved which should perhaps be making greater contributions to its management and administration costs than they are making at present. I have not had an opportunity, as yet, to get down to the nitty gritty of endeavouring to obtain revenue from those other departments, but that could well be looked at by the new board after its establishment.

Mr EVANS: Has the Minister any detail of the cost of maintenance, in particular in the area of damage to property at the Parks in the last year? Also, if possible can he give the number of people who work as volunteers in the operations of the Parks?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In answer to the last question, many volunteers down there are, to the best of my knowledge, local people who contribute greatly to the centre's activities. With regard to actual damage that has been caused by vandalism, it is a fact that there has been a degree of vandalism at this Community centre.

Mr HAMILTON: Is it any greater than normal?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: This is arguable. It is certainly a factor which has caused the management a great deal of concern. It varies from time to time; they go for a certain period without a great deal of trouble and then it all heaps upon them suddenly, so it has not any definite pattern. I notice from the proposed expenditure and actual expenditure in maintenance (and I suppose that would include this area of repairs that are needed as a result of vandalism) that actual expenditure under the heading of maintenance last year was \$124 422, and that the proposed allocation for this year is \$120 735. I cannot give an exact figure of the costs of repairs occasioned as a result of vandalism, other than simply to quote that general maintenance actual figure for last year and the estimate for this year.

Mr HEMMINGS: As a result of the decision to transfer to local government the responsibility of setting the control of rents and housing improvements (I understand that the South Australian Housing Trust can exercise its powers only under Part VII of the Housing Improvement Act, and that is after the council has placed an order under Part III of the Act), can the Minister say how many houses, since June have had their rents fixed by the Housing Trust under Part VII of the Housing Improvement Act?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The number of properties where the rent has been fixed is 40.

Mr HEMMINGS: Since June?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, but this could well be the result of the former system and the follow-up through July and August of the actual fixation of rents. In other words, the Housing Trust could have dealt with these properties under the old method, by which the Housing Trust itself placed orders upon properties, and so forth, with that procedure being followed by the rents being fixed on such properties if an order was placed on the property. So, it is not an exact figure in which I can guarantee that 40 properties would come within the new system. The General Manager of the trust informs me now that there have been no new fixations of rent since June on properties that have fallen within the new plan by which local government places orders upon properties.

Mr HEMMINGS: What the Minister has just told us is bad news. In the case where local government uses the Health Act to issue an improvement order or a demolition order under Part III of the Housing Improvement Act, would the Minister agree that in those instances (and I would like him to supply figures) there can be no case of rent control? Can the Minister provide details of the number of cases where local government has used the Health Act to place these orders?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I will have to obtain those figures by canvassing all the councils and obtaining the results of their activities.

Mr HEMMINGS: Dealing with the homeless youth problem my colleague the member for Spence was given some

information in reply to a Question on Notice recently that, as from, I think, 22 August, efforts were being made to help three organisations that had indicated inability to pay an economic rent for trust accommodation. Can the Minister provide the Committee with information about the names of these three organisations? What is the situation so far?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We do not have that information at our fingertips here, but I will obtain the names of those three groups and report that information back to the Committee.

Mr ABBOTT: Under the line 'Building and Fire Safety Committees' an amount of \$75 000 is proposed. That amount includes fees and expenses for both the Building Advisory Committee and the Building Fire Safety Committee, which expenses were shown separately in the 1980-81 Budget. Why are these two committees lumped together? Also, with the deletion of the word 'advisory' will there continue to be a Building Advisory Committee?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The answer is 'Yes' as far as our present plans are concerned. They have been lumped together only for convenience because, of course, they are very closely related. We are in the process of endeavouring to simplify our building regulations as part of the Government's deregulation programme, and the increase in funds is to take into account, in part, the opportunity for the Building Advisory Committee to engage a consultant to test such simplified building regulations.

Mr ABBOTT: I refer to page 13 of the Programme Estimates and to building safety. Can the Minister explain the figure of \$146 000 proposed for establishing and assisting local government to enforce building and fire safety standards? Also, why is it necessary to reduce the full-time employment level from four to three?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The figure of \$146 000 includes the salaries of the officers involved in this work, and that is why the figure is considerably more than the 'Miscellaneous' line figure, which does not include salaries. In the third box on page 13 it can be seen that the number employed was actually reduced to three in 1980-81, as can be seen under the heading of 'Outcome 1980-81'. Then the figure remains at three for this current 1981-82 year.

Mr HEMMINGS: The Minister is well aware that the homeless persons assistance programme was established in 1973, but since that time South Australia has received only 3 per cent of those funds, which is well below the per capita funding. It has been said, and I would not deny it, that South Australia has interpreted the guidelines narrowly, applying funds to existing programmes in certain areas only. The working party on youth housing recommended that the State Government explore potential areas to attract funds for housing under the homeless persons assistance fund. I understand that the Church of Christ, the Red Cross Society and other organisations have been refused funding under the Act. In the light of the recommendations of the working party on youth housing, I ask the Minister what approaches the State Government has made to the Minister for Social Security to ensure a more equitable disbursement of funds to South Australia from the homeless persons assistance scheme.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: This particular Act is not under my administration. As the member for Napier mentioned, one of the recommendations of the working party was that further funding should be obtained from that source. The Minister of Community Welfare was one of the Ministers on the final Ministerial committee that dealt with the recommendations of the working party, and he undertook, as part of his activity, to write to the Federal Minister for Social Security in regard to this matter. The Hon. Mr Burdett did in fact write to the Federal Minister, but I am

afraid that I cannot say what has happened to the matter since then. I am quite prepared to help the member for Napier by contacting my colleague, to find out the latest situation, and let him know.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out to the member for Napier that the Minister of Community Welfare will be appearing before this Committee on Thursday. He may care to take that matter up with the Minister of Community Welfare.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That would be more satisfactory.

Mr HEMMINGS: Thank you for your suggestion, Mr Chairman. I am sure that my colleague, the shadow Minister of Community Welfare, will be taking up that point. I will follow this preamble with a question: I might get the same kind of answer, but I will have a go. In relation to youth housing, and especially as a result of the recommendations of the working party on youth housing, we have a situation where we have a Minister of Housing who is before the Committee today. As a result of that working party on youth housing, we have been told that in certain areas the Minister of Industrial Affairs should be the correct person to answer the question. Now we have been told that it is the Minister of Community Welfare.

One would have thought, after reading the recommendations of the working party on youth housing, that it would have been given to one Minister, and the correct Minister would have been the Minister of Housing, to carry out the recommendations of the working party, to implement those recommendations, whether it went through an Industrial Federal Minister or a Minister for Social Security. I think that highlights the problems that youth housing is facing in this State at present. There is not one Minister who is in full control of the problem. My question to the Minister, and I think I know the answer already, is this: what youth housing programmes have been or will be funded under the homeless persons assistance legislation?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Again, I emphasise the point that this is within the administration of my colleague. I do not see that that is any ground for criticism. The fact that several Ministers are involved with this youth housing area does not in any way detract from its importance. It does, perhaps, make it a little more difficult than otherwise would be the case for questions to be asked all at the one time, but all the Ministers are appearing before Committees of this kind. Ministers should have directed to them questions which directly concern them. The general administration of portfolios in many areas is not all black and white. We have had questions today with regard to the State Bank. Of course, the State Bank does not come under my administration, but I have certainly done my best to answer those questions. In housing, in youth housing, and in areas such as the Emergency Housing Office, there are several Ministers involved, and it is just not practical for all this activity to be lumped under only one person's umbrella.

Mr HEMMINGS: In relation to the Government's offer of 50 houses for youth accommodation from the Housing Trust stock—and I think that is well within the Minister's responsibility—I understand that my colleague, the member for Albert Park, earlier this afternoon asked some questions. As a result of the recommendation of the youth housing working party dealing with the level of unemployment benefits, is the Minister aware that any representation has been made by the State Government to the Commonwealth on the question of raising the level of unemployment benefit for 18-year olds? That was one of the problems that the youth housing working party saw; unless the level of the unemployment benefit was raised, they would be unable to afford a normal Housing Trust market rent for accommodation. I am not asking that of the Minister. Is the Minister aware whether the State Government has made any representation to the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Before I answer that, if I could touch on the other matter that was submitted by the member for Napier. One does not expect such people to pay market rent necessarily. If they cannot collectively afford to pay it, we are in a position to subsidise it. So, a variation in unemployment benefits may not help any more than otherwise would be the case to obtain housing.

I do not know the exact position concerning any communication to the Commonwealth Government about the need to increase unemployment benefits as a result of this issue before us or as a result of this report, but, if that was one of the specific recommendations in the report, I am quite happy to see what has been done about the matter of communication with the Commonwealth, concerning that issue alone. I cannot recall that that was a specific recommendation of the report.

Mr ABBOTT: How many community development boards have been established, and how much finance is being allocated to assist in the establishment of community development boards? Why have staff levels been reduced significantly in the advisory services to local government? It would appear from the Programme Estimates that no full-time staff is proposed for assistance in the establishment of community development boards or the assistance in education and training, and assistance to the Local Government Advisory Commission. Can the Minister provide information on this matter?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: With due respect, these matters were dealt with earlier. The lines have been passed. My problem is that my staff have been given authority by this Committee to in fact withdraw.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I was about to draw the Committee's attention to the fact that there was a lengthy discussion on this subject earlier today, and I was going to permit the Minister to comment only very briefly, because I would refer the member for Spence to the *Hansard* record tomorrow, so the Minister may, if he so desires, only briefly comment.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I did give the numbers of community boards which were here in this State when the Government changed in September 1979. I gave the number at the end of the financial year at June 1980. I gave the number at the end of the year just ended, and then I think I gave the number one month later, and I also gave the number of councils that were involved in these community development boards. I mentioned that there are two officers still within the department who assist community development boards in their working and in their establishment, if people do want to establish them. I indicated that the trend was that the enthusiasm to establish new boards was running down somewhat, and I think the honourable member mentioned the local government assistance fund, which is closely associated with the community development board concept. I have already mentioned that today, as far as the \$500 000 allocation is concerned. I said that this year's allocation to community development boards and other institutions from that fund cannot be given in any detail now, because we have not as yet publicised the fact that we seek applications for money from that fund.

Mr ABBOTT: In relation to the Rundle Street Mall Committee, I ask the Minister was that \$16 500 payment in 1980-81 the final payout to that particular committee?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, it is expected to be the final contribution by the Government to the management of the mall. Again, the Government was faced with the need to reduce expenditure, and in this department we had to look at every line to see whether we could reduce our expenditures. We looked at the situation of the mall and the mall committee, in which we saw an organisation which was basically essential to establish the management of the mall

on a proper basis. At that time when the special Act of Parliament was passed, the mall was new, as were the arrangements to manage it. The Government had been closely involved in the decision to establish the mall and had been closely involved in some major public funding as a result of the mall. It was quite proper, as Parliament decreed by passing that Act, that the Government should be associated with the management of the mall, but years have passed since then and the present Government now looks upon the management of the mall as basically a local government matter and, because it is a local government matter, the State Government should get out of it.

Also, in our general policy of deregulation, the more Acts we can repeal, the better. There were one or two conditions within that Act which still had to be retained. The main one was that there is an area of land along the margins of the mall which the present Act gives the council power to differentially rate, so that extra revenue can be gained from premises close to the mall to help with the mall management. The Government has agreed to retain that special right of the council to rate it that way by a small amendment to the Local Government Act.

If the committee which is set up under the existing legislation is to be continued, the City Council may wish to continue it in conjunction with the Rundle Street traders who have representatives on it at the present time, but certainly the Government's two representatives will withdraw entirely from the committee and its activities. The City Council will be on its own entirely in regard to mall management, but hopefully will remain in close liaison with the Rundle Mall traders and their particular association. However, we are unable to fund the committee's activities any further, and that is why the Budget lines indicate that, whereas there was a contribution in the last financial year, there will not be a contribution this financial year.

Mr HAMILTON: Regarding fire protection and its increasingly important role, the Minister would be aware of an article which appeared recently in the local press about problems which the disabled, particularly those in wheelchairs, would experience in multi-storey buildings. Can the Minister say what discussions, if any, have taken place between the local government authorities and the building industry; and, if there have been no discussions as yet, when does he envisage these discussions will take place to ensure protection, particularly for those disabled who could be trapped on multi-storey buildings in the event of a fire?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Chief Secretary did receive a report on this matter and he forwarded that report to me very recently. I have agreed that the matter must be further investigated, and discussions will therefore take place with the Local Government Association and with the Building Advisory Committee in particular concerning this very important matter. The purport of the report was that considerable difficulties could be experienced by disabled people in evacuating buildings if there was a fire risk, and problems arose such as the need for such people to use lifts to help in that evacuation, when as we all know lifts are not used under normal circumstances in situations like that. Such matters and the need to secure other human aid to help in such evacuations are canvassed in the report. The matter is being pursued and we will hopefully soon be coming up with something more positive as to a programme for this area.

The CHAIRMAN: If there are no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote completed.

Arts, \$2 810 000

Chairman:
Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:
Mr R. K. Abbott
Mr E. S. Ashenden
Mr J. C. Bannon
The Hon. Peter Duncan
Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr J. Mathwin
Mr J. P. Trainer

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts, and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr L. Amadio, Director, Department for the Arts.
Mr R. Wright, Administrative Officer, Department for the Arts.
Mr L. McKenzie, Administrative Officer, South Australian Museum.
Mr K. Lloyd, Administrative Officer, Art Gallery of South Australia.

Mr BANNON: Has any provision been made in this Budget for specific expenditure, either by way of capital development or administrative or other work, on implementing the Edwards Report? What does the Minister envisage happening in relation to the current financial year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The main funding will be in capital works, and the Minister of Public Works, as the Committee would know, has a general Loan moneys account, which I think from memory is called 'Other public works'. It is from that basket that as the year progresses Loan moneys are taken for public works, and it is from that source of funds that hopefully the Government will be able to start on its building programme. The initial part of that programme, as the Government sees the situation at present, will involve the renovation and alteration of the Mechanical Trades School at the rear of the Museum. I understand that at present the Public Buildings Department is also considering including the restoration of the various old buildings behind the Library and Museum in the same general plan, but certainly, from the point of view of assisting the Museum, the completion of the Mechanical Trades School building to accommodate some of the Museum activities has a very high priority. It has not been possible as yet to get that particular activity before the Public Works Committee but I am hopeful that it will not be long before that can be achieved.

We also are still in the three-month period during which we have invited public response to the overall plan which the Government has adopted. We want to know what the public thinks about it, and we want to know what the institutions involved think about it and whether they and other people have any further thoughts than those which they expressed to Mr Bob Edwards during the preparation of his report. That is the current situation.

Mr BANNON: Under the line 'Art Gallery Division', \$25 000 has been provided for the purchase of historical items. What is the Art Gallery's role to be in regard to historical items and history in general, following the formation of the History Trust? Is this a continuing function of the Art Gallery or is that aspect of the Art Gallery's

work to be transferred in total to the History Trust and, if so, when?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: That matter is one of the many issues that, generally speaking, are being discussed now and given considerable thought. It is true that the Art Gallery has been involved with the acquisition of historical items, and this Budget continues that provision of \$25 000 for that purpose. It is also true that the History Trust has not been established for very long and a great deal of thought is being given by the trust and its officers to planning for its future.

The Government is opposed to any radical or violent change in policies between the History Trust and the other institutions on North Terrace, which policies may upset the established institutions. It is more by evolution that we foresee the History Trust taking a larger role in this area. For the moment, it is a question of discussion between officers from the various institutions, and my officers from the Department of Arts encouraging discussions and endeavouring to retain the co-operation that exists between the institutions and the History Trust. We believe that by taking this general aspect slowly, we will gain the best results in the longer term.

Mr BANNON: Will the Minister advise how many education or extension officers are employed by the Museum and the Art Gallery respectively, whether there has been any change in that area, and at what level the programmes are running?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: There are three seconded officers from the Education Department in the Art Gallery and three seconded officers, also from the Education Department, in the Museum.

Mr TRAINER: Is the Minister satisfied that that number of seconded teachers is adequate?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: At present, I do not seriously question these arrangements: they seem to be working quite well within the two institutions. Of course, one must be mindful of the staff and the resource situation within the Education Department. I have received no complaints of inadequacy in regard to staff numbers or the areas of service in which each officer is involved.

Mr TRAINER: In relation to administration of the Arts portfolio, an article appeared in the *Advertiser* of last Saturday, 10 October, which appeared to be based on a joint press release between the Minister of Arts and the Minister of Education, and which stated that theatre groups must now face the censor before they can perform in South Australian schools. The article referred to a low-key schools performing arts review committee. The article stated, later:

Mr Hill said the committee would play a valuable role in maintaining high standards of live theatre in schools. It also would assist teachers and parents in their choice of performances. 'Often in the past, schools have accepted certain presentations without full knowledge of the style, content or appeal to various ages.'

Will the Minister's office play any part in that committee, or is that entirely made up of Education Department personnel?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not have the exact details of the personnel, although there are some officers from the Education Department involved. The Director of the Youth Performing Arts at Carclew is a member. We have also included two women who are mothers of school children or who have had children of school going age, because we wanted to get an input from the average mother who would be concerned with this question. From memory, I think there are about nine people involved, but I will obtain details of the personnel and let the Committee know their names.

Mr TRAINER: Can you supply that information so that it can be incorporated—

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes, I can supply the names of those who have been appointed to the Committee. In further explanation regarding the Committee, the Government has found that there have been complaints from time to time by parents that performances at schools have not been to the accepted standards of some parents. We find that those accepted standards vary between some parents, from country areas, and parents from metropolitan areas. We have had some indication from teachers that in some cases it is a pity the parents had not known a little more about the play before they saw it within the school.

The object of forming the committee was to give some indication to headmasters of the view of that committee regarding performances, scripts, and so forth, so that the headmasters would be in a better position to make their decisions as to whether or not they wanted to accept a performance in the school. I have just been handed a list of names of the committee members. Mr Max Longbottom, Superintendent of Curriculum, Arts, is the Chairman; Mr Peter Sarah is the General Manager of the Arts Council; Mr Chris Winzar, from the Department for the Arts; Mr Roger Chapman who was the Director at Carclew; the Headmaster of Brighton High School, Mr Bob Farrow; and Mrs Piper and Mrs Schultz; a total of seven members in all.

Mr TRAINER: They are the ordinary mothers of school-going children?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Yes.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): I remind the member for Ascot Park that in future he will get the call when it is his turn.

Mr EVANS: I turn now to the Art Gallery and the Museum. The Art Gallery last year spent \$20 000 on motor vehicles. I take it that that was spent on the same basis as was explained earlier, that if the existing vehicles are sold or traded in the benefit of any moneys as a result of that sale go to general revenue and the Museum or Art Gallery has to find the total cost. In the case of the Art Gallery, is the amount of \$8 000 for one vehicle or more? In the case of the Museum, is the amount of \$33 000 for three, four or more vehicles?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The \$20 000 expenditure last year by the Art Gallery involved the replacement of a travelling art exhibition truck and the replacement of one sedan car. The \$8 000 appropriation in this current year is for the replacement of one sedan car. The appropriation this year of \$33 000 for the museum is for four vehicles to be replaced. The amount of \$14 248 last year involved two vehicles. As the honourable member said, the proceeds of sales go back into revenue and these allocations are therefore for the acquisition of new vehicles without any trading arrangements.

Mr EVANS: Can the Minister advise me how many vehicles each of those two departments will have after this year's purchases.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Art Gallery will have one truck, two vans and two sedans. I will obtain the other figure in a moment or two.

Mr BANNON: The Art Gallery Department during the year became a division of the Department for the Arts. The department was absorbed and it has absorbed into the Department for the Arts itself. Can the Minister detail to the Committee what cost savings and improved efficiencies have resulted from that administrative change?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, there were not really any cost savings, nor was the question of the saving of costs an objective in that change. The principal objective was that, with the establishment of the separate Department for the Arts, in keeping with the Government's previous promise

and the Government's policy, it was felt that it was rather inappropriate that there should be an Art Gallery with its own Act of Parliament, with at the same time a small and compact Department for the Arts. The change was made so that an Act of Parliament was repealed, and it was felt that communication with the new young Department for the Arts and the established Art Gallery could be helpful from the point of view of the new department and the Art Gallery as an institution. Of course, the Art Gallery was a very efficient operation even before the change, and therefore I cannot pinpoint any improved efficiency as a result of the change. However, in the general evolution of arts development in this State I think the State had reached a time when such an authority as the Art Gallery could come under the umbrella of the department.

Mr BANNON: Is the Minister correct in saying that the Art Gallery Act was repealed?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I am sorry, I am incorrect; it was amended, and a section of the Art Gallery Act which gave it its previous independence was repealed.

Mr BANNON: That is correct; the board still exists with its statutory powers and the Art Gallery Act, of course, provides for those powers. It was simply those sections which created a separate department that were repealed or amended. What has been the reaction, now that there have been some months of experience of the new arrangements, of the Art Gallery Board itself and the staff of the Art Gallery to the change?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The relationships are very cordial at senior officer level, that is, between the Director of the Art Gallery and the Director of the Department for the Arts. There have not been any adverse effects, as I know them, and I have endeavoured to monitor that point fairly closely, as Minister. I think the present arrangement is working out quite well.

Mr BANNON: I have a further question on the Museum. Obviously in the long term the implementation of the Edwards Report will make tremendous changes for the better in the Museum's facilities and its ability to display, conserve, and so on. However, from time to time attention is drawn to the rapidly deteriorating state of much of the Museum collection. The standard defence has always been 'Well, it has been like this for 20, or in some cases 60 years, so one month or one year more won't make much difference.' For the past two or three years it has been said that the Edwards Report will be implemented and that everything will be fine after that. But I can recall that, just over two years ago, there was considerable concern about aspects of the Museum's collection, particularly in the ethnic area. Is the Government, as an interim measure, devoting some special resources to doing something about that pending the longer term Edwards Report implementation, and is there anything planned for this financial year?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, we have not made any special appropriation to cope with the problem that the Leader has mentioned. I acknowledge, of course, that the problem exists, and we all know that it has been there for many years. We all know that the Museum has been somewhat of a poor relation within the cultural institutions, and certainly has deserved better treatment than it has obtained from successive Governments. The Government has been endeavouring to make some minor improvements. For example, recently the Public Buildings Department contracted to instal shelving in the Australian Ethnology Aboriginal Section, at a cost of approximately \$60 000.

However, in general terms the thrust of the Government's approach to the problem is that the Edwards Report should be supported and should be implemented as soon as possible. This may mean of course that the Museum may still have to wait a little time before the final goal of overall

change and improvement is reached. However, at least step by step we are making progress, and hopefully, now that we have got thus far down the track with the report and the plans, together with the Government's approval of those plans, it will not be long before we see something hapening in bricks and mortar which will perhaps encourage those who are worried about the situation to be just a little patient, and then final targets will be achieved.

Referring to a previous question from the member for Fisher, the reply is that there will be eight vehicles in the Museum as a result of the changes to which he referred.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: I refer to the line concerning pay-roll tax. I notice that, combining the two figures for last year for the Department for the Arts and the Art Gallery, the increase in pay-roll tax has been \$20 000 this year. There does not seem to have been a correspondingly large increase in the number of employees in the department, although the number appears from these papers to have gone up modestly. I wonder whether the Minister can throw some light on why pay-roll tax has increased so substantially. Possibly, it is just the fault that the Opposition has been pointing out in the pay-roll tax system generally.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The pay-roll tax is simply calculated, as the honourable member knows, on the aggregate salaries. It is not as though numbers have increased, but the salaries themselves have increased. As a result, there is a need for this provision which lifts it, of course, from an actual expenditure last year of approximately \$93 000 to \$101 000 this year. In other words, the expenditure last year was higher than that which was voted. The figure of \$83 617 was voted, and the actual expenditure last year was \$92 932. So it has lifted up from that figure to a proposed \$101 000 in this current year.

Mr TRAINER: I would like to return to the subject of the censorship-committee. Can the Minister advise us exactly what qualifications each of the people he mentioned brings to that committee? With one or two of them the qualification is self-evident. There may be some coincidence in that one of the members of that committee is the Headmaster of Brighton High School. I understand there is a Mr Wright on the staff of that school who has expressed a lot of interest in some activities within school. The Minister did mention that there were a couple of people who were there in their capacities as mothers of school-going children, but I would be interested in knowing what additional qualifications they should have, such that, of all the mothers of school-going children in South Australia, they should be the two selected for that committee.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We had to sit down and find two women who were known to be people with whom this matter was discussed, and whom we felt were very sensible women, mothers, as I mentioned, who either had or had had school-going children, and women who we thought could express quite moderate views with a great deal of common sense on this question. There was not any specific reason for choosing these two and excluding others, but those who discussed the matter finally thought that these two women should be approached and asked whether they would care to serve on this committee. Mrs Schultz is not only in this parent category; she is also the Chairman of the Christies Beach Primary School Council. That was another consideration that the committee had in mind.

Mr TRAINER: I would like to ask the Minister what complaints he received in this regard or requests for a committee of this nature. I am asking that on the assumption that the instigation for this committee originated within his department and not in the Education Department. How-

ever, if that assumption is incorrect, perhaps the Minister could enlighten me in that regard.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Speaking from memory, I do not think that either the Minister or the department could claim any initiation of the plan. Some of my departmental officers I can recall mentioning the proposal in the very early stages. They were concerned that we had been receiving complaints from mothers of school children. Some of these complaints came from the Upper South-East and out in the Mallee region of the State. I think, from memory, complaints were received from the Riverland area, and some came from the Athelstone area, where parents had objected to the performances that were staged at their children's schools. This series of complaints stretched over some months, and I rather think that as a result then of some discussions between officers of my department and officers of the Education Department it was thought prudent to peruse scripts and look at this question, so that some of the mothers in future would not be upset, as they had been upset in the past.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: What is the specific charter of this committee? Is it advisory or, as far as the Education Department is concerned, will its recommendations be mandatory? Is it to have a list of classifications that it will apply to various written works?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: No, it is purely advisory. It is meant to be a contribution, to advise the headmasters as to the wisdom or otherwise of accepting arrangements for such performances to be played within the schools. The final decision, of course, rests with the headmaster.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: Will headmasters, or people proposing to put on performances in schools, be required to seek advice from this committee?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Not to my knowledge. The companies which have been performing in the schools are being asked to submit their scripts to the committee so that the committee can have a look at the scripts and then be in a position to advise. As I understand the position, one would hope that headmasters, knowing of the existence of the committee, would certainly make reference to it before completing arrangements for such performances in their schools.

The Hon. PETER DUNCAN: As this committee is obviously being set up to give advice to headmasters of Education Department schools and institutions, has the other lady member of the committee, a mother, children attending Education Department schools, or what is her connection with the Education Department?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: She has no connection with the Education Department. She is a suburban housewife. I think her children might have now left school, but she is a very down-to-earth sensible woman whose opinions one respects after having general discussions with her. She ideally fits into the category of the average suburban housewife with an interest in community affairs of this kind, and she is apparently willing to give of her time to make some contribution to the committee.

Mr TRAINER: With respect to this censorship committee, can the Minister remember the names of any performances which parents found objectionable?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not know what the honourable member means by referring to it as a censorship committee. If he is referring to the committee we have been discussing, I can deal with it, but this is not censorship at all.

Mr TRAINER: Can you recall the names of any performances which parents found objectionable?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I cannot quite recall. One was a performance by the theatre in education group from the State Theatre Company. That company was performing out in the Mallee region of the State, and some mothers made very strong representations to their local member, who in turn passed those objections on to me and probably, too, to the Minister of Education.

Mr ABBOTT: Is there any development in the area of Aboriginal arts? Recently, I attended a musical live play performance staged by members of the Aboriginal community in The Garage at Kent Town, and I know they are attempting to develop more musical performances. I would be interested to know whether they receive any Government assistance.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In the past the Aboriginal arts activity has been covered by the Australian Council Aboriginal Arts Board, and it seems that the Aboriginal arts people make application directly to that national body and secure their assistance through that source. We would welcome applications from Aboriginal groups who may seek some funds under the general grants and provisions for the arts, but we have not had applications of this kind. We did make one grant and that was \$35 000 to the Centre of Aboriginal Studies in Music at the Adelaide University. That was one contribution and an example where we received the application and we were pleased to assist them in that way.

Mr MATHWIN: In relation to the committee which you explained was formed as an advisory committee to principals of schools, you made clear that there was no intention to do any censoring of the matter: has any consideration been given to that committee being used to look at productions, specifically centred around young people, by private companies, and so on, and shown by various theatres? Has any thought been given to that committee looking at those productions and recommending to principals of schools whether or not it feels that such productions should be seen by young people? I draw the Minister's attention to a recent production by a theatre in the Thebarton area which was called the Blitz Kids. It was presented specifically for young people and written up in the Sunday paper as being a production which, although some of the language was perhaps a little hard to take in some cases, was very good.

It was recommended by the producer of that play that it ought to be seen by young people and young schoolchildren. I went along to see it, but it did not impress me in the least. It certainly less impressed me that it had been produced for young audiences. In fact, I was disgusted that it was shown to young people. I wonder whether in future, if it is not already happening, some direction could be given to this committee which has been set up, although not to deal with censorship, to advise principals of schools on these plays. Some schools send children to see these shows during school hours and others after school hours, and I think it might be an advantage, certainly to parents, if they knew which plays young people were attending, for instance, the Blitz Kids. I believe this would help in assessing the situation.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The purpose of the committee was to deal only with those performances which were shown within schools, but the problem which the member for Glenelg has raised may be assisted nevertheless by the presence of the committee. The performance which he mentioned was one at the La Mama Theatre and in a situation such as that it is true that Mr Bruno Knez, who is the owner of that theatre and who supervises these productions, does contact the schools and endeavours to obtain schoolchildren in class and other groups to come and

attend his productions from time to time. I feel sure that, if the committee begins its work and gains the confidence of headmasters, in future when people such as Mr Knez endeavour to encourage headmasters and schoolteachers to send their classes along to see his plays, he might simply be asked whether the Sparks Committee has had a look at the script and what its view of it is. If the committee is successful, the problem to which the member for Glenelg has referred could be overcome, but to widen this committee to endeavour to cope with other performances would be a fairly difficult task to investigate at present.

I think the worry that the honourable member has will in time be overcome because when any schoolmaster or schoolteacher has a say in arranging for classes to see plays he will, I think, just make a check as to whether or not the committee has had a look at the script, and he will seek an opinion from the committee to help him in his decision making.

Mr ABBOTT: Does the Minister have any idea how any local government authorities employ a community arts officer and who would be responsible for the salaries of those officers?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: We have that figure in our records. The number is increasing and, in general terms, the funding is on a three-way basis. The Australia Council makes a contribution; in some cases, the local government body makes a contribution; and in some cases the Department for the Arts contributes. The reason for these financial arrangements is that the department is endeavouring to encourage local councils to retain the services of such officers. Hopefully, after a few years, when the local community and the local council appreciates the work of such an appointee on its staff, they may take over a greater proportion of funding. Thirteen such officers are now employed in South Australia.

Mr GLAZBROOK: I refer to the administration of the Arts Development Division and also to pages 34 and 35 of volume 7 of the Programme Estimates. Recently the member for Eyre was handed a letter that was addressed to the Principal of a community school, in relation to the performing arts centre and the development. The letter stated:

In July 1981, Carclew Youth Performing Arts Centre was requested by the Department for the Arts to assist with the reorganisation of the administration of the South Australian Ballet Company Inc.

As you may be aware, the financial administration of the Ballet Company at that time was in some disorder, and it was hoped that by utilising the management expertise at Carclew the Ballet Company could be placed on a more sound administrative footing.

As a consequence, the board of the South Australian Ballet Company agreed, by letter on 23 July, that Carclew should manage the Ballet Company's affairs until the end of December 1981, with no liability being incurred by Carclew in that regard.

Unfortunately, the seriousness of the Ballet Company's financial situation was not fully disclosed to the Department for the Arts, or to Carclew officers, in meetings held prior to 23 July 1981. It was only after officers of Carclew untangled and reconstructed the Ballet Company's financial records that it was possible to identify the current unhealthy situation of the company.

It is with regret that I must inform you that Carclew is not in a position to offer further assistance to the South Australian Ballet Company beyond 9 October 1981, and we have suggested to the Ballet Company that it cease its teaching operations at that date and take some responsible action to put its house in order and satisfy its creditors.

About 30 students and a similar number of adults in the Burra district have enjoyed good instruction in relation to that art for the past three years. It has been suggested to the member for Eyre that the administration is at fault and that the area will be left with no form of continuing arts because of bad administration. What is the Minister's view in this regard? Will any action be taken?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: Let me hasten to say that the South Australian Ballet Company Incorporated is a separate cor-

porate body, unconnected to government. It is an authority in its own right. The facts in that letter referred to by the member are true. The affairs of the Ballet Company, when it was in some difficulties, were not disclosed fully to Carclew or the department. We gave the task to Carclew because that was the newly formed youth performing arts centre. We believed that Carclew should be involved in this work because it involves young people.

Because the organisation did not disclose all of its problems and the total extent of its indebtedness, and bearing in mind that the \$10 000 appropriation for this current year was transferred over to Carclew to assist the company in its difficulties (and that \$10 000 compares with an allocation of \$10 000 that was given last financial year), the department had to come to the rather sad recommendation, that no further funds ought to be provided. Nevertheless, we then did find a further \$2 000 to try to help the company through its difficulties. Ultimately, when the truth came out, it was in a situation where it just simply could not meet its indebtedness to all its many creditors who are spread right across the State.

Having funded more than any other year, namely \$12 000, to this company, and having been given incorrect information with regard to its financial situation, I had no alternative but to say that we could not go any further and that the company must face its own situation. At the same time, we gave Carclew the responsibility of endeavouring to achieve a new plan for the new year. I understand that there is not only the group in Burra that has been mentioned but about 1 400 (which is a minimum figure; it is probably more than that) children in country areas who have been benefiting from this operation. We have given Carclew the task of endeavouring to come up with a plan by which these children can obtain the same kind of tuition in ballet in the new year, but we have had to cut the painter with the ballet company, and it therefore drifts astern and its fate is entirely in its own hands.

The Government has been very fair and generous with the company and is now endeavouring to help those children who will suffer as a result of the mess that the company got itself into. We have also helped considerably some of the tutors who have money coming to them; salaries that have been owing since July have been paid to these tutors. Also, there was a figure in excess of \$5 000 for group tax payments that were due which the company had not paid. We paid those out of the total \$12 000 so that those people could at least get their tax certificates and so that their problems and inconvenience would be kept to a minimum. Therefore, the Government cannot do any more about this matter. We are very sorry that the problem has occurred, but, hopefully, we can help the children involved in the future.

The CHAIRMAN: There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the vote closed.

Minister of Arts, Miscellaneous, \$9 500 000

Chairman:

Mr G. M. Gunn

Members:

Mr R. K. Abbott
Mr E. S. Ashenden
Mr J. C. Bannon
The Hon. Peter Duncan
Mr S. G. Evans
Mr R. E. Glazbrook
Mr J. Mathwin
Mr J. P. Trainer

Witness:

The Hon. C. M. Hill, Minister of Local Government, Minister of Housing, Minister of Arts, and Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr L. Amadio, Director, Department for the Arts.
Mr R. Wright, Administrative Officer, Department for the Arts.

Mr L. McKenzie, Administrative Officer, South Australian Museum.

Mr K. Lloyd, Administrative Officer, Art Gallery of South Australia.

Mr BANNON: I refer to the History Trust and to the proposed allocation of \$558 000. That is in lieu of previous grants of \$309 000 for the Constitutional Museum and \$265 000 for the Birdwood Mill, so there is a reduction, and certainly in real terms quite a considerable reduction of funds. Since the time this trust was established (and we can recall that it was announced with a great fanfare from the Premier on Commemoration Day in December last year), there have been frequent references to the History Trust, its importance and role ever since, particularly by the Premier who, in fact, made remarks about it during the course of his Budget speech. However, at the time this matter was before the House, the Opposition made it very clear that, whilst supporting the establishment of such a trust, it would be virtually useless and just window-dressing if it was not provided with the resources to enable it to operate properly. What is the situation concerning the staff of the History Trust, and I refer in particular to the role of Dr John Tregenza? What resources have been granted to the History Trust to enable it to carry out the much wider range of functions which exceed that direct responsibility for the Constitutional Museum and the Birdwood Mill? This trust is meant to have developed an information centre to consider the whole question of local regional and specialised museums, to have input into restoration work, and do a number of other matters of co-ordination in relation to history in this State.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: In regard to the point concerning the trust's activity, I hasten to make the comment that the trust is doing a lot of planning. It is essential for a trust of this kind, if it is to be established correctly and properly and with the foundation that this one is developing, that a great deal of thinking and a great deal of research is done by the initial small staff. To launch a history trust in a grandiose way with vast numbers of staff and with money—

Mr BANNON: The Premier did.

The Hon. C. M. Hill: I do not think he did. That is the wrong way to go about it. The Government is adopting a very sound policy in its approach to the matter. The figure of \$558 000 referred to under the 'Miscellaneous' lines for the allocation this year is made up of an appropriation of \$358 000 to the Constitutional Museum, \$101 000 for the Birdwood Mill, and \$99 000 for the History Trust itself. It is an aggregation of those three lines that makes up this figure of \$558 000.

With regard to the Constitutional Museum and the figure of \$358 000, there is an increase of expenditure from the previous year of \$309 900, so that a considerable increase on the previous years expenditure occurred. One must bear in mind the general difficulties and restraints that we have had imposed upon us. The contribution to the Birdwood Mill Museum is an increase from \$35 000 expended last year to a proposed expenditure of \$101 000 for the current year, and that is to involve a considerable amount of change and a considerable amount of work up there, because the

Birdwood Mill has been given over to the trust. The figure of \$99 000 for the first years allocation is not ungenerous.

In regard to the staff, the situation is that a Mr Samuels has been seconded from the Education Department and discussions are in train concerning the situation of Mr Tregenza and Mr Speirs. A clerk is to be appointed this year, and of course, Mr Peter Cahalan and Mr Wilson are in part-time work, bearing in mind, of course, their original involvement with the Constitutional Museum.

The trust is being provided with accommodation in the Institute's Association Building, on the corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace, and some expenditure is required there to set up accommodation. I think, bearing these factors in mind, the History Trust is being launched extremely well by the Government as far as financial commitment is concerned, and it is most certainly being launched extremely well by officers and its board, who are most enthusiastic about the general establishment of the trust.

Mr EVANS: I seek to know from the Minister whether he can isolate the amount of moneys to be made available to different visual art groups this year as compared with last year, because I do not believe they are all listed in the 'Miscellaneous' lines or other lines within the yellow book. Also, why is there the change from the Performing Arts Advisory Council to the Youth Performing Arts Council? Why has there been a change of name? What is the sum of money that is likely to be made available to the Arts Council of South Australia for the year, and also to the Contemporary Arts Society?

The Hon. C. M. Hill: The Arts Council of South Australia allocation this year is to go to \$420 000. That is an increase

over last year's provision of \$375 000. The sum for the visual arts area (that is helped through the Arts Grants Advisory Committee) totals \$71 000, involving the actual recommended grants of \$45 000, plus \$26 000 which comes under the proportion of administration, salary, and the assistance scheme grant. In that \$45 000, which is part of the \$71 000, is the allocation to the Contemporary Arts Society. We have another figure relating to the purchase of art for public places, the appropriation for which is \$15 000 in this current year, against an expenditure last year of \$9 000. That would have to come under the general heading of visual arts.

Then there is the appropriation, of course, in the Art Gallery itself for visual arts. That involves the purchase of works of art, which this year has had \$180 000 provided for it against an expenditure of \$180 000 last year. There is also, of course, the very large amount of money in the Art Foundation Fund, which is contributed to by both sponsors and private interests, as well as the Government, the Government having provided \$100 000 in the last year. The Government will be providing a similar amount of \$100 000 in this year. So, if one aggregates these figures we get some idea of the picture of our assistance to visual arts.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! It being 10 p.m., I declare the examination of the vote completed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday 14 October at 11 a.m.