

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
Monday 1 July 2013
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Chair:

Hon. M.J. Wright

Members:

Hon. I.F. Evans
Hon. J.D. Hill
Mrs R.K. Geraghty
Mr D.G. Pisoni
Ms R. Sanderson
Ms M.G. Thompson

The committee met at 10:30

**DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
\$488,973,000**

Witness:

Hon. G. Portolesi, Minister for Employment, Higher Education and Skills, Minister for Science and Information Economy.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr R. Garrand, Chief Executive, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Mr J. Gunningham, Chief Executive, TAFE SA.

Mr P. Mylius-Clark, Director, Strategic Policy, Resources and Finance, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Mr P. Klar, Executive Director, Corporate Services, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Ms P. Chau, Director, Strategic Finance and Budgets, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Mr T. Pamminer, Acting Chief Financial Officer, TAFE SA.

Mr D. Royle, Chief Operating Officer, TAFE SA.

The CHAIR: The estimates committees are a relatively informal procedure and, as such, there is no need to stand to ask or answer questions. The committee will determine an approximate time for consideration of proposed payments to facilitate change of departmental advisers. I ask the minister and the lead speaker of the opposition if they could indicate whether they have agreed on a timetable.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, we have, sir.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Changes to committee membership will be notified as they occur. Members should ensure that the Chair is provided with a completed request for discharge form. If the minister undertakes to supply information at a later date, it must be submitted to the committee secretary by no later than Friday 27 September 2013. I propose to allow both the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition to make opening statements of about 10 minutes each.

There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for asking questions based on about three questions per member, alternating each side. Supplementary questions will be the exception rather than the rule. A member who is not part of the committee may, at the discretion of the Chair, ask a question. Questions must be based on lines of expenditure in the budget papers and must be

identifiable or referenced. Members unable to complete their questions during the proceedings may submit them as questions on notice for inclusion in the House of Assembly *Notice Paper*.

There is no formal facility for the tabling of documents before the committee, however, documents can be supplied to the Chair for distribution to the committee. All questions are to be directed to the minister, not the minister's advisers. The minister may refer questions to advisers for a response.

I also advise that, for the purposes of the committees, television coverage will be allowed for filming from both the northern and southern galleries. I declare the proposed payment open for examination. I call on the minister to make a statement and to introduce her advisers.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Thank you, sir; good morning. I will take this opportunity to introduce Mr Jeff Gunningham, who is the new Chief Executive of TAFE SA. He is to my right. Jeff joins us from WA and he has been here for one month and one day, so we welcome him. To my left is the Chief Executive Officer of DFEEST, Mr Raymond Garrand, and, to his left, is Mr Peter Mylius-Clark, Director, Strategic Policy, Resources and Finance, DFEEST. I do have an opening statement, sir. It will exceed no more than 10 minutes.

The CHAIR: Thank you.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Thank you, sir, for the opportunity to make a brief introductory statement. I will take this opportunity to address all of my portfolio areas. As committee members appreciate, these areas, individually and collectively, play a significant role in the social and economic prosperity of our state. Underpinning our policies and investments is the recognition that there is a strong correlation between skills, employment, innovation and productivity. As such, the budget reflects a significant investment in portfolio areas that directly shape our capacity to be a more highly-skilled, innovative and industrious society.

In 2013-14, total operating expenditure for the portfolio is \$571 million. This investment acknowledges that higher level skills and qualifications progressively improve the capacity of members of the South Australian community to participate in employment and community life. In turn, the development of a skilled workforce plays a major role in contributing to the productivity of the state.

Science and technology also play a significant role in the development and application of knowledge which supports employment, the export of products and services, and our state's economy. In this context, the government has supported a significant reform and revitalisation of the vocational education training sector to support workforce development and innovative collaboration with industry. These reforms include the Skills for All training initiative, introduced in July 2012, and the establishment of TAFE SA as a statutory authority in a competitive VET sector. TAFE SA is also undertaking an organisation-wide restructure from three institutes to one TAFE SA.

I point out that the Skills for All initiative has been a collaborative program that has been delivered by public and private training providers. The investment in skills includes training for about 142,500 students in the VET system during 2012. This was an increase of 15.5 per cent on the 2011 figure of about 123,300. It equated to 29.8 million student delivery hours, an increase of 19 per cent on the delivery hours of training in 2011.

Underlying the budget results in recent years in our reforms is a reduction in the cost per hour of training. The most recent data shows that from 2011 to 2012, there has been a reduction of nearly 21 per cent in the cost per hour of training, compared with 18.9 per cent on average for Australia. This has been achieved while at the same time meeting or exceeding training output objectives set with the commonwealth through the national agreement on skills and workforce development. The first semester of operation of the Skills for All initiative supported 76,600 qualification enrolments. South Australia, both public and private training providers, represents an additional 23,000 on the 53,000 qualification enrolments for the previous period.

Total employment in the state has grown every month for the last nine months, something that no other state except New South Wales has managed. Over this period we have seen 14,800 new jobs added to the economy, which equates to growth of around 1.8 per cent. To put this into perspective, over that period national jobs growth was around 1.2 per cent, which is 0.6 percentage points lower. It was 0.6 per cent in Western Australia and Victoria and 0.7 per cent in Queensland. Last month we saw an increase of 3,000 full-time jobs. That is in the context of a national increase of 3,900 full-time jobs.

Full-time employment in South Australia has grown every month for the last 10 months. Again, this is something that no other state except New South Wales has managed. Over that time period we have added 18,600 full-time jobs, which equates to growth of around 3.5 per cent. To put that into perspective, over that period national full-time jobs growth was about 0.6 per cent, a full 2.9 percentage points lower. It was -1 per cent in Queensland and -0.1 per cent in WA. Even New South Wales has lagged behind us at around 1.9 per cent.

In today's economy, jobs growth is inextricably linked to skills. The areas of the economy experiencing the most significant growth are those occupations that require skills. Indeed, the number of people in skilled occupations has grown by about 24.7 per cent over the past decade, compared to growth of just 6.7 for unskilled jobs. This growth in skilled occupations is projected to continue.

The budget also continues long-term investment in capital expenditure to support business and industry and the development of a skilled workforce in areas of strategic importance to SA. For example, the capital investment program for 2013-14 totals \$79 million. The program includes expenditure to support the construction of the mining and engineering centre at Regency Park and the sustainable industries education centre at Tonsley. Indeed, since 2007-08 we have worked with the commonwealth to make the single biggest investment ever in TAFE SA infrastructure. This has committed more than \$200 million to upgrades and the new TAFE SA facilities across South Australia.

I would also like to place on record the importance of working with training providers and industry to develop workforce skills and capabilities through our state's apprenticeship and traineeship systems. As at 31 December 2012, there were an estimated 38,000 apprentices and trainees in training in South Australia, which is a significant increase on the previous year. For example, 79.5 per cent of South Australian VET graduates were employed after training, which is above the national average of 77.8 per cent.

I now turn to the science and technology areas of the portfolio. Science, technology and innovation has been allocated \$21 million in 2013-14. The government principally supports endeavours by universities and other research and development institutions through the Premier's Research and Industry Fund.

For example, in 2012-13, investments totalling \$4.44 million were made to through the fund to assist research and development in strategic areas across South Australia. We have also provided capital works assistance for the Institute for Photonics and Advanced Sensing at the University of Adelaide through the Super Science Initiative.

I would also like to refer briefly to the Cooperative Research Centre Assistance Program, which supports South Australian bids for federally funded CRCs. From 2013-14 the program will support the CRC for cell therapy manufacturing at the UniSA, in addition to a number of other CRCs already supported by the program.

The budget also provides support for a new high-value food manufacturing centre, which will support food producers to address technical challenges and, in the process, open up new markets for South Australia's premium food both interstate and internationally. Committee members will also be aware that the state government has been working with a range of groups to progress a skills strategy related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (so called STEM skills). This approach will continue on a coordinated basis.

I take this opportunity to also place on record that the government's approach right across the portfolio is to consistently work together with business and industry, university and research organisations, further education providers (both public and private), and with local community and neighbourhood organisations. I take this opportunity to thank the staff and various groups across the portfolio for their commitment and contributions to these endeavours.

Ms SANDERSON: I have the omnibus questions, which are as follows:

1. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on consultants and contractors above \$10,000 in 2012-13 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister—listing the name of the consultant, contractor or service supplier, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment?

2. For each department or agency reporting to the minister in 2012-13, please provide the number of public servants that are (1) tenured and (2) on contract, and for each category provide a breakdown of the number of (1) executives and (2) non-executives?

3. In financial year 2012-13 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, what underspending on projects and programs was not approved by cabinet for carryover expenditure in 2013-14?

4. Between 30 June 2012 and 30 June 2013, will the minister list the job title and total employment cost of each position (with a total estimated cost of \$100,000 or more)—(a) which has been abolished; and (b) which has been created?

5. For each year of the forward estimates, provide the name and the budget of all grant programs administered by all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, and for 2012-13 provide a breakdown of expenditure on all grants administered by all departments and agencies reporting to the minister—listing the name of the grant recipient, the amount of the grant and the purpose of the grants and whether the grant was subject to a grant agreement as required by Treasurer's Instruction No. 15?

6. For each department or agency reporting to the minister, what is the budget for targeted voluntary separation packages for financial years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

7. What is the title and total employment cost of each individual staff member in the minister's office as at 31 May 2013 including all departmental employees seconded to ministerial offices and ministerial liaison officers?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: My goodness! Thank you, sir, I am keen to answer as many questions as I can today, so I have information that—

The CHAIR: You can do that.

Mr PISONI: It is not standard practice.

The CHAIR: No, no; the minister can take the answers if she so desires.

Mr PISONI: Normally some questions come back to the committee; that has been the standard practice.

The CHAIR: If the minister wants to answer the questions she is able to do so.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Thank you, sir. I certainly will need to check back with the member for Adelaide—there were many elements to that question, and I am keen to provide the committee with information.

I believe the first element of the question was in relation to consultancy expenditure, so I am pleased to provide an overview there. I am advised that a total of four consultants were engaged by DFEST in 2011-12, compared to five in 2010-11. There was an increase in expenditure in 2011-12 of \$41,000 due primarily to the commissioning of an important feasibility study assessing the use of wi-fi technology across the Adelaide square mile. This increase is partly offset as fewer consultants were engaged below the \$50,000 band width, down from four in 2010-11 to two in 2011-12.

The department has done a good job here in giving me very detailed information. For the 2011-12 consultancy expenditure, the consultant was JB Consulting/Jodie Badcock. The focus of their report was to undertake a project to review the capacity of registered training organisations (RTOs) who deliver from the R1109 resources training package and workforce development priorities within the resources in Australia. That was about \$18,480.

Secondly, Miles Morgan Australia Pty Ltd prepared a discussion paper on institutional trade training. Then we have KPMG to provide independent expert advice and assistance by undertaking a feasibility study for the use of wi-fi technology across the Adelaide square mile. Finally, Ernst & Young, to provide independent expert advice in relation to facilities management. That takes us to a total, I am advised, of \$201,654.

I also have information here in relation to carryovers. The member's question was in relation to carryovers and I am advised that all carryovers submitted from 2012-13 into 2013-14 were approved. I also have some information, because I believe the member asked questions about grants, and I can report the following: I am advised that in 2013-14, the budget classified as grants and subsidies, expenses for the employment, higher education skills portfolio.

These budgets only reflect expenditure classified as grants and subsidies, and they are as follows: the VET transport concessions, the 2013-14 budget is \$11,584,000; Critical Skills Investment Program, \$10,782,000; Skills for all in Regions, \$6,965,000; Skills in the

Workplace, \$3,945,000; Adult Community Education, which is very important, \$3,039,000; Joint Group Training program, \$2,810,000; Industry and Indigenous Skills Centre, \$1,300,000; Building Family Opportunities \$975,000; VET in Schools, \$808,000; Aboriginal Mining Projects, \$544,000; Abilities for All, also very important, \$500,000; Resources and Engineering Skills Alliance (RESA), \$457,000; Defence Scholarships, \$375,000; Helpmann Academy, \$312,000; other miscellaneous grants, \$2,048,000; which brings us to a sum total of \$46,444,000 and I am happy to table this, for the benefit of *Hansard*.

I also have some further information. I believe information was asked in relation to staffing and operating expenses for the office. The budget supports a staffing complement within my office of nine FTEs, which includes four staff appointed by the minister and five staff appointed under the Public Sector Act 2009. I am advised that, in relation to my office, it is projected to be on budget for 2012-13.

Membership:

Ms Bedford substituted for Mrs Geraghty.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Just on that, Mr Chair: a lot of the questions were not answered fully, so I am assuming the minister is giving a commitment to provide the rest of the answers? Even the last answer about the ministerial staff was not answering the question that was asked, so I am just checking that you are still going to answer the rest of the question, as at 27 September—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, of course. Can I just clarify with the member for Adelaide which elements of the questions remain unanswered? Can you do that for me? I would appreciate that. I have been in the—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes, sure; we will write to you, minister, and let you know.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Alright; when you write to me, we will take it from there.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Stop wasting the committee's time, which is what you are trying to do.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I do not think it is a waste of time, I think it is very important.

Ms Bedford interjecting:

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, I think it is very important.

Mr PISONI: This question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 13—Ministerial office resources. Can the minister advise how many MLOs are allocated to her office?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: There are two MLOs.

Mr PISONI: And what are their titles and job descriptions?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: They are ministerial liaison officers, and their positions are the same as they are in every other office.

Mr PISONI: Well, they vary; they have different titles depending on their jobs. What are they responsible for? How many for Training, how many for Further Education, how many for—what do they advise you on?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: There are two MLOs in my office; they are ministerial liaison officers. It is standard protocol and practice—I think every ministerial office that I have ever been involved in—to have an MLO. They are usually departmental staff; they are certainly engaged by the department. They provide a very useful role in facilitating information and communication between the department and my office, and they provide a very important role.

Mr PISONI: The same budget paper, page 16—this refers to the number of FTEs as of 30 June. Are you able to breakdown that estimated result and advise the committee how many of those staff are now with TAFE SA?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that, as at 30 June, we have 653.5 FTEs presently in my department, and the number, I am advised, in TAFE is 2,601.5. Members would appreciate that we are still in the early days of the transition. I think the move to a statutory corporation status for TAFE is proceeding very well, and I thank members of the board and in fact all TAFE staff in the city and our regions who have been participating in this quite significant

reform. I will check those figures just to make sure that they are correct, but I am advised that that is the status. Because of the relatively fluid way in which these transitions are occurring, I am sure the committee would appreciate that I will take the opportunity to double-check those figures.

Mr PISONI: So that 616.3—and obviously you will need to bring this back, minister—could I have a breakdown of their positions and their employment status?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: In fact, can I clarify that the member wants the details of every employee in the department? Is that correct?

Mr PISONI: Yes, I would like to know what their job title is and what their ASO level is.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that you have had that information before, but I am happy to get it. In fact, I am just going to double-check that I do not have any of that information with me now. No, we will take it on notice.

Mr PISONI: The next question I have is the 2,601 TAFE staff—

The CHAIR: Still the same budget paper?

Mr PISONI: Same budget paper, yes, and same page, Mr Chair. Thank you for that. Is that before or after the reduction in staff was announced earlier in the year, with the amalgamation of the regional and north and south TAFEs into a single TAFE?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: It does include the one TAFE, and it is the cap, I am advised, as at 30 June.

Mr PISONI: I am sorry—have those redundancies that were announced happened?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that is included in that cap number.

Mr PISONI: No, have the redundancies actually happened?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I have some detailed information that may be useful. A total of 264 TVSP offers have been made as at 21 June 2013 across both TAFE SA and the DFEEST portfolio. Of the 262 offers made, 181 have been accepted and 83 have been rejected. For DFEEST in 2012-13, in terms of TVSPs, 32 TVSP offers to DFEEST-only employees were accepted and 12 rejected for a total of 44 offers. In terms of staff, we have a 651 headcount.

There is also that figure I gave earlier of 616.3 FTE, so the FTE cap there is 653.5. In TAFE SA for the 2012-13 financial year, 122 TVSP offers have been made to employees as at 21 June 2013: 87 TVSP offers were accepted, 34 TVSP offers were rejected, and one TVSP offer is still being considered. Nineteen employees were placed in ongoing positions and one excess employee resigned.

That is pretty detailed information. I do advise the committee that I need to double-check those figures. People would appreciate that we are in a period of high transition in terms of the transition from DFEEST to TAFE and staff movements. I am sure the committee would appreciate that I want an opportunity to double-check those figures, but I am seeking to be as helpful as I can be with the detailed information I am referring to today.

Mr PISONI: Can the minister advise how many TVSPs are targeted for the 2013-14 financial year within TAFE and the department?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: As a result of the transformation of TAFE SA into one institute, it is expected that a large number of TVSPs will be offered in the last half of 2013 to assist with the required FTE reduction of approximately 150. TAFE SA continues to manage excess employees to find suitable placement either internally or across government. The TAFE SA staffing committee assess every vacancy to ascertain if excess employees are able to be placed in funded and potentially ongoing positions. Change management processes have been improved to include faster assessment of potentially excess employees. Placement of TVSP options are now determined quickly to ensure employees are either placed or offered TVSPs, and employees who reject TVSPs are case managed through a more rigorous retraining and placement process.

Mr PISONI: What is the total number of TVSPs that have been budgeted for the forward estimates from 2013-14?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that for 2013-14 there is a total of 106.4, and that represents a figure for TAFE and DFEEST. However, as I said, I reserve the right to check that because we are in this period of enormous change.

Mr PISONI: My question refers to the forward estimates, so if you have to bring that back I can understand that. So, if I could have the total number of TVSPs that are earmarked for each year, from 2013-14, in the forward estimates.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will do my best to bring back an answer to that question.

Mr PISONI: What do you mean you will do your best?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will do my best.

Mr PISONI: What, so the department doesn't know? Is that what you are saying?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: No. I am taking that question on notice and I will do my best to bring you an answer.

Mr PISONI: Have they been determined?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will bring you back an answer.

Mr PISONI: No, I am asking you whether they have been determined already?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: And I am answering your question: I will bring you back an answer.

Mr PISONI: Okay. So you don't know the answer.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am choosing to answer the question in the manner that I see fit: I will bring you back an answer.

Mr PISONI: Can I have a list of the job titles of those who were offered TVSPs, and also those who accepted TVSPs in 2012-13?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes.

Mr PISONI: Thank you. I will take you now to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 14, the Student Information System. Are you able to advise the committee on how many inquiries—whether they be phone inquiries or formal inquiries—you have had about the operation of the information system in 2012-13? I think last year you had in excess of 3,000 people who had made inquiries about the SIS system.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, I am happy to do that.

Ms THOMPSON: My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 15. Can the minister advise the committee about the results of the state government's skills and training initiative?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the member for Reynell for her ongoing campaign to ensure that people in her local community who have not had the benefit of further training—or, in fact, in many cases, education—due to circumstances beyond their own control, take up with gusto the opportunities provided by something like Skills for All, and, also, their ability to access things like ACE, adult and community training. I think the member for Reynell was on the board of WEA many moons ago, so she knows what she is talking about when it comes to this stuff.

That is why the state government has invested and prioritised further education and training over a long period of time. That is why we have seen a 37.7 per cent increase in the number of students over the last 10 years from 89,500 in 2003 to 123,300 in 2012. Our Skills for All initiative launched in July 2012 builds upon that commitment to ensuring we are investing in our best resource—our community and our people—and ensuring they have opportunities to access those rewarding employment opportunities through better skills and qualifications. Since introducing our Skills for All initiative, we have seen a phenomenal response from the community and industry.

In Semester 2, 2012, under Skills for All, there were more than 76,500 course enrolments, an estimated 43 per cent increase on the previous reporting period alone. The NCVET data for the full year, recorded that 142,500 students undertook vocational education training in 2012, with South Australia leading the nation with a 15.5 per cent increase for the year, compared to 3.1 per cent nationally. The Skills for All infoline and website have proven to be effective for people who want to explore their career and training options, with over 28,000 calls and over 646,000 visits to the site, which is extraordinary. I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the staff in the department who look after that infoline.

For people who require additional one-to-one assistance, there have been over 989 referrals to career development services. The Skills for All program reflects collaborative work by public and private training providers working with government, business and industry to develop the skills and qualifications of people in both metropolitan and regional communities across South Australia. The Skills for All Funded Training list is dynamic and will continue to be progressively updated and aligned to the needs of industry and the community. This vocational education and training initiative is progressively increasing the skills and development of higher level qualifications for jobs and the development of the state's workforce.

With Australian Bureau of Statistics research showing that you are more likely to be in the workforce if you have a non-school qualification, our Skills for All initiative is ensuring we have more pathways to rewarding jobs for South Australians. In fact, I am advised that on Friday we reached a very important milestone: we had our 30,000th call to the infoline, and that is around 2,500 a month, so that is very significant.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: What infrastructure investments are being made to support further education and training in South Australia, specifically in the mining and engineering industry sector? The budget reference is Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 19.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I thank the member for this question. The vocational training needs of South Australians are changing over time as a result of changes in the needs of business and industry, and the needs of the community. To ensure the state's training infrastructure is keeping up with changes, the state government is making significant investments in infrastructure, including the development of the new mining and engineering centre. Work is progressing well on this (roughly) \$38.3 million centre based at Regency TAFE.

This is designed to provide South Australia with a centre for training excellence for the mining, engineering, advanced manufacturing, defence and transport industries. It will consolidate and integrate programs previously delivered across TAFE SA metro campuses. These programs relate to training in the following areas: geoscience/land information management systems, heavy automotive, engineering and light automotive. The centre will help meet the government's economic and job priorities by significantly increasing the delivery of training in these mining engineering-related industries.

The new centre will cater to approximately 3,000 full-time and part-time students a year. I can advise that building works on stage 1 of this project began in January and the centre will be progressively completed by late 2014. I was very pleased to visit the centre not that long ago and it is looking pretty amazing. This is part of the single biggest investment ever in TAFE SA infrastructure. Since 2007-08, the government, in partnership with the commonwealth, has committed more than \$200 million for upgrades and new facilities in metro and regional facilities across South Australia.

Ms BEDFORD: My question refers to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 14. I would like the minister to advise the committee of what infrastructure investments have been made in regional SA to support TAFE SA to deliver quality further education and training.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I have just mentioned the work that we are doing in relation to the mining and engineering centre, but there have been a number of projects that are underway in addition to that. During 2013-14, work will commence on the \$2.6 million Elizabeth feeder project, whereby trade training at the campus will increase to include plumbing, bricklaying, tiling, painting and decorating. Work will also get underway on the \$1.2 million Noarlunga feeder project, which will increase the training offered at the campus to include automotive and electrical training. Both of those feeder projects are designed to increase the number of entry level training courses.

These developments will build upon a number of capital works projects carried out since 2007-08. There are more than 30 projects in total, but briefly, and they have been very important to these local communities: a \$565,000 investment at the Port Pirie TAFE SA campus for fume and dust extraction and manufacturing, engineering and transport workshops; a \$3.5 million investment in the Mount Gambier TAFE SA campus for a new trade training centre for wood trades and heavy vehicle maintenance; a \$440,000 project at Port Augusta TAFE campus for fume and dust extraction and manufacturing, engineering and transport workshops; a \$750,000 investment upgrade to Murray Bridge TAFE campus; a \$6.5 million investment at Whyalla TAFE campus to upgrade student facilities and engineering and mining workshops; and the \$9 million investment to build a new campus at Victor Harbor TAFE campus.

I must say that although the member for Florey has a metro seat base she is always asking questions and ensuring that, when it comes to training opportunities, our regions and our families and communities in the regions have as much access as they can. I thank her for that contribution.

Mr PISONI: Getting back to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 14, student information system (SIS). Minister, are you able to advise the committee of the total expenditure to date on the student information system?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will just check if we have that information. I will need to bring back a reply in relation to that.

Mr PISONI: Could I also have the total number of contractors who have been engaged in the installation and maintenance of the system?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, sure.

Mr PISONI: Also, how many of those contractors are on a 457 visa?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, sure.

Mr PISONI: Could I also have any evidence you may have that the option of a 457 visa was used only because the skills were not available locally?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, I am happy to bring to bring back a reply.

Mr PISONI: The next question I have refers to a question I asked last year to the then minister, which was how many TAFE courses would be running at a loss. He answered that TAFE was currently developing a costing tool down to the units of competency within each course and that, as at 1 July 2012, we will see training providers only paid when a student successfully completes a unit of competency. So, I am interested to know whether the—

The CHAIR: What budget paper?

Mr PISONI: This is the same budget paper, page 18—highlights for the year 2012-13. I would like an update of the costing tool, and are you able to update the committee if you have identified TAFE courses that are running at a loss and if there is a lower number this year than what there was in the previous year?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I can provide some information. I am happy to provide as much information as I can. I want to take the opportunity to thank the opposition for supporting the bill that moved TAFE to a statutory corporation. I think it is very important and part of that was a drive to make it more competitive, because TAFE SA has operating costs that are significantly higher than non-TAFE providers for a number of reasons, including higher employment costs, the high cost of infrastructure and a different and more costly training profile.

To ensure the public funds are used in the most efficient manner, TAFE SA will increasingly be challenged to lower its cost of delivery in those market segments that are competitive and present a low risk to the continuation of services. In the interim, however, structural adjustment funding will be provided to TAFE SA to recognise these higher cost structures.

TAFE SA is supported to deliver services to communities in regional and remote areas that would be at risk of not being provided under a purely commercial consideration. As the government-owned training provider, TAFE SA will continue to be supported with a higher subsidy to deliver services in areas, for instance, that may otherwise be at risk of not being delivered under commercial decisions.

I can also report that, in relation to course offerings—I think the member asked questions about courses—there has been a substantial increase in applications and course offerings in semester two 2012 and semester one 2013, compared to previous admission cycles. This has been a continuing pattern since the introduction of the Skills for All initiative.

I have some data here that provides a summary of application and offer data for TAFE SA courses for semester two 2012 and semester one 2013, compared to previous intake cycles. For instance, the figures include numbers for TAFE start courses such as English as a Second Language, Literacy—

Mr PISONI: Point of order, Mr Chair: my question was specifically about TAFE SA currently developing costing tools, which was the advice I was given on 19 November 2012. I was asking questions about the progress of the costing tools and which courses were running at a loss.

The CHAIR: I am sure the minister is coming to it.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Thank you, sir. I can advise that, since 2007, South Australia's cost per hour fell from \$17.16 to \$13.65 in 2011. This represents a fall of \$3.51 or 20.5 per cent. I am happy to check out the case of the tool for the member for Unley. It is entirely appropriate that he asks me that question and I will get back to him.

Mr PISONI: This refers to page 18, the fourth dot point under Highlights, again the establishment of TAFE as a new statutory corporation. Since the government chose not to progress the TAFE consequential amendment bill, the government introduced a TAFE SA (Prescribed Employees) Amendment Bill. That was defeated in the upper house.

The minister told the committee process of that bill at the time that crown advice had been sought in preparation for the TAFE SA (Prescribed Employees) Amendment Bill. Has the department sought additional Crown advice now as to whether TAFE can continue to operate without either the consequential amendment bill or the TAFE SA (Prescribed Employees) Amendment Bill, and is TAFE or the department at risk?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The TAFE SA Bill 2012 established TAFE as a statutory authority and was unanimously supported in both houses of parliament. In fact, the member for Unley himself spoke in favour of this bill during its passage through the house. I quote from *Hansard* of 16 May 2012:

They will relish the challenge to be a corporation and answerable to a board, and we will see significant improvements in outcomes, service delivery and industry response...

Sadly, those opposite did not agree to progress the TAFE SA (Prescribed Employees) Amendment Bill that would have provided clarity and certainty for TAFE SA to discipline and suspend staff whilst providing appropriate review and appeal provisions for disciplinary decisions that affect TAFE SA educational staff. It would have provided a preferred set of arrangements for TAFE SA.

However, as I have said, and as I am advised, TAFE SA is still able to operate without this piece of legislation in place using existing industrial instruments. TAFE SA will rely on the powers under common law and the Fair Work Act 1994 for the discipline of prescribed employees. These powers are effectively utilised across the public sector and have been successfully utilised as an interim measure since the introduction of the TAFE SA Act 2012.

Mr PISONI: The question is, have you sought any additional legal advice from crown law or elsewhere as to the ongoing use of the temporary arrangements that you have for TAFE operating as a statutory authority, without the supporting consequential amendment bill or the TAFE SA (Prescribed Employees) Amendment Bill?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: No.

Mr PISONI: Is the minister planning to make any attempt to complete the process for the transition for TAFE to be an independent body, or is the minister going to now stay with the temporary arrangements that were made in anticipation of the consequential amendment bill or the TAFE SA amendment bill proceeding?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We are going to stick with the temporary arrangements as they are.

Mr PISONI: My question again refers to the same budget paper and the same dot point. During the committee process, you were unable to inform the house why it is that a board fee plus a retention fee was paid to board members. Are you now able to advise the house why a board fee and a retention fee are paid and what the specific reason for each fee is?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Can I ask the member for Unley to repeat the last element of his question?

Mr PISONI: The question is: why is a board fee plus a retention fee paid to board members of TAFE?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I disagree with the member for Unley. I did address those questions in the parliament; he just did not like the answer. We have gone out of our way—and we have been supported by the opposition, and we are grateful for that support—in appointing a commercial board, because we believe this transition to a statutory corporation is a significant challenge for TAFE—not that there is any pressure, Jeff. We have intentionally sought the best South Australians, and others, as members for that board. That means that they are paid well, and we believe that they are worth it.

We will disagree on this. We have appointed a commercial board with great expertise to take care of future training challenges of our state. This is a very big job, so we are ensuring that their remuneration reflects that. There is a great deal of work involved in managing this transition—a great deal of after-hours work, extraordinary challenges given the transition from three to one, managing industrial arrangements—and ensuring that TAFE SA, as the state's largest public provider, is in the best possible hands.

Mr PISONI: Mr Chair, just to save the minister from coming back in to correct the record, I asked the minister: can the minister advise on what grounds a retention payment was established or paid to board members and the board chair, and how long does that retention payment apply? What is the process for implementing retention payments, or even establishing and determining the value of retention payments? The Hon. Grace Portolesi answered: 'I am very happy to come back to the member with a response in relation to that matter.' I have not heard from the minister since that undertaking was made, and I thought I would give her the opportunity, during the estimates process, to bring that back to the parliament. So the question was not answered during the debate on that employee bill, sir, and that is why I have asked for that clarification now.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: What the member for Unley does not mention is that there were a number of questions centred around the board, which I did answer, and that was in relation to those payments. The member for Unley asked me repeatedly questions about the nature of those payments, and I explained that we felt that they were significant payments because the job is a big job. What I also mentioned, and mention now, is the fact that there is a cabinet process and a cabinet protocol. I cannot recall precisely what I said during that debate, but retention and attraction allowances are considered by cabinet.

I was not the minister at the time, but I am sure that my predecessor felt that these payments were certainly a worthwhile investment. For instance, the current board will oversee a number of significant reforms that will transform TAFE SA, including moving TAFE SA from three institutes to one single organisation by 30 June 2013. There are some very real challenges in relation to the ongoing governance and accountability for TAFE SA, especially ensuring financial sustainability as a statutory corporation and developing strategic and business plans, including but not limited to marketing workforce educational delivery and business development. If there are elements of the question that the member feels have not been addressed, I am happy to look at the *Hansard* and bring back a reply.

Mr PISONI: I also asked the minister whether the board of TAFE oversees management of revenue and assets worth over \$1 billion or a profit of over \$100 million (or a combination of the criteria) and the minister said, 'I will get back to the honourable member in relation to these details.' I am giving you the opportunity to do that now, minister.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The assets continue to be owned by the department.

Mr PISONI: A supplementary question? That answer is incomplete.

The CHAIR: A supplementary.

Mr PISONI: What you are saying is that the TAFE board does not oversee the management of assets worth over \$1 billion; does it oversee a profit of over \$100 million?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: It manages the asset, but it is owned by DFEEST.

The CHAIR: The member for Reynell.

Mr PISONI: What is the value of the asset?

The CHAIR: No, the member for Reynell has the call.

Ms THOMPSON: The minister will not be at all surprised to know that I am looking at Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 21 and asking for further information about the support that has been given to the adult community education programs to support skills, especially literacy and numeracy skills to assist people to be better prepared for skilled jobs.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: One of the first functions I attended was the anniversary celebration of the WEA. The honourable member has touched on some things that are an absolute passion of mine, and that is improving the literacy and numeracy skills not only of our children but adult South Australians as well.

The adult community education program is the Skills for All community learning gateway for people who may need some additional assistance with literacy, numeracy, or other skills, to help them more fully participate in further training or work, as well as participate more fully in the

community. The South Australian government is investing \$2.9 million in 2013-14 to support the development of these foundation skills.

This increased investment through Skills for All is enabling the adult community education sector to provide more non-accredited and accredited training in language, literacy, numeracy and digital literacy, and these are very important foundation skills. It is assisting more people to take part in learning and training courses and is improving pathways between the adult community education and the vocational education and training sectors.

These courses are very important for those in our community who might not feel ready to undertake formal training or who feel that they need to develop some of these foundation skills. They are courses that are run through community centres, so they are a friendly and inclusive environment which can be less intimidating than formal training.

By developing these skills, people feel more confident in their everyday lives and the courses are a good place to socialise and interact with new people. Importantly, the courses are all designed with a pathway to training in mind. Once people have started to develop confidence in their foundation skills, they can choose to go on to more formal training which in turn provides a pathway to employment.

Community Centres SA is the peak body for community centres and neighbourhood houses in South Australia. My department works closely with Community Centres SA to build the capacity of the ACE sector across Adelaide and in our regions, including Yorke and Mid North, Barossa, Light and Lower North, Far North, Eyre and Western, Murray and Mallee, Riverland, Fleurieu and the Limestone Coast.

A hallmark of this program is a commitment to consult and work together with ACE providers, community centres and key stakeholders. The consultation ensures that the ACE program provides more opportunities for South Australians to access training in these important skills and capabilities and to access pathways to future learning, training and employment.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 21. I ask the minister if she can advise the committee of initiatives and support that are taking place through the workforce participation program which is providing assistance to older people to participate in the workforce?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: This is a very, very important area of work. We know that South Australia, like most jurisdictions, is seeing more and more older workers choosing to remain in the workforce, and that is a good thing; we want that. The state government is working with training providers, business and non-government agencies to support the engagement and training of mature-aged people in further education, training and skills development through a range of measures.

Across South Australia as a whole, it is estimated that 42.3 per cent of the total population is aged 45 and over. A number of policies and programs have been developed to increase the participation of mature-age people in the workforce. This includes support for re-training and re-skilling, job search support programs, and programs designed to change employer attitudes to employing mature-aged workers.

With considerable structural adjustment occurring within the economy, the ability to help older displaced workers transition to new job opportunities is essential. Vocational education and training and improving skills help support workers, including older workers, to participate in the workforce.

Mature-aged worker transitions into training and work are improved when based on good advice and information. That is why career services and support is provided to help smooth the way, and I can advise that 1,500 mature-aged people had personalised assistance from my department's Career Development Services Network.

DFEEST is also developing strategies and projects to support the retention of mature-aged workers who are still in employment, and to provide pathways which re-engage older workers who choose to return to work. We have also funded three specific projects which are being undertaken by SafeWork SA and the community organisation Don't Overlook Mature Expertise (DOME). These projects are building and demonstrating the business case for re-engaging and retaining older workers, connecting employers to resources and training, and connecting employers to work-ready pools of older workers.

During 2012-13, more than 505 mature-aged people participated in a range of metro and regional projects through Skills for All In Regions, with more than 320 people gaining employment. A number of regions are giving this a priority. For example, through their local workforce planning, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island, Limestone Coast and Northern Adelaide Region Development Authorities gave priority to activities to increase the workforce participation of mature-aged people.

Projects that are specifically targeted towards mature-age participants in these regions were assisted with a government investment through DFEEST of more than \$200,000. There are many examples of productive support for mature-aged people across South Australia. These include: Tauondi Aboriginal College, engaged 113 Aboriginal students aged over 45 years; and the Abilities for All program, engaged 27 participants with a disability who are aged over 45 years.

My department provided DOME with grant funding of \$100,000 to achieve employment and employment pathway outcomes such as volunteering, commencement of training, and achievement of qualification. This program engaged 200 participants and achieved 100 employment outcomes. I am also pleased that the participation of mature-age people in apprenticeships and traineeships has increased significantly, with a doubling of the number of commencements since 2002.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of business and industries that have developed innovative approaches to engage and retain older people in the workforce.

Ms BEDFORD: My question, minister, relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 21. I would ask the minister to advise the committee of initiatives within the Workforce Participation Program that support people who face barriers to employment to work on some of the major projects that the government is funding.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I thank the member for this very important question. The state budget invests billions of dollars on roads, rail lines and other works to improve public infrastructure which will support thousands of jobs. We also see a benefit from this investment in terms of employment and training opportunities for people who might face social and economic barriers to accessing work skills.

Since 1 January 2011, contractors on major government building and civil infrastructure contracts over \$5 million have had to ensure 15 per cent of onsite labour hours are undertaken by apprentices, trainees, Aboriginal people and local people with barriers to employment, and through up-skilling of the existing workforce. The policy is administered jointly between DFEEST and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. DPTI collects the data while my department helps employers develop tailored workforce development solutions to help them meet the target. My department, DPTI and the Construction Industry Training Board have jointly developed a workforce participation reporting tool. This is designed to assist contractors to report on their compliance through a user-friendly online tool. The tool is now operational.

Some out-of-scope projects (let before 1 January 2011 or below the project cost threshold of \$5 million) such as the Seaford rail extension have had participation targets built in by DPTI. A trial of this policy on the Seaford rail extension resulted in positive outcomes, including 138 local residents south of Darlington, 35 Aboriginal people and 21 group training apprentices employed by the contractor. Overall, these groups represent 18 per cent of the project workforce, so that is a good result there.

We have also encouraging news from other projects. For instance, the Adelaide Oval upgrade has also exceeded the 15 per cent target, with 19 per cent of the workforce from the target cohorts, as has the project to construct SIEC (Sustainable Industries Education Centre), which has 27 per cent, I am advised, of the workforce from target cohorts. There is also the Southern Expressway duplication, where the Baulderstone Abigroup joint venture has produced a 15 per cent policy workforce development plan for the project. So far, we have seen around 41 per cent of the workforce identified as being from target cohorts. I think that is a very real demonstration of where government can make a difference directly to the employment of local South Australians.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: On Budget Paper 3, page 15—employment and skills formation income: the government have previously announced a policy of trying to obtain money out of the Construction Industry Training Fund. From memory, it was about \$3.5 million or \$4 million. Is it the government's intention still to obtain funding from the Construction Industry Training Fund as announced, and, if so, what is the dollar value each year across the forward estimates?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We are currently in discussions with the CITB.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes. Given that you are in discussions, I am assuming it is still the government's intention to try to seek money out of the Construction Industry Training Fund?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That is correct. We are still seeking to identify savings.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: How much money are you seeking from the Construction Industry Training Fund?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That is what we are discussing.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes, but what is the minister asking? I know they might have a different view, but are you asking for \$1 million, \$2 million, \$3 million, \$4 million? How much are you asking for?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The budget documents for 2013-14 refer to a figure of \$4.5 million.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Thanks. On the same budget line, the government had a payroll tax rebate—a \$120 million program that was then cancelled and replaced with a different program. Can the minister advise what would be the cost of expanding the Critical Skills Investment Fund payments to group training organisations? Currently they do not get it.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will just ask Mr Raymond Garrard to refer this. We do have information which I can provide for the member.

Mr GARRARD: In terms of group training organisations, to compensate for the loss of the payroll tax exemption, separate payments were made to each of the GTOs to pretty much fully compensate for any disadvantage that may occur in relation to that. Regarding completion payments and payments to GTOs, one of the issues that we are talking to GTOs about is making sure that completion payments are made pretty much in proportion to where those apprentices and trainees were, to avoid a situation—and we have seen something happening in the market at the moment—where an apprentice or trainee might have spent three years with a GTO, gets transferred across to an employer and the employer then gets the completion payment. We are working with the GTOs to make sure, where completion payments are made, that they are made pretty much in proportion as to who actually engaged that apprentice or trainee and did most of the training.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: How much would it cost if the completion payment was paid in full to the GTO? If they had that opportunity, the person would not necessarily transfer to the other employer for the last year. Has the department costed what it would cost to simply fund the GTOs?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am happy to bring back a response for the member.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: What is the commitment of the Minister for Higher Education to the future of the Joint Group Training Program in South Australia? Two other states have cancelled their state-based funding in relation to that program. Is the government committed to maintain its funding each year across the forward estimates?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I understand that we are committed into the forward estimates. The question mark is in relation to the commonwealth's contribution, but I am advised that they have just confirmed into the forward estimates also; I am sorry, they have confirmed one year.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Has the state government committed to one year or every year across the forward estimates?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We have it in our forward estimates.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Minister Caica previously agreed to index the Joint Group Training Program on an annual basis and that has not yet occurred. Is the government going to index this particular program or is it not going to index this particular program?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that it is indexed in our forward estimates.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: On the same budget line, back to payroll tax, what is the total cost to budget of the payroll tax grant scheme to group training organisations? In other words, the replacement program from the cancellation of the payroll tax rebate; I am interested in this grant scheme for group training organisations. What is the total cost to budget of that scheme?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that for 2012-13 it is \$5.239 million and that for 2013-14 it is \$5.382 million.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: With the new \$22 million payroll tax scheme that has been announced, which brings down the payroll tax rate to 2.95 per cent or whatever it was, does that rate now apply to group training organisations?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We will get back to you on that one.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: On that \$5 million program you just talked about, what is the saving to budget if that scheme is abolished?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I beg your pardon? I do not understand your question.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: If the scheme is abolished—the payroll tax grant rebate scheme to group training organisations—there must be administration costs within the agency to administer that scheme.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The question is: what are the savings to budget to abolish the scheme?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We will take that on notice. You would appreciate that we will need to get back to you on that one.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: On the same budget line—can you explain the 100,000 jobs promise that the government has made, as there was also a 100,000 trainee promise? Is the 100,000 trainee promise a totally separate number to the 100,000 jobs promise, or is there a crossover, where a number of the trainees are included in the 100,000 jobs promise?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I understand that the member may have raised the issue before.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: You should know the answer then.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I certainly do. In relation to the 100,000 jobs target, the government has always acknowledged that this is an ambitious target, and the government has determined that it is important to have a target that sends a very strong message about our plan for the state. There is no question that global factors, including the recent strength of the Australian dollar, and continuing instability in the global economy, have dampened employment growth. Notwithstanding this, since March 2002, we have still seen 136,500 jobs created, including almost 80,000 full-time jobs. My chief executive advises that we are dealing with two separate data sets in terms of the 100,000 jobs figure and the 100,000 training figure.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So none of the trainees are included in the 100,000 jobs?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that it is calculated differently. Because this is a technical response, I will ask Mr Garrand to provide some background for the benefit of the committee.

Mr GARRAND: They are calculated on two different data sets, so the jobs target is based on ABS data which is, as you know, survey data which the ABS does. The training targets are based on numbers that come through the National Centre for Vocational and Education Research, and they report on a regular basis, and that is the data that we use to calculate the 100,000 training data. Clearly, you have the situation where apprentices and trainees are in contract of training, but the data sets and the calculation of those are two very different sets of data.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Okay.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We are well on our way in relation to our training target.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: On page 24—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Which volume?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: —same volume, Volume 3. All of your portfolio is in the one volume for this section—it is Volume 3. With the number of participants gaining a job through employment participation programs, the estimated result this year is 3,200 and the target for next year is 1,960. I am wondering why there is a drop in that number of people getting a job through the programs?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Part of the response there is that we have a greater focus on leveraging commonwealth investment, but it is certainly also representative of changes in funding.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So, whose funding has changed, state or commonwealth?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The state funding has.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So, how much has the state funding reduced in that section?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will bring you back a response in relation to that.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Mr Garrand does not know?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will bring you back a response.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: I just thought as Mr Garrand was there it would save writing a letter, save a bit of time, but if he does not know that is fine.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That is okay. We do not mind writing you a letter.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: No; that is all right.

Mr PISONI: I take you back to page 19 of Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, the targets for 2013-14. Last year, I asked a question about the critical skills list and the reply came back that organisations, other than group training organisations, that employ apprentices or trainees in qualifications on the critical skills list who complete their training contract on or after 1 July 2012 will be eligible for a completion payment of \$4,000. Can you advise what the budget was for 2012-13 for those payments, and how many payments were made?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will see if we have that level of detail on us. I am advised that there was a delay in making the payments. What I can tell you is that as at 7 June 2013 a total of \$2,068,000 has been paid to 395 employers under the critical skills fund for the successful completion of 517 apprentices and trainees undertaking qualifications on the critical skills list. Businesses within the electrotechnology sector have received 39 per cent of this funding, while the automotive and mining and engineering sectors have attracted 30 per cent and 31 per cent respectively. So, I do not know if that answers all of your questions—

Mr PISONI: So, how many employers were notified of their eligibility?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We do not have that information on us here.

Mr PISONI: Why did you answer in the question then that:

The Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology will notify eligible employers of the completion payment when they commence an apprentice or trainee whose training is in a critical skills qualification.

Why did you answer a question that you would notify employers and then tell me you do not keep that information?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We do have that information, just not with us at this particular moment.

Mr PISONI: So, you will bring it back?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes; that is what I said about two seconds ago.

Mr PISONI: No, you did not. You actually said you do not have that information.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I said I will get you an answer.

Mr PISONI: You did not say that. Check the *Hansard*.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Do you want an answer or not?

Mr PISONI: Yes, please.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Gee, that was hard.

Mr PISONI: Can you advise if it is the policy only to write to eligible employers once an apprentice has completed, or commenced? Why would you not write to all eligible employers, whether they had apprentices or not, to advise them of this initiative?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am not sure what the operational practice is of the department, but they will prepare a response for me for you.

Mr PISONI: According to this answer that was signed in cabinet on 15.10.2012—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Excuse me, sir, can I—

Mr PISONI: —it says, organisations—

The CHAIR: Point of order.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Can I ask the member for Unley to explain the document to which he refers? I believe it is an answer to a question that he received last year. I was not even the minister, so I would hope that he would do me the courtesy of explaining the nature of the document so that I can provide an answer in good faith.

Mr PISONI: Yes, the document is the critical skills funding applications. It is a question without notice at Estimates Committee A in the House of Assembly.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: When?

Mr PISONI: It was asked on 26 June 2012.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: My birthday. I would appreciate you reading to me the answer in full.

Mr PISONI: I am referring to the paragraph that says:

The Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology (DFEEST) will notify eligible employers of the completion payment when they commence an apprentice or trainee whose training is in a critical skills qualification.

My question is: why do you only write to employers that are already engaging apprentices or trainees? Why would you not write to all employers that were eligible for these funds, if they themselves had taken on an apprentice or a trainee—in other words, as an incentive for them to consider taking somebody on?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Now that I have the full picture of the information that you are referring to, I can bring back a more meaningful response. I am happy to check the statements that you are making against what the department is doing and bring you back a response. It is a valid point that you raise, and I will confer with the department and bring you back a response.

Mr PISONI: Alright. If you are doing that, perhaps you can also let me know how many employers would be eligible for this payment.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We will undertake to provide an answer, if we have that information.

Ms THOMPSON: My question refers to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 19. Will the minister advise the committee about when courses will begin at SIEC—for those who do not know, the Sustainable Industries Education Centre—and how this will support training for the building and construction industry?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Of course, this question relates to significant infrastructure investment at Tonsley Park to support the ongoing workforce development in this important sector. The project, I am advised, is on schedule for training delivery to commence at Tonsley Park from 2014.

The purpose of building this new centre within this precinct is to improve links between green technology research and design amongst our universities, education and training services, and the industry that benefits from both sectors. The investment of \$120 million in this new education centre is designed to assist and transform training in the building, construction and water industries and open the way to incorporating more clean, green technology into future building projects.

The new centre will consolidate metro TAFE delivery of certificate III and above in building, construction, electrical, refrigeration and plumbing training at the 58-hectare Tonsley Park redevelopment. Having these courses delivered at the one site will ensure continuity and avoid duplication. Resources can be shared and students have the opportunity to access a broad range of facilities and knowledge in the one place. Certificate I and II training in these trades will continue at Noarlunga and Elizabeth.

During the design period for this centre, there has been extensive consultation with industry, universities and educational staff to inform the full scope of the infrastructure investments at Tonsley and existing campuses. TAFE programs moving to the new centre at the Tonsley Park redevelopment currently have over 6,200 students enrolled and this number will increase to more than 8,000 at the SIEC.

There are approximately 11,000 students enrolled at the three campuses that will be affected by the relocation of programs to SIEC. A number of these students will finish their studies

by the time relocation is required. New students will be informed of the new arrangements as part of the planning process. Program relocations will occur in a way that minimises inconvenience to students and staff and no courses will be discontinued as a direct consequence of the establishment of the new centre.

The following specific trades have only one delivery point in the metro area, and it is important to note that these will shift to the new Sustainable Industries Education Centre. These trades are mortar and trowel trades, painting and decorating, sign writing, and plumbing and advanced building studies. Certificate III and above in carpentry and joinery, roof tiling, glass and glazing, and shop fitting will move from the Marleston campus, with entry-level training in these trades continuing at Elizabeth and Noarlunga. I can advise that work is progressing on this new centre with a view to training being delivered from 2014.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 36. What investment and support is provided to recognise outstanding achievement in the vocational education and training sector in South Australia?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I have seen firsthand that we have many outstanding people and organisations that contribute to our vocational education training sector, so I am pleased that there is an opportunity each year to acknowledge their commitment, both in South Australia and on the national stage. It is our opportunity to honour the exceptional students, providers and employers who help make a difference to the skills and career opportunities for South Australians.

We have the South Australian Training Awards as the peak state annual awards for VET, so that we recognise quality innovation and excellence in the training sector. While they acknowledge individuals and groups, this is an opportunity to also promote the fundamental importance of vocational education and training to the productivity of our economy. The key objectives of the awards are to promote the quality and value of vocational education and training in South Australia, profile the winners and finalists and celebrate their successes, and promote the winners as champions and ambassadors of training.

Our state awards are directly linked to the national training awards, because the Australian Training Awards are the culmination of all the state and territory awards, with winners competing in the national finals. Indeed, SA achieved great success at the 2012 Australian Training Awards, receiving a total of four national awards. South Australia was represented in nine out of the 11 national award categories, which was a significant achievement for the state.

The South Australian award recipients in the national awards included Drakes Supermarkets, winner of the Employer of the Year award. I say a big hello to Roger and Wendy Drake. I worked for many years there as a checkout chick. They do a great job. Bedford Group, another organisation that does an outstanding job in our community, was the winner of the Community Pathways to VET award. Alistair Keller was the winner of the Australian School-based Apprentice of the Year and Becara Hands was the runner-up for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Student of the Year.

Ms BEDFORD: My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 27. I ask the minister to advise the committee how many international students are studying in South Australia on further education and university courses, and what is the economic benefit to South Australia of our international student study programs?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I can advise that in the year to December 2012, there were 28,074 international student enrolments recorded in South Australia. This means that compared to 2002, there are 2½ times more international students today in South Australia. While there was a decline in enrolments compared to the previous year, this year has seen a positive increase in the number of international students commencing study in South Australia.

International education is a competitive industry. Factors which have contributed to the fluctuations include the effect of a high Australian dollar, increased competition from other countries and changes to visa arrangements. I am pleased to report the state's international education sector is showing early signs of a possible recovery, with the number of new students rising for the first time in three years. This is very good news.

The number of international students who commenced studying in South Australia increased by 3.9 per cent in March and 2.3 per cent in April, compared to the previous year. Student numbers commencing in March also increased at a faster rate than the national growth for the first time in three years. As I advised the house recently, the number of prospective students

applying for visas to study in Australia is also on the rise, which provides an indication of possible continued growth.

While South Australia's international education market is smaller than the Eastern States, South Australia is recognised as a safe and affordable city for international students. We have a reputation for providing high-quality education, training and support for international students, and for providing opportunities for international students to take part in a range of community and social activities and to enjoy learning and living in Adelaide.

The international education sector is important to our state for a number of reasons. Firstly, in economic terms, international education activity contributed about \$863 million in export income in 2011-12 to the South Australian economy. Indeed, international education is the state's largest service sector export.

I would like to thank all of our providers involved in this sector. I had the opportunity of meeting with a delegation who were visiting South Australia, and, as long as we can get these agents and delegates here to South Australia, the benefits not only of our education offerings, but the benefits of our state—it is safe it is very, very liveable—become very, very apparent. I look forward to those numbers growing.

Mr PISONI: I refer to page 23 of Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, dot point 3. Last year, you were able to bring back to the committee a list of occupations that are currently being filled by 457 visa holders in the South Australian government. Can I have an updated list?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Is the member suggesting that I provided that information? I do not think I provided that information.

Mr PISONI: The minister for employment, training and further education.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: In estimates last year?

Mr PISONI: Yes, when you were the education minister—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I'm happy—

Mr PISONI: —before you were sacked.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am happy to provide that information; in fact, I may even have that information with me. The South Australian government has used the 457 visa program to sponsor workers mostly in the health sector. Occupations include general medical practitioners, resident medical officers and registered nurses, medical and mental health workers and dentists.

Mr PISONI: I was after a list, the total. What you provided last year was a list that gave the number of general medical practitioners, the number of medical officers, the number of registered nurses, and the percentage of the 457 visa applications; there was a total of 300. I am asking for that detail. Perhaps that might need to come back to the committee, which I am more than happy to wait for.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: You will have to ask the correct minister, because I am not the minister for 457 visas. That's—

Mr PISONI: You are not the Minister for Employment?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That is minister Kenyon. I am happy to facilitate—

Mr PISONI: You are not the Minister for Employment?

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Point of order: I have sat here patiently, and the member for Unley continues to harass the minister by asking questions over her comments and repeating questions which are obviously made for political points, not to seek information. I ask you to rule him out of order.

The CHAIR: I would ask the member to wait for the minister to complete her answer before he asks his next question.

Mr PISONI: Certainly, sir. I would like clarification as to why the minister for employment and training answered that question last year and the minister is not prepared to answer it this year.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I encourage you to ask him that question, but I will provide information that I am responsible for. I will provide a response according to my portfolio responsibilities.

Mr PISONI: I refer to page 36 of the same budget paper: employees, and so forth. Can I have a breakdown of executive positions and their job descriptions? Obviously you will need to bring that back, and I am more than happy for that.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: No; it is not obvious, and if I have that information I will answer it now. I believe we have some information, and I am trying to get my hands on it now.

Mr PISONI: I am more than happy to wait until you have got the lot.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I can advise that in 2011-12 the number of employees with remuneration at the base executive level has increased from 52 to 54.

Mr PISONI: Point of order—

The CHAIR: No, no, no. The minister—

Mr PISONI: That is not the question. The question was a breakdown of executives and their job descriptions.

The CHAIR: The minister has the call.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Thank you, sir. I don't know why the member is getting into a state. I said that I would be very happy to provide a response. After removing leave payouts on termination, the number of employees with remuneration at the base executive level increased from 42 to 46. The growth in employees with remuneration at the base executive level is explained by the overlap of two Corporate Services director positions being terminated and replaced with two new Chief Financial Officer positions in TAFE SA. There was the creation of a new Director (International) position in TAFE SA and one TAFE SA employee who received living away from home allowance benefits in the 2011-12 financial year.

TAFE SA currently, I am advised—again, I want the committee to note the fluid nature of the employment rate at the moment in TAFE SA—currently has a number of executive positions vacant as it is in the process of finalising the restructure of the organisation. I am advised the executive FTE target for TAFE SA of 18 FTEs has been increased by six FTEs following the conversion of six employees previously employed under the TAFE Act to executive contracts.

Mr PISONI: The answer to the question I received last year actually listed this—and the paragraph describes what I received. It stated:

The current data below identifies true DFEEST executive positions under South Australian Executive Services (SAES), educational management positions under the TAFE Act, and Manager, Administrative Services positions under the Public Service Act.

That is what I would like, if I may.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will see if that is possible. Obviously, we are operating in a new arrangement with the split having occurred between TAFE and DFEEST and officers will do their best to provide an answer to your question.

Mr PISONI: I take you now to page 21—Learning, Workforce Participation and Workforce Development objectives. Last year, I asked the minister to advise on how many employers of apprentices qualified for, or took advantage of, the exemption for the payroll tax concession. He was able to bring an answer back on 5 November 2012 for the period from 1 July 2010-11, but information for 2011-12 would not be available until after the completion of the annual reconciliation process towards late 2012. Are you able to provide that information now?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That information does exist, we just don't have that with us, but that is information that is easy to provide.

Mr PISONI: So you will bring that back?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes.

Mr PISONI: I would like now to take the minister to the same budget paper, page 14, which refers to the mining and engineering training centre. I note that the funding has been transferred from the Sustainable Industries Education Centre to the mining industry centre, but before we go to the mining and engineering industry centre—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Sorry sir, I just missed that.

Mr PISONI: The question is: how many tenants do you have for this Sustainable Industries Education Centre at Tonsley Park in signed leases?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: There is Tonsley Park and then there is SIEC, and I am responsible for SIEC. Minister Kenyon, I believe, is the lead minister for Tonsley Park. So, what was your question?

Mr PISONI: The question is: this budget item, under the capital investment—Budget Paper 5, Capital Investment Statement—is actually a budget item that is allocated to your department. It is under the heading Department for Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology, the Sustainable Industries Education Centre, there is an estimated cost there of \$120 million-odd.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That's correct; TAFE is the predominant tenant of the Sustainable Industries Education Sector. You are confusing Tonsley Park with the SIEC.

Mr PISONI: Sorry? We refer specifically to Tonsley Park.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, because that is where it is located.

Mr PISONI: So, you're not—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The SIEC will consolidate metro TAFE delivery of certificate III and above in building, construction, electrical, refrigeration and plumbing training at the 58-hectare Tonsley Park redevelopment. Certificate I and II training in these trades will continue at Noarlunga and Elizabeth. TAFE programs moving to SIEC at the Tonsley Park redevelopment currently have over 6,200 students enrolled. I mentioned this before: I think you are confused as to the question you are asking me. I am responsible for the SIEC, and then there is Tonsley Park, and minister Kenyon is responsible for that.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Page 20 under the same volume, Volume 3: there is mention of retrenchment payments to Kimberly-Clark and savings made in that program. What is the availability of retention payments to employees generally across the state? Not specifically Kimberly-Clark, but what is the entitlement within this program to employees across the whole state for any small business that is retrenched?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I can advise that the Kimberly-Clark payments were unique, but yes, there are other payments that workers—and it was mostly commonwealth payments, but I am looking to get my hands on a brief in relation to this. I do have a brief in relation to what we offer retrenched workers. The South Australian government retrenched worker program provides a range of services to retrenched workers which assists them to transition into training and/or employment. This program is managed by DFEEST.

The support package is voluntary. Workers do not have to engage with the program, nor advise DFEEST if they gain employment. Tracking employment outcomes is difficult, particularly when the Australian government is not involved, but, nonetheless, services to workers are delivered in collaboration with the career development centres. DFEEST directs retrenched workers from companies undergoing structural adjustment in areas outside of the policy scope of DFEEST (e.g. retail) to access support through the career development centres.

The DFEEST retrenched worker program assists a worker for a period of up to six months from the date of retrenchment, supporting the following activities: full qualifications delivered through a registered training organisation, gap training to enable workers to achieve a full qualification, training resources required to undertake the training, and other non-accredited training that is outside VET. The criteria for support under the program include regional location, scale of employment and local/regional reliance, the age and skill profile of the workforce and potential for re-employment, and availability to link with other programs and/or agencies to support the workers.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So what is the budget line for that program?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will just see if I have got the budget line for that particular program for the retrenched worker program. It is included in the Learning Workforce Participation and Workforce Development sub-program. If you want the budget line for the retrenched worker program only, I will have to bring that back to you.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: If you could.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I would be happy to.

Mr PISONI: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 18. Can the minister advise how many training categories under Skills for All have been capped since 1 July 2012?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that it is a total of 18.

Mr PISONI: Is there a review currently being conducted for the implementation of more caps?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That would be a review of the Funded Training List. Is that what you are talking about?

Mr PISONI: Is there a review underway that could see more caps on—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Is it a review of the Funded Training List? Is that what you are talking about?

Mr PISONI: Yes.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: There are many reviews in government. What is it that you are talking about precisely?

Mr PISONI: Will there be any more caps in the 2012-13 year?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: There is a review underway and when that review is concluded I would be happy to share the results of that with you. I will just check the status of that review. I am happy to provide the information for the member. I made the point earlier that it is very important that the training we offer South Australians reflects the needs of industry and business. I am sure the member for Unley would appreciate that. So, it is important that it is a dynamic list that reflects the needs of industry but also balances that against the desires of individuals to undertake training in particular areas. This is an ongoing process that will occur to ensure that our training offerings are hitting the mark not only for business but also for individuals. There is no point training people for whom there is not an industry or a market need.

Mr PISONI: Is there a current review underway?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I answered that earlier and the answer is yes.

Mr PISONI: When will that review be complete?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Shortly.

Mr PISONI: When will an announcement be made? Minister, there are dozens and dozens—

The CHAIR: Hold on. You have asked your question. Let us hear from the minister her answer, then you can ask another question.

Mr PISONI: I will just get this on *Hansard* while she is conferring.

The CHAIR: No, there is no need to.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: There is some detail, so I will ask Mr Garrard to advise the committee.

Mr GARRARD: We have undertaken fairly broad-based consultation in terms of changes to the Funded Training List. I think we have had about 80 submissions and consulted with about 140 people, including industry, regional training providers and others. We have released publicly on our website the outcome of that consultation. So, there is a report outlining the outcomes of that consultation, which is on the website.

The first element of that in terms of some initial changes to the Funded Training List was released last Thursday. Superseded courses and courses where there were no training providers and where there were no students enrolled—some of those courses have come off the Funded Training List. In addition, there are some TAFE-only courses that were on the Funded Training List and, as was always the case, those courses will come off that list.

Those initial changes were released and a revised Funded Training List was released on Thursday. In terms of the next stage of that consultation—as the minister said, it was always the intention to make sure the funding aligns to industry demand but is also within the budget parameters that have been set—any further changes to the Funded Training List will be announced shortly.

Mr PISONI: When will providers that are providing VET training be able to plan for their next round of applicants, for example? Will they know by next term, for example, if the courses they are currently providing will be fully funded?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: If there are changes, in terms of caps or things like that, they will get three months notice. However, I certainly appreciate, having met with a number of training providers, that certainty is very important, especially if there are caps being placed. They have made that point and I appreciate that, so we will work with the sector to give training providers as much notice as possible. I have to say that providers have been very reasonable, and I think the process has been pretty good. Like I said, we do not want to train people for whom there is no employment.

The CHAIR: I remind the member for Unley that we are due to go to science—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Excuse me, sir, can I add—

The CHAIR: Sorry, minister.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am further advised that for changes to eligibility it is three months' notice, and for cap changes it is one months' notice under the contract.

Mr PISONI: One final supplementary if I may.

The CHAIR: One final question.

Mr PISONI: Is it the expectation for courses that have begun, that funding will continue until that course is completed, under any changes to funding arrangements through cap changes or others?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, the changes are not retrospective.

The CHAIR: We are now due to go to Science and Information Economy. I am not sure whether that requires changes to advisers. It probably does so, if that can occur now, please.

Membership:

Mr Gardner substituted for Ms Sanderson.

Mr Griffiths substituted for Mr Pisoni.

Mrs Redmond substituted for Mr Evans.

Departmental Advisers:

Dr J. Michaelis, Chief Executive, Bio Innovation SA.

Mr R. Garrard, Chief Executive, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Mr P. Mylius-Clark, Director, Strategic Policy, Resources and Finance, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Ms P. Chau, Director, Strategic Finance and Budgets, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Ms M. Rieger, Manager, Science and Research, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Mr P. Williams, Acting Director, Office of Science, Technology and Research, Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

Ms S. Mortellaro, Deputy Chief Executive, Bio Innovation SA.

The CHAIR: Minister, if you would like to introduce your staff and make any opening statement.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Thank you, sir. I will not make an opening statement but I advise the committee that Dr Jurgen Michaelis now joins me. Jurgen is the Chief Executive of Bio Innovation SA. He is well known to all of us in this place, I am sure, on both sides of the house.

The CHAIR: Does the member for Goyder wish to make an opening statement.

Mr GRIFFITHS: No. Minister, I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 34, Sub-program Bio Science Industry Development. Can the minister provide an update on the long-term master

plan for the Thebarton Bioscience precinct including funding arrangements for the refit and the completion of the BioSA Tech Hub?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am very happy to provide that answer. I am not going to deprive the parliament of the contribution by Dr Michaelis, and I know that he would be very happy to provide an answer to that. He feels very passionately and very strongly about this, as do we all, but we need to listen to his passion here this morning. I will ask Dr Michaelis to refer to the Thebarton master planning process.

Dr MICHAELIS: We have just completed and published in close collaboration with West Torrens council, the Thebarton Technology Hub Master Plan, which will outline a 10-year strategy to rejuvenate Thebarton. They provide for a way of building a community. 'A community' means a technology community. We have in Thebarton currently 90 technology companies co-located, one of the largest classes in Australia, in an area which is an old industrial site.

We have turned an old industrial site into a modern technology-based suburb. It is in close proximity to the new hospital, to the medical research institute. We still have land for sale in the area which provides a long-term strategy to co-locate companies. We have recently announced that we are opening our second business incubator building. So, in the long-term strategy for the next 10 years, we expect employment numbers to grow significantly and make this one of the strongest industry hubs in South Australia, if not in Australia.

Mr GRIFFITHS: If I could just seek some clarification of the answer provided then. In relation to the employment numbers, what is the current number of the 90 businesses that work from that site and the people they employ, and what is the expected opportunity that the 10-year plan provides?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We are very happy to be helpful but we do not have that information with us. We will have to take that on notice and bring you back a reply.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Just on that: for a 10-year vision, I presume it occurs in stages, or is it intended to put it all on the market at once? What effort is being made to attract businesses into that locality?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will ask Dr Michaelis to answer that.

Dr MICHAELIS: Just to clarify that. In Thebarton we have 90 businesses. About one-third are in the life sciences, so just over 30 businesses.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Sorry; one-third are?

Dr MICHAELIS: One-third are in life sciences and two-thirds are in other high technology industries. That is why we do not have the exact employment numbers. Of the companies that work with BioSA, about one-third are in Thebarton, the other two-thirds are not in Thebarton. We currently have about 1,600 employees in the businesses that we are dealing with in the life sciences sector.

Mr GRIFFITHS: 1,600?

Dr MICHAELIS: 1,600. The number has grown, it has probably doubled in the past 10 years since we have worked in the sector. One thing I want to say is, it is not necessarily the number of employees, it is the average earning of an employee. The average earning of an employee in South Australia—if you will allow me to answer that?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, of course.

Dr MICHAELIS: The average earning is, I think, about \$45,000 per annum. In our industry, it is \$68,000 per annum. So, building high tech industries will increase the average earning on a per capita basis in South Australia.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, just on that. I certainly respect the importance it plays in part of the future economy of the state too, when you are looking at the higher valued industry options, so it is appropriate for an investment to take place there. The first part of my question though was, I believe there is a \$2 million re-fit of the Tech Hub.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That is correct.

Mr GRIFFITHS: When is that anticipated to be finished?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: It is about the end of the year. I visited that facility a little while ago and it is a fantastic facility and provides a very significant next stage in terms of this precinct. I do not know if you have been out there. I would be very happy to arrange—

Mr GRIFFITHS: A couple of years ago.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: A couple of years ago. I would be very happy if you wanted to go out and have another look.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I shall.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: But, by the end of this year.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I take it the \$2 million has been allocated over two financial years in 2012-13 and 2013-14, and it will be later this year when the Tech Hub re-fit will be finished. Is that what is making up a significant component of the total expense for the science, technology and information economy increase, which I think is about \$2.5 million from 2012-13 and 2013-14?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I can advise you that the \$2.8 million increase in net cost of service is primarily due to higher expenditure associated with the Premier's Research and Industry Fund—that is an extra \$1 million—higher expenditure in 2013-14 associated with the Adelaide City Wireless Broadband project and higher expenditure associated with the commencement of the High-Value Food Manufacturing Centre. These are all very worthwhile initiatives. I think there is no question that, in terms of bang for our buck, investing in science and technology is a very good thing. The incubator is budget neutral, I am advised.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Okay. Minister, just getting back to the 10-year plan and the presumption, from me, that there is going to be land available for sale. I presume it is not all going to be developed by government and available for start-up firms to lease or anything like that. If there is a sale involved, what is the split of the financial return from the investment in the land? Does it partly go to your department and partly to Treasury? Can you just confirm that arrangement?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that it goes back into consolidated revenue.

Mr GRIFFITHS: The total amount?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes; that is my advice, but I am happy to check that and bring back a response if it proves to be different.

Mr GRIFFITHS: The reference is page 34 now, minister, if I may: Bioscience Industry Development. Can the minister advise how many businesses BioSA assisted to access private equity in funding, including through early-stage venture capitalists such as Terra Rossa Capital, in 2012-13?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am very happy to provide that information. Before I refer to Dr Michaelis, in relation to Terra Rossa Capital, I can advise that Terra Rossa Capital is the South Australian fund management company. It invests MTAA superannuation money with high-tech and bioscience companies. To date, TRC has invested approximately \$17 million in MTAA Super capital.

The 11 investee companies received an additional \$65 million in private coinvestment and \$15 million in federal grants. TRC has exited two companies that returned capital to the MTAA above the prescribed hurdle rate of 25 per cent IRR. TRC receives a BioSA grant to support its operations of approximately \$200,000 as per cabinet approval. In terms of the list of companies, I am just going to ask Dr Michaelis to inform the committee directly.

Dr MICHAELIS: In every financial year, we work with about 40 companies. It is not necessarily financial assistance that will assist the businesses: it is the mentoring, business planning, marketing approach and internationalising the businesses.

We did a recent calculation and asked ourselves: if we have spent \$1 in grants for these businesses, how much additional money have these companies attracted either through additional funding or through revenue, like sales of goods and services? It is about an additional \$10. So, for every dollar we spend in grant money, the business has attracted another \$10. I think that, plus the money that Terra Rossa Capital has provided into South Australia, is one of the reasons why we have Thebarton as a booming industrial high-tech hub.

Mr GRIFFITHS: So, minister, just from your answer and that from Dr Michaelis, it is \$17 million from Terra Rossa. No, sorry, I think that was funding from MTAA, wasn't it? When did that commence? When was Terra Rossa first established?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: What is your question? When did Terra Rossa Capital commence?

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes.

Dr MICHAELIS: Terra Rossa Capital started making investments late in 2006.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Thank you. There is another program also, the BioSA Industry Development Program, which I understand is repayable when there has been a level of success. Can the minister advise how many applicants were granted through that program?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am not sure that we have those details. I will just check. We will just need to check and get back to you with an answer on that. We have that information, but do not have it with us now.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I understand. I am interested in the relationship that exists between Bio Innovation SA and the plant functional genomics centre at the Waite. Can you give me some details of the funding—how much that is, historically what it has been, and in future what it may be?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, I am happy to do that. I visited the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics not that long ago. They are doing amazing things. The ACPFG is a joint initiative between the Australian Research Council, the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the universities of Adelaide, South Australia, Melbourne and Queensland, and the state governments of Victoria and South Australia. The centre was spun out of the University of Adelaide in 2002 and, of course, is located at the Waite campus. It has rapidly become one of the most successful knowledge organisations globally in wheat research, developing technology that improves the tolerance of cereals to stresses such as drought.

Since 2002-03 the state government has invested \$20.75 million into the centre. It is estimated that over the last 10 years the centre has leveraged an additional \$148 million, with the majority of these resources expended in South Australia. The administration of this funding was transferred to DFEEST from BioSA. A variation to the funding agreement has been prepared, with the first payment of \$130,000 made on execution of the variation. I stand to be corrected, but I understand that BioSA initially was responsible for the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics. That has now been transferred to DFEEST.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I certainly respect that. One of my earliest memories here is of Rob Kerin talking about the plant genomics centre too; I know the honourable member was a very strong supporter of it.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, he was.

Mr GRIFFITHS: This is on page 30. I come from a regional community, so the principle of value adding has always been important to me. Can the minister provide a breakdown of the \$4.1 million in funding to be released over the next four years for the high value food manufacturing centre? I believe it is something like \$600,000 for the 2013-14 year, but I am interested in the forward year projections too.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: You would appreciate that this is an item that has just been announced in the budget. For your information, the lead minister on this is actually minister Kenyon. We are collaborating clearly, but I am happy to provide you with the information that I have in relation to this. The South Australian agriculture, food and wine industries make an important contribution, generating approximately \$15.5 billion in annual revenue or 11 per cent of gross state product.

The proposed centre will streamline and drive efficient utilisation of resources to capture and catalyse the state's food technology transfer and value adding capabilities, enabling penetration especially into competitive Asian markets.

The centre will comprise, it is envisaged, a small and highly specialised team that will do that work. The key with this centre is being able to bring together researchers, industry and government. When I imagine the future of this particular part of the portfolio, I think—and BioSA is a very good example of this—the future lies in connecting research and government with industry.

The centre will also provide funding programs aimed at providing a mechanism to train graduate students directly in the food industry. The centre will also be linked into the regional and key food sectors through the recently announced premium food and wine industry clusters in the Murraylands, the Riverland and the Limestone Coast.

Given your particular interest in regional South Australia, I think this centre has a great deal to offer. I am happy to pass on your question to minister Kenyon. We are still very much in the early stages of working through that proposal but, like I said, I am not the lead minister, but I am contributing, and I am very happy to bring back a more detailed response if it exists.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I asked that question of you because I worked on the basis that it was in your portfolio area.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That is correct; it is. It is just the way that we have landed in terms of governance. You did the right thing, asking the question; I referred to it in my own statement. We worked up the bid, we led the working up of the bid, but it has now gone to minister Kenyon.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Have you had some negotiations about expectations of commencement times and what the target revenue opportunities will bring in?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes; of course. We are all working across government collaboratively. In terms of commencement time, I will just check if that has been sorted. A commencement date has not been set as such, but we are proceeding with great urgency. It would be my view to make sure that we realise this budget commitment as soon as possible; however, we want to make sure that we get the model right; and there are a number of parties who will be sitting at the table. We will bring back a reply if there is more information.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I understand if the responsibility has been transferred, but in the work that you and your department have already done you would have set targets, I presume. You talked at the start about the \$15 billion in value from export and what is grown in the state. I understand it has to start small and it will grow bigger, as most things do, but what sort of targets have you put in place across the forward estimates of what you think the economy will grow by, by virtue of the investment?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that targets have not been set to date, that is the work we are doing now. I will get back to you with as much information that we have. I referred to figures earlier about the value of the sector to the South Australian economy, but we have not set targets per se, but I will check that. We may be able to provide an early business case, in which case I am happy to give that information to you.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I asked the question on the basis that I would have presumed that, as part of the cabinet submission requirement, bilateral discussions would have occurred and there would have been an expectation of a return, too.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes; targets per se I do not think exist, but we will check, and I will certainly get as much information as I can to you about stacking up the business case.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Okay; thank you, minister. I refer to the program 2.2: information economy, page 33. Can you advise about the involvement of the state government coordinated groups including the national broadband network early release sites reference group, the digital economy strategy group, and the national broadband network workforce project committee to implement strategies to support the availability and effective use of broadband in South Australia?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I beg your pardon? What was the first part of the question?

Mr GRIFFITHS: Can you advise of the involvement of the state government coordinated groups?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The member would be well aware that, in relation to the national broadband network in particular, this is largely a commonwealth responsibility, but the government of South Australia is keen to ensure that South Australia maximises the extent of the fibre optic roll out and the state benefits from the availability of high-speed broadband services.

The extent and nature of the rollout in South Australia are the result of principles implemented by the commonwealth and the NBN company. These principles were developed for the national context and will provide fibre broadband for 93 per cent of premises with fixed wireless broadband and satellite broadband services for the remainder. This is a national target, and the actual situation for individual states may vary from this figure. In South Australia, based on indicative information released so far, less than 90 per cent of premises will receive fibre optic connections due to SA's demographics and NBN business rules.

The South Australian government has established an NBN task force with a secretariat provided by the Office of the Chief Information Officer to liaise with NBN. DFEEST is a participating

member of that task force and also directly works with the NBN company on aspects ranging from infrastructure deployment, related work force issues and how the community and business can best use NBN services when they become available. Now I know there were other elements of your question.

Mr GARDNER: It interests me; in the information, about two-thirds of the way through, I think you have referred to less than 90 per cent. That is a very broad range, minister.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I think—and I stand to be corrected—that is in relation to the figure of 93 per cent. I think the point that was being made there was that the national figure that has been set is 93 per cent. Because South Australia has more cities with fewer than 1,000 premises, that impacts on that 90 per cent figure.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I must admit that on the day in which the budget papers were released, one of the figures that jumped out at me straight away was on page 33 when it talks about 'activity indicators'. At the very bottom there was an actual in 2011-12 of 0.11 per cent of properties that were connected with broadband access, and the projection for 2012-13 was 10 per cent. The amount they actually achieved was 0.21 per cent. I have to ask the question: if you set such a good target 12 months ago, why was it that only a fraction of that was achieved?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, that is a reasonable question. I will see if we have that information.

An honourable member: Very, very generous.

The CHAIR: Yes, very reasonable.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am not going to argue for the sake of arguing. It is a reasonable question.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I am glad we agree, Grace.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We do. I will just ask Mr Garrard to advise the committee on that question.

Mr GARRAND: Our projections originally would have been on the original timing of the rollout of the NBN; so some of the delays in the rollout of the NBN have clearly impacted on that figure.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: It is a large variation, I do acknowledge that.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Significant, minister. So, the delays were incurred as a result of what issue? Was it a federally-managed problem, or a state-managed issue?

Mr GARRAND: As the minister said, the rollout of the NBN is a federal issue in relation to NBN Co., so the time issues are largely their timing issues—it had nothing to do with state government.

Mr GRIFFITHS: A further supplementary, Mr Chairman. I note that the 2013-14 projection is 2.5 per cent, which represents 25 times the current amount of connections or thereabouts. How confident can all of us be of that figure being achieved then?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: If you go to that same page, the bottom of page 33, there is a footnote that the 2012-13 estimated result is due to significant delays in the deployment of the national broadband SA and the 2013-14 projection is subject to the NBN deployment forecasts for SA being met. Clearly, we are very disappointed in the 2012-13 result, but we are hopeful of achieving this result.

Mr GRIFFITHS: So, minister, that goes back to the question I asked at the start of this. I respect that there is a federal program to deal with it—I understand that—but there is state government involvement, as I understand it, through the National Broadband Network Early Release Sites Reference Group, the Digital Economy Strategy Group and the National Broadband Network Workforce Project Committee. I suppose my question has to be: it must have been picked up very early that delays would be incurred. What level of effort occurred within the state to actually progress things?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: You are right; we do participate in the national forum, and we lobby hard on behalf of the state to make sure that we are getting our fair share of the NBN rollout. In the end, we do not make the call about how they are going to roll it out, but we certainly seek to

use our positions that we have federally to make sure South Australia gets its fair share of the rollout in a timely way, and we will continue to press for that.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, as the state minister responsible for that, do you receive from the delegates that you have appointed to be involved in these groups updates and reports on the progress being made?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Just for your information, the task force reports to the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and that person is responsible to the Premier. So, this is another case of overlap between government ministers. I can seek information for you about the nature of those dealings, but I would have to get information for you from another minister.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I respect that there may be some crossed wires sometimes in reporting lines and where they go back to, but for you as the responsible minister, I presume that you would have been cc'd into advice about this?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am not the responsible minister. I am the Minister for Information Economy; I am not the responsible minister for the NBN rollout.

Mr GRIFFITHS: No, I understand that—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes.

Mr GRIFFITHS: —but you are the one that has the particular vested interest in ensuring that the rollout occurs.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, of course, as does—

Mr GRIFFITHS: All of us.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: —the entire cabinet, yes. I will just restate the point I made earlier, which is that we put the case for South Australia. As to how that is being put, that is an operational matter on which I will seek some advice for you. The government's policy stance is there: we are committed to the NBN and we want it rolled out as much as we can. Just for your information, the responsible minister for the NBN is the Premier, but I am happy to facilitate whatever information it is that you like.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I appreciate that offer, minister; thank you. Again, referring to page 33, can the minister advise the reason why the number of small to medium business owners participating in the eBiz SA program fell from 370 in the 2011-12 financial year to, I believe it was identified as 250 for the 2012-13 year?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am just seeking an answer in relation to that.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Thank you.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Apparently the change in numbers simply reflects how the program was rolled out, but I will bring back an answer to you that explains how the program was rolled out.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Thank you for that, minister, but is it your understanding that the program is still being very actively marketed to encourage involvement?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will just check that. I will take that one on notice, as well; I am not sure how eBiz is being rolled out at an operational level, but I will certainly take that on notice. Actually, I have just been joined by Peter Williams, who is the Acting Director of Digital Economy and Technology, DFEEST. He will be able to provide a more detailed response in relation to this which will no longer require us to bring the matter back.

Mr WILLIAMS: The eBiz program is a grant funding program that is delivered through regional development authorities, councils, etc. The reduction in numbers over the last couple of years has been related to the sorts of programs that these organisations have developed and then we, in turn, have funded. The program marketing is again through these organisations. It is not actively marketed. Information is available through our DFEEST website, but business advisory organisations through local councils and, as I say, regional development authorities are aware of the program and, because of the small number of dollars involved, we are very careful in the way that we distribute the funds for the program.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, just some additional details on that, if I may. I presume that the Business Enterprise Centres in metropolitan Adelaide and Business SA, those sorts of groups, are involved in marketing it also?

Mr WILLIAMS: Yes, certainly they are, although, as you are probably aware, there has been a significant reduction in the number of business enterprise centres. We used to, in the years gone by, work closely with business enterprise centres. Now, we work with those that are still operating within metropolitan South Australia in providing funding for their programs.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Thank you.

Mr GRIFFITHS: As part of that funding statement from Mr Williams then, does the lower number reflect a conscious decision on the amount of dollars made available in the 2012-13 year, or was it just purely the interest level shown?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I do not think one can provide a black-and-white answer to that question. I refer the member to the very honest statements made by Mr Williams, who described the way that the service is rolled out and how it is offered.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I appreciate that, and Mr Williams did give a good, detailed answer, but he talked about working within the available funding, so that is therefore my question. If we go from 370 in 2011-12 to 250, was it part of a funding program that you are able to give me some additional details on about what it has been historically for the last two financial years and what it is projected to be for the forward estimates?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Mr Williams, would you like to—

Mr WILLIAMS: The funding has remained the same for the last couple of years at \$60,000 per year.

Mr GRIFFITHS: A lot of discussions—well done. I appreciate that. Minister, still on page 33, you have referred to the Adelaide wi-fi broadband project also I think as part of your previous answer or it might have been a comment that you have made. Can you advise of the level of funding and support allocated through the information economy program to work with Adelaide City Council to implement this project?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, very happy to, and you are right; it is a collaboration with the Adelaide City Council, with whom we will partner to facilitate the establishment of a wi-fi network in the City of Adelaide. This will involve a one-off contribution to the project of \$1 million from the government and \$500,000 from the council. This initiative will enhance and support the aims of the state government and Adelaide City Council to make Adelaide a vibrant, activated, connected and smart city.

The network will feature, for instance, a wireless connection to the internet in outdoor public spaces; free public access on a managed basis in priority areas and where large numbers of people gather, including community events; and wireless access points will be fitted to council assets, for instance, light poles. It is anticipated the project will eventually cover large parts of the Adelaide City Council area, with priority given to the most heavily used areas. We are still finalising some aspects and, as such, details about the provider remain confidential, and I am sure the member would appreciate that. However, I hope soon to be in a position to provide more information.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I appreciate the details as part of a briefing that Mr Garrand gave the member for Waite and myself a couple of months ago about this project, too. If I can use the \$1 million from the state and \$500,000 from the Adelaide City Council, is there an on-going cost associated with the provision of the service, and for how long?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised no, not from the state government, or the council, actually.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Is there a capacity limit, then, of the network that is going to be in place for the number of users who can be on it?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I think the answer is no, but Mr Garrand has some further information.

Mr GARRAND: As you know, there will be quite a few access points across the city. There is potential for other users to come on board and have a bandwidth, I suppose, within the network. If they want a dedicated service—for instance, potentially the universities or others—they are free to negotiate that with the provider. Likewise, in terms of the rollout of the free wi-fi to the Parklands and for events, while there will be a standard level of free service, if others want to come on board and augment that with a higher level of service or a different service, they can once again negotiate that with the provider that is doing the rollout for the city as a whole.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I do commend you on the initiative; I think it is a great idea, but I am interested in the protocols that might be in place about the level of control. For example, are businesses that operate within the region able to access it? Normally, they would have their own commercial arrangement with an alternative supplier. How can you put protocols in place to stop that?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Mr Garrand has more technical information that might be useful.

Mr GARRAND: This is predominantly for outside areas. Likewise, for most businesses, clearly they will have their own internet or other arrangements for their business themselves. Where you had some of the hot spots in the city before, this will link up with those as well. For businesses themselves, to the extent that this does provide a free service, that is a benefit to them, clearly. If they were looking at having their own outdoor wireless mesh before, they would have had to probably develop that themselves, so this will provide that service to those businesses. However, for most businesses in terms of their own internet and broadband services within their premises, that will remain the same. This is predominantly for those outdoor areas.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I can respect that businesses would prefer to have a system that they have a level of control over by virtue of part ownership on it but, with cost of living pressures being immense on every person and every business looking at it, there are probably some people out there who would do that. I appreciate the detail provided though.

I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 34, which is the Bioscience Industry Development. Can the minister advise the total level of funding distributed through the Adelaide Integrated Bioscience Laboratories Research Infrastructure Fund in the 2012-13 year?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: We will have to take that on notice. We will bring you back a reply in relation to that.

Mr GRIFFITHS: That slight break has prompted a thought that I had, which goes back to the previous question about the Adelaide City government project. Is there any way of checking that to keep controls on it, such as download amounts and all that sort of stuff? Are there limits that are going to be built into the system so that it is not a continuous connection that is available, for example, so that it would prevent businesses from using it?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes. That is a good point and those issues have been factored into the proposal.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Still on page 34, can the minister advise why the 2013-14 target to create new biotechnology companies in South Australia remains at three, I believe, the same target as was in place in 2012-13? I think there were seven in the 2011-12 financial year. I would have thought the ambitious target would have been out there and it would have returned at least to what has been able to be met historically, so I am interested in some details.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Before I ask Dr Michaelis to refer to your question, I would like the committee to note the massive investment by the federal government in the biomedical precinct on North Terrace; the investment in UniSA with the Centre for Cancer Biology—and I am going on my memory here—which I think will open in 2017; and then the investments which are worth about \$60 million for the University of Adelaide. I think in terms of this area of government activity, and in terms of collaboration with universities and other research institutes, we are about to enter very exciting times. That precinct, with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and the SAHMRI, is going to make South Australia the largest biomedical precinct in the Southern Hemisphere, so I would like the committee to note that.

Mr GRIFFITHS: If I may just ask a question on that comment.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Sure.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Given that certain events have occurred federally since the announcement was made—and I am trying to be polite here—I am interested in commitments provided, not just on the day of the announcement being made, but on signed commitments that will ensure that the funding comes through to South Australia. The minister is nodding, so can I presume, therefore, that they are in place?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I would be surprised if the commitment was made on the basis of leadership status. I was there at the event and it seemed to be pretty much committed—but, you know.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I understand that, but on that day we had an election on 14 September also, and we do not know that either.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I cannot tell you. I am still working on that date unless otherwise determined by the new prime minister.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I understand that but—

The CHAIR: And the member cannot find it in the budget papers either.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I am only referring to a comment provided by the minister.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: If you are asking me to speculate on what is happening in federal politics—we have the money. In fact, the prime minister at the time, Julia Gillard, was asked about how this money was being funded and it was being funded through the budget. So, I take that as a commitment.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I understand that minister, but, indeed, in a relatively short period of time we have had the carbon tax reviewed and brought forward by Kevin Rudd and, now, what was intended to occur in two years' time is going to occur much earlier too, so there is a period of 'fluency' that exists here. You have said to me that you were at the presentation and you took her to be serious. I respect your intent, but are you able to either confirm to the committee or provide in writing later to me a signed commitment being placed for the guarantee of those funds?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Why don't I undertake to get to you the nature of the funding agreement? I cannot provide an answer to you which is on the basis of speculation of what might be happening federally, but if there is any change, then I will certainly advise the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the former minister for health without whom we would not have had the new Royal Adelaide Hospital and the SAHMRI. It is an outstanding precinct. South Australia already does incredibly well in terms of our biomedical research but this precinct is going to propel South Australia onto an international stage like we have never seen. I will now ask Dr Michaelis to make some comments.

Dr MICHAELIS: I think the question referred to the number of companies incorporated—

Mr GRIFFITHS: Yes, previously seven, now three.

Dr MICHAELIS: It is not a matter of the resources behind it. BioSA sees about 40 opportunities a year, and sometimes it leads to five or seven companies being generated, sometimes only three. It really is a matter of quality versus quantity. It is more feasible to incorporate a company that has a tremendous growth trajectory rather than a one-person, one-technology band. The numbers should not reflect the level of activity and the quality behind it.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, I understand from Dr Michaelis' earlier answer that 90 companies were based at the Thebarton precinct. Mention was also made of the positioning that South Australia has created for itself on the national stage in this area. Has that resulted in companies being attracted to South Australia when they are looking at areas where they might start up? Are they thinking about South Australia? I suppose that is why I have asked the question, because if we have created that niche for ourselves, and that opportunity, then surely, I would have thought, a higher number would come from that and we would set more of an aspirational target.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I think BioSA is very attractive, and that is evidenced by its growth, but I will ask Dr Michaelis to provide any detail that we have now.

Dr MICHAELIS: The key in industry development is to create an environment that other companies want to be a part of. It is not necessarily a matter of how many dollars are available in grant or support to lure someone in from interstate. We have seen on a couple of occasions that interstate companies have located to Thebarton simply because we had space in the business incubator and we had the option to get money from a venture capital fund. With the opening of the next building, the next business incubator take-up, we have already seen inquiries from interstate companies to come into it. So, it is the environment that we are creating in BioSA, the land, the space in buildings, the management support available to capital, the grant, it is that entire package that becomes of significance for interstate companies.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Page 29. Minister, could you provide examples of projects that have been funded in the 2012-13 financial year that have a specific focus on value-added product for South Australia and, indeed, with a focus on increasing export opportunity?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will refer you to some more information. There are lots and lots of examples throughout the agency of where we seek to value-add. In fact, in the science area

of the portfolio it is all about value-add and leveraging government investments, leveraging university investments, and that then enables them to leverage, say, European Commission money, for instance. One area is the activity that we support in relation to cooperative research centres. They have a very strong industry value-add. I will give you some examples:

- The Australian Seafood CRC. Commonwealth funding, \$35.5 million. SARDI is the lead agency in South Australia.
- The Automotive Australia 2020 CRC (formerly the CRC for Advanced Automotive Technology). DMITRE is the lead agency there and we have the University of South Australia as a participant. Our contribution there is \$100,000.
- The CRC for Biomarker Translation. The lead agency there is CYWHS, basically the Women's and Children's Hospital—maybe the member for Kaurana can correct me. The lead SA participant is the Children's Health Research Institute. Again, it is a \$100,000 investment.

We can see in terms of the state government's contribution, they are not insignificant, but what they enable us to do is to take a seat at the table to enable further value-add and buy-in. I continue:

- The CRC for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment. The University of South Australia, again, is the lead SA participant. \$100,000.
- The CRC for Internationally Competitive Pork. SARDI again, in collaboration with the University of Adelaide. \$100,000.
- The CRC for Low Carbon Living. The University of South Australia. A contribution of \$100,000.
- The CRC for Sheep Industry Innovation—he is nodding.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Good work.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes.

- The CRC for Sheep Industry Innovation. SARDI is the lead agency. A \$100,000 contribution.
- Future Farm Industries—also very important, particularly for regional South Australia—CRC. SARDI and DEWNR, with the University of Adelaide. \$100,000.
- The Rail CRC. University of South Australia. \$100,000.

I also have innovation vouchers—that is a collaboration between DMITRE and DFEEST. The voucher recipients include the Dotti Enterprises Australian Genome Research Facility, SPS Aus International Australian Wine Research Institute and Goolwa Pipi Harvesters—in fact, I announced this not long ago—who have a collaboration there with SARDI. Then there was Tindo Solar and Tindo Solar Ian Wark Research Institute. The first one was for batteries, this is for infra—

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, could you declare the values for the contribution being made on those?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, the first one—Dotti Enterprises—\$20,000; SPS Aus International, \$16,667; Goolwa Pipis, \$13,333; Tindo Solar, in relation to batteries, \$33,000; Tindo Solar Ian Wark infrared filter, \$33,000; and TGR BioSciences Australian National Fabrication Facility, \$30,000.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, it is certainly an extensive list. Is the contribution made on the basis of what an expectation of a return is? Is there a calculation that Mr Garrard does and puts up to you as a submission for consideration? What does it have to meet first before it has actually got a good chance of being successful with you?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The department looks for export opportunities, it looks for collaboration, which is especially important with the High-Value Food Manufacturing Centre, and innovation. So, this is about incentivising behaviour, incentivising innovation and incentivising collaboration. Like I said, for relatively small amounts of money, we are able to support a lot. The thing that I have learnt in this science portfolio is that, for small amounts of money, you are able to leverage a hell of a lot more. I think that is something that is very important.

Mr GRIFFITHS: It is not a case-by-case basis for you though?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: There are general criteria, but every case is considered on its merits.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Sure. Minister, I refer to page 31 now, please, and particularly the highlight for 2012-13: 'Progressed implementation of the whole of government Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Skills Strategy for South Australia'.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes.

Mr GRIFFITHS: What level of funding is it intended to receive in 2013-14?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: This is the second dot point. Is that correct? The 'Develop a renewed whole of government science, research...' Is that the one you are looking at?

Mr GRIFFITHS: No, I was looking at the first dot point, under highlights in 2012-13, where it says, 'Progressed implementation of the [STEM] strategy...'

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Yes, I thought it was STEM. There is an across-government reference group, and that group is chaired by Raymond Spencer. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Raymond for his work there.

Obviously, as Minister for Science and Minister for Skills, I am well aware that there is a need to support more people to consider a career in science, all technology engineering and maths. My department administers the STEM Skills Strategy, which was launched in 2011. We aim to increase the number of people choosing STEM careers.

This is a broad strategy which brings together agencies and leaders across the spectrum of government, education and industry. The department has lead responsibility for the State's Strategic Plan target 92: to increase the number of domestic students completing undergraduate qualifications in specified science, technology and engineering—basically, STEM.

Encouraging results have been seen in the uptake of STEM qualifications in SA since the strategy was established in 2011. For example—this is interesting—this year, the number of first-round university offers made to South Australian universities and Charles Darwin University in STEM-related courses accounted for 19 per cent of total offers, which is an 8.6 per cent increase on the previous year, so that is interesting.

As part of our support to encourage STEM studies, the Skills for All training program provides full public subsidy for selected STEM-intensive vocational qualifications. I can advise that there are an additional 2,020 enrolments in priority VET qualifications in these STEM areas in the first six months of Skills for All.

You might be interested to learn that there were other initiatives taken in 2012-13 that contributed to the STEM skills strategy, which include funding of \$350,000 for the provision of scholarships to graduates undertaking honours degrees in defence related fields, \$15,000 in support of the Science and Engineering Challenge 2012 which reached 2,000 year 9 and 10 students from 54 schools across South Australia, \$40,000 in support of National Science Week events in South Australia, and \$50,000 for science education outreach activities.

At the moment we are working on a STEM portal. DFEEST is leading the work in relation to that. On the budget line I have for the sub-program, or the program STEM Initiatives and the sub-program Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, the result in 2012-13 is \$880,000 and the 2013-14 budget is \$875,000.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I think it is absolutely vital that we have our young people and older people challenging themselves from an intellectual point of view on what they are studying. I fully commend what has been done there. I am interested in one figure in your quite detailed answer, though, where you talked about 2,000 kids from 54 schools in year 9. I know over 700 schools exist in this state. I am taking a stab that one third of those might have a senior component of that. If we bring it back to 300, and there are only 54, that is about one-sixth or thereabouts of high schools that have an opportunity. Is there an intention to roll the program out to make it available in a greater number of schools?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that the University of Adelaide is responsible for that program, but I think you make a very good point, that there are a hell of a lot more people that we could be reaching, and there is no question that getting to kids early in school is incredibly important. There is no point in demanding that they do STEM for their SACE in years 11 and 12 if they have only taken up maths in year 11.

That is why I appointed Professor Martin Westwell from Flinders University to the SACE Board. I think he took up his appointment last year; I cannot remember, but, anyway, Martin is someone with whom we are working. I appointed him to the SACE Board, so he has that experience and can make that contribution directly into our schooling sector, but he is also working with us very closely. He is working with DFEST very closely in relation to what we need to do as a government and as universities to reach young South Australians especially in the most effective way.

I would encourage you to meet with him. He can quote very interesting research about the most effective ways of doing that. In fact, he talks about the value of work experience for young South Australians and how that has a very big influence on the choices that students then go on to make. There is no question that STEM is a priority. As I said, Raymond Spencer, who is also the chair of the Economic Development Board, is chairing the work that provides that direct connection.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, you are in a unique position to know from your previous portfolio responsibilities whether there is a real target in this policy area to take it out to other schools? When I look at the one-sixth potentially, depending how the sums actually stack up, I suppose my concern would be that there is only an effort being made in schools that might have had a graduation of young people in that area and there is an unmet opportunity that is being lost.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I agree. There are opportunities there that need to be taken advantage of. I do not know what the University of Adelaide's plans are for rolling this out, but I am very happy to provide an answer, to look at their forward plans. Certainly, in terms of the STEM strategy, in terms of reaching schools, that's where the STEM portal is absolutely essential, and I hope to be in a position to launch that soon. This is a portal for schools, business, industry and institutions, where teachers, parents and potential students can actively seek information. I have seen a bit of the rollout of the STEM portal, and I think it is very, very exciting.

It helps demystify a lot of the notions that people have around STEM courses, which is why Martin West will say that work experience is incredibly valuable because it, again, demystifies this idea that people have about STEM being either too difficult or out of reach. That aspect about reaching 54 schools is just one tiny element, but I certainly take your point that there are a great deal of opportunities, and we will certainly be seeking to exploit those.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Minister, it seems to me that information flow is really critical in the success of this one, and I am pleased that you talk about a portal and, therefore, availability of information. At a minimum, is there going to be direct advice to principals to make sure they talk to teachers they know within their workforce who would be interested in this area without necessarily retraining being required or, when they are looking at future recruitment opportunities, that they look at this as one of their target areas too?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am not the education minister. I am not a position to advise the instructions that are given to principals, but certainly principals, schools and governing councils are part of the scope. We certainly see them as very, very important partners. We are always very keen to preach the message about STEM skills.

What I can tell you with great confidence is that we have a very devolved education system here in South Australia. If you have a principal who sees the value in STEM, that leadership is incredibly important. Leadership in schools is very, very important. I have been to close to 140—many, many schools—where that is evidenced. If we want to have a successful STEM strategy we also need to ensure that we have a very solid numeracy and literacy strategy, for instance. It is a big task.

The CHAIR: Are you keeping an eye on the clock? I will let you go a little bit over.

Mr GRIFFITHS: You have been very generous, I must admit. I will ask a couple more questions, minister, because I know you have had a long morning; I understand that.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That's okay. You are a pleasure to deal with.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Well, I am interested in these things.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That's unusual as well.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Okay.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Not for you.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I refer to page 30. What advice has the Premier's Science and Industry Council provided to the state government in relation to industry needs, funding opportunities and

priority areas for research, and how will such recommendations be implemented through state government policy and work with industry in South Australia?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: You would know the Premier chairs the committee, but you would also have met by now, I am sure, Professor Don Bursill.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I have sought a briefing opportunity. I am told he works only one and a half days a week.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: Well, if only that were true. I think he probably gets paid for one and a half days a week but he works seven days.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Rescheduling issues, then, minister?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: No; we are arranging that. I have to place on the record my absolute gratitude to him. He is an eminent and outstanding Australian, as you would well know, in the field of water and water research. I can tell you that that committee, that group, has been working very actively on formulating a new science policy. That is something that we have been working on. I can give you some details.

The PSIC released a consultation paper on 28 November 2012 to generate discussion and obtain the best advice about the directions, policies and resources needed to ensure that the science research and innovation program supports the sector and the government's priority areas. A number of public fora were held during December 2012 at Flinders University, Adelaide State Library and Innovation House at Mawson Lakes, and the consultation period concluded on 31 January 2013. The new strategy is currently being considered; I have to say that the discussions that I have had with the committee, and with Don, centre on ensuring lots of things, but one of the key issues is incentivising the behaviour that we want in the future.

When I talk about that, I am talking about collaboration, which is absolutely key between government industry and research institutions; incentivising exchanges in industry, for instance, through firms considering researchers in their teams; research institutions considering, for instance, commercialisation opportunities for South Australia. So, incentivising this kind of behaviour and also acknowledging the incredibly important role that science and research plays in our state. We are currently considering that strategy, and I would like to thank Don Bursill and Dr Leanna Read for all the work they have done in getting this conversation around policy (future directions) going.

Mr GRIFFITHS: My question links in a bit with Terra Rossa that we spoke about before and the venture capital opportunity. I am aware, indeed, that Playford Capital has existed previously, and I know the decision was made in 2010 to be finalised and wound up. The report that I read, though, noted that it was intended to be finished by the end of 2012. So, did the finalisation of Playford Capital occur in the last financial year?

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I am advised that the dissolution of Playford Centre was effective from 30 June 2012, or as soon as practicable thereafter. I will check the end date to see if it is different to 30 June 2012 and bring back a reply—but that was the plan.

Mr GRIFFITHS: I haven't looked at it recently, but I thought it was the end of the 2012 calendar year. You are talking about 30 June 2012, so the previous financial year again. Indeed, as part of that, if you can review that for me—

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: That is for the Playford Centre—if I can clarify.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Playford Capital was my question, which was \$1.7 million per year allocated to it.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: I will take that on notice. I just want to be absolutely certain of my facts, so I will take that on notice.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Presumably there were assets still retained within that that were owned or controlled by the state government about what the result of that has been.

The Hon. G. PORTOLESI: The cabinet approved the transfer of all assets, rights and liabilities of Playford Centre, including all shares in Playford Capital from the Minister for Science and Information Economy to the South Australia Government Financing Authority. But I undertake to report back on any matters that remain outstanding.

I just need to clarify a statement that I made in the parliament. I referred to 2012 and it should have been 2002. For the purposes of *Hansard*, in answer to a question regarding the cost of

training, I advised that there had been a 20.9 per cent reduction in the cost of training from 2012 to 2011—it should have been 2002 to 2011.

The CHAIR: Thank you.

[Sitting suspended from 13:49 to 14:45]

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, \$747,396,000
ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE, \$14,790,000

Membership:

Mr Williams substituted for Mr Gardner.

Hon. I.F. Evans substituted for Mr Griffiths.

Witness:

Hon. L.W.K. Bignell, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr C. Paul, General Manager, Finance and Business Operations, Office for Recreation and Sport, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr P. Anderson, Executive Director, Office for Recreation and Sport, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr L. Di Lernia, Acting Chief Executive, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr M. Spratt, Senior Accountant, Office for Recreation and Sport, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mrs L. Skeens, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Corporate Finance, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr I. Houridis, Director, Planning and Projects, Office for Recreation and Sport, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr P. Dowling, Principal Project Officer, Attorney-General's Department.

Ms K. Taylor, Director, Sport and Recreation Development, Office for Recreation and Sport, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr W. Battams, Director, South Australian Sports Institute, Office for Recreation and Sport, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The CHAIR: The estimates committees are a relatively informal procedure and, as such, there is no need to stand to ask or answer questions. The committee will determine an approximate time for consideration of proposed payments to facilitate change of departmental advisers. Changes of committee membership will be notified as they occur. If the minister undertakes to supply information at a latter date, it must be submitted to the committee secretary by no later than Friday, 27 September.

I propose to allow both the minister and the lead speaker of the opposition to make opening statements of about 10 minutes each. There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for asking questions based on about three questions per member, alternating each side. Supplementary questions will be the exception rather than the rule. A member who is not part of the committee may, at the discretion of the Chair, ask a question.

Questions must be based on lines of expenditure in the budget papers and must be identifiable or referenced. Members unable to complete their questions during the proceedings may submit them as questions on notice for inclusion in the House of Assembly *Notice Paper*. There is

no formal facility for the tabling of documents before the committee; however, documents can be supplied to the Chair for distribution to the committee.

All questions are to be directed to the minister, not the minister's advisers. The minister may refer questions to advisers for a response. I also advise that, for the purposes of the committee, television coverage will be allowed for filming from both the northern and southern galleries. I declare the proposed payment reopened for examination. I call on the minister to make a statement.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Thank you, Mr Chairman. The Office for Recreation and Sport within the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure plays a vital role in implementing government policy on sport and active recreation. It works in partnership with the sport and recreation sector and all levels of government to deliver sport and recreation opportunities, services, programs and facilities.

The outcomes are just as important in terms of community building as they are in the areas of health and wellbeing. In 2012-13, the Office for Recreation and Sport received and assessed more than 1,700 applications through its various programs for organisations and individuals. To date, 1,024 grants have been approved, with an expenditure of \$17,186,220. A breakdown of this allocation is:

- Active Club Program: 554 successful applicants sharing in \$2.35 million;
- Sport and Recreation Sustainability Program: 74 eligible organisations sharing in \$3.022 million;
- Sport and Recreational Development and Inclusion Program: 121 successful projects and over 180 individual scholarships totalling \$4,113,820. Thirty-three of these projects were identified to assist with inclusion-based initiatives;
- Community Recreation and Sport Facility Program: 63 successful projects sharing in \$7.195 million; and
- State Facility Fund; \$500,000 to the development of a state level diamond facility at West Beach.

Grants review implementation: during 2011-12, the Office for Recreation and Sport undertook a comprehensive and highly consultative review of all its grant programs. The review looked at the purpose and outcomes being achieved by the grant programs and recommended changes to ensure they reflect the changing needs of the sport and recreation sector and the government's strategic imperatives.

The Active Club Program and Community Recreation and Sport Facility Program were refined based on feedback from the review and two new programs, The Sport and Recreation Sustainability Program and the Sport and Recreation Development and Inclusion Program were introduced to ensure allocated funding is a performance-based investment by the government towards programs and outcomes.

The new strategy challenges the sport and recreation industry to provide meaningful leadership and support to their affiliates. To measure this leadership role, the Office for Recreation and Sport has worked with funded organisations to administer a 360° leadership survey with their identified stakeholders. The survey focused on the key areas of leadership, communication, services and policy.

Reports prepared for each organisation and the Office for Recreation and Sport will provide support to implement business improvement initiatives. For grassroots clubs and associations, a key change as a result of the grants review was a simplified application process for the Active Club Program. This change resulted in 154 more applications than in previous years.

Last week, I had the great pleasure of joining with 75 of the state's peak sporting and recreation bodies down at the Glenelg Football Club, where we put up the results of that 360° leadership survey. All the sport organisations and the people who were there agreed that it was a very worthwhile exercise to go through and were grateful for the help and assistance that the Office for Recreation and Sport played in developing that survey. I would like to pass on my thanks to the Office for Recreation and Sport and to all those people who took part in the survey, because it helps us, as a government, better understand the needs of sporting groups.

To support the implementation of a performance-based investment strategy, the Office for Recreation and Sport has introduced an industry adviser function to support every state sport,

recreation or industry body to deliver value to the government and their affiliates. The industry adviser works with the paid staff, boards, and volunteers of the sport and recreation organisations to support business improvement initiatives.

In 2012-13, the Office for Recreation and Sport provided 127 training and development opportunities to support the industry in the following areas: coaching; volunteering and officiating; child safe environments; governance and board-related functions; inclusion; and leadership. A range of partnerships have been developed to deliver 127 participation programs for people traditionally under-represented in sport and active recreation participation. This includes the following population groups: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; women and girls; people with disabilities; and people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

Starclub is an online assessment tool for clubs, and has gone from strength to strength since it commenced. The tool provides information on 25 steps to become a Starclub, creating clubs which are well-managed and where quality coaches, officials and volunteers work together in a safe and welcoming environment. More than 1,500 organisations and individuals are registered with Starclub, with more than 1,000 commencing the self-assessment.

To look at facilities, the South Australian Aquatic and Leisure Centre successfully hosted the pool events for the 2013 Australian Age Championships from 8 to 13 April this year. This event showcased Australia's next generation of swimmers, including Adelaide's 14 year old Kyle Chalmers, who broke two Australian age group records in the 100-metre freestyle and 100-metre butterfly. The South Australian Aquatic and Leisure Centre also successfully hosted the 2013 Australian Age Multi Class Championships in April.

The success of these events was followed by the hosting of the 2013 EnergyAustralia Swimming Championships from 26 April to 3 May 2013. These recent events at this outstanding aquatic centre have capped off an impressive first two years of operation, enhanced South Australia's major event reputation and created more than \$13.8 million of economic activity for our state.

The state aquatic sporting organisations have established their local programs and the SASI programs are benefiting from the training and competition facilities, with the dry diving area being praised by Australia's elite athletes. In 2012-13, events also have included the World Junior Diving Championships, the World Surf Living Saving Championships and the Australian University Games.

Moving now to the Parks Community Centre, the commitment by the government to rejuvenate the Parks Community Centre through provision of \$28.66 million will result in much improved infrastructure for sport, including construction of a new 25 metre pool and indoor children's pool, refurbishment of the recreation centre and gym areas to provide facilities for a variety of indoor sports, and development of soccer pitches and change rooms. Work currently underway for the pools are scheduled for completion in December 2013, with the associated infrastructure to follow shortly thereafter. A coordinator to facilitate the use of the Parks Community Centre by the community will be appointed before the centre reopens.

Moving to community sports hubs, and the Office for Recreation and Sport has been working with local government and various councils to assist with the efforts towards regional facility planning for multisport regional level facilities, using a community sports hub model. This approach provides communities, sporting agencies, councils and other stakeholders with a framework to focus investment for sporting infrastructure into the development of multiuse facilities to enhance sustainability, limit duplication of services and effectively utilise land.

The state hockey stadium is located in the State Sports Park precinct, which is also home to the internationally recognised Adelaide Superdrome. Some \$3.3 million, including \$2.5 million through category 4 of the 2012-13 Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program, has been granted to Hockey SA by the government to develop a second pitch and to provide upgraded lighting to the main pitch. This will see more international and national hockey matches played at the state hockey stadium, including the national Women's Masters Australian Championships, which will be held there later this year.

Moving to the South Australian Sports Institute, and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games again highlighted the tremendous value of the SASI Talent Search Program, which identified eight athletes who were then recruited and trained by SASI and eventually selected for Australian teams. These athletes are: Annette Edmondson (cycling), Rohan Dennis (cycling), Scott McPhee (Paralympic cycling), Hannah Davis (sprint canoe), Bryn Coudraye (rowing), Chris Morgan (rowing), Renee Chatterton (rowing) and Becchara Palmer (beach volleyball). The program

has run successfully for more than a decade, with up to 5,000 athletes tested annually through a combination of school testing and special testing days run at SASI.

The 2012 London Australian Olympic team was the fifth largest Australian representative team behind Sydney, Athens, Beijing and Atlanta. South Australia had 39 Olympic athlete representatives across 17 sports, from a total Australian team of 410 athletes. Australia placed 10th on the medal tally overall with a total of 35 medals won (seven gold, 16 silver and 12 bronze), with a total of 92 medallists.

South Australian athletes brought home 13 medals, contributing to eight event medals (one gold, two silver and five bronze) of the Australian medal tally. These 13 medals were won by 12 athletes, with Anna Meares doubling up for a gold and a bronze. Medals were achieved across eight events, from track cycling, BMX, rowing, swimming and basketball. South Australia and SASI had 23 first-time Olympians, with five of the debutante group returning home with medals.

At the 2012 London Paralympics, Australia placed fifth on the medal tally overall, with a total of 85 medals won (32 gold, 23 silver and 30 bronze) and equal fourth on the gold medal count with the Ukraine. SASI had 14 Paralympic athlete representatives across six sports within the total Australian team of 161 athletes. South Australian athletes brought home 13 medals, including those awarded to the sighted cycling pilots for Kieran Modra and Felicity Johnson.

Overall, South Australians contributed to 11 of Australia's 85 medals (seven gold, two silver and two bronze) achieved across 11 events. There were six SASI medal-winning athletes, inclusive of the two cycling pilots. Swimmer Matthew Cowdrey contributed a phenomenal eight medals (five gold, two silver and one bronze) to the London tally and became Australia's most successful Paralympian ever, having now won 13 gold medals.

In addition to the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 212, SASI was well represented in a range of sports and teams competing in world championships. Nine SASI athletes were crowned world champions across a range of sports at both senior and junior levels: three in track cycling, one in BMX and three in Paralympic cycling, all in the senior world championships level; and one SASI rower and one cyclist were crowned junior world champions.

In 2012, SASI established its own altitude training facilities. The prefabricated altitude chamber gives SASI athletes the opportunity to train at altitudes up to 3,000 metres under controlled conditions and under the supervision of the SASI physiology and medical staff. SASI uses the chamber as an alternative training option, closely monitoring each athlete's response to training at altitude.

SASI has purchased altitude tents to enable athletes to sleep high, thereby significantly increasing their exposure to altitude conditions. Athletes are trained in the usage of the tents and monitored during sleeping. The chamber and tents provide the opportunity to expose SASI athletes to altitude training in a systematic, controlled and cost effective manner.

Moving on now to racing and, following an internal review within the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, the position of director, Office for Racing, was abolished with the remaining resources from the Office for Racing transferring to the Office for Recreation and Sport with effect from 1 September 2012.

The Office for Recreation and Sport provides the resources required to interact with the racing industry. Since corporatisation of the racing industry in 2000, the government has not, and cannot, seek to interfere in the day-to-day management of the racing industry. Government's dealings with the racing industry since that time have been at a macro level and revolve around major policy issues that have local and national significance.

The government will continue to develop positive and constructive relationships with the state's peak racing industry bodies as well as represent the interests of South Australia's racing industry at the Australasian Racing Ministers' conferences. The government will continue to recognise and promote the importance of the development of collaborative partnerships with other states and territories on significant issues that affect racing nationally.

Consultation and involvement of the Office for Recreation and Sport with the industry in 2012-13 have included: regulation of bookmakers; support for racecourse redevelopments; animal welfare issues; integrity of the racing industry; representation at Australasian Racing Ministers' conferences; advice to the minister on matters pertaining to the racing industry; monitoring developments in other jurisdictions' racing industries; and monitoring the outcome of court cases (interstate) which could have ramifications on the racing industry.

The government has continued to acknowledge the importance of the South Australian racing industry and its economic and social contributions to South Australia, and we will continue to work with all the peak bodies across the various racing codes.

The CHAIR: Introduce your advisers, please.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Before we finish, quick, before we run out of time.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We have 90 minutes.

Mr GRIFFITHS: You have used 15 of them, 16, 17.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I think some points were very well made.

Mrs REDMOND: You could have done them in ministerial.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Thank you for your advice.

The CHAIR: The member for Davenport.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: We will not make an opening statement. Minister, with all these questions, there are only two pages, as you are aware, that relate to recreation sport and racing. I refer to Volume 3, page 183, relating to expenses and income. Can you confirm that this year's budget still contains the reduction of \$500,000 in 2014, and \$3.5 million ongoing in the 2015-16 budget, as announced in the Mid-Year Budget Review?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: It is a cumulative \$3½ million. It is \$500,000 in the first year and \$3 million in the second year, which is 2015-16.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes, and the \$3½ cumulative figure continues on through the budgets as a reduction?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes, but it is not the \$500,000 plus the \$3½ million; the \$3½ million is made up—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: No, it is five plus 3½. What grant program does that come out of?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The total program budget saving of \$3.5 million will be met by removing \$2.5 million for state level major projects; for example, the hockey facility at Gepps Cross, which I mentioned in my opening address, and \$1 million from the general pool available to local sporting clubs.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So, what is the 'general pool available to local sporting clubs'? Is that a grant program or is that another lot of money that is not in the established grant programs?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The \$1 million will come out of the general pool, which at the moment stands at about \$7.5 million. We increased that from just under \$1.5 million—we increased that by \$5 million back when the Chair was the minister for sport and recreation and took it up to \$6.5 million, and it has grown to over \$7 million. So, that \$1 million will come out of the general pool.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Can you give me the names of the grant programs that make up that pool? It cannot be the Active Club Program because the Active Club Program is protected by legislation. So, what are the grant programs that make up that pool of money that you are talking about that is about to get a \$1 million cut?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Just to clarify an earlier answer: I said that the fund was just under 7.5. It is actually just under 7.2. When we talk about the \$1 million coming out, the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program assesses each application on its merits, so it is actually a general pool across a few different funds and that cut will come across those funds.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes. What are the names of the funds that make up the pool?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The pool is made up of three categories. Category 1 is planning, category 2 is projects from between zero and \$200,000, and category 3 is projects between \$200,000 and \$500,000.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Do I take it, minister, that the \$1 million saving is not coming out of any of the established grant lines—community facilities, Active Club, the State Facilities Fund? The \$1 million is not coming out of those?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No, it is only coming out of the Community Recreation and Sport Facility Program of \$7.2 million.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So, there is \$1 million coming out of that?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: And the other \$2.5 million comes out of the State Facilities Fund?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No, the \$2.5 million comes out of category 4 of the Community Recreation and Sport Facility Program, but that was for those sort of—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: How much is normally allocated to category 4?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: \$2.5 million.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: That is the cut. How much is allocated to it? You are cutting \$2.5 million out of category 4. You are cutting all \$2.5 million out of category 4?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes, \$2.5 million. So, if we have sports—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: What will not be funded now that used to be funded out of category 4?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Things can still be funded. We will go through the normal budget process to go to general revenue to fund those sort of big, major, important state projects like the hockey pitch.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: There used to be a guaranteed fund of \$2.5 million and now there is not a guaranteed fund. Now, it is zero, going forward.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes, the \$2.5 million will be gone from 2015-16, but we will still be able to go through the normal budget process for facilities of that magnitude.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Rely on the Treasurer. Straight after the budget, the government announced money for the Campbelltown centre. Which line did that come out of? I am assuming it is no longer reliant on commonwealth money. Is that right?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: That money was actually committed and was sitting in Treasury's contingency funds. Campbelltown council, who were the proponents of the development and were working with us, wanted to vary the agreement. The money had originally been made available on the basis of some federal funding. Campbelltown and the people who are out at that facility said that they wanted to have two options. One would be to go with a smaller upgrade and development, and they still wanted to use that \$3 million for it, so we have allowed that to go ahead.

Just to expand on that, the council has applied unsuccessfully for federal funding through the Regional Development Australia Fund—this is the Campbelltown council that we are talking about—on three occasions, including most recently in February this year. The Regional Development Australia Fund has indicated there is likely to be a further funding round opened in the first half of 2013. Council has confirmed its intention to reapply for federal funding. A revised project scope in the order of \$11.4 million has been considered and endorsed by the council as an option should federal funds not be forthcoming.

The revised scope includes the construction of two additional multipurpose indoor basketball courts with spectator seating for one show court; a kitchen; a common area; meeting rooms; change rooms; public toilets and staff facilities; a six-court squash complex; a six-lane 25-metre pool with change rooms, reception and staffing areas; a gym facility; future additional car parking; site works; and building of an upper level. Although the current \$11.4 million cost estimate is over the \$10 million currently available based on federal funds, Campbelltown council is confident that with innovative design and a very competitive construction market it will be able to bring the actual project cost to a figure closer to \$10 million.

The state government believes that even without federal funding the rescope project will offer enormous community benefit through the creation of a vibrant sport and recreation community hub. Should the actual cost be greater than \$10 million, the council will cover any additional cost. On this basis, the state government released the funds to the City of Campbelltown to enable the project to be realised.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Thanks for advising the Gillard government knocked them back on funding three times; I appreciate it. The sale of the Lotteries impacts the recreation and sport fund. Can you advise whether your agency is having to put any more money into the recreation and sport fund or have its appropriation changed with regard to the recreation and sport fund?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No, we do not have to. It does not take any money out of the fund and we do not have to find money to supplement it.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Will the same amount of money be going into the recreation and sport fund prior to the Lotteries sale?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: That is the advice we have received.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Previously, a treasurer had instructed your agency to take a cut in its appropriation due to money going into the recreation and sport fund. Given that Treasury is now going to be topping up the recreation and sport fund for the equivalent amount of what it would have got prior to the Lotteries' licence sale, is your agency's appropriation being impacted at all as a result of Treasury's decision to top up the recreation and sport fund following the Lotteries' sale?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Our advice is that there will be no change and no impact on that fund.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes, I am talking about your appropriation from Treasury. Previously, your appropriation from Treasury has been reduced for money going into the recreation and sport fund. That was when the chairman was minister. Now I am asking: is any money now being put in by Treasury as a result of the change following the sale of the Lotteries' licence? As we understand, they are going to put more money out of Treasury into the recreation and sport fund. What I am concerned about is that they then turn around and cut your agency's appropriation to cover the money going into the recreation and sport fund. Treasury has tried to do it previously. I am asking whether there is any change in your appropriation as a result of that.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: In relation to this fund, I am advised that there will be no change to the appropriation.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Okay.

Mr GRIFFITHS: This is in relation to his fund?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: In relation to that fund.

Mr GRIFFITHS: What about in relation to your global?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Your global; that is right. So there is no change to your appropriation?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: That is correct.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Minister, previously we have asked questions about VACSWIM and the change of contract there. Can you update what the position is in relation to VACSWIM and the Royal Life Saving Society's contract?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes; VACSWIM is a very important program that is delivered by the government through the YMCA of South Australia each year, and we are very happy that we will continue that relationship over the next summer. VACSWIM is delivered by an external contractor engaged through a public tender process, with specific skills in event management and the delivery of water safety programs. The current contractor is the YMCA of South Australia. This agreement expired in June this year, with the option of an annual extension for a further two years. We have recently concluded negotiations to extend this agreement to include the delivery of VACSWIM 2014. This year, 137 locations across regional and metropolitan South Australia were involved in VACSWIM, with 13,413 participants.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Minister, there was some controversy between the Royal Life Saving Society and the YMCA about a change of dates that would disadvantage the Royal Life Saving Society. Given that you have extended the contracts, you must know the dates. Can you advise whether the Royal Life Saving Society have been disadvantaged at all in relation to the delivery of the program and, if so, why?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: There has been some discussion with the Royal Life Saving Society, the YMCA and the Office for Recreation and Sport. I have met with the Royal Life Saving Society as well. With this new contract that we have renegotiated, there was nothing that the Royal Life Saving Society did not agree with. It is totally up to the Royal Life Saving Society if they want to run their own program over the summer months as well.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: The minister has a draft trails strategy that I think has been out for review. Can you advise where that is up to? I think, from memory, the draft trails strategy has been

in place for a decade and is yet to be signed off as the final trail strategy. The last I recall, Horse SA were doing a consultancy to the tune of about \$15,000 on the whole-of-trail strategy. Can you advise where that is up to and when it will be finalised?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: That figure is, I think, about \$13,500. The Office for Recreation and Sport is the lead agency responsible for the management of the Riesling Trail, the Mawson Trail and the Kidman Trail, three of South Australia's premier recreation trails. A review of the Office for Recreation and Sport's role in trail management was completed in December 2012 and presented to the former minister for consideration. The review focused on sustainable management options for the trails managed by the Office for Recreation and Sport.

The Office for Recreation and Sport's role in trail management includes the provision of strategic management of the Mawson Trail network, including the mountain bike trails at Melrose, Riverton, Cudlee Creek, the Riesling Trail and Blinman Pools walking trail, and the Kidman, Tom Roberts and Kersbrook trails. The management and maintenance of these trails and Eagle Mountain Bike Park is performed by the building management accommodation and property services division of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So when is the draft trails strategy going to be finalised and announced as a trails strategy? I think it has been 12 years as a draft, and I know we don't want to rush these things, but my understanding is that it has been 12 years as a draft and now it is being reviewed.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: As I have said, the Office for Recreation and Sport has done its own review and the Horse SA review and we will be working over the next month or so to combine those two reviews and have something out by the end of the year.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So you have a trails coordinating committee, yes?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: What is the budget for the trails coordinating committee?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: There is no explicit budget for it, but projects are judged on their merit and we provide staffing as well.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: What is your budget within the Office for Recreation and Sport for the administration of recreational trails?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I can give you some detail about where some of the money is spent. The Riesling Trail up in the Clare Valley is along the disused rail corridor of approximately 30 kilometres, and since the trail—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Sorry minister, I did not ask where the money was spent, I am asking what staff resources are within the Office for Recreation and Sport. Are there two staff members looking after trails; are there 10 staff members; or is there no staff? There used to be a dedicated trails unit within the Office for Recreation and Sport. A guy called Bronte—whose last name I can't remember—used to run it. Now I understand there is no resource.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: When it comes to employees, there is 0.5 of an employee dedicated to trails and there is a lot of money that is expended on trails in various ways through the Office for Recreation and Sport.

The CHAIR: The member for Reynell.

Ms THOMPSON: My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 183 to 185. Some matters have been sort of touched on so far, but I would like a more comprehensive answer, please. Can the minister inform the committee about grant funding from the Office for Recreation and Sport which was approved in the 2012-13 year?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The Office for Recreation and Sport provides funding to support organisations and individuals in providing high quality active recreation and sport facilities, programs, activities, and support. The total grants budget of the Office for Recreation and Sport in 2012-13 is \$17.218 million. The 2012-13 grants funding is broken down as: Active Club Program, \$2.35 million; community recreation and sport facilities program, \$7.195 million; the state facility fund, \$500,000; sport and recreation sustainability program, \$3.1 million; sport and recreation development and inclusion program, \$4.073 million, including \$400,000 invested in traineeships, scholarships and contingency funding. The Office for Recreation and Sport received more than 1,700 applications through its nine different programs for organisations and individuals. To date, 1,024 grants have been approved for \$17.18 million in funding.

The Active Club Program supports grassroots active recreation and sports clubs through two funding rounds per year: one for programs and equipment, the other for programs, equipment and facility requests. A total of 554 applicants shared in the \$2.35 million available through the Active Club Program during 2012-13. Pursuant with the recommendation from the 2011 grants review, 20 eligible unsuccessful facility applications were provided the second opportunity of funding through the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program.

The Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program provides assistance to sport and active recreation organisations, councils, schools, and other not-for-profit community organisations to plan, establish or improve sport and active recreation facilities that meet the needs of the community in South Australia. Across all four categories, projects shared in \$7.195 million. This includes approving funding for 17 of the 20 applications that were rolled over from the Active Club Program.

The State Facilities Fund provides assistance to eligible organisations to plan, develop, improve and/or enhance new or existing state level facilities. In 2012-13, the entire program budget of \$500,000 has been approved to Softball SA to assist the upgrade of the facilities at Adelaide Shores, West Beach to a national standard for both softball and baseball.

The Sport and Recreation Sustainability Program provides assistance to state sport and active recreation organisations and industry representative bodies for leadership, policies and services. The annual budget for the sustainability program is \$3.1 million. For 2012-13, 77 organisations applied for funding, with 75 eligible organisations receiving \$3.022 million in funding. The remaining unallocated \$78,000 from the sustainability program was reallocated to the Sport and Recreation Development and Inclusion Program.

The Sport and Recreation Development and Inclusion Program provides assistance to state sport and active recreation organisations, industry representative bodies, local government, community groups, and sport and active recreation clubs to develop and implement projects that will grow the sport or activity, improve services and/or address barriers to inclusion.

This program also provides streams of funding to assist programs such as the Recreation and Sport Traineeship Incentive Grant Program, the Individual Athlete Program conducted through the South Australian Sports Institute, the Wendy Ey Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Scholarship Program, and the Contingency Funding Program. In 2012-13, \$400,000 was invested in these valuable programs which support South Australia's rising stars in the recreation and sport sector.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Just a supplementary: could the minister provide to the committee any funds in those grant programs you just mentioned that are uncommitted?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We will take that question on notice.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 183, and ask what the government is doing to support the growth and development of sport and active recreation in regional South Australia.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I thank the member for his question. The government has made a significant commitment to supporting sport and recreation in regional South Australia in 2012-13. Regarding Starclub field officers, of the projects most advantageous to regional areas, the employment of regional Starclub field officers by the Office for Recreation and Sport is paramount. A field officer's primary role is to support regional recreation and sports clubs and help them develop and prosper. They are based in various locations around the state.

Starclub field officers are employed in conjunction with local organisations in each region who contribute 50 per cent towards the costs. These partners may vary from region to region but include local government and regional health services. The government's commitment in 2012-13 amounts to \$350,000. As of April 2013, there were six field officer funding agreements finalised, with a person engaged and active in:

- Southern Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island;
- Limestone Coast;
- Mid North;
- Murraylands;
- Upper Spencer Gulf; and

- Yorke and Lower Mid North.

The seventh position was finalised in May and June, and will become operational at Roxby Downs in 2013-14. The Starclub Field Officer Program is not the only strategy at work in regional areas. The total direct contribution of the Office for Recreation and Sport funding to regional areas to date in 2012-13 has totalled approximately \$3.8 million. Funding included the following totals from each program:

- Active Club Program—183 grants in 2012-13, totalling more than \$763,109;
- Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program—38 grants in 2012-13, worth approximately \$1.99 million.

South Australia's recreational trail network traverses the state's regions, and the Office for Recreation and Sport manages and maintains a number of the iconic trails, including the Mawson, Kidman, Riesling, Blinman Pools and Kersbrook horse trails. A budget allocation in the order of \$40,000 was allocated in 2012-13 for trail maintenance and associated services.

The SA Trails Coordinating Committee is chaired and convened by the Office for Recreation and Sport. Its purpose is to coordinate a range of recreational trail stakeholders and initiatives and encourage a strategic approach to policy development, planning, management and promotion of trails and trail experiences in the state.

Today, there was a signing ceremony up in Port Augusta, and the state government has committed \$5 million to the redevelopment of the Port Augusta Central Oval. This commitment will contribute to a total project funding pool of \$12.3 million through a partnership between federal, state and local government, along with the SANFL. It will deliver enhanced sporting facilities to the community, including:

- the refurbishment of the existing oval and associated amenities and infrastructure that will meet Australian Football League standards;
- the construction of an 11-court outdoor floodlit netball facility that meets Netball SA's standards;
- the construction of a new multi-use indoor sports stadium to accommodate three indoor basketball/netball courts, with potential for other future sports; player facilities, including change rooms, toilets and showers; a canteen; spectator viewing areas; and a members and function space;
- the demolition of existing oval grandstands and construction of a multi-purpose club room;
- the part deconstruction of the existing basketball stadium and the refurbishment of the remaining section for ongoing community use.

The following organisations are funding partners:

- \$5 million from the state government;
- \$5 million from the federal government;
- \$2.15 million council contribution; and
- \$150,000 from the South Australian National Football League.

Any funding shortfall will be met by the Port Augusta Council. I was up there a couple of months ago, and the people of Port Augusta are really excited about netball and football coming back together at the one location for the first time in over 30 years.

The other thing that Port Augusta has lacked for many years is a really good civics centre. The council and the community will use this new facility to hold functions that are normally held in town halls and bigger venues. It will also give Port Augusta the opportunity to hold conferences and conventions. Downstairs, where the netball and basketball courts are, will be able to be cleared to have great convention displays there. So, it will really help, not just in terms of sport, but in a wider social and community way to give Port Augusta another really important piece of infrastructure for that part of the world.

In other areas of what we are doing in the regions, the SASI Individual Athlete Awards and the Country Athlete Award Scheme are awards offered through the South Australian Sports Institute. They provide financial assistance to country athletes who are performing at a high

(state/national) level in Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games sports and disciplines, and who have an outstanding ability to progress to senior elite level in their sport.

Through the Country Athlete Award Scheme, junior athletes (aged 13 to 18 years) from rural areas permanently residing 130 kilometres or more from the Adelaide GPO are assisted to achieve their sporting potential. The financial assistance provided enables the athlete to access training and competition programs. Approximately 25 country athletes receive awards of approximately \$1,000 each year. Approximately \$25,000 is allocated to the program.

Ms BEDFORD: I would like to ask a question about calisthenics—but I will go to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 183 to 185. Can the minister advise the committee what the government is doing to support community sport and recreation clubs grow and improve?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I thank the member for Florey for her question and acknowledge her great interest in sport and, in particular, calisthenics. I am looking forward to coming around to calisthenics' headquarters with you to have a look at their facilities—

Ms BEDFORD: Looking forward to seeing you.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: —and to encourage those who participate. I have been advised that we will bend over backwards to help you.

Ms BEDFORD: It's been done before! In lycra?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No. An initiative undertaken by the government to provide a structured and sustainable approach towards club advancement in South Australia is the Office for Recreation and Sport's Starclub Club Development Program. In 2012-13, the government spent \$50,000 on supporting the Starclub Club Development Program. This is in addition to funds provided through the Active Club funding program and club development projects conducted by other bodies with funding from the Sport and Recreation Sustainability Program (SRSP) or the Sport and Recreation Development and Inclusion Program (SRDIP) funding.

Because Starclub is primarily an online resource, it enables the government to reach more clubs more effectively. It also works by entering into partnerships with state sport and recreation organisations, and local government, who in turn provide the hands-on support for their clubs. The Office for Recreation and Sport's role is then to provide professional development opportunities for those people who are supporting the clubs. Through SRDIP, the office provided \$350,000 to engage Starclub field officers, with our local government partners, to support regional sport and recreational clubs. Also through SRDIP, the SANFL received \$20,000 to host the Starclub Club Development Conference at AAMI Stadium.

Since June 2010, when the Starclub program became active, more than 1,500 organisations or individuals have registered with the Starclub program, with more than 1,000 now going on to undertake the next stage of the program, which is self-assessment. Starclub's goals are threefold: to create a shared vision of what constitutes a successful or 'good' practice club in South Australia, to provide a means whereby clubs could self-assess against this vision, and devise a method for providing feedback and advice on how clubs can move forward to continuously improve.

The Starclub process involves the recreation and sport club meeting a minimum of 15 out of 25 key criteria under five headings. They are: good management, quality coaching and officiating, valuing volunteers, providing positive and welcoming clubs, and providing safe environments. As already mentioned, the Office for Recreation and Sport works with organisations to provide an enhanced Starclub mentoring process where additional support is provided by the state sport or recreation bodies or local government.

Data is compiled regularly and made available to state sporting organisations and local government for planning and monitoring. Of the clubs and sporting organisations involved with the initiative, so far 190 clubs have achieved Starclub status. A Starclub auditing process has been developed and introduced to ensure that the quality of Starclub as a resource is maintained. Local government Starclub ambassadors, the Office for Recreation and Sport community presenters, and the Office for Recreation and Sport Starclub field officers receive ongoing training in conducting these soft audits, which are designed to provide additional support to clubs rather than find fault within their operations.

Mr WILLIAMS: Regarding the field officers you were talking about a few minutes ago, last year in the estimates committee your predecessor said that some of the field officers who were working with country sporting clubs were supported out of the Statewide Enhancement Program,

which I understood was a grant program. Is it the case that some of the field officers who are working out with clubs are supported by the grants program?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The \$350,000 comes out of the Sport and Recreation Development Inclusion Program, and that is roughly about \$50,000 per region. That funding is supplemented, as I said before, by local partners which could be the local council, or health offices in the local area.

Mr WILLIAMS: So the department is giving a grant which is then being used to pay for departmental officers who are supporting clubs?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No, that is not right.

Mr WILLIAMS: That is what you just said. That was the question I asked and that is the answer you gave, that \$350,000—well, it was the statewide enhancement program—

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: They are not employees.

Mr WILLIAMS: Oh, they are not employees?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No.

Mr WILLIAMS: They are contracted to the department to provide a service.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: They are employed by the host organisation which could be the council. So, we give a grant to the partner body, which they match.

Mr WILLIAMS: Well, minister, you just gave an answer to the question from the member for Kaurua, who asked what you were doing to support sport in country areas, and you said, this is what you were doing. Anyway, we will move on. Minister, I think in your opening statement you said that there is no longer an office of racing within the Office for Recreation and Sport; is that right?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes.

Mr WILLIAMS: Last year, your predecessor gave quite a bit of information to the committee in his opening statement about racing ministers, through the COAG process, trying to get the federal government to introduce federal legislation to make it illegal for telecommunications service providers to:

...facilitate the transaction of a bet with a wagering service provider unless that wagering service provider is authorised by the relevant body.

In other words, they were trying to get the federal government to pass legislation to prevent, for instance offshore gambling organisations using racing product to leverage their gambling or their game. Is anybody in the state government pursuing that matter now? It seems that there is nobody left in your agency. Is anybody anywhere within state government pursuing that on behalf of the racing industry?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Firstly, we do have people who follow what is happening in the racing industry. We do not have an office for racing but we do have people within the Office for Recreation and Sport who look after that. In relation to the question about last year, that move was unsuccessful, but the ministers meeting in April this year, through the chair, which is New South Wales at the moment, agreed to write to the federal government and the opposition reiterating previous requests for legislation to safeguard Australian racing participants through blocking access to websites of unauthorised offshore wagering operators. This action is sought to protect consumers from unscrupulous and unregulated practices and to ensure the viability of the Australian racing industry.

Mr WILLIAMS: Minister, is that supported unanimously by the states?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes.

Mr WILLIAMS: And the federal government will not budge. Most interesting.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We have not had a response at this stage.

Mr WILLIAMS: Okay, but it has been ongoing for three or four years, from what I can work out.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Sorry, I correct that, we have had a response and they have not supported it.

Mr WILLIAMS: They have not supported it?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No.

Mr WILLIAMS: Just before we move on to another area, you said that even though you do not have an office for racing, you do have some people. How many FTEs are dedicated to the racing codes within the agency?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We have one staff member.

Mr WILLIAMS: One staff member?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes.

Mr WILLIAMS: Do you have a view about the public holiday that used to be the holiday for the Adelaide Cup, which has now been moved back to March? I understand that the SAJC is very keen to have that holiday put back into May when it was traditionally held in conjunction with their feature event.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I am not sure what budget line that would be.

The CHAIR: I was thinking the same thing.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: It would be under expenses, because if it was in the May public holiday the minister would surely be going and spending something. It would also be under policy advice. One person in the whole agency that deals with racing would be giving you policy advice on it.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: You asked for my personal views on it. I think we will continue to work with the SAJC and other people. I know they were keen to move the June long weekend back to May but I did point out to them that there are a lot of really important country carnivals on: netball, basketball, which they were not necessarily aware of. They are there for a reason, in that they usually come halfway through the netball and footy season. So, that is a really important part of the calendar, just as the Adelaide Cup is an important feature on our calendar. We will continue to work with them and a few other ministers who have different responsibilities to work out what is going to happen in the future.

Mr WILLIAMS: I was listening to the local radio on the weekend and I heard somebody giving results about a SAPSASA carnival that was held last weekend in Adelaide. Does your agency contribute any funds towards supporting SAPSASA, and what is the future of that very important sporting event in country South Australia, at least?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: You are right, SAPSASA is a very important part of South Australian life right throughout the state. It is really important that kids have a chance not only to compete at a local level but to be given that opportunity to travel as well and to work and bond as a team. I note that you were listening to the results on the weekend. You still cannot give me a result for Glencoe v Mount Burr. Hopefully Glencoe won. On a serious note, SAPSASA is funded out of the education department.

Mr WILLIAMS: So, it is all out of the education department; there is no contribution?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Just on that, you rule out funding SAPSASA? In other words, the education department is looking at cutting \$238,000 out of primary school sport. One pool of money that becomes available is all of your recreation and sport grant funding money. Would you rule out funding SAPSASA out of that grant money that would normally go to community groups?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I think it is a hypothetical question because you are sort of assuming that that money is going to be cut.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes, that is right. Given the education minister did rule it out it is a fair assumption that they are going to have some reduction in funding.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We have had no advice that that money will be cut.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So, you will not rule it out.

Mr WILLIAMS: I refer to the table on page 183, down the bottom where it has the full-time equivalents as at 30 June. I note that the full-time equivalents in the department went from 81.9 in the actuals from 2011-12 to an estimated result of 111.9 in 2012-13. I found that really interesting because when I was reading through the *Hansard* of the committee's report of last year, the then minister was saying that the agency was actually ahead of where it had to be with regard to

reducing numbers in the agency, but I see in the budget for the ensuing year, or the year that we have just started now, the FTEs are back to 103.6. Can you explain why the agency had a dramatic increase, from 81.9 to 101.1 and now has to go through and cut, I think, about 7.5 per cent of its staff some time in the current year?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The figure that you refer to—the 2011-12 actual figure of 81.9—was at a time when there were a number of vacancies around. The current full-time equivalent employees in the Office for Recreation and Sport is 93.7. The 103.6 figure you have is when you add on the 10 FTEs in the minister's office and 3.5 in corporate services.

Mr WILLIAMS: Well, what is the 111.9 estimated result for 2012-13?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The 2012-13 budget is different to the 2012-13 estimated result because it had not factored in the other people there in the minister's office.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Which figure is not included in the minister's office and corporate services? Which figure has not included it? The 2012-13 budget? The smaller figure has not included it or the bigger figure has not included it?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I will just get Chris to answer.

Mr PAUL: I can answer this question. The 81.9 is a number which was specific to the Office for Recreation and Sport. It was our actual staffing in 2011-12 at the end of the year. We had numerous vacant positions at that time. Through to the 111, which is the estimated result for 2012-13, which is the number as of 30 June 2012-13, that reflects the minister's office being transferred into the Office for Recreation and Sport, which is 10 FTEs.

It also reflects, in our transfer, Treasury transferring the office from AGD through to DPTI. There are some corporate services FTEs that get transferred across. It also reflects a racing FTE being transferred into the office, which gives us the number of 111.9. You will note from the budget papers that there is also the transfer of Hindmarsh Stadium out of the Office for Recreation and Sport. There are some other changes to the office which deliver our savings in 2013-14 to 103.6. I can give you—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: If you could, that would be handy. Just last year then—the 101.1—there was no minister's staff in there?

Mr PAUL: No, the 101.1—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Because they were where?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: They were in DFEEST—Department of Further Education, Employment, Science and Technology.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: But, on this subprogram, you are still in a department—just a different department—so why were the minister's FTEs not reflected in the Office for Recreation and Sport last year?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Because they were in a different department.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Yes. You are always under a department. So, why has the reporting changed?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Because the minister, who was the minister for recreation and sport then, was also the minister for DFEEST, and that is where the ministerial staff were allocated to.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So, the Minister for Tourism's staff are all in this budget line as well, are they?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes, that is right.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So the Office for Recreation and Sport includes the Minister for Tourism's staff?

Mr PAUL: It does when you look at the 2012-13 estimated result. The minister's staff at January 2013 transferred from DFEEST into the Office for Recreation and Sport.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: So why is your tourism adviser not put into the tourism program?

Mr PAUL: This reflects 10 FTEs of the minister's office, which are the government paid staff who support the minister.

Ms THOMPSON: My question refers to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 183 to 185. Can the minister advise what is being done to further the development of the State Hockey Centre?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I am pleased to inform the house of the redevelopments at the State Hockey Centre. A \$3.309 million funding investment was provided for further improvements to the State Hockey Centre. Of this, \$2.5 million was provided by the 2012-13 Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program category 4.

The exciting developments at the centre meet the International Hockey Federation's international level facility guidelines and include an upgrade to the lights on the existing main pitch and a lighting control system that will provide lighting levels for training, competition and national and international events.

This upgrade was completed by 10 May this year, and works commenced on 2 April this year on a second competition pitch, to be sited south of the existing pitch, and are on target for completion later this year. The development will deliver an International Hockey Federation certified pitch, pitch irrigation, technical bench, dugouts, scoreboard, lighting, surrounding landscaping, and access paths.

The developments are of the best international standard. The playing surface to be laid is the surface currently identified for use at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games in Brazil in 2016 and heavily endorsed by Hockey South Australia. This is a major project that will enable South Australia to host national and international level events and fill a gap in the supply of pitches for hockey overall.

I am pleased to inform the house the improvements are already proving to be of significant benefit for hockey as Hockey SA has been successful in securing the Hockey Australia Women's Masters competition to be held at the new facility from 27 September to 5 October this year. I must say, I talked to one of our hockey greats, Juliet Haslam, last week. Juliet has just joined the board of Hockey SA and she said that the whole hockey fraternity around Australia is really excited about what is happening out at Gepps Cross.

As we have seen with the South Australian Aquatic Centre down at Marion, once you build these sorts of facilities you do attract people from all around Australia, and indeed around the world, to come and play top-level competitions here. We need to keep up with those national and international standards as they continue to be improved by sports governing bodies. We are looking forward to hosting people from around the world and around Australia, but also it gives our local hockey players a surface that they can play on that is of the highest standard in the world.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: My question relates to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 183 to 185. Can the minister please advise what is being done to further the development of the State Hockey Centre?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I just—

The Hon. J.D. HILL: Is that the one you just answered?

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: Apart from being covered in the opening statement, the member for Reynell just asked that question.

The CHAIR: Yes, I think the member for Kaurana is out of order there.

The Hon. J.D. HILL: My apologies to the committee. I will continue. I will ask a question in relation to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 183 to 185. Would the minister tell the committee about what the government is doing to encourage children to participate in sport?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The Australian Bureau of Statistics collects data on the number of children aged five to 14 years who participate in organised sport outside of school hours. Participation rates vary between states and territories. It is very encouraging to understand that nationally South Australia is ranked third with a participation rate of 63.2 per cent.

Research by the ABS and other organisations indicates children's participation in sport is largely correlated to the parent's situation. The nature of the family environment is the strongest predictor of non-participation. For example, a child with two unemployed parents has the lowest odds of participation in organised sport. This is followed by children of single parent families, where the parent is unemployed.

Other indicators of low participation include children of families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and the family not having access to technology such as the internet. These may be what are termed 'proxy indicators'. They point to other hidden factors such

as the parents not having the communication skills to identify how to get their children involved or, in the case of technology, to the parents not having the means and/or education themselves to link their child to activity.

The state government, through its funding programs, invests \$17.218 million each year in support of sport and active recreation in South Australia. In 2012-13, through the Office for Recreation and Sport, the state government, through the Active Club program, invested \$2.132 million in 492 projects that stated they would benefit children aged five to 18. Of these programs, \$210,000 was provided to 51 projects that supported families experiencing hardship. Through the Sport and Recreation Development and Inclusion Program, \$1.8 million went to 72 projects in 2012-13 which stated that they would benefit children aged five to 18.

This funding provides a range of programs and opportunities for young people. This is done through assisting sport and active recreation organisations to provide better child-safe facilities, supporting state organisations which coordinate a range of programs to engage and introduce children into sport, and investing in clubs that deliver quality, safe programs for children. The state government is proud of the contribution it makes towards encouraging children to live active, healthy lives.

We should also mention some of the community groups that we work with, who do such an important job. I know the member for Reynell and the member for Kaurana are keen supporters of the Hackham West Community Centre. The tennis program that they run down there is a really good example of getting kids, who normally would not be involved in any sport, to be engaged in not just recreation but also competition that teaches them leadership and skills.

To Lynne and all the team down at Hackham West we really salute you and your group of volunteers who have now not only produced a generation of young people who are playing tennis, who otherwise would not have been, but some of them have gone on to get their certificate in coaching as well. It is really important that as a government we work with local communities and other organisations to really engage with those who have children who might not have a gateway into sport.

Ms BEDFORD: My question refers to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 183 to 185, as before. I ask the minister to inform the committee what the government is doing to support South Australia's lead elite athletes.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: A division of the Office for Recreation and Sport, the South Australia Sports Institute (SASI), is the South Australian government's initiative that identifies, develops and supports athletes with a potential to perform at the highest national and international levels of sport. SASI works with sporting partners to conduct world-class intensive coaching and training programs and individual scholarship programs, delivering leading-edge scientific and technical support. Through SASI, the South Australian government supports the holistic development of athletes, coaches and staff.

SASI's focus is on supporting those sports and athletes with the greatest chance of achieving success on the world stage in the form of world championships and Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games medals. SASI's sport program scholarships are offered for 10 targeted SASI sport programs. The sport programs supported by SASI include: canoeing, cycling, diving, hockey, netball, rowing, swimming, trampoline, volleyball and water polo.

In addition to the scholarships offered to the 10 SASI program sports, SASI provides individual scholarships, including financial assistance and service support, to high-performance athletes who are committed, competing and training at the highest level both nationally and internationally in Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games sports and disciplines not catered for as a SASI sport program. SASI also provides financial support to talented and country athletes who are performing at a high level in Olympic, Paralympic, or Commonwealth Games sports and disciplines and have an outstanding ability to progress to senior elite levels in their sport.

Mr WILLIAMS: Minister, what we were talking about earlier about your ministerial staff coming in under the numbers, does that mean that the wages and salaries, or employee benefits expenses for those staff, are accounted for in the top line in that table on page 183?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I will ask Chris to answer that.

Mr PAUL: With the transfer of the FTEs, there was also the transfer of the salaries budget.

Mr WILLIAMS: So that has come through as well?

Mr PAUL: Yes.

Mr WILLIAMS: In the financial commentary on the next page and on page 184, it is noted that there is a \$4 million decrease in income due to the disposal of property under the More Space for Communities program. Can you explain to the committee what the More Space for Communities program is and what property was disposed of under that program delivering those savings?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: As part of the Safe Communities, Healthy Neighbourhoods policy, there was a decision to see the provision for open space for sport and recreation pursuits. Fourteen sites have been identified as surplus to government needs. Twenty per cent of the area of those sites will be put aside in the future for recreation and sport, and they have been valued at \$4 million as foregone revenue by Treasury.

Mr WILLIAMS: Because Treasury has put a value on those and they have been set aside for sport and recreation, are they going to reduce your appropriation by that amount?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No, it is not going to have any effect. It was actually attributed to us in error and that will be corrected. The \$4 million is not on our sheet.

Mr WILLIAMS: Sorry? Are you saying there is a budget error of \$4 million in the lines?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No, it is not a budget error. It was put in our papers and sport and rec will benefit from it, but the \$4 million is foregone revenue to a different department, so it will not impact on the sport and recreation appropriation.

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: But what does the \$4 million reduction in income mean, then, if it is not a reduction in appropriation?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Well, it's not—

The Hon. I.F. EVANS: It says you are getting \$4 million less—that is what the budget papers say.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The total government revenue is decreased by \$4 million. So, if that land was to be sold to a developer as a whole lot, it would, in Treasury's view, receive \$4 million more. They are saying, 'We appreciate, in built-up areas, that we need to have open space for sport and recreation,' so instead of being able to sell off the whole parcel of land, 20 per cent of the total area will be set aside for sport and recreation; therefore, that \$4 million won't come into the government coffers.

While the big winners out of that will be people who fall under the sport and recreation banner, it is actually not money that should be attributed to our budget line; therefore, there will be no effect at all on our appropriation.

The CHAIR: One last question.

Mr WILLIAMS: Minister, in the 2011-12 budget, one of the highlights was listed as the presentation of the Community Sports Hub Report. Your predecessor told last year's committee that the report had in fact been presented to him but it had not been released publicly. He also said, 'We will try to get this out as quickly as we can.' The opposition has been waiting to see this, but we have not been able to see it. Has the report ever been released? If not, why not? When will we get to see the recommendations of the report? How much did the report cost, and did the report make any recommendations about the Community Recreation and Sport Facilities Program?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: There were a fair few questions there.

Mr WILLIAMS: Well, anything you can tell us about the Community Sports Hub Report. You did talk about it in your opening statement, but you did not give us any information about the report—that was obviously received by your predecessor but we don't think has seen the light of day since.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I do not have a date for when that report will be released.

Mr WILLIAMS: You cannot even say it will be soon, like your predecessor told the committee 12 months ago?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: That's right.

Mr WILLIAMS: Must be controversial.

The CHAIR: There being no further questions, I declare consideration of the proposed payments completed.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION, \$50,515,000
MINISTER FOR TOURISM, \$4,565,000

Membership:

Mr Gardner substituted for Mr Williams.

Mr Whetstone substituted for Hon. I.F. Evans.

Mr Griffiths substituted for Mrs Redmond.

Witness:

Hon. L.W.K. Bignell, Minister for Tourism, Minister for Recreation and Sport.

Departmental Advisers:

Ms S. Rozokos, Chief Financial Officer, South Australian Tourism Commission.

Mr R. Harrex, Chief Executive, South Australian Tourism Commission.

Mr L. Harrington, Director, Finance, Adelaide Convention Centre.

Mr M. Warren, Chief Executive, South Australian Motor Sports Board.

Mr A. Kirchner, Chief Executive, Adelaide Entertainments Corporation.

Ms M. Hannaford, Finance Manager, Adelaide Entertainments Corporation.

The CHAIR: I declare that the proposed payments re-opened for examination. Minister, I invite you to make any opening statement that you may wish to make.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Thank you very much, Mr Chair. The 2013-14 budget reaffirms the government's commitment to tourism as an important industry which employs almost 60,000 people and contributes billions of dollars to the state's economy. The South Australian government strongly supports the tourism industry through its investment in marketing campaigns and partnerships with regions and local operators. We all have the same goal: to increase the number of visitors, how long they stay, where they travel to in our state, and how much they spend in South Australia.

The tourism industry is subject to economic factors beyond our control, most particularly in recent years through the ongoing strength of the Australian dollar. A strong Australian dollar presents a number of challenges to the tourism industry. More Australians are taking advantage of the good currency exchange rate and are travelling overseas, and international visitors are being more conservative in planning their visits to Australia. The state is well-positioned and ready to take advantage of opportunities as visitors again start travelling more extensively to South Australia.

Increasing air access to and within South Australia remains a priority for the state. We currently have 42 international flights to South Australia. Singapore Airlines is growing capacity from 10 flights to 12 flights from this Thursday, taking the number of overall weekly flights into Adelaide to 44. Next year, the airline will have been flying to South Australia for 30 years. International airlines currently operating international services to Adelaide are Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Air New Zealand, Malaysia Airlines, Virgin Australia and Emirates.

Internationally, we are seeing the benefits of this strategy last year to attract another major international airline to South Australia. The South Australian Tourism Commission, in partnership with Adelaide Airport Limited, persuaded Emirates, the world's fastest growing airline, to commence direct flights from Dubai into Adelaide. From Dubai, Adelaide now connects directly with a vast network of cities across the globe, but most particularly in our key northern European markets.

Already, this new partnership is bearing fruit, with Emirates increasing from four flights a week to daily flights on 1 February this year. Latest reports are that loads on these flights are very solid, and the airline may be looking for further expansion. Partly as a result of this partnership with Emirates and our other major international carriers (who have also added extra flights during the

past year) we are starting to see an increase in the international visitor numbers for the first time in several years.

Domestically, in 2012, the supply of domestic weekly seats increased from 69,558 to 76,915 in 2013, representing an increase of 10.6 per cent. As of April 2013, Adelaide is served with 76,915 seats per week—the highest ever level.

Internationally, the South Australian Tourism Commission has representation in the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy, North America, New Zealand, Singapore, India, China and Hong Kong, with the key objective of raising awareness of South Australia as a holiday destination. Supporting our international strategy has been the appointment of Rod Harrex as the new Chief Executive of the South Australian Tourism Commission. Rod has vast international experience with Tourism Australia and his appointment will ensure the South Australian Tourism Commission continues to get its international strategy right.

Domestically, following the Kangaroo Island Let Yourself Go domestic marketing campaign, the South Australian Tourism Commission recently launched the new Barossa campaign Be Consumed. The campaign sets out to establish the state's true claim as Australia's authentic food and wine destination. This campaign will fit in neatly alongside a major international campaign Tourism Australia will be rolling out later this year at the Savour Australia 2013 event in Adelaide in September.

In terms of intrastate visitation, the SATC will continue to build on the Best Backyard campaign, showcasing each region's unique experiences and encouraging South Australians to holiday in their own backyard. The SATC will continue to work with key partners, airlines and Tourism Australia in overseas markets on consumer marketing campaigns, PR initiatives and the visiting journalist familiarisation program to raise awareness and ensure we are a compelling part of any Australian journey.

In terms of ensuring that South Australia continues to provide the products and experiences visitors want, the South Australian Tourism Commission will continue to work in partnership with our regions and our operators. The first year of the destination action plans for most regions have been completed and the South Australian Tourism Commission team has been out in the regions reviewing progress against the initial goals that were established. They will continue to work with regions to identify and support opportunities that will ensure visitors have a fulfilling experience that meets their expectations.

Growing existing events and attracting new events will continue to be a key part of the strategy to showcase the best of South Australia. Events are a major drawcard for attracting more visitors to South Australia. There were 330,000 overnight events visitors to South Australia in the 12 months to December 2012, as well as a further 980,000 domestic day trips. Collectively, they spent \$257 million. The overnight sector comprised 4,000 international visitors, 100,000 interstate visitors and 229,000 interstate overnight visitors.

The Santos Tour Down Under will continue to be the state's premier event, and in 2013 it delivered an economic impact to the state in excess of \$43 million. Events SA appointed a new creative team that will bring new energy to the highly-regarded Tasting Australia, once again tying back in to our legitimate claim to be Australia's destination for premier food and wine. Of course, last year the 80th Christmas Pageant was celebrated, remaining as popular today as ever. This year, new floats and activities around the actual event will keep it fresh and accessible for all South Australians. In May, Events SA unveiled a new event, Word Adelaide, that will bring an imaginative new look at the ways we communicate, with some exciting headline artists and audience participation.

To help create vibrancy in the city and build the state brand nationally and internationally, the South Australian Tourism Commission provided marketing support to a range of events and exhibitions, including the Cabaret Festival, the Adelaide Festival of Arts, the Fringe Festival and the *Turner From the Tate* exhibition at the Art Gallery of South Australia. As part of this strategy, the SATC also provides annual financial support to the Adelaide Convention Bureau to assist the bureau in attracting major conventions to the state.

The Adelaide Entertainment Centre has had another excellent year. The centre receives no government funding assistance and will again achieve an operating net cash surplus. The centre is set to achieve a 2012-13 year end gross operating profit of \$4.6 million and a net operating profit of \$2.7 million, and will exceed its 2012-13 budget targets in doing so. The Adelaide Entertainment Centre continues to fight above its weight in attracting international artists to Adelaide. Some of the big names to have played at the centre over the past year have included: Ed Sheeran, Melissa

Etheridge, Paul Simon, Black Sabbath, Tool, Jennifer Lopez, Gotye, Hilltop Hoods, Deep Purple and many others.

Today the Adelaide Entertainment Corporation officially takes control of the management of Hindmarsh Stadium, and I was pleased to announce a new five-year naming right sponsorship earlier today for the stadium with Coopers Brewery. Now called Coopers Stadium, this agreement will help to fund improvements to the stadium which will benefit Adelaide United Football Club and its supporters. Coopers Stadium is regarded as one of the best, purpose-built soccer stadiums in the country and this new deal will only enhance that reputation.

On that note, that is probably enough words from me other than to say that tourism is a tough and competitive business. It demands not only investment but sound strategic thinking and innovative approaches that build on South Australia's strengths. The South Australia tourism industry is made up of some 3,000 operators, most of these being small and medium-sized enterprises.

The work that the South Australian Tourism Commission does is about making a difference to the state's tourism operators and their business for the benefit of all South Australians. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment of South Australian Tourism Commission staff and the tourism industry as a whole for continuing to work towards growing this important economic driver for the state.

Mr WHETSTONE: I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 4, page 160. Minister, can you provide the forward budgeted expenditure for the years 2014-15 and 2016-17?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The total expenditure authority for 2014-15 is \$48,515,000; and for 2015-16 it is \$46,742,000.

Mr WHETSTONE: I refer to page 160. What program or sub-program is the Adelaide Visitor Information Centre part of?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Sub-program 3.2.

Mr WHETSTONE: What is the budgeted amount allocated for the ongoing operation of the metropolitan visitor information centre?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The 2013-14 budget is \$642,000.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, can you advise how many South Australian Tourism Commission staff are located at the visitor information centre on North Terrace?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: There are 2.8 FTEs.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, can you guarantee that the current visitor information centre will remain at the EDS building on North Terrace? We are hearing that you are preparing to abandon that information centre. Can you confirm that?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I cannot guarantee that it will remain on that site.

Mr WHETSTONE: Can you give us any indication that the government is preparing to abandon the visitor information centre? Can you confirm that to be true?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We are always looking for ways of improving the flow of information to tourists to our city I notice that one of your colleagues the other day tweeted that it was in a pretty bad spot, having tourism information out of that building on North Terrace, so we will be looking at ways of improving the delivery of information about Adelaide and South Australia to tourists to our city.

Mr WHETSTONE: Do you have any thinking about relocating that visitor information centre or just totally closing it?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We are talking with people at the moment about other locations where we can possibly get information out to visitors to Adelaide and South Australia.

Mr GRIFFITHS: Supplementary to that. Is there a lease commitment in place for this building so that you have to stay there for a certain time?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes. The lease expires at the end of March of next year, which is probably one of the things that has brought about looking at other options and some of that discussion that we are having.

Mr WHETSTONE: Program 2: Tourism Events, Budget Paper 4, page 166. Can you advise the allocated budget for Tasting Australia for 2013-14? Perhaps you could advise the allocated forward estimates for Tasting Australia for 2014 to 2017.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: In line with our other major events, we do not actually disclose how much it costs to stage these major events. It is a policy based on the commercial valuation of the information. The disclosure of the cost has the potential to weaken the state's ability to retain events in South Australia.

Mr WHETSTONE: Can you confirm whether there has been a proposal put to government that Tasting Australia be turned into an annual event?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: That is not our strategy at this stage.

Mr WHETSTONE: Sub-program 3.1: Domestic Marketing, Budget Paper 4, page 168. Can you explain why only eight accredited visitor information centres participated in the program when there are a total of 45 accredited visitor information centres in South Australia?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: The Sell SA program that you refer to was a pilot program for 12 months. It was at as many visitor information centres as could be included in the pilot in the initial 12 months.

Mr WHETSTONE: So, do you envisage any of the other visitor information centres participating in any other programs, or will you extend that pilot program?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No; it was decided not to extend that pilot program. We have recently announced more money to all of our regions, so all of the regions will be having direct funding. They, obviously, reap enormous benefits from the financial commitment that we as a government make to marketing and providing stats. Our direct investment into each of the regions has been \$10,000, and we recently took that up to \$30,000 per region.

Mr WHETSTONE: Thank you. Just back to the visitor information centres on page 169, minister, can you supply the forward estimates over the next three years of the budget in regard to those visitor information centres?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We can't because we don't know what we will be doing with the visitor information centre in following years. As I mentioned before, our current lease expires on 31 March next year, and we are working through a range of options at this stage.

Mr WHETSTONE: Would you say that you would have a budget for an information centre, whether it be on North Terrace or whether it be at its next location?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: There will be a budget there. How big that budget will be will be determined by which option we go with.

Mr WHETSTONE: So, there will be a budget for another information centre, whether it is at North Terrace or whether it is somewhere in that vicinity.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes. As I said before, we are in negotiations about how we best disseminate information about South Australia to visitors to our city and to our state. We will work with other people who we are having discussions with already to work out what the answer will look like and what the facility will be and determine the budget after we have come to that agreement.

Mr GARDNER: Can I ask a supplementary on that?

The CHAIR: Certainly.

Mr GARDNER: What is the time frame in which, in your expectation, you will be able to announce that next process?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Sometime before 31 March next year.

Mr WHETSTONE: In your opinion, minister, are the visitor information centres the best conduit to distribute that information, or are you exploring other avenues of broadcasting information?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Things have changed. I think it is important for a certain sector of the market that we still have hard copies of things for people who like to get the brochures and flick through them, but we are also doing a lot of work in social media and the new media, so we have a lot of apps that are now available.

I always like to put my tourist hat on when I think about what it is that tourists who come to Adelaide and South Australia would like. I know that, if I go to Sydney or Brisbane or I am overseas somewhere, to be able to download an app that can tell you exactly where you are is quite handy. You are already carrying your phone and you do not need to carry a whole lot of brochures as well. Having said that, we are not in a position to move on and completely replace the magazine style and the brochure style of service that we have delivered over the past 40 or 50 years.

We already have a great volunteer information centre up at the Adelaide Central Market, which is an outstanding volunteer-based centre. I was up there speaking to the manager of that a few weeks ago. It is run by the Adelaide City Council. We need to ensure that, rather than have one place to get all our information out, we actually work with people like the hotels and make sure that their foyers are filled with our brochures as well so that people can take a few steps, hopefully, and be at something that will give them the information that they are going to require.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, just back to the Sell SA program. All stakeholders have just been told that the Sell SA program and the development of the VICs throughout South Australia have been cancelled, as you have said—

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes.

Mr WHETSTONE: —yet it is listed on page 169 of the state budget papers as a key target for 2013-14. Can you confirm this to be true? If the Sell SA program has been cancelled, can the minister advise where the allocated funding has been deferred to?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I have been around to most of the regions by now. It has been great to see lots of local members out there, such as yourself, supporting tourism in the regions. One of the things that I heard was that the regions really wanted that extra money—the \$20,000 I referred to before—to boost their ability to employ someone on the ground or do whatever program they had that they saw as vital.

We have also got a new chief executive (Rodney Harrex), who has also been around and about through most of the regions since he started his role here in April. In fact, one of the first things Rodney did on the Friday, having only started on the Monday, was to sit upstairs with me for a couple of hours with all the chairs from the regional tourism authorities from around South Australia and listen intently to what they had to offer. We want to work with them. One of Rodney's roles is to work out where the money that we allocate to the South Australian Tourism Commission each year can be best spent.

Mr WHETSTONE: Under the Adelaide Convention Centre capital investment statement 2013-14, Budget Paper 5, page 8, heading 'Total investing expenditure general government sector', can you provide the forward estimates for the redevelopment of the Adelaide Convention Centre for the current stage and the next stage and the expected completion, both demolition and the construction loans?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I will have to bring back those forward estimates, if I can take that question on notice. In terms of the completion dates, they are on schedule with stage 1 expected to be completed by the end of next year, stage 2 by the end of the 2017 financial year.

Mr WHETSTONE: Can you advise on any strategic plan in place to attract additional conferences and events, and has provision been made by the government to fund the bid fund?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We do not have a bid fund and at this stage there is no plan to introduce a bid fund, but the government does make money available. We make a contribution to the Convention Centre and the Convention Bureau to help them go out and win conferences for South Australia.

Mr WHETSTONE: So, you do not have any strategic plan in place to attract any conferences or any further business?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: There is the Convention Bureau and the Convention Centre itself that is out there all the time in the marketplace, looking to attract more conventions. They are working tirelessly to bring more conventions to South Australia and to Adelaide, and we are financing that.

Mr WHETSTONE: Sub-program 1.2, Strategy and Policy, Budget Paper 4, page 164, Highlights: this is the activating China 2020 strategy. Can you also note that on page 5 of the Activating China Strategy 2020, one of the focus areas is to communicate to the most profitable consumer, South Australia, by growing awareness, consideration and intervention for South

Australia through traditional and digital media in China. Has the South Australian Tourism Commission taken any steps to raise awareness of South Australia as a tourism destination by engaging with television, print, radio or any other traditional or digital media partners in mainland China?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Absolutely. South Australia is about to star later this year in a soap opera that will go to air in China, and I think we are in about four episodes. It will feature people in places like the Barossa Valley, at the Star of Greece down at Port Willunga, drinking wine, and those episodes will be played out to millions and millions of consumers. The online rights to air those episodes was worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. So there is one example.

We are also working with their equivalent of Facebook, their equivalent of Twitter, and other social media to get that message out. I was up there in April and we spoke with Union Pay, which is the big Chinese credit card company, which has 700 million cardholders with 3.5 billion cards. They use social media quite a lot. They also send out direct emails through the various banks in China. We have signed a memorandum of understanding and I am promoting their card throughout South Australia. It has been great to see some really big brand names in South Australia like Jacob's Creek, Wynns, and Penfolds.

I was at the Intercontinental last week and the manager there said that the Intercontinental now has Union Pay card for the first time. He heard me speak about it at a tourism conference. What we are doing is, we are spreading the word about Union Pay to accommodation, retail, and cellar door type operators here in South Australia, so that they can reduce a hurdle to Asian visitors to Australia and to South Australia spending their money. In return, they will promote South Australia as a destination to their people.

When you look at the size of the database that they have—as I said, they have 700 million cardholders—2.5 million of those are multimillionaires, so if we have an exclusive deal for those high end people to come to South Australia, it is a very good conduit. We do not need to go out and sift through the hundreds of millions of people to actually work out who is likely to want to come and experience this product. They have done a lot of that work already. It is really important that we work with people in China who already have that sort of data bank and try to get them to come here and experience South Australia.

I was talking to the vice president international of Union Pay when I was there. I said 'Look, you could come out.' I told him about Kangaroo Island. I said, 'In half an hour you could be over at a place called Port Lincoln. You could be swimming in a tuna pen with these tuna, the most aerodynamic fish in the world. They just come straight up into your mask and then dive away; they will never run into you. Then you can get out of the water and eat fresh sashimi and have some of the best wines in the world.'

He said, 'That sort of experience is the sort of experience that we want to offer up to our high end people as a reward for them spending money on our Union Pay cards.' We should not forget that one Union Pay customer spent over \$150,000 on one meal while he was in Australia. The sort of money that they are spending here is amazing. I said, 'Did he book out the whole restaurant?' They said, 'No, it was just a normal sized crowd for a dinner, but they were drinking the best French champagne and Penfolds Grange.' We should not be limited to what we think are the current spending patterns of visitors to South Australia; we should actually be aiming big and, by using the databases of those people overseas, really fine tune our message.

Mr WHETSTONE: Obviously the Union Pay card is something to behold. Can you provide any names of media partners that the state government has within the China strategy?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Galloping Horse is the company that I met with over there, which is doing the soap opera that will be run. I have not personally met, but Destination Development, our international team, I know has met with several people and has built up relationships with people who are working in that space. I do not know the exact name of them. They have a different system for Facebook and a different system for Twitter, but we are working with people in that space to promote South Australia.

Mr WHETSTONE: Just moving on to Grants and Subsidies, Budget Paper 4, page 165. Can you explain how the South Australian Tourism Commission intends to develop and grow the state's event calendar, when the budgeted amount for grants and subsidies is \$3.812 million in 2013-14, compared with \$4.335 million in 2012-13?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: When it comes to staging events, we usually seek money out of Treasury to help those come about. For example, last year's budget was used on that surfing

festival that they had over on Kangaroo Island and this year we had the Australian Swimming Championships, so it is a year-by-year proposition about what is available and what sort of events we would like to attract to South Australia.

Events is a really important sector and we are always on the lookout for new events that are out there in the marketplace or ones that we can create here, just as the Tour Down Under was successfully conceived here by Mike Turtur and then implemented by the then government and supported by our government. We look at growing those homemade products as well as being part of wider events like WOMADelaide, which also has a presence in New Zealand and the UK.

Mr WHETSTONE: If you are looking for Treasury to assist on a year-by-year basis and you have an event coming into the state, what sort of funding would you supply an event organiser for organising or promotions? What about prize money and that type of thing?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I guess the prize money would fit into the whole amount of what we would provide and we have a whole range of events throughout our regions that we support right through to major events. We do not actually disclose the cost of the events, but if people come to us with a good proposition that would reap millions of dollars in economic contribution to South Australia, which many of these big events do, then we would seriously take a proposal to Treasury to look at providing extra funds so that we could secure that event.

Mr WHETSTONE: Just moving on to Sub-program 1.1: Tourism Development, in Budget Paper 4, page 163. can you provide a breakdown of the \$1 million decrease in expenses for Destination Development?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I cannot give you a breakdown because of the commercial-in-confidence rules that we have, but Destination Development is that arm of the South Australian Tourism Commission that does a lot of important work around attracting new airline partners to fly into South Australia and bring extra passengers and tourists to our state. Destination Development also does a lot of work with the cruise ship industry and we have seen some phenomenal growth in the past couple of years.

I think we had 17 cruise ships in this year and next year we are looking at 31 cruise ships and, more importantly, they will not just be coming to Adelaide. Some of those cruise ships will be going to Robe, Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln and providing a direct economic boost into the regions. I am sorry that, because of those commercial-in-confidence arrangements, I cannot give you the specifics of where that money was spent, but it has been spent wisely and we are seeing more visitors coming here from overseas as a result of that investment.

Mr WHETSTONE: Minister, for some of these events sponsored by the government who is responsible for their losses, if there are losses? The event on KI turned out to be a bit of a disaster for the sponsors and for the government. Who is responsible for the losses? Whose budget bottom line does it come from?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Those costs and losses would be worn by the event organisers but, thankfully, most of the events we sponsor are very successful and continue year in year out. When you look at something like the Tour Down Under or the Clipsal 500, the real measure is the economic impact they have on the state. While the local pub or hotel which has all of its rooms sold out has not had to chip in a single dollar, other than the taxes and rates they pay, the benefit to them is huge, particularly for the Tour Down Under at a time of year when, traditionally, accommodation and entertainment were a little bit low in South Australia. That final two weeks of January now are a huge economic boon for people in the accommodation, food and tourism sectors. While they do not have to put in any money per se to get people here, we are doing that work for them as the government backing the Tour Down Under.

Mr WHETSTONE: Who was responsible for the \$600,000 debt for the failure of the event on Kangaroo Island last year?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Do you have a budget line for that one?

Mr WHETSTONE: It's expenses, on page—

Mr GRIFFITHS: Mr Chairman, the minister actually referred to the event in a previous answer, so there is a link back to the question.

Mr WHETSTONE: Page 167, sub-program 3.1.

The CHAIR: We should always be referring to budget lines.

Mr WHETSTONE: Don't want to answer that?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Well, there is no budget line for it, and it is not domestic marketing.

Mr WHETSTONE: It is not international and trade marketing. Minister, back to tourism development, Budget Paper 4, page 163, how much is budgeted for regional tourism in South Australia?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: In 2012-13, the South Australian Tourism Commission continued to develop and market South Australia's 11 tourism regions in five ways. We continued the interstate Best Backyard marketing campaign, with tailored strategies for each region. We developed regional brands and facilitated workshops to provide operators and industry stakeholders with detailed information about their own region's brand and how they can use that brand in their own businesses. These workshops are continuing to be delivered in all regions. We continue to build the capacity of operators and visitor information centres to allow them to compete in the competitive world of online sales by becoming bookable online and more commercially sustainable.

We manage three programs designed to assist industry to develop new tools and attractions and infrastructure across the state, namely, the New Product Support Program, the Best of Breed investor familiarisation program, and the Tourism Development Support Program. I have no doubt that one of those was responsible for us having a beer together a few miles upstream of Renmark, member the Chaffey, at the Wilkadene Woolshed Brewery and Wilkadene Station. Tom and Sarah are an example of the sorts of people we are really hoping to assist to come up with those new tourism attractions and activities. I think you will agree, standing there on that sunny Autumn afternoon, that there could be few better locations for a brewery than on the banks of the subsidiary of the mighty Murray with houseboats right there that you can go out on.

The 2012-13 budget involved the South Australian Tourism Commission providing funding to regional tourism organisations towards the employment of a local contact person responsible for providing services related to visitor guide content and PR familiarisation support and advice on contracts to and from the South Australian Tourism Commission for regional operators. Additional funding was provided in 2012-13 to the regional tourism organisations, which included extra funding for the local contact person services, communication to industry and funds towards a project of strategic significance to each region as identified in the region's Destination Action Plan. As I think you know, the regions are vitally important to us and vitally important to the tourism sector.

Mr WHETSTONE: I understand the net cost of all services is a bit over \$50 million, but what is the budget line for regional tourism in South Australia?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: There is no specific line between regional South Australia and metro South Australia, but, just off the top of my head, if you look at the sort of \$6 million campaign that we put into marketing Kangaroo Island last year which then became the drawcard for people in the Eastern States to come and visit us here in South Australia, and there is the \$6 million that will spent on the campaign this year over the next 18 months to promote the Barossa Valley through the Be Consumed campaign. They are the flagship marketing operations, but there is so much more that each region in South Australia benefits from, such as the Best Backyard ads, there are some ads that were involved with the 'Take your mother shark diving for Mother's Day'—those ads were put out throughout South Australia to promote Port Lincoln.

Ms BEDFORD: Your mother-in-law!

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Mother-in-law, didn't I say that?

Ms BEDFORD: You said mother.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Sorry, you're right; good to see you are seeing the ads, member for Florey. Yes, take your mother-in-law—

The CHAIR: And listening!

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Yes, and listening, very attentive. Those sort of ads we have seen for the Riverland. When we do marketing in New Zealand it is largely based around the Riverland because we know that New Zealanders love coming on a houseboat holiday in the Riverland of South Australia. They have plenty of coastline like we have in Australia. They have plenty of fast-flowing rapids and rivers and they have plenty of sheep as we have, so they do not come here to see any of that stuff. They come here for the big, wide Murray river and the chance to

kick back and relax on a houseboat. The Yorke Peninsula we promote as the place for South Australians to unwind, and it really has been for generations and it continues to be so.

It is hard to put an exact dollar figure on how much is spent on the development and promotion of regional South Australia, but it is a key priority for me as the minister and for Rodney as the head of the South Australian Tourism Commission, and all of the people who work in the Tourism Commission.

As I said, Rodney has already been out in the regions, I have been out in the regions. You have been to one of our functions that we had where we get tourism operators together and listen to what they have got to say and see how we can improve things and also to let them know how things are operating. To put a dollar figure on it, I am afraid I cannot do, but a large part of our budget each year is spent on promoting tourism in the regions of South Australia.

Mr WHETSTONE: That would almost stymie the next question, and that is: what is the return ratio for regional tourism—the spend to return ratio? There must be a percentage figure. I know you are not going to put your finger on a particular dollar, but I am trying to see what sort of bang for buck you are getting out of a spend to return ratio, and I would like you to highlight what regional tourism is giving you for your ratio. We have heard where you have been and what you are doing for regional tourism, but I would like to try to compare what metropolitan tourism is generating—spend and return ratio—as opposed to regional tourism?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We do not have a figure here for that breakdown, but what we do know is that our budget for tourism each year is about \$50 million and the return that tourism pumps into our state's economy is in the area of \$5 billion a year, so it is a pretty high return on investment. It means using what money we put in as taxpayers' money to work really closely with the industry and also spend that money wisely on marketing.

Mr WHETSTONE: Just before I leave regional tourism, has the board of the South Australian Tourism Commission met in any other region outside Adelaide?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Not while I have been the minister.

Mr WHETSTONE: Any reason?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: No, but I would encourage them to meet outside of Adelaide.

Mr WHETSTONE: Just moving on to the tourism marketing budget, Budget Paper 4, Volume 4, page 167, I note the following figures that appear under the heading Program summary—expenses income and FTEs, referring specifically to the Employee benefit expenses heading to the FTEs at 30 June. Can you explain 68.7 FTEs in 2013 budgeted at a cost of \$6.3 million, and we now have 72.1 FTEs in the 2013-14 budget at a cost of \$6.09 million—that is some \$300,000 difference for more.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: It looks like it is a discrepancy in timing and just when people came on and when people left their jobs.

Mr WHETSTONE: Again, in domestic marketing, can you advise of any and all costs associated with the redevelopment of the South Australian Tourism Commission website and can you advise us as to the total number of persons who have visited that Tourism Commission website?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: We do not have the number of hits figure here, but I can get that for you, if you like. In 2012-13, the South Australian Tourism Commission focused on improving southaustralia.com to encourage visitors to the site to book a trip to South Australia. Improvements to the website included:

- more videos and fresh images which were added to increase South Australia's appeal as a holiday destination;
- modification to the email sign-up option on the website which allows the Tourism Commission to source more information from people signing up for our newsletters;
- improved search functionality with the particular focus on ensuring accurate search results;
- a new regional map integrated on the intrastate best backyard marketing campaign page. This map is interactive and helps the user to find points of interest across the state with a geographical reference; and

- extensive review of current content across the whole southaustralia.com website which included additional pages being added. This ensured all of the information on the website was up-to-date and reflective of current campaigns and topics of interest for travellers to South Australia.

Mr WHETSTONE: Are you aware, within regional tourism or Destination NSW, the initiative that has been taken on by New South Wales regional has now been adopted in Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia. They have just put forward a budget of \$20 million, an extra \$20 million, with an extra \$21 million over three years. Do you think it was a policy error in defunding the regions and will you consider this regional approach in your next budget?

The CHAIR: Which budget line is that?

Mr WHETSTONE: Tourism development, page 162, Sub-program 1.1.

The CHAIR: This might have to be the last question and then we will go to the member for Morialta to read in the omnibus questions.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: I do not agree with the question. We have increased funding to the regions, as I mentioned earlier. The regions have been the beneficiaries of money that we are spending on campaigns and we will continue to work with the regions to promote them and spend money there.

Mr WHETSTONE: Destination Riverland, is that now funded by local government?

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Destination Riverland—

Mr WHETSTONE: Destination Tourism.

The Hon. L.W.K. BIGNELL: Most regional tourism bodies are funded, as I mentioned before, with \$10,000 from us (and that has been increased to \$30,000) per region, but there is a lot more money that goes into all of our regions through grants that are provided to places like the Woolshed Brewery and the Sticky Rice Cooking School. An example is the accommodation upgrades that we have provided in the past four years where we have put in \$8 million, which has resulted in a \$91 million spend on improving hotel rooms up to a four and 4½-star level. That is the sort of money we are putting out in the regions. It is not accurate to say that we have reduced funding in the regions.

Mr GARDNER: My apologies to *Hansard* but I will read these very quickly. I am sure they can get a copy from somewhere else if they need it.

1. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on consultants and contractors above \$10,000 in 2012-13 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister—listing the name of the consultant, contractor or service supplier, cost, work undertaken and method of appointment?
2. For each department or agency reporting to the minister in 2012-13, please provide the number of public servants that are (1) tenured and (2) on contract, and for each category provide a breakdown of the number of (1) executives and (2) non-executives?
3. In financial year 2012-13 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, what underspending on projects and programs was not approved by cabinet for carryover expenditure in 2013-14?
4. Between 30 June 2012 and 30 June 2013, will the minister list the job title and total employment cost of each position (with a total estimated cost of \$100,000 or more)—(a) which has been abolished; and (b) which has been created?
5. For each year of the forward estimates, provide the name and the budget of all grant programs administered by all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, and for 2012-13 provide a breakdown of expenditure on all grants administered by all departments and agencies reporting to the minister—listing the name of the grant recipient, the amount of the grant and the purpose of the grants and whether the grant was subject to a grant agreement as required by Treasurer's Instruction No. 15?
6. For each department or agency reporting to the minister, what is the budget for targeted voluntary separation packages for the financial years 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17?

7. What is the title and total employment cost of each individual staff member in the minister's office as at 31 May 2013 including all departmental employees seconded to ministerial offices and ministerial liaison officers?

The CHAIR: There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the proposed payments completed.

At 17:19 the committee adjourned until Tuesday 2 July 2013 at 10:30.