

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY****Monday, 21 July 2014****ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A****Chair:**

Ms F.E. Bedford

**Members:**

Hon. P. Caica  
Ms A.F.C. Digance  
Dr D. McFetridge  
Mr P.A. Treloar  
Mr C. Wingard  
Ms D. Wortley

*The committee met at 10:30**Estimates Vote*

**DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION, \$998,989,000**  
**ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL**  
**INCLUSION, \$184,930,000**

**Minister:**

Hon. A. Piccolo, Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Ms J. Mazel, Chief Executive, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Dr D. Caudrey, Executive Director, Disability SA, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Mr A. Thompson, Executive Director, Financial Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms L. Young, Executive Director, Disability and Domiciliary Care Services, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms N. Rogers, Director, Business Affairs, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

Ms T. Stephenson, Principal Programs Manager, Department for Communities and Social Inclusion.

**The CHAIR:** The estimates committee is 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 a change of departmental advisers. I understand that the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition have agreed to a timetable for today's proceedings. Is that correct?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We have half an hour.

**The CHAIR:** Changes to committee membership will be notified as they occur. Members should ensure that the Chair is provided with a completed request to be discharged 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 26 September 2014 for inclusion the *Hansard* supplement.

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. I do ask that members state their references at the beginning of their question. 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. The incorporation of material in *Hansard* is permitted on the same basis as applies in the house, that is, that it is purely statistical and limited to one page in length.

All questions are to be directed to the minister, not to 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 payments open for examination. I call on the minister to make his opening statement, if he has one, and then I will call on the lead speaker to make their statement.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Thank you, Chair. I am pleased to say that in the past 12 months I have seen some of the most exciting developments in disability services in recent years. South Australia was the first jurisdiction to join as a trial site for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. We should be extremely proud of this and our overall involvement in the NDIS. Our trial site, which commenced on 1 July 2013, focused on children aged from birth to 14 years. In the first year, eligible children aged from birth to 5 years were able to access support through the NDIS. South Australia's trial has progressed well. As at 31 March, 1,152 children have been deemed eligible for the scheme and 979 children have had support plans approved by the National Disability Insurance Agency, close to the target for this point in time.

Children with disability and their families participating in the South Australian trial are able to determine the right therapeutic and personal support services to meet their individual needs. The scope of the NDIS is expanding each year. From 1 July 2014, it includes children aged up to 13 and those aged up to 14 in the following year. In 2018, with the implementation of the full scheme, it will include every eligible South Australian with a disability under the age of 65.

The NDIS will ensure that those with a disability have dignity, control and choice. They will be able to select services that best meet their needs and aspirations for the future at every stage of their lives. The state and commonwealth governments are providing significant investment in the funding for the NDIS. From 2018, the full South Australian NDIS is projected to receive funding of nearly \$1.5 billion, \$723 million per annum from the state government and \$760 million per annum from the commonwealth.

We are now in the important phase of reshaping the disability services sector as we transition into the NDIS, in particular assisting government service providers and non-government organisations to transition to the new environment. As the NDIS is not intended to fund supports for all people with disability, mainstream agencies will continue to provide existing inclusive services. This is consistent with the National Disability Strategy which influences the planning, design and delivery of the policies, programs, services and infrastructure at a national level.

As the NDIS is rolled out, the state government continues to drive initiatives such as individualised funding that focus on choice and person-centred planning. As at May 2014, 2,005 participants have a formal individualised funding agreement in place to manage their personal circumstances and support. In the year ahead, it is anticipated that all three stages of individualised

funding will be completed, with over 6,000 people allocated a personal budget and able to choose how this is managed.

This past year was also a significant one for disability legislative reform. Once the scope and impact of the commonwealth's National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 was clear, I held three roundtable sessions to discuss South Australia's disability legislation and identify what was important for South Australians with disability in terms of our own act.

I was delighted to see the Disability Services (Rights, Protection and Inclusion) Amendment Act passed by parliament in November 2013. I would like to thank the opposition for its support throughout this legislation. This followed significant consultation with people with disability, advocates, organisations and carers. I received frank and direct advice on a range of issues which required legislative attention. As a result, the new act contains a number of important provisions, including:

- referencing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- the right of people with disability to exercise choice and control about decision-making in their lives;
- an accessible and well-publicised complaints and grievance procedure;
- protection for those who make complaints;
- mandated safeguarding policies to ensure the safety and welfare of service users; and
- strengthened powers to monitor and act on inadequate performance by agencies, both government and government-funded.

I am focused on effective community engagement and, to facilitate this, I have established the South Australian Disability Register. This is a database of individuals who have agreed to consult with me on particular disability-related topics where they have expertise or interest. The register has to date 181 participants and growing.

As noted in relation to legislative reform, roundtable discussions with community members contacted through the Disability Register and smaller group meetings called 'kitchen tables' are an important means of community engagement. At the kitchen tables, specific issues are discussed in much greater detail and reported back to me and roundtable members.

Through this roundtable and Disability Register approach, 11 community engagement events have been initiated this year. This has enabled people living with disability to participate in the ongoing development of government policy, programs and delivery of services which impact upon their lives.

The Community Visitor Scheme is a most welcome initiative, providing an advocacy and monitoring service for people with disability living in state-funded accommodation. The Principal Community Visitor, Mr Maurice Corcoran, has recruited over 20 new community visitors for disability accommodation visits and undertaken numerous training sessions to equip them for this very important task. The Community Visitor Scheme reinforces other safeguarding initiatives, such as the appointment of a Disability Senior Practitioner to work with sector service providers.

A suite of safeguarding policies has also been developed to improve rights protection for those people with disability who may be subject to restrictive practices. These initiatives are examples of how the state government is implementing the important recommendations of the 2011 Strong Voices report. We are getting on with the work set out in the report and expect to better many of the set time frames.

Providing accommodation for people with disability in large congregate settings is no longer a preferred service delivery model; rather, supporting people to live in the community is the policy direction across Australia, thus providing opportunities for people with disability to participate in the life of the community. As at April 2014, there are 93 people living at Highgate Park. Disability Services is working with people who wish to return to the community to find supported accommodation that meets their individual requirements.

The former Social Inclusion Board's report, 'Strong voices: a blueprint to enhance life and claim the rights of people with disability in South Australia', recommended that the transition of people living at Highgate Park to community-based homes be expedited by implementing new assessment and life plans.

A person-centred planning process has been implemented, and people considering a move to community living have been assisted to complete a good life community living plan, which identifies future living and support preferences. People are being assisted to either return to the family home or access community living preferences as vacancies and/or new community living places are developed and become available.

The remaining people living at the Strathmont Centre are being assisted to move to supported community accommodation, using a 'one person at a time' approach. Housing and support options are being matched to people's individual needs. The mix and style of housing and support has been determined through 'one person at a time' intensive lifestyle planning, which includes individuals and their families and guardians. Individualised lifestyle plans ensure that people receive the support that best meets their needs and circumstances. In 2013-14, four people have been supported to move from Strathmont Centre to supported community housing. Due to the complex nature of people's support requirements—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Is there much more, Tony, because we are 10 minutes in, mate?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Two paragraphs.

**The CHAIR:** It is just on time.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, there is not much more. We have now lost a bit of time. Due to the complex nature of people's support requirements, the intensive 'one person at a time' planning process and the construction time required for the provision of purpose-built housing, the remaining 23 people will move during 2014-15. The state government has committed to investigate the feasibility of creating a disability hub in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. This will facilitate training for the many people who will be needed to work in the disability industry as the NDIS rolls out.

An amount of \$7.4 million has been committed to build a new respite facility within the city for people with disability. This will boost the availability of respite, an important support for people with disability, their families and carers. The government is developing disability access and inclusion plans. All state government agencies are required to report on their plans in annual reports, and local councils are being strongly encouraged as well.

**The CHAIR:** The member for Morphett.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I do not have an opening statement, other than to say that what the minister has put on the record is important and I would not have minded if he had tabled it without reading it. I will go straight to my questions. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 99, Sub-program: Non-Government and Individualised Funding Targets. Minister, can you reiterate the numbers you advised in your opening statement? I think it was 1,152 are registered as part of the NDIS and that there are 979 support plans approved; is that correct?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** At the end of March, just to confirm, the number of eligible participants was 1,152 and, at the same time, end of March again, 979 were the participants who had plans. I can also let you know that, by the end of March, the average package was about \$14,000. I think that I have answered your question.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is just confirming those figures. My first question is: minister, are you confident that those numbers are correct because I understand that there is some disagreement on the actual numbers and that actuarial reports are predicting much higher numbers than that?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I think that the issue which was raised by that report was not so much the actual numbers but the projected numbers. There was some difference of opinion about projected numbers, and part of that confusion arose from what groups are included in the figures in the estimates. In respect of the commonwealth and the state, my understanding is that the state numbers did not include general developmental delay, whereas the commonwealth did. But having

said that, the advice I have received is that our figures are around the ballpark and what we have provided in the initial estimates.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** What checks and balances are in place to verify the accuracy of those figures?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Do you mean the actual figures?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes, the certainty of those figures.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The actual figures are based on the NDIA; they are the figures they give to us and they are the actual agency responsible for that. As you can appreciate, once a person leaves a state scheme and enters the federal scheme it is up to them to then report to the board, the commonwealth parliament and also the states.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So there have been no delays on behalf of the department in providing the NDIA with information?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What information?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The projected numbers and the numbers that are still ready to come on individualised packages?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can confirm that on our part as a department we have provided all available information to the NDIA in a timely fashion, and certainly we have not heard any feedback that our agency has not provided the necessary information.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There have been no delays in providing the information and so families have not been left waiting at all?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Not from the work of my agency, no.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On the same reference and also Budget Paper 3, page 107, can the minister tell the committee what is the number of children and the projected growth costs for children aged 0 to 14 within the NDIS trial cohort by 2015-16?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can confirm that our original figures were about 5,085. If we take into account children with developmental delay, we expect the figure to be around about 7,500. It is also important to remember that under the agreement the commonwealth bears the cost of any additional people put on this scheme, during the trial period.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The fact that the commonwealth does bear that extra cost, what negotiations are underway to help manage the risk associated with what is almost a doubling of expected initial numbers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** A doubling? Well, I do not agree that is a doubling, but the actual agreement itself has a review process built in post the trial period, and those discussions will take place to renegotiate the agreement.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There is no expected growth in the state's contribution then?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** During the trial period it is quite clear that the commonwealth bears 100 per cent of the cost. Once the trial period is over there is a process involved in the agreement which outlines how it is to be reviewed, and those discussions and negotiations will take place there. All I can say is that we are committed to this scheme.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And that is the important thing, that we are all committed to the scheme, so we need to know what it is going to cost. To follow up on that answer, there is a significant risk that the costs to the state might increase?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is very early to make an assessment, because you may recall a few months ago there were suggestions that the scheme would blow out by 30 to 40 per cent, and that was based on the first quarter results. When the second quarter results came through, those cost figures came down in terms of package costs, then the third quarter results came out and those costs went down again, because you get a more normal distribution of people in the scheme.

We anticipate that next quarter the figures that trend will continue, and so it is very early to work out what the figures may be beyond the initial estimates. What we can say, though, is that during the trial period we are protected from increase in cost and I would say that as we get closer to the period we will have a better idea. I think it is just too early to estimate what those cost increases, if any, may be.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think we need to be certain, because everybody wants this to work, that the numbers the state government have are as accurate as they possibly can be.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that we base our figures on actual numbers of our own clients, plus other information. My understanding is that the commonwealth number is another estimate.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just to follow up on that again, how many children with disabilities are there in South Australia in total under 18? We need to prepare families to come into the NDIS, so have we identified them and do we know how many there are?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I do not have the precise figure for that for you in terms of people registered within the state scheme, or have been predicted, but I am happy to take that on notice and get that figure for you. But I would say it is not too far from the figure I have already given.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Two weeks ago now, the Aboriginal Lands Committee was on the APY lands and we are very concerned that the rollout of the NDIS on the APY lands is going to be a very logistically difficult problem. How many recipients of the NDIS are on the lands at the moment, and what is the expected total number of Aboriginal kids?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** There are two things: I will need to get those actual figures from the—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You can come back to the committee with them.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, I am happy to come back to the committee.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We need to be certain that nobody is in any way reducing the effectiveness of the NDIS; so are there any delays in agreeing on the data between the states and the feds at the moment?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am not aware and I certainly have not been advised of any delay in delivery of services because of data. I am aware discussions have taken place, but they have not actually hindered the service delivery, and certainly to my understanding have not hindered people being signed up.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** My information is that there have been some significant differences in the estimates between the feds and the states on this, and I do not want anybody to get out of this, because we have raised expectations and now we have to deliver. So, minister, you can tell the committee that there is an agreement on the numbers; I understand there is a disparity between the numbers.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will get the CEO to just explain. It is a very technical process we have gone through and I will get one of the officers to actually explain it better than I can. You are referring to the figures that are the actual estimates for the scheme, is that right?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** David is best to respond to that one.

**Dr CAUDREY:** At the very beginning, we went through a process with the commonwealth to work out what we thought was the best estimate of the number of children up to the age of 14. That came out at the 5,085 figure. That was not disputed by the commonwealth. Subsequently, the commonwealth actuary did an exercise and came out with some similar figures. The NDIA actuary used population statistics and a fair bit of inference to come out with a figure of 10,700, hence the alarm: was it 10,700?

It is certainly more than 5,085, because the original figure did not include developmental delay, which the commonwealth and other states insisted be included, which we did not originally

include in our figures. So, that is why we think the figure is probably more like 7,000. There is a process going on at the moment with the NDIA to try and establish a better benchmark for what the likely figure is going to be.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you for that. Just quickly changing into another very important area for the providers of services who use volunteers—

**The CHAIR:** And your line is the same line?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 98, relating to the screening costs for volunteers; so, it is really under the net cost of service provision. Minister, the screening costs have gone up; what consultation took place with the various service providers over the increase of screening costs?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Screenings used to be under my portfolio, but are now under the portfolio of minister Bettison, so she is best placed to explain to the committee what process she used in determining that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Minister, are you aware of some very significant increases in cost to some of the NGOs? I have spoken to one NGO inquiring about this, and their extra screening costs are over a quarter of a million dollars more.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am aware that, under new fees charged, the charge to volunteers was uppermost in our mind and the government has kept them as low as possible; in fact, they are the lowest possible fees being charged. So, the government—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It used to be zero.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The government was very mindful of the cost. But, like I said, in relation to the whole rationale behind the new structure, you are best placed to get it from the person who is responsible for that, and that is minister Bettison.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So you have had no approaches from the NGO providers of disability services about the effect of this? They have not contacted you or your department?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** My understanding is that some providers have contacted the department and I will be having regular meetings with the NDIS, etc., so I am sure it will be a matter which will be on the agenda for our next meeting.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Minister, just on that, then: is the government going to offer any rebates, remissions or subsidies to help cover these costs? Some of them have said to me that this could be the straw that breaks the camel's back after WorkCover increases, now we have got this.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** In terms of those NGOs which are responsible to my agency, we look at those at a case-by-case basis.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister; I am sure there will be more to come on that one. In relation to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 99—non-government and individualised funding arrangements: what arrangements are currently in place regarding the payment of invoices to non-government organisations, and are there delays in the payments causing issues for both the organisations and individuals?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Can you just clarify that again to make sure I have understood your question correctly?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** What arrangements are currently in place regarding the payment of invoices to non-government organisations? Is there a cash flow problem in the department, and are individuals who are being paid under individualised funding being paid on time?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise there is no cash flow problem—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** There are no cash flow problems?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, not at all. What I can advise is that, in terms of individualised funding, in 2014-15 225 clients have elected to take up an option to have a greater involvement in the design of the contract under their support service. Two hundred and fourteen have taken the

opportunity to receive payments directly into their bank accounts, which you have referred to in your question. The remaining 11 clients have elected to lodge their funding with a host agency who support them by either delivering the service agreed in the clients' personal budget plan and/or by purchasing other services where the clients have request this to occur.

As at 7 July 2014, payments have been made to 119 clients participating in the individualised funding program. I am advised that the payments to the remaining 106 clients have all been arranged by today. This includes 11 payments being made directly to non-government organisations which have been selected by the clients to host their personal budget allocations.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just on that same reference, how is pricing determined for disability services, and how are you able to determine those prices in the way you do?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sorry, you mean prices under the state scheme or the new NDIS?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The new NDIS.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Those prices are set by the NDIA, which is covered by commonwealth legislation.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And the state scheme?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** In terms of working out what is a reasonable price, we take into account the prices charged by a whole range of non-government organisations. In terms of which price is allowed, it is a case-by-case situation, but we obviously encourage people to use those services that come at a lower cost. To some extent, it is actually determined by the market, in terms of the providers.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And you are able to assure the committee that there is a level playing field between DSA and the non-government providers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We are getting back to this question you asked us last year.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I did, and we are still disagreeing on it, I think.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes. I suppose you are asking whether we should be in the marketplace.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Perhaps in the APY.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I certainly have not changed my view from last year on that matter but, having said that, we have set up a project team to look at that because we need to make sure that we comply with the appropriate national laws and rules regarding contested services. That project team has been established to make sure of two things: firstly, the prices we charge are fair prices and, secondly, we are in a marketplace we are required to be in.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just finally on that same reference, I am aware that there are some people who have been put into financial stress because payments are being paid in arrears and payments are being delayed, even when they are being paid in arrears.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised by department agencies that, as soon as we are made aware of any payment delays, we are acting on those very quickly. We obviously try to make sure that payments are made as quickly as possible to avoid any difficulties for our clients, especially people who need that funding. I am not going to suggest that payments have always been made on time but, as soon as it is brought to our attention, we act quickly to make sure it does not cause any difficulties.

We also need to be mindful that we have legal obligations to meet in terms of acquittals, etc., so sometimes the documentation needs to come through because there is public money we need to pay. It is a bit of a balancing act, but we always make sure that the interests of the person who is receiving those services are uppermost in our minds.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Those individual payments are obviously being scrutinised and paid. Just to get it quite straight, when you are being invoiced for services being provided on behalf of the



department, there is no delay in paying those invoices? We see some invoices, unfortunately, in arrears by 60 and 90 days in some departments.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I cannot speak for other departments, but I am sure the Treasurer or other agencies can. As at 31 May—the most recent figures available to me—I can tell you that 99.29 per cent, or 274,954, of all invoices were paid within 30 calendar days. This represents \$907 million paid within agreed payment terms, which is not a bad record.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer again to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 99, Sub-program 2.1: Non-Government and Individualised Funding. Which state programs have been folded into the NDIS as part of the transition?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Is your question: have we transferred any service delivery to the commonwealth? I am not clear on your question.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I understand that there have been a number of services that are being transferred across to the NDIS from the state government, from DSA. Is that correct? If so, which ones? It might be to some of the service providers as well.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Just to clarify, are you referring to the children, basically?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** DCSI has been a longstanding provider of services for children and young people and is continuing to provide its expertise in early intervention therapy and equipment and home modifications for children and young people under the NDIS trial. As we discussed last year, we still have a service delivery arm of government.

We are still maintaining that because a number of those children continue to get services from us. The only thing which is different now is that, as a service provider, we are eligible for payments from the commonwealth scheme because in those cases we are the provider of choice people have chosen to stay with, and that remains the case for quite a few young people.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On that same topic, how are in-kind calculations undertaken within the department as part of the funding arrangements for service providers? How are these types of calculations impacting on the transition to the NDIS?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised it is a very technical answer, so you are about to get a very technical response from my adviser.

**Dr CAUDREY:** Basically, services can be cashed out, in which case the funding that we give to the agency is transferred to the NDIA and then they purchase services back from the agency or from whichever agency the person chooses to go to. In-kind services, which are very common in other trial sites but less so with us, you do not cash out. You provide a service and, if the NDIA wishes that service to be provided, then you effectively subtract from the grant that the agency gets the equivalent amount of money.

Effectively, the money does not change hands, so it is a very technical thing. At the end of the day, it is anticipated that cashing out will be universal. Basically, all funding that we supply will effectively be transferred to the NDIA and then they will purchase back services, but in transition it is just very difficult for some agencies to identify exactly how much money is assigned to each individual.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you for that answer, Dr Caudrey. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 102, Disability Support. There was an announcement of \$400,000 over two years for a feasibility study into the setting up of a disability hub. Has that feasibility study started? Was there a pre-feasibility study done, which is something I understand is always done now before even committing to feasibility studies? Do not ask me why, but they do.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can confirm that the government is undertaking a feasibility study for a new disability hub in the northern suburbs. As you mentioned, \$200,000 in the 2014-15 budget and \$200,000 in the 2015-16 budget has been allocated for this work. The disability hub will have a key role in training people for new jobs in the disability sector and also provide co-located services for people living with a disability with their families and carers. New job opportunities are particularly

important in the northern suburbs, given the impact on the area following the closure announcements from Holden.

A high-level steering committee has been established and will report to me as Minister for Disabilities by the end of this calendar year. A business case will be developed that examines costs and benefits and sets out a project plan with time lines. Specialised working groups will be established as required. As mentioned, the initial report should come to me by the end of 2014. A working group within the agency has been established which comprises a range of members from both state and federal government agencies to provide advice to me, and reports will begin regularly on the service model and development of the business case.

Another thing I would like to mention is that we will, hopefully, be working with the non-government sector to create a holistic hub as a one-stop shop for people needing disability services and advice. Obviously, there are job creation opportunities for the northern suburbs, but there is also the opportunity to improve service delivery for people living with disabilities and their families in that area.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And, if it stacks up, minister, you are hoping to be cutting the ribbon on what date?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As soon as is possible, of course. We want to see as many jobs created as soon as possible.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Six months, 12 months?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I would anticipate, all going well and no hiccups, during 2015-16 that will hopefully occur.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So 2015-16, a while away yet.

**The CHAIR:** Before you go on, member for Morphett, do you have any omnibus questions?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We will put them in later. Thank you, ma'am, for being concerned about it. I appreciate it. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 106, Sub-program 3.2: Equipment Services Home Modifications. How much funding is provided by Disability Services to undertake home modifications through the equipment program?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As your question alludes to, a whole range of equipment and home modifications services are provided to both adults and children. I am advised that, during 2013-14, 108 home modifications were completed for children, 551 for adults and 2,485 for older people, a total of 3,124 during that year. Overall demand for adults and children with disability remains consistent with the previous year, but a 50 per cent drop in numbers completed for older people meant that for 2013-14 the overall target of 3,700 home modifications was not met.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On that issue of home modifications, on Channel 7, I think, there was a television segment on where there was a delay in providing home modifications by subbies for this particular contractor. The contractor was blaming the government, I think. It was on Thursday 26 June this year, so you might want to have a look at it. I will not name the contractor, but there were some significant issues raised, with the main contractor being paid and then not paying the subcontractors and subbies being threatened with not having further work if they did not continue to work. Can you assure the committee that the contractors are abiding by all ethical and financial standards of probity that we would expect?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Certainly, any matter brought to our attention will be acted upon. Clearly, a contractor has requirements to meet, it does not matter who they use, to deliver the service on their behalf.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Any penalties if they do not? It was quite concerning, this particular issue.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Generally, there are contractual arrangements. In terms of the case that you raise, we will look into it and get back to you with information and also provide you with an answer on the normal compliance action we take.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** How many young people with disabilities are in aged-care facilities in South Australia, and what is the government doing to provide alternative accommodation?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that we do not put young people into aged-care facilities as new cases. We manage those young people differently. The underlying part of your question is that it is not a desirable thing, and you are quite right and I agree. In fact, it is an issue which I raised last year with the agency and in my discussions with young people—that we need to find more effective ways to deal with young people because not only does the person have to cope with the whole thing of having a disability but then also being placed in a setting with aged people who have a whole range health problems does not help their psychological status. I do not have the exact figure, but we do provide the funding and I will get that figure for you. Certainly we are not putting new cases in there because we do not think it is desirable, but there may be some people still under the old policy.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 101, Exceptional Needs Unit. What is the total annual budget for the Exceptional Needs Unit and how many FTEs are employed within the unit?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised as follows: people with psychiatric disability and complex needs who experience chronic homelessness require a range of integrated supports. From 2005-06, the state government provided funding for psychiatric disability support and complex needs. This funding was a direct response to the recommendations of the Social Inclusion Board's reference on homelessness, which identified that lack of appropriate housing and support for people with a psychiatric disability and complex needs was a key contributor to chronic homelessness.

During 2013-14, the homelessness support program within the Exceptional Needs Unit provided services to people with cognitive, social and functional impairment linked to psychiatric disability and other complex needs. Clients of this program have a history of chronic homelessness and of resistance to engagement with services. The program funds and works intensively with non-government agencies to deliver individual targeted assertive outreach support and accommodation.

I can also advise that in 2012 the homelessness support program attracted additional funding through the HACC program to enable service responses to issues of early onset ageing within the homelessness sector. This program was initially funded from 2012 to 2014, but has now been extended for a further 12 months to 30 June 2015. The program is required to provide 100 hours of service to 80 people. However, targets have consistently been exceeded, with approximately 95 people receiving services each year. Of this group, around 80 per cent are aged under 65, and 20 per cent 65 years or over. The total amount provided for that unit is \$10.2 million.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister.

**The CHAIR:** There being no further questions, I declare consideration of the proposed payments adjourned and referred to committee B, and thank the minister and his advisers for their attendance this morning.

#### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE, \$737,614,000**

#### **ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE, \$173,000**

#### **Minister:**

Hon. A. Piccolo, Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety.

#### **Membership:**

Mr van Holst Pellekaan substituted for Dr McFetridge.

Mr Gardner substituted for Mr Treloar.

Mr Tarzia substituted for Mr Wingard.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr G. Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, South Australia Police.

Mr D. Patriarca, Director, Business Services, South Australia Police.

Mr I. Hartmann, Manager, Financial Management Services, South Australia Police.

Mr C. Andrews, Business Service Manager, South Australia Police.

**The CHAIR:** I declare the proposed payments open for examination. Would you like to introduce your advisers, minister.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I would like to advise that there has been a late substitution. Unfortunately, the commissioner is still on the sick list, but we should feel reassured that the agency is still in good hands and that the deputy commissioner is in charge, so we should not be concerned about that. I do wish the commissioner a speedy recovery, though.

On my immediate right is Mr Grant Stevens, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, and on my immediate left is Denis Patriarca, Director of Business Services SAPOL, Mr Ian Hartmann, Manager Financial Management SAPOL, and also just behind me is Chris Andrews, Business Service Manager for SAPOL.

**The CHAIR:** Do you have an opening statement?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will make a brief opening statement. In the past year the government and SAPOL have contributed to community safety by hiring more police officers, improving cooperation between police and the community, delivering new equipment and resources for police and strengthening laws to make sure that the police have the powers they need to do their job properly.

The use of social media is playing a bigger part in SAPOL's landscape. SAPOL's Twitter has 20,000 followers and SAPOL's Facebook page now has 220,000 followers. This is the largest following of any police jurisdiction in Australia and is the second-largest South Australian established Facebook page. SAPOL's social media has enormous reach, so much so that in June they achieved the largest weekly reach with 1.6 million people interacting with its Facebook platform. In March they reached 1.2 million following the launch of a wanted child sex offender webpage.

High-tech crime-fighting advances have also been at the forefront of projecting SAPOL further into a tech-savvy, progressive organisation. The portal fingerprint scanners, mobile automated numberplate technology and portable data terminals have proved to be an effective and highly proficient tool, improving operational effectiveness and efficiency and contributing to community and officer safety. The long-awaited upgrade of the Henley Beach Police Station has commenced planning and is due for occupation by the end of 2016.

Since the launch of the Late Night Trading Code of Practice (otherwise referred to as the lockout laws) in October 2012, offences in all categories have dropped by 14.99 per cent. The minimisation of social and economic harm caused by excessive alcohol consumption in the vicinity of licensed venues after 3am has been significant. The recent release for the 2013 calendar year, Australian Bureau of Statistics, crime statistics for recorded crime victims showed a 20 per cent decrease in the number of robbery victims. There has also been drop in victimisation rates for homicide, sexual assault and kidnap and abduction from the previous year.

During 2013-14 SAPOL recruited 50 additional positions relating to commitments for new frontline positions, among them these positions were allocated to: the new neighbourhood policing team at Holden Hill, the restructure of the Sexual Crime Investigation Branch, and the internet child exploitation team, with an additional 29 general duties positions to metropolitan areas. Community satisfaction and community confidence within the police is above the national average and it has risen from previous years. That is the end of my statement.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Morialta.

**Mr GARDNER:** I will go straight to questions. In relation to—let's take Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 141—there are a number of other potential references. I would like to begin, if I might, with a number of questions arising from the Coroner's inquest into the death of Zahra Abrahamzadeh. It is a serious matter, and I do appreciate the information that I have been provided by SAPOL over the last fortnight in relation to this matter, and I acknowledge that there are number of reforms that SAPOL has undertaken as a result of the case.

The Coroner felt it necessary to put his recommendations to the government rather than to the police commissioner. With that in mind, and I assume that you have read the Coroner's report, I wonder whether you have an initial response to the Coroner's finding and recommendations, as the responsible minister for the agency concerned?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Do you mean overall?

**Mr GARDNER:** What is your response to the Coroner as the responsible minister?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As you mentioned, the response went to the government. What I can advise is that SAPOL has advised me that a number of those recommendations were not a surprise to SAPOL; in fact, some of those recommendations were as a result of the submissions SAPOL made to the coronial inquiry itself and, in fact, SAPOL had been very proactive and had already had a corporate review of a whole range of processes when this matter first came to their attention when, unfortunately, there was the very sad death of the person involved.

A number of those things which have been recommended have been put in place, and in relation to the ones which have not been put in place to date the police are working out how they can do that. My initial reaction would be that the Coroner's report is one which we need to take into account to make sure that people feel safe in their homes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Are there any of the Coroner's 10 recommendations or various findings that you believe are unreasonable or unfair?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Certainly not unreasonable or unfair. As to whether they are the only way to address that issue might be a question which the police will need to investigate. I think the Coroner is looking for a result and, as you would be aware, results can be obtained in a whole range of different ways. What is clear from the Coroner's report is that certain circumstances should not arise again. I will trust SAPOL to work through those recommendations to work out, given their operations, how we can best achieve that outcome.

**Mr GARDNER:** What would the budgetary impact of those recommendations be if implemented in full?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** For the ones which have not been implemented, we are still working through that, so we do not have a budget figure for you at this point in time but, once we have, we will share that with you. You must remember that the report came down only recently.

**Mr GARDNER:** Certainly. From what I have read about and seen on the television and in person, and I appreciate the initial response by Deputy Commissioner Stevens, I understand that the commissioner is preparing a more complete response on behalf of SAPOL to the Coroner's report. Will the commissioner's response be a public document or is his advice just to be provided to government to inform the Premier's response?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The commissioner's advice will be to the Premier, and the Premier will then determine what is appropriate to be made public, given that there are certain things that the police do not say publicly to make sure that they do not enable offenders to know how we collect information and also undertake certain compliance activities.

**Mr GARDNER:** In presenting the government's response on behalf of the government, what other sources is the Premier seeking input from?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You will need to ask the Premier. I can tell you only what SAPOL is doing.

**Mr GARDNER:** Are you going to give advice to the Premier in any way separate or in addition to that provided by the commissioner?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What I can say is that the issue of domestic violence is one which the Premier has made very clear he wishes to tackle and one which is taken most seriously; in fact, we are working across a whole number of agencies to make sure that our response to domestic violence is coordinated in a way to collect intelligence from agencies in the early phases. There will be a number of agencies involved in that process, what is called the MAPS project, and there will be, I assume, a number of ministers who will get advice from their own agencies about how they can cooperate and work to achieve a better outcome.

**Mr GARDNER:** That MAPS project has been underway for some time—certainly before the Coroner's findings were handed down—although I appreciate that the Abrahimzadeh case was one of the incidents that led police to going down that track. I suppose what I am interested in is whether your view is, as a minister, you have any role other than to take in what police provide and pass that on to the Premier, or whether there is any questioning, any interrogation of the materials that are provided to you?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As you would be aware, in our system of justice the police have a very clear role, and the last thing you would want in a system of police enforcement is political interference. I certainly understand my role and my relationship with the police. The act is very clear, and that is the view of the parliament, that people like myself and any minister should not interfere with operational matters.

My role would be to ensure that if police come to me regarding issues around resources, etc., I put that to cabinet. It is not up to me to direct police, and it would be quite improper for me to direct police on how they undertake their activities. For example, if the police were to get some sort of roadblock in some interagency issue, I would raise that with the relevant minister. But in terms of directing them on how to respond to their day-to-day activities, that would be quite inappropriate.

**Mr GARDNER:** To be clear, in relation to this matter, where the Coroner has seen fit to go to the Premier and not to the police with his recommendations, you see your role in that process as being a conduit rather than as somebody who has something to contribute to that discussion?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, what I actually said, and I will say it again, is that if police come to me with a matter which requires, for example, a change in legislation or on a matter of lack of funding or issues which clearly are a government issue, I would listen to those matters and bring them to the appropriate forum, whether it is cabinet or the Premier or whatever. If you are saying that I would somehow direct the police to behave in a particular way, that would be highly inappropriate.

**Mr GARDNER:** That is not what I said, but at any rate—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, I did not say you did. I said that if you are saying that, it would be inappropriate.

**Mr GARDNER:** I am glad we cleared that up. I refer to page 141, the activity indicators. In relation to the Coroner's second recommendation, that the SAPOL criminal justice section be staffed by legal practitioners so that domestic violence restraining orders can be properly presented before magistrates, and also the Coroner's sixth recommendation, that prosecutors appearing in domestic violence matters must, as a matter of course, seek out all available information about the longitudinal history of the domestic violence offending, particularly from Family Court documents, if those exist, I note that the activity indicators identify some 68,156 briefs that went through the criminal justice section last year, and this is similar to the Coroner's report, item 17.4, which identified 150 to 160 prosecutors handling 65,000 briefs. How many SAPOL prosecutors are currently handling that workload of 68,000 briefs as at 30 June?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I do not have an exact figure. The figure is around about 190, but I will get the exact figure for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** That seems to suggest a slight reduction in the number of briefs per prosecutor since 2009-10, when it was 430 briefs per prosecutor, so presumably it is down to around 400, or just under. It was a figure the Coroner identified as clearly too high, or too high for the police prosecutors managing that workload. How many domestic violence restraining orders presented in the last 12 months and perhaps if you would like to take on notice the previous three years as well?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Can you just clarify that first part of your question to make sure we are speaking about the same thing?

**Mr GARDNER:** Domestic violence restraining orders in the 2013-14 year.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What I can advise is that from 1 January 2013 to 31 March 2014 and after the commencement of the new legislation, SAPOL have issued 1,509 police interim intervention orders. Is that what you are referring to?

**Mr GARDNER:** They are amongst the options, yes.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** There were 1,125 applications made to the court by police on behalf of victims.

**Mr GARDNER:** So 1,125 to the court. Is there a specific group of prosecutors who deal with the applications to the court, or are we talking about five per prosecutor, or is there a smaller group of prosecutors that has a higher workload in this area?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It varies from area to area, but some areas do already have officers who specialise in domestic violence. We are actually introducing that as a standard approach right across the board. That change is as a result of our own internal review and the case you have put on—

**Mr GARDNER:** That is one of the 47 recommendations.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** To be clear, that will mean that all domestic violence restraining order applications to the court will be handled by people specialising in this area?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That is the plan.

**Mr GARDNER:** That is the plan. Are they entirely police prosecutors, or is that including civilian prosecutors the police are considering engaging?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** At the moment, it is all SAPOL sworn officers. As you would be aware, we are recruiting civilian prosecutors, and that decision will be made once we have those prosecutors on board and also how to best utilise their skills in those areas.

**Mr GARDNER:** How many civilian prosecutors are you seeking to employ in the coming financial year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** There will be four civilians: three will be qualified solicitors and one will be a paralegal. We are reviewing whether we can actually introduce that into other areas, and that is subject to discussions at the moment.

**Mr GARDNER:** Three solicitors and a paralegal; what will their pay grades be?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Whatever the appropriate rates for those people would be.

**Mr GARDNER:** Presumably that varies significantly depending on their experience. I understand they are supposed to have an unrestricted licence.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You are quite right, and my advice is that they should have an unrestricted practising certificate. As to the pay rates, I will get those figures for you, but I just note in this morning's paper that the head of the Law Society is quite confident that we will attract the right people, because the pay rates are comparable.

**Mr GARDNER:** Well, the head of the Law Society took issue with a number of suggestions raised by anonymous sources in a prior article, but did not identify—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It was not you, was it? You were not the source, were you?

**Mr GARDNER:** I was not the source, sir. That is a very strange thing to say. But it did not have any identification of the pay grades available, so I would appreciate that information.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, I will get that for you. But in fairness to the comment this morning, the head of the Law Society made it very clear and unambiguously said that his view was that we would not have difficulty in recruiting people because the pay rates—

**Mr GARDNER:** I think he said there are plenty of unemployed lawyers in South Australia.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, the point he made was that the pay rates are comparable with other Public Service positions, so the person would not be under difficulty on a pay rates basis. What he also said was that, for some person who wants a career in criminal law, it would be a good place to actually do some work, and I would concur with that.

**Mr GARDNER:** I agree, too. It does not mean that both statements cannot be true. Are there any reasons, apart from potentially the time available to the relevant prosecutor, that the Coroner's sixth recommendation, in relation to the full history of the victim and the family situation involved, does not take place now? Are there any legal impediments, or is it just that the prosecutors who have found this situation, that they cannot seek family court documentation because they just do not have time?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that, in terms of ensuring prosecutors have all the relevant information, as part of the internal review as a result of this matter, a better process has been put in place to ensure that. Secondly, in terms of the Family Court information, that is being worked on as we speak, to make sure that is available as well.

**Mr GARDNER:** One of the pieces of evidence tendered in the Coroner's inquest was that magistrates were allegedly dissuading police prosecutors from presenting too lengthy briefs. Has there been any recurrence of that complaint amongst police prosecutors, particularly in relation to domestic violence cases?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised: not that we are aware of; however, SAPOL are working with the Chief Magistrate to make sure there is a consistent approach across all the prosecutors and all the courts.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you. Going to the same reference, in fact, the Coroner's seventh recommendation is:

...that prosecutors appearing in domestic violence matters must, as a matter of course, establish the outcome of the offence [police incident reports] underlying the application;

Throughout the Coroner's report, there is a troubling number of occasions, I think it would be fair to say, when various officers failed to act by arresting Mr Abrahamzadeh, despite the outstanding PIRs, for a range of proffered reasons which were not convincing to the Coroner. What SAPOL processes have now been improved that would prevent a recurrence of something like this where, even when a domestic violence order was served on the man, the outstanding arrest warrants were not acted on?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What I can say is that for a number of those issues you have raised, SAPOL acknowledged to the Coroner themselves that they could have done a lot better. In terms of what SAPOL are now doing, I will ask the deputy commissioner to give you details.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you.

**Mr STEVENS:** Part of our review has looked at access to information and ensuring that our officers take timely and decisive action when they have a domestic violence victim providing information. We have made it clear that the failures that occurred in the Abrahamzadeh matter centred around the lack of action by our officers. We are taking a comprehensive approach to how we change that, and it is about making sure that the culture within SAPOL is appropriate, and people recognise their obligations and act in accordance with our expectations.

We have reviewed all of our general orders that relate to domestic violence and, whilst we have found that those orders are, in the main, comprehensive and well structured, we have ensured that there is no potential for our operational police to struggle to find relevant information that would guide their actions.



The other point that we would make is that, whilst we acknowledge there are opportunities for improving the system, it still requires the will of individual officers to fulfil their obligations, and we are ensuring that all of our operational police understand those obligations and act accordingly. The minister has reminded me, as well that, as a result of the inquest and our own review, we have initiated comprehensive reform to our training program, which is seeing an enhancement to training around domestic violence for—

**Mr GARDNER:** This is training of cadets?

**Mr STEVENS:** Police recruits, as well as general duties police who have already graduated. We are looking at another level of training for investigators, and then a higher level again for those people who are specialising in providing services to domestic violence victims.

**Mr GARDNER:** I will jump ahead slightly, as that fits in with the Coroner's fourth recommendation:

...that the domestic violence training that cadets receive at the Police Academy from external domestic violence agencies occupy at least one day, rather than the half day [as currently];

I assume that the Coroner is talking about victims' services in that instance, so the suggestion is to increase work with victims' services from half a day to a full day, and you may well be undertaking that. Are there any other outside providers who provide that domestic violence training, or are we just talking about internal provision of training by police at the academy?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will let the deputy commissioner provide the exact details, but I can advise that we will actually be working with domestic violence workers in women's refuges, etc., to make sure we fully understand the whole cycle of domestic violence, and to also make sure that we can support the victims and their families. The deputy commissioner will now give the detail of the new training.

**Mr STEVENS:** Thank you. At the inquest, the Western Adelaide Domestic Violence manager gave evidence that cadets are exposed to four hours, or half a day, of training with an external service provider. It is my view that the impression was left that training for police cadets in relation to domestic violence was limited to four hours. The reality is that, under the current regime, our police cadets are receiving 37 hours of training that relate specifically to domestic violence and our response as operational police.

It is correct that half a day was allocated to Western Adelaide Domestic Violence as an external stakeholder; however, there were other external agencies that were presenting to police cadets in terms of managing domestic violence and responding to domestic violence. In addition to that, we have internal resources that deal with legislation, operational considerations, the psychology of domestic violence and managing domestic violence victims.

So, whilst it was comprehensive, it was certainly acknowledged that there was only half a day for one particular service provider. As a result of our review of the recruit training program and the expansion of that program to 52 weeks, there is going to be a substantial increase in the amount of time allocated to domestic violence training, and we expect that the service provider in question is probably going to have a greater level of involvement going forward.

**Mr GARDNER:** Alright. I will look forward to seeing the detail when that is finalised. On page 134, the activity indicators, we are looking at the number of calls received by the call centre. The estimated result for 2013-14 is 402,913 calls. What proportion of those calls were on matters related to domestic violence?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will have to take that question on notice in terms of the actual split-up of the figures, but what I can advise is we take approximately 10,000 calls that relate to domestic violence per year.

**Mr GARDNER:** The Coroner's recommendation No. 3, you would be aware, is that:

...domestic violence calls to the SAPOL call centre are handled by sworn police officers with particular training in domestic violence risk assessment.

If that figure of 10,000 is correct, then we are talking about approximately 2 per cent of calls received. Can you identify how many sworn and unsworn staff respectively are currently assigned to staffing the call centre?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** If I can just clarify, it is actually 10,000 incidents, so some incidents may actually generate a higher level of call.

**Mr GARDNER:** So, 2½ or a bit more.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** A bit more, that's right. While we are seeking that information, my advice is that the 131 444 number is actually supervised by sworn officers, but the calls are taken by civilian people.

**Mr GARDNER:** Yes, I understand that, so how many by civilians and how many by sworn officers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** With the 000 number, they are all police.

**Mr GARDNER:** As to the 400,000 calls, is that 131 444 or does that include 000 and Crime Stoppers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, the 400,000 figure is 131 444.

**Mr GARDNER:** You can take it on notice if you like, but I would like to know regarding those answering that 131 444 line, how many unsworn staff are taking the calls and how many sworn staff are supervising them?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** And just for your information, the 000 number would get about 150,000 calls.

**Mr GARDNER:** Yes, it has that on the next line in the budget paper. Is there a specific budget line identifying the staff costs in the call centres, and is it possible to identify those costs?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The answer is yes, we can identify them for you. We will have to get those figures for you though.

**Mr GARDNER:** In reference to page 132 under Activity indicators and the 138 operational police stations across South Australia, the Coroner's ninth recommendation is that when a domestic violence victim makes a report at a police station, they are afforded an opportunity of privacy in an interview room. Is this a feasible request at all existing police stations? Is there a private interview room at all of these stations?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that that is the policy of SAPOL to do that. In those situations where that is difficult to do, they will arrange a particular time for that person to come in to ensure that will happen. Basically the answer is that SAPOL will ensure that people can report issues of domestic violence in private.

**Mr GARDNER:** On the basis that presumably sometimes somebody might present and the private room is occupied or it might be at a station where there is not a private room, is it general orders that identify that they will be followed up and helped to make another appointment?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The best way to answer that is that the police are very cognisant of the recommendation of the Coroner and are working to make sure that that is implemented across the board.

**Mr GARDNER:** So is every station to have an interview room? Is there to be some time frame allocated by which people are going to receive private attendance?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I think that what the police are doing at the moment is looking at ways to make sure that the general orders they issue reflect what is possible in the circumstances. The short answer is the recommendation by the Coroner will be implemented in the most practical way possible.

**Mr GARDNER:** Minister, the response you gave earlier and indeed information from SAPOL is that SAPOL provided a great deal of the information that the Coroner based his report and recommendations on, that the 47 recommendations of the internal review are being acted on and so

much of that work is underway. Even though the Coroner's report has been handed down not that long ago, when are we going to have this response to the report which will identify which matters are going to be dealt with in full, in part or in any other way?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The response to the Coroner will come from the Premier, as you can appreciate. As you indicated, the Coroner has indicated the report to him. SAPOL are in the process of collecting that advice for the Premier and we hope to have that advice to the Premier within the next month.

**Mr GARDNER:** Subsequent to the death of Mrs Abrahamzadeh, we have discussed the internal review that SAPOL conducted. What is the nature of any recommendations in that internal review that are yet to be implemented or commenced? Are there any recommendations in that review that are yet to be implemented or commenced?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will ask the deputy commissioner to respond direct.

**Mr STEVENS:** We categorise the recommendations into 10 key areas, and there is work occurring against all of those recommendations, to varying degrees. We have done significant work to ensure that the alignment of general orders is appropriate, as I mentioned before. We are currently commencing the process of enhancing our training outside of the recruit training. The recruit training element is being taken care of by our review and implementation of the new 52-week training course. We are looking at some of the practical applications that are also reflected in the Coroner's findings in terms of how we manage process and deal with victims.

We are also well and truly underway with the establishment of the domestic violence portfolio, which is chaired by myself. It ensures that we have a high level corporate appreciation of our response to domestic violence, and we are ensuring that any trends and issues are identified at the strategic level and addressed. We are also making sure that any changes in police practice are identified and implemented across the board, rather than a silent approach.

So, that being the most significant one, that is where we have put most of our energy at this point in time, but there are a lot of mechanical aspects to the 47 recommendations which are being attended to as well. We have a dedicated project officer who has structured our response to our own recommendations and is also factoring in those recommendations made by the Coroner that overlap with what we have recommended ourselves.

**Mr GARDNER:** When will that response be complete? What is the end-date by which all of these processes will be underway?

**Mr STEVENS:** We do not have a specific end date. We are endeavouring to work through these as quickly as possible to make sure that the changes we expect to occur within SAPOL happen as quickly as possible. Some of the recommendations are yet to be scoped in terms of the amount of time it is going to take to complete them, but our intention is to work aggressively to ensure that they are implemented as quickly as possible.

That will include the Coroner's recommendations that already, we understand, mirror some of our own recommendations. Once we have assessed and provided a response to the Premier in relation to the other recommendations of the Coroner that do not fit specifically within our own review recommendations, we will work towards implementing those as well.

**Mr GARDNER:** One of the things that has come up this morning is the importance of consistency in application by police officers and magistrates at every stage of the process. Some of the evidence given by Maria Hagias in the Coroner's inquest identified that a practice of approaching victims to see if they still wanted to go ahead with violence orders or prosecutions was still taking place, and obviously that is understood to not be appropriate. Perhaps in this area can you identify when you hope to have that consistency across the board fully implemented?

**Mr STEVENS:** Once again, we do not have a time frame set for that, but can I say that this is part of the cultural shift that we are endeavouring to achieve, and that has commenced and is being worked on in earnest. It is being driven by the commissioner and myself in relation to ensuring that all police understand our position in relation to responding to domestic violence.

The particular issue you are referring to there, and that is seeking advice from a victim as to whether they want to proceed or not, is clearly articulated as unacceptable. We should be looking to take action, decisive action, against the offender until such time as the victim comes to us and expresses a desire for the matter not to proceed. Even in that case, it is our view—and this is being articulated to our workforce—that we need to ensure that the motives of the victim are appropriate and not being made under some form of coercion and, where possible, if we believe that matter is significantly serious enough, that we should continue to proceed even if it is against the wishes of the victim, but that would be in the extreme.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We also need to make sure that any response by anybody who works in this area, not only SAPOL, does not disempower women involved, or the victim. It can be a very fine line between empowering somebody and disempowering somebody in the approach you take; so we have to make sure that we act in a way which does not disempower them or take away their dignity.

**Mr GARDNER:** I appreciate that, minister, but one of the things that comes through clearly in the Coroner's report is that it is not appropriate to see as disempowering to women the idea that, when they have gone to the trouble of making a statement—going to a station, having an incident report filed against their partner—to assume that their first reaction will want to be that the prosecution goes ahead.

I think the Coroner makes it quite clear that in that circumstance the empowering thing is to assume that they will in fact approach police or the prosecutor if they wish to withdraw the claim. I urge you to be very careful in the way you pursue that matter of empowerment or disempowerment because I am not entirely sure from that response that the balance is correct.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The balance has not been correct and the deputy commissioner has indicated that we need to get that changed, so I was not suggesting that. I am suggesting that we make sure that we keep listening to people in the environment and that we should not just make judgements on any silence. My point was to make sure that we engage the people and make sure that they feel they are in control. That was the observation I was making.

**Mr GARDNER:** I note that the member for Mitchell is with us, and I believe he has a line he would like to pursue.

**The CHAIR:** So you are asking me to allow that?

**Mr GARDNER:** We will have many more opportunities to discuss this matter, so at 12 o'clock we will move on to a couple of other matters.

**The CHAIR:** Do you have a budget line for us, member for Mitchell?

**Mr WINGARD:** Yes, thank you. I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 152, administered items—fees, fines and penalties. I am wanting to know the total amount that was repaid to South Australian businesses as a result of the failure to identify the changes to regulations relating to unregistered and uninsured.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise that, after all the processing, SAPOL has returned a total of \$661,200 to businesses.

**Mr WINGARD:** Is that all that is expected to be returned or are there more funds still outstanding, more penalties that have not been returned?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can also advise that, of the matters that actually went to court enforcement or court relief, there is an additional \$464,700 and an additional \$18,300.

**Mr WINGARD:** So we are looking at just over a million dollars; is that the summation?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That is correct.

**Mr WINGARD:** When regulations are updated or amended in police operations, is it the usual practice that SA Police are expected to go through every edition of the *Gazette* with a fine-tooth comb or is it expected that the agency responsible for the upgraded regulation will identify the change and let SAPOL know?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that SAPOL would expect their own agency to make sure that their regulations are up to date.

**Mr WINGARD:** There is no responsibility of the minister's office to—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am not in a position to respond to the agency that raises it, but I certainly can say that, from SAPOL, any changes which impact on them, they have an expectation that they will be up to date with them themselves.

**Mr WINGARD:** No standard practice that you would let SAPOL know?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** They have a standard practice to update. It is a public document. All agencies do that; that is why they have legal teams and a whole range of people in the agencies to make sure that they are complying with the laws.

**Mr WINGARD:** Are we expecting that there will be a change in the future, given that there was a slip in this? Is there anything that we will be doing differently in the future?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As much as the amounts involved are huge and it is not a good thing, one error is not a trend. With all the other changes, SAPOL has been able to maintain and keep up to date. The important thing is that in this case they identified it themselves.

**Mr WINGARD:** So we will be staying with the status quo; is that what you are saying, minister?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** All I am saying is that you have asked me as Minister for Police and SAPOL is here. SAPOL has its own process to make sure it is up to date and that will continue.

**Mr WINGARD:** Just confirming, DPTI did not notify police in any way at any time of this change?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can only just reaffirm that SAPOL has just advised that the obligation is upon themselves to make sure they are up to date. Whether other agencies, as a courtesy, might do things is one thing, but they understand it is their responsibility to make sure they are up to date.

**Mr GARDNER:** In relation to other regulations—not this one but other regulations where fines and fees are changed or abolished—are there any other occasions where the responsible agency in the last, say, three or four years has not notified SAPOL of the change?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that we will have to take that on notice.

**Mr WINGARD:** Reports identified the mistake as being discovered in January this year when it was picked up by an internal SAPOL audit, as you have pointed out. Why did it take six months to pay the money back?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is quite a detailed answer, so I will ask the officer in charge to give that response.

**Mr PATRIARCA:** We identified it in January as an error but, in order to establish the extent of the error, we had to actually do software amendments to the expiation notice system. At the same time as we needed to do those changes, we were also implementing the FE office so we had to do software changes to facilitate the establishment of the fines enforcement function, which went live in February.

In terms of scheduling resources, we had to wait until we could do the software changes. Once we did the software changes, we were then able to identify all those fines that were impacted by the code change, and then there was obviously a manual process to draw up the cheques and send letters to 3,000 individual companies. It took us some time to do the software changes, and then we had to process it in order to draw up the cheques, and that took the time.

**Mr WINGARD:** I understand the complexities—

**The CHAIR:** Before you go on, if you are going to ask more questions you probably should come on to the committee. We have had seven, and that is not really normal for a visiting person. Fill in the form and we will put you on and take you off.

**Mr GARDNER:** We will get back to that budget line but, in the meantime, Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 127, the workforce summary: when is the government going to reach its recruit 300 commitment?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise that the 2010 government commitment was for 300 additional police, as you have indicated. The 2010-11 state budget included an additional 313 FTE police, to be phased in over a four-year period to 2013-14. In the 2013-14 budget, that commitment was extended to be achieved by 2017-18. To the end of 2012-13, SAPOL has recruited an additional 129 FTEs and a further 50 FTEs have been recruited during 2013-14, as per budget.

These additional 50 FTEs were recruited in the first five months of 2013-14 in cadet courses that graduated before the end of June 2014. The remaining 134 FTEs recruited are: 20 FTEs, in 2014-15; 20 FTEs, in 2015-16; 47 FTEs, in 2016-17; and 47 FTEs, in 2017-18. That is it, and that answers your question, I think.

#### **Membership:**

Mr Wingard substituted for Mr Tarzia.

**Mr GARDNER:** I might finish my thought before I let the member for Mitchell take my place again.

**The CHAIR:** Okay; back to you, member for Morialta.

**Mr GARDNER:** Minister, when the 2010 election commitment was made, which you identified was originally to be promised by June 2014, was it the commitment that there would be 313 extra police officers working or 313 police officers, community constables and cadets in training?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that the understanding is that it is 313 additional sworn officers, not cadets or community constables. The 13 figure is because of the transit police contribution.

**Mr GARDNER:** I appreciate that. So, we will use the 300 and the 313 interchangeably if you like, understanding that it is the same figure and the same commitment.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** The target that has your meeting that commitment in the 2017-18 year, does that number include cadets in the number of sworn officers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The deputy commissioner advises me that, no, it does not.

**Mr GARDNER:** On what date will the target be met? What is the 'mission accomplished' date, not including the cadets?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As a previous president found out, it is always a bit dangerous to talk about mission accomplished, but it is 2017-18.

**Mr GARDNER:** The Deputy Premier had a go at it on Friday.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** During 2017-18.

**Mr GARDNER:** The date 30 June 2018 is the date and, as you have just said, cadets will not be included in that date four years from today?

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** After they have graduated.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** After they have graduated.

**Mr GARDNER:** After they have graduated, they are not cadets anymore; they are probationary officers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Can we have the number of sworn police officers as at 30 June this year, please?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We had the following at the end of 2013-14, in terms of sworn officers: 4,496.1. Would you like the community constables and cadets as well?

**Mr GARDNER:** That sworn officers figure is 4,496.1? What is the number you just said; can you repeat that again?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The total figure, which includes both community constables and cadets, is 5,645.5.

**Mr GARDNER:** Hang on, 5,645; that sounds like unsworn as well.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am looking at the wrong figures, sorry. It includes the unsworn people. Of that, total sworn and cadet is 4,602.7.

**Mr GARDNER:** 4,602.7.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, which includes 80 cadets and 26.6 community constables.

**Mr GARDNER:** You can take this one on notice if you like. Can you provide a full list of timings and expected or desired numbers for all of the recruitment intakes, including commencement dates and completion dates—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sorry, can you slow down when you speak?

**Mr GARDNER:** If I slow down, you might try to answer it now, and I want you to take it on notice but, okay, I will leave it to you. Can you provide for the committee, please, a full list of timings and expected or desired numbers for all recruitment intakes, including commencement dates and completion dates for the last financial year, on the basis that there are some commencement dates that have not been completed, and the other financial years ahead in the forward estimates, for which we have those dates available?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You are giving me that as a question on notice, is that correct?

**Mr GARDNER:** It is up to you, but I am happy for you to take it on notice; it would seem like the thing to do.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Okay.

**Mr GARDNER:** How much attrition took place in sworn officers in each category—cadets, community constables and what I think everybody would see as the standard sworn officers—in 2013-14?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised it is 131.

**Mr GARDNER:** Are any of those 131 either cadets or community constables?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, 131 are all sworn officers.

**Mr GARDNER:** Are you able to provide the anticipated attrition rate for all of the years in the forward estimates?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will answer the question by saying that we are anticipating there to be 140 in 2014-15. That is an estimate because it depends on the trends. I will put that into context: for example, in 2011-12 it was 157; in 2012-13 it was 145; and in 2013-14 it is 131, so it is trending downwards. Obviously, more police officers are staying on which is a good thing. At this stage we expect 140, but the ultimate actual figure may be slightly different. It is too hard to predict beyond 2014-15 because we have to see what the trend is over the last few years.

**The CHAIR:** Mr Wingard.

**Mr WINGARD:** If we can go back to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 152: the administered items, fees, fines, and penalties. I very much appreciate and understand the answer there of the complexities involved with finding the issue and then fixing the fines. I am wondering on the back of that, minister, given that it did take a little bit of time to pay the money back—especially given the

recent events in the public eye—why the mistake was not publicly acknowledged at the time it was discovered so that, for example, businesses could be aware that they would be receiving a reimbursement to help them out and also to acknowledge the issue before it was dealt with. Is there a reason that there was a delay in that, minister?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I could not have done anything because I was not there. In terms of communicating quickly: given that there were system requirements etc. there was a concern that it may create expectations in the timing of that return. I think that the police acted responsibly in saying when they were certain they could actually deliver the refund it was announced that they would be doing so.

The reality is that if we had gone out there and set a certain date it would just create an additional workload—not only an additional workload, but also expectations in the community so when the police were in a position to say, 'We have the systems in place, we can do it,' they went out publicly and said so.

**Mr WINGARD:** As the minister, if you were the minister in charge six months ago, you do not think it was necessary to let people know the moment that you became aware?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** My view would be that information should be provided when it can be acted upon.

**Mr WINGARD:** Acted upon, not when you become aware; you think it should wait until it can be acted upon?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is an operational matter and I have to accept the judgement of the police saying, 'This is the best way to go,' and nothing has come across my desk to suggest that is not the appropriate way to go.

**Mr WINGARD:** I think it was explained, and explained well, that that was the best way to deal with it operationally, to actually return the money—time was needed to fix the computer program and whatever else. But if the situation comes to your attention, shouldn't the minister then act and at least let the public know?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I would seek the advice of the police.

**Mr WINGARD:** And do you know if advice was sought? We heard that they worked out how to deal with this situation—they knew how to deal with this situation—but I do not think it is their place to tell you that you should be telling the public. Is that not the minister's role?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** My understanding is that the minister of the day was acting on advice given by SAPOL and that is good advice.

**Mr WINGARD:** Can I just check then—the minister was informed and the minister was advised not to tell the public?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As previously mentioned, what the police said is that they were still working through the process, the advice provided at that point in time was limited and they could not actually give dates of refunds, etc.

**Mr WINGARD:** But they did know there was a problem. So, the minister was informed there was a problem but they did not—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** There was a problem. The scope of the problem was not known. When the problem could be resolved was not known, so there were more unknowns than knowns, and quite rightly the matter was announced when all the knowns were known.

**Mr WINGARD:** I am just trying to drive this down, because you can see we have a problem with ministers getting information and knowing something is going on and not telling the public what is going on. It has been in the press a lot in the last few days, and this appears to be a situation where the minister knew—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I do not agree with that.



**Mr WINGARD:** You do not agree with what? That it has been in the media the last couple of days?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I do not agree that that is the case.

**Mr WINGARD:** Sorry, so you do not agree that the minister should have told the public once he knew there was a problem?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, you made an assertion that there is a problem with government telling people when they need to know things. I disagree with that statement.

**Mr WINGARD:** No, I said there has been a lot of talk about it in the media in recent times, which I think you will agree with. In the last few days, there has been a lot of talk about that and the perception from the public. What I am saying here in this situation is that clearly the minister in charge at the time was informed and chose not to tell the public.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that the minister acted according to the advice given by SAPOL.

**Mr WINGARD:** Again, I just want clarification. Did SAPOL advise the minister not to tell the public?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am saying the minister acted in accordance with the advice provided by SAPOL.

**Mr WINGARD:** I understand that, but I just need the clarification.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** If you ask the question again, you will have the same answer.

**Mr WINGARD:** You are not willing to say—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, not at all. You want to—

**Mr WINGARD:** But answer the question!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You have asked the question.

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You want to put this in a negative way. I am putting this in a positive light in a sense that—

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** He told you three times.

**Mr WINGARD:** No, he did not. He did not answer it.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What I am saying is I am advised by SAPOL that the minister acted in accordance with the advice given to the minister at the time.

**Mr WINGARD:** On that answer, you are telling me SAPOL said to the minister not to inform the public?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Next question, Chair?

**Mr WINGARD:** Yes or no? That was the question for you: yes or no? You are saying SAPOL said do not inform the public.

**Ms DIGANCE:** He answered the question.

**Mr WINGARD:** I just asked the question and he did not answer it. Did SAPOL say—

**The CHAIR:** Order! The minister has answered the question, so we need the next one.

**Mr WINGARD:** With the greatest respect to you, I do not think he has.

**The CHAIR:** Well, he has answered the question the way he is going to answer the question.

**Mr WINGARD:** Which is by dodging the question.

**The CHAIR:** No. Again, it is not in order for you to start making judgements about the minister's motives. I would appreciate another question.

**Ms WORTLEY:** Chair, if I may, we have some questions if they have run out of questions.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** Not even close.

**The CHAIR:** Order! Well then, you are going to move on.

**Mr WINGARD:** I would like to know, then, as we are deliberating: I do understand that you made the point, too, that you were not the minister at the time. I know coincidentally we go back six months to when SAPOL first became aware of this incident, and that puts us in the vicinity of January and February, just in the lead-up to the election, coincidentally.

Minister O'Brien was the minister at the time, or was it minister Rau? I know it was just before the election. As we drill down the date on when it happened, I am just wondering which minister was the minister in charge at the time, because I know there was a little changeover there just before the election, so which minister was the one that was advised not to tell the public?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Well, first of all, Madam Chair, that is not the comment I made earlier.

**The CHAIR:** No.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** He is now deliberately misrepresenting what I said.

**The CHAIR:** So you will undertake to find out who was the minister.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I do not recall. I do not remember the exact date.

**The CHAIR:** That is okay. They will get back to you.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I certainly was not the minister. What I can say is that also you have to recall that caretaker provisions came in and so ministers often at times are not in a position to say things or get advice on a whole range of things. I am not sure what the exact date was or which minister who was in charge. I do not recall that date. I am sorry.

**Mr WINGARD:** It was six months ago, from your own statement, so that was before caretaker provisions came in.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, you asked me which minister, and I do not recall whether it was minister Rau or minister—

**Mr WINGARD:** Would you mind asking, then, your offside, who—the deputy commissioner, sorry, I should say—because they were—

**The CHAIR:** Order! The minister is at liberty to decide to do that or not, or to take it on notice, and he will make that decision in a second. Minister.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The advice is that I will take that on notice.

**The CHAIR:** Right, so it is being taken on notice. Member for Mitchell.

**Mr WINGARD:** Thank you, Chair; I do appreciate it—still trying to come to grips with—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Madam Chair, I am concerned about this attack on the police by the member, though.

**Mr WINGARD:** There is no attack on police whatsoever.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is!

**Mr WINGARD:** I am asking questions about the minister—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is.

**Mr WINGARD:** I am asking a question of the minister for an explanation as to—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** And I have answered it.

**Mr WINGARD:** —how it was dealt with from the minister's perspective. As I mentioned, I fully understand the operational procedures—

**Mr GARDNER:** Defend the police's position, then.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sorry?

**Mr GARDNER:** Why won't you defend the position—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I have.

**Mr GARDNER:** —by explaining it?

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I have. Actually, if you look at the record—

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** If you look at the record, I said the minister acted on advice of the police, and I think that was good advice; I have said that twice. So, please do not—

*Mr van Holst Pellekaan interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** If you are not happy with SAPOL, at least have the integrity to say so.

**The CHAIR:** I would like the member for Mitchell to ask his question.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** This is not the first time you have had an attack on the police; you did it with the refugee matter as well.

**The CHAIR:** If he does not want the call—

*Members interjecting:*

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**Mr GARDNER:** I have got a question.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Morialta.

**Mr GARDNER:** Can I turn the minister's attention to the activity line in Budget Paper 4, Volume 1: Correctional Services Workforce Summary. Minister, you draw a salary—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Hold on; Correctional Services—

**The CHAIR:** Order!

**Mr GARDNER:** You draw a salary to be the minister for the Crown, and you have a role to perform.

**The CHAIR:** Order, members on my left! Correctional Services is later in the day; that was agreed to this morning, so we need to go onto something with police. Member for Morialta, if you want to give the call to the member for Mitchell, that is quite in order.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am more than happy to justify my role.

**Mr GARDNER:** You can call the member for Mitchell.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Mitchell.

**Mr WINGARD:** Thank you. Just on the record for *Hansard*, I do take offence to—

**The CHAIR:** Well, everyone is taking offence today; let's just move on to the questions.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Well, I take offence.

**Mr WINGARD:** —your assertions—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I take offence at your assertions too.

**Mr WINGARD:** —on what I said about SAPOL.

**The CHAIR:** Order! We are moving on to another question now.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Corey, you are not on TV now.

**The CHAIR:** Order on my right!

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** Yes, ma'am; sorry.

**Mr WINGARD:** I would keep asking the questions if I was—

**The CHAIR:** I will have to give the call to the member for Torrens, then. She has the call now; you will have the call in a second.

**Ms WORTLEY:** Minister, what are the tech crime-fighting technologies now available to SAPOL?

**The CHAIR:** What budget line are we on, member?

**Ms WORTLEY:** Budget Paper 4, Volume 5, page 36, and we are talking about the tech crime-fighting technologies.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sorry, could you repeat that?

**Ms WORTLEY:** Sure: Budget Paper 4, Volume 5, page—

**Mr GARDNER:** I was not aware there were five volumes.

**Ms WORTLEY:** Budget Paper 4, page 36.

**Ms DIGANCE:** Because you have never made a mistake.

**The CHAIR:** Yes, this is all very cute; can we have the question now, please, member for Torrens? Please repeat the question.

**Ms WORTLEY:** Can the minister inform us about the high-tech crime-fighting technologies that are now available to SAPOL? He mentioned them briefly in his introduction, but I am wanting some more information on that topic.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I would like to thank the honourable member for her question. As part of the 2010 state government election funding commitments, SAPOL was allocated \$4.725 million in capital funding to implement four high-tech crime-fighting technologies in policing operations in this state. Amongst them were the mobile automated number plate technology, the portable fingerprint scanners, and the portable data terminals.

The deployment of the mobile automated number plate recognition is affiliated to SAPOL's corporate road safety and crime programs, consistent with the government's strategic priorities. All 20 mobile automated number plate recognition systems have been procured and deployed successfully. The use of the MANPR has been very effective in supporting day-to-day police operations, as well as proving timely identification of vehicles of interest in some major investigations.

In relation to the portable fingerprint scanners, the fingerprint scanners use the 3G network to submit and retrieve the results of fingerprints submitted for matching against a database. If the fingerprints are not matched against the database, the finger scan application displays a 'no hit' result. If the fingerprints are matched, then the finger scan application displays a hit result and provides a photo of the person and their full criminal history, including any active warrants. The fingerprints captured by the finger scan application are deleted once the results of the search are returned. They are not saved on any system or database.

Twenty scanner kits were provided to the Hindley Street police station and 40 to the Transit Services Branch. During a trial period, from February to May 2014, a total of 194 people agreed to provide their fingerprints for checking; of these, 88 produced a hit result, meaning their fingerprints were on a database.

Feedback from police officers participating in the trial has been consistently positive in regard to the technology and software; however, all officers have indicated that the lack of supporting legislation limits the realisation of the full value of this equipment. This IT solution for the portable fingerprint scanners was recently recognised at the 2014 iAwards, and also won the Premier's Award acknowledging productivity and innovation.

In terms of the portable data terminals, smart phones and portable handheld computers, SAPOL's first-phase deployment strategy for portable data terminals is to provide them to highly-visible uniformed policing roles within the metropolitan area. Portable data terminals have high operational value where direct device-to-database capability is seen as providing benefits for officer safety and efficiencies in terms of reducing demand of voice radio communications.

Officers based at the Hindley Street police station and in the transit branch have been trialling the mobile policing applications, and utilisation statistics and officer feedback are both excellent. Thank you for the question.

**Ms WORTLEY:** On the same reference, Budget Paper 5, page 36, can the minister provide us with information on the implementation of Shield?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I thank the member for her question. On 21 July 2011, the then minister for police signed a contract with Niche Technologies Inc. to purchase the Niche records management system software to replace SAPOL's legacy mainframe IT systems. Work commenced in November 2011 on the implementation of stage 1 of the SAPOL Niche system, which is to be implemented over two releases.

Stage 1 supports custody management and the provision of the Serious and Organised Crime (Control) Act. Stage 2 will further enhance the functionality of the SAPOL Niche system through the inclusion of 'occurrence' and 'property', and address the high-risk legacy system replacement. The first release of stage 1 was completed in October 2013, delivering an electronic custody management process to metropolitan cell complexes.

Under some of the 2014-15 targets, the second and final release of Shield 1 for regional local services should be completed and operational across the state by July this year. Stage 1 support will be fully established to include 24/7 business and IS&T technical support, also by July this year, and operational and management reports for custody management and criminal intelligence are to be completed by the first quarter of 2015. The definition of Niche records management configuration, integration and data migration requirements for 'property' will be commenced by April 2015, at this stage.

**Ms WORTLEY:** I have more questions, but I am happy to defer to other members.

**Mr GARDNER:** In Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 139, activity indicators, particularly in relation to drug diversions, it is identified that the indicators are not now comparable, based on a change to the counting rule. Can you identify what the nature of the change is? This particularly applies to the drug diversion initiative.

Across all these indicators, there has been a reflection that the Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification is now being used. In relation to drug diversions, are there diversions that are not captured by this indicator, or are we diverting a different category of people we were not diverting before? I am just wondering on what basis this particular indicator is now non-comparable, based on this counting rule change.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I do not have the information at my fingertips. I will have to take it on notice; however, if we identify it before the session is over, I will give you the answer.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you, sir. Can you also identify on what date the counting rule changed, i.e. which year is incompatible with which other? There are three years in question, so presumably one would hope that at least two of them are relative to each other. Can we also get an update—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** On the last question, I can tell you that the results for 2012-13 actual and the 2014 estimated result cannot be compared due to the counting rule changes necessary to reflect the transition to Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification.

**Mr GARDNER:** Are you saying that 2012-13 actual and the 2013-14 result are the ones that cannot be compared with each other?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Due to the counting rule changes necessary to reflect the transition to Australian and New Zealand Standard Offence Classification.

**Mr GARDNER:** But the information you have taken on notice is on what basis? The drug diversions one is—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Which is a separate question, yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Certainly. While you are taking that on notice, perhaps you could get an update also to the 30 June figure, rather than the estimated result. In relation to the drug diversion program, how many offenders in the last year undertook the program once, more than once, more than twice and more than five times?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am aware that there is a matter on this topic before the parliament at the moment. Would that influence what can be asked and not asked? There is a —

**Mr GARDNER:** If we were making an argument, I think you would have a point of order.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, I am just asking to make sure I go by the rules.

**Mr GARDNER:** I was just trying to assist. I was not trying to be provocative.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am just saying there is a bill before parliament on this matter, and I am just wondering whether or not it impacts on that; if it does not, I am happy to—

**Mr GARDNER:** The bill before parliament, for your information, Chair, is in relation to—

**The CHAIR:** It's alright.

**Mr GARDNER:** You are across it?

**The CHAIR:** Thank you anyway.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will seek the advice first.

**The CHAIR:** The advice is that you would not want to go into areas that are being debated within the bill, but you can answer within the scope of whatever information you have.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise that since the scheme was started in 2001 to 31 March this year 19,068 individuals (making up 12,187 adults and 7,462 youth) have been diverted, with 30,272 diversions arranged (20,227 adults and 10,045 youths), and 2,024 assessment sessions provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; of that—and this is unfortunately the best I can give you at this time—5,279 individuals, or 27 per cent, have received more than one diversion opportunity.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you. Are you able to take—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can also advise that 84.6 per cent of youth and 78.6 per cent of adults fulfilled the requirement of the diversion.

**Mr GARDNER:** And the requirement of the diversion is attendance, or is there another requirement in addition to turning up?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised there are two parts to it: first, attending and, secondly, any requirements established by the panel.

**Mr GARDNER:** The panel conducting the diversion or the panel that has referred the matter for diversion?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The Drug Assessment and Aid Panel.

**Mr GARDNER:** How many of those individuals you have identified who are diverted face that panel?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will need to get the exact figure for you, but what I can advise now is that 84.6 per cent of youth and 78.6 per cent of adults fulfil that requirement, but the other figures we will get for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** If you do not have the information now I would invite you to take it on notice, if that is convenient, but what is the number of those who have undertaken the program more than twice, and more than five times. A separate question, which is of a piece: what is the highest number of occasions that one person has participated in a diversion program?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I have to take that on notice; I will get that figure for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** Minister, can you outline the benefits of moral reconnection therapy over other forms of treatment? Moral reconnection therapy is the type of diversion treatment that is mandated to the NGO who delivers the diversion therapy.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Can you repeat that question, please?

**Mr GARDNER:** I am interested in the benefits of moral reconnection therapy over other forms of therapy or drug treatment, such that it is required by the government of the provider of the diversion program.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** My understanding is that that advice is provided by Health, and Health would be the best people to ask.

**Mr GARDNER:** I will look forward to that opportunity. The same budget paper, in relation to the line below, expiation notices issued for cannabis offences. Again, it is a similar question to the one in relation to drug diversions. It is identified that the indicators are not now comparable based on a change to the counting rule. I assume it was the same date that the counting rule changed, and I assume it is the same years that are therefore incompatible.

Can you identify the nature of the change? Are there expiations happening that are not captured by this indicator or are we expiating a different category of people that we were not previously expiating? I am trying to understand on what basis, even if there has been a counting rule change, it would apply to this indicator in particular.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will take that on notice for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** As previously, can we get an update to 30 June rather than the estimated results?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Assuming that information is available, yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 139, the number of clandestine labs detected. In this one they do not identify a counting rule change. For the increase from 55 in 2012-13 to 86 in 2013-14 is there any analysis as to why this increase has taken place, which is quite significant?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise as follows: there have been 71 clandestine laboratories detected in the current financial year to the end of April 2014 compared to 55 clandestine laboratories for the last financial year. This is an increase of 16 laboratories to date. The most probable explanation for the increase is that SAPOL now includes what is referred to as a 'boxed lab' in counting methodology; that is, laboratories that include the presence of prescribed equipment, in other words, chemicals, glassware, etc., that is not currently operating. These labs continue to be a challenge for police, as they are often smaller and more readily transportable and found in car boot compartments and the like.

**Mr GARDNER:** So there has been another counting rule change.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** But we are actually counting more, in effect, now.

**Mr GARDNER:** That's right, but the point is that they were not being counted in 2012-13, so they are not apples and apples. I will move onto a different subject in relation to IT systems. I refer to Budget Paper 5, page 36. The police records management system I understand is perhaps better known as Project Shield. In the 2009-10 budget papers it was listed to be completed in June 2013. Stage 1 of Project Shield is now listed for completion in June 2015—this is police records

management system for those reading. Is that item that is listed for completion in June 2015 that is rolling out now (stage 1)—what remains to be rolled out prior to that completion in June 2015?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Is your question post stage 1?

**Mr GARDNER:** This is just in relation to stage 1. My understanding from briefings is that it has largely actually already been rolled out—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, that is right.

**Mr GARDNER:** —but the budget papers identify June quarter 2015. What I am trying to establish is: is there anything left to do or is that just a very conservative completion date?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, it is just July. Unfortunately, it went over into July, so it has all been implemented as you were advised at your briefing. Stage 1 has been implemented by the end of July, but the reason it is in the accounts is because there will be payments made in July for the software. So, it is a timing issue, but you are quite right: your previous advice is the case.

**Mr GARDNER:** So the delay is not as bad as it would otherwise potentially look in the budget papers: it is not two years, it is closer to 13 months since it was initially announced in the budget for the 2009-10 year. I am wondering if the scope of the program has changed at all since it was initially announced?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will ask the people who have been working on it day to day to give you a more precise answer on that question.

**Mr STEVENS:** There is no change to scope for Shield. The delays were quite deliberate, based on the need for us to maintain our operational integrity around information systems during the bushfire season, and also for mad March, which has a considerable impact on our policing resources in an operational sense. The decision was made to actually suspend activity in terms of implementing Shield so that we could continue that process of operational policing, so it was quite a deliberate move.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you. I appreciate that transitioning from legacy systems to a new operating system can be sensitive. In regard to stages 2 and 4, the budget papers identify the remainder of the project to cost \$29.4 million, with \$5.7 million being expended this year and the whole project being completed in 2020. Are you able to provide a breakdown of when each stage is due to be implemented over the six-year period? How much is to be expended in each of those years?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Unfortunately, the figures we have here today are the cash flow—in other words, financial spec. If you want it stage by stage, we will get that information for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you. Can you identify what the cost of the licence fee is and what the other associated expenses break up as?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The anticipated software expenditure (which would include those fees) would be \$5.42 million for the whole project. To date, during 2011-12, \$136,000 was spent, in 2012-13, \$610,000 was spent, and in 2014-15 we have just paid \$786,000.

**Mr GARDNER:** So is that \$5.2 million—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is \$5.4 million.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sorry, \$5.4 million—is that for stage 1 or is that for all stages 1 to 4?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, that is the whole program.

**Mr GARDNER:** Stages 1 to 4 combined are about \$40 million and the licence fee is \$5.4 million. The other \$35 million is identified in the capital investment statement. I assume that it is staff-related, training or—

**Mr PATRIARCA:** The balance of the costs relate to our own internal costs, so we obviously have to put a lot of people on—you can just imagine the cost to train 4,500 operational police—so it is training and all the related costs including that we have to obviously train people right across the



state. It includes contractors to implement the system and to do all the technical support for implementing the software.

We obviously have to transition the legacy systems; for example, the data held in the police Incident Management System has to be migrated across to the new system, and there is transferring data, persons of interest and all those sort of things. There is labour involved in supporting that, both internal support and also contractors.

**Mr GARDNER:** I understand that Shield is an off-the-shelf IT solution and it was chosen because it had positive reports in, I think, Canada and also Queensland. Was there a specific cost-benefit analysis done for this program?

**Mr PATRIARCA:** There was a business case done for replacement of the system, and the system was competitively tendered in the marketplace.

**Mr GARDNER:** Excellent. When will SAPOL be able to cease use of the legacy systems? You have identified that there will be costs in transferring data across from the legacy systems. What issues have you identified that may present concerns with that transfer of data, or are we are very confident that it will go smoothly?

**Mr PATRIARCA:** At this point in time we are confident it is going smoothly. For example, to implement the criminal intelligence component of stage I (which has just gone live in June), we had to transfer obviously all the known persons of interest and their warnings across to the system. That was, I think, in excess of 250,000 records. They were migrated across, and I guess we have not had any issues yet. I will not say we will not have any issues, because IT systems always have their challenges.

**Mr GARDNER:** In relation to Budget Paper 5, page 36 in a couple of the other identified areas, the Domestic Violence Legislation System Support is an 'Information technology system to process early intervention orders.' This system support is presumably the police intervention orders in particular. It is listed as \$1 million to be concluded by June 2015. Is this a different system to that identified four years ago in the 2010-11 budget paper with exactly the same description and the same cost but with a completion date of June quarter 2011?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise the member as follows. The \$1.003 million funding to which you referred for the domestic violence legislation system support was first provided to SAPOL in the 2010-11 financial year to develop a multi-agency solution to remedy operational and administrative inconsistencies and to develop operational efficiencies. The expenditure profile for this project to date is: 2010-11, \$53,000; 2011-12, \$380,000; 2012-13, \$226,000; 2013-14, estimated at this stage, is \$34,000, and the remaining \$310,000 to be spent.

Project stages 1 and 2 are complete and have been implemented. In developing stage 3 IT requirements, SAPOL continues to work with the Courts Administration Authority and the Attorney-General's Department in agreeing the business rules and determining the IT specifications for the fully integrated system. That \$310,000 is expected to be spent during the current financial year, 2014-15. I suppose the answer is: it is a part, yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Is this the funding going towards part of the MAPS project?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, that is a separate one; that is separately funded.

**Mr GARDNER:** To be clear, we are talking about apples and apples. It is the same project and it is—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The MAPS is a separate project.

**Mr GARDNER:** Yes, certainly, but the item identified in this budget paper is the same as—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** In relation to the closed circuit television for custody management and the \$8 million identified for completion this year, how long has that been in the system? Is that the same project that was originally due to be completed in June 2010 in the 2008 budget, or have we

expanded the scope of that project? For example, was that, in fact, met in 2010 and we have just decided to roll it out further and buy more CCTV?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Of the \$8.066 million you mentioned, of the original approval amount, \$436,000 remains, which is proposed to be used to complete additional projects in Berri, Naracoorte and Oodnadatta.

**Mr GARDNER:** So, there are some additional projects? So, it has been expanding rather than delayed?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is a five-year plan to replace the existing arrangements, and the balance is those three I have mentioned.

**Mr GARDNER:** The budget papers identify \$436,000 to be spent out of the \$8 million.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** How far back do the expenditures go? You talk about a five-year plan. So, you are saying the first time this money was identified was in 2009-10 or 2010-11? My interest is because the 2008-09 budget papers identify \$5½ million and say that it will be completed in June 2010. That was various metropolitan and regional locations; this one says 'various metropolitan and regional locations'. So, maybe if I can ask: are all locations now covered or are there some areas where there is custody management that does not have the CCTV?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** There are quite a few questions there.

**Mr GARDNER:** Certainly. Answer as many you like, and take the rest on notice if you like.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise that, through the Department of Treasury and Finance, SAPOL internally allocated \$2.415 million of annual provision funds in 2007 and 2008. A further \$5.651 million of state government funding was allocated to the program in May 2008, bringing the total figure to \$8.066 million, and the remaining \$436,000 has been spent to update Berri, Naracoorte and Oodnadatta.

**Mr GARDNER:** Going back to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 147, expenses, general supplies and services are listed as \$149.6 million, which is significantly up on the 2013-14 year and on the 2012-13 year. Is Project Shield the main source of this increase? What is the main source of the increase of some \$16 million over two years?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Mr Patriarca will answer that question.

**Mr PATRIARCA:** The increase in general supplies and services covers indexation, the additional police resources we were given (they have the use of cars and those sorts of things), the continuation of road safety initiatives (the expansion of point-to-point and mid-blocks), and new initiative funding for crime-tracking apps, facial-recognition apps, etc. It is offset by efficiency dividend and obviously savings targets. They are the main reasons. There is also a deferral of operating expenditure relating to stage 1 of the police records system. We underspent against that budget and so we transferred that into 2014-15.

**Mr GARDNER:** I understand that accommodation is \$31.1 million approximately (although it sounds like a fairly precise figure to me; it must have been supplied to me by somebody excellent). It is about 21 per cent of the cost, but can you break up what that cost of accommodation comprises? I realise it includes police stations, rental or other things, but can we get a breakdown, that is, a+b+c+d = \$31.1 million?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We can provide an answer in part; the rest may have to be provided on notice.

**Mr PATRIARCA:** In relation to accommodation, we have a large number of leased facilities that police occupy, so there is a large component there of, basically, rent for a considerable number of our police stations and corporate facilities. For example, police headquarters is a fully-leased facility, so that is where the large majority of expenditure is in that line.

**Mr GARDNER:** On page 127, in relation to the workforce summary, how many police Aboriginal liaison officer positions (I think they have been described as traditional community constables) are there on the APY lands?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise that SAPOL has 19 sworn police members permanently stationed on the APY lands within the communities of Amata, Ernabella, Mimili, Murputja and Umuwa. In addition, there are three further sworn police officer members who are currently based on the APY lands, at Umuwa, to provide additional temporary and investigative ability. There are also 10 allocated traditional community constables, which I think are the ones you are referring to.

**Mr GARDNER:** That is correct.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, there are 10 allocated traditional community constable positions on the APY lands but, despite continued efforts by SAPOL to fill all 10 positions, unfortunately only three are currently filled, but there are positions for 10.

**Mr GARDNER:** Are they the same three constables who were filling those roles this time last year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will have to confirm that for you. I will take it on notice.

**Mr GARDNER:** Can you provide us with an update on the level of night patrols being undertaken on the APY lands?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What I can advise is that police on the APY lands continue to be actively engaged in various programs, including Amata and Mimili night patrol strategies. They are the two communities which have that in place at the moment.

**Mr GARDNER:** I understand that Amata was a six-month trial and that the trial commenced on 29 February 2012, and night patrols commenced at Mimili in October 2012. I would appreciate if it is at all possible for you check if those night patrols at either location are ongoing.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** While the strategies are managed by community coordinators, SAPOL currently provides support and coordination for the night patrol initiative. SAPOL has indicated its intention to withdraw from management of the night patrol strategy from 30 June 2014 and an alternative management model is currently being considered by the APY Lands Steering Committee.

**Mr GARDNER:** Given that SAPOL still had management until 30 June this year, are you able to identify how many night patrols were undertaken during the previous financial year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will have to take that on notice for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** I suspect that, if active consideration is being given to a new management model, we will just have to wait, won't we? In relation to Budget Paper 4, volume 3, page 140, criminal justice, how many cost orders were made against SAPOL in the 2013-14 year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We do not actually have the figure here. I will have to take that on notice for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** In doing so, perhaps could you find the total amount ordered to be paid.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sure.

**Mr GARDNER:** On Budget Paper 4, volume 3, page 136 (it is fairly general on crime), could you provide the number of firearms reported by the registered owner as lost for the 2013-14 financial year, and also those stolen, which would be a separate number?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I could give you information about what the new licences are, brand-new licences, etc., a whole breakdown of that, but I will have to take that one on notice.

**Mr GARDNER:** Can you identify how many illegal firearms were seized by SAPOL in the 2013-14 financial year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Again, we will have to take that on notice.

**Mr GARDNER:** I am on page 127, workforce, but I would not look in too much detail—it is only in the most general sense. How many National Police Certificate applications were processed in the last two financial years? I am also interested, if you are looking, in how many were processed with a volunteer organisation authorisation number.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Unfortunately, we only have a general number. We will get an exact figure for you for both those matters.

**Mr GARDNER:** In Budget Paper 4, volume 3, page 132, activity indicators, the number of patrol taskings in the metropolitan area indicator shows that the 2012-13 actual was 400,642 and the estimated result in 2013-14 was 382,705, a decrease of 17,973 or thereabouts, given that it is an estimated result. What is the cause of the 5 per cent decrease?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The deputy commissioner will provide an answer to that.

**Mr STEVENS:** Thank you. We do not have specific information about the cause for the decrease, but the nature of the function is that we simply estimate based on previous year's activity, and there are fluctuations which relate directly to the incidence of crime and calls for assistance.

**Mr GARDNER:** Okay; that sounds like good news, then, so bravo. On page 134, I know that there has been a change to the counting rule for grade 1 taskings in the metropolitan area which occurred in January 2014; this coincides with the 196 tasking increase. Can you advise what the nature of the change is, and whether that figure is meaningful relative to the 2012-13 figure?

**Mr STEVENS:** The nature of the change was that we refined the types of incidents that were classified as grade 1, because we had—I do not recall specifically the nature of the change, but there was one particular category of activity which was creating an unrealistic impression in terms of the number of grade 1 taskings we were responding to. I believe it may have had a relationship with attending vehicle collisions. They were reclassified as grade 2 taskings, and grade 1 was for those most serious of events which required an emergency response by police.

**The CHAIR:** Any more questions, member for Morialta?

**Mr GARDNER:** Well, many, but perhaps I could—

**The CHAIR:** Make your final one?

**Mr GARDNER:** —make a final one, and I will make it something the minister will find easy to take on notice. On pages 131 to 134, 138, 139, 141, 144 and 146 of Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, all of those pages have either performance indicators and/or activity indicators for which an estimated result is provided for the 2013-14 financial year. Could we possibly have the actual end-of-year results for those indicators as at 30 June 2014, where it is available?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Assuming Hansard got those figures down, yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Yes, I will give them a sheet. Thank you very much, especially to your officers, and everyone in the police, for whom we have the highest of respect. We appreciate the danger in which they place themselves, and as somebody who has sat with family members of police officers when they have been hearing radio reports of shootings, and waiting to get the call to make sure that their loved one was safe, I have every respect for the work that you and very much appreciate the role that you play.

**The CHAIR:** There being no further questions, I would also like to thank the minister and his advisers, and declare the examination of the proposed payments completed.

*Sitting suspended from 13:15 to 14:15.*

## DEPARTMENT FOR CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, \$267,808,000

### Membership:

Mr Tarzia substituted for Mr Wingard.

**Minister:**

Hon. A. Piccolo, Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr D. Brown, Chief Executive, Department for Correctional Services.

Mr C. Sexton, Executive Director, Business and Information Services, Department for Correctional Services.

Ms G. McInerney, Acting Executive Services Officer, Department for Correctional Services.

Ms J. Casey, Acting Director, Governance and Executive Support, Department for Correctional Services.

**The CHAIR:** I declare the proposed payments open for examination. Minister, do you have a statement?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, I have a statement to make, Chair. During 2013-14, the Department for Correctional Services continued to contribute to public safety and reducing reoffending in this state. The department remains firmly committed to the provision of quality service and safe and secure facilities for the state's prisoner population.

In light of capacity and service demand pressures, there have been a number of infrastructure improvements across the state's prison system. The department commissioned a new 108-bed accommodation unit in Mount Gambier Prison in August 2013. In addition, a further accommodation unit with 84 beds has commenced construction. These beds will be arranged in 12 independent living units, and it is anticipated that construction will be completed in the third quarter of 2015.

In 2014-15, an additional 52 beds will be commissioned within the system, with 20 beds at the Adelaide Women's Prison and 32 beds at Port Lincoln Prison. The department has also commenced construction of the new health centre and high-dependency unit at the Yatala Labour Prison. The new facility is anticipated to be completed by late 2015.

The prisoner population of the state continues to be dominated by male prisoners; however, it is important to recognise that female prisoners also contribute to the overall numbers. Between 2012-13 and 2013-14, there has been a 15.1 per cent increase in the female daily average prisoner population. The department recognises this trend and has taken positive steps to improve the service delivery to female prisoners and offenders.

To assist in gaining a better understanding of the profile of women offenders throughout the South Australian criminal justice system, the department set a 2013-14 target to develop an evidence-based framework to improve service delivery to female offenders. Another highlight worthy of mention about female prisoners is the completion of construction of the new 20-bed secure accommodation at the Adelaide Women's Prison, which I visited recently.

I think it is also important to recognise the department's role in the South Australian Offender Management Plan. The OMP is a multiagency response, with SAPOL as the lead agency, to manage the state's highest-risk and most prolific offenders. The objective of the plan is to improve the wellbeing of the community by protecting them from serious crime.

The department believes that to achieve these targets criminal justice agencies must work better together, not just to share information but also to target offenders who present the greatest risk to the community. I am happy to advise that the department has committed to the continued trial of the Offender Management Plan and has recently extended its support towards the proposition of a further extension of the Offender Management Plan to June 2015. The OMP is an excellent

example of the agencies of this government working together to both protect the public from serious crime and assist in the rehabilitation of offenders.

On another note, a significant function of the department is to maintain the safety and security of the state's correctional institutions. Our community becomes a safer place when our prisons are kept as secure as possible; therefore, in order to make the most of the rapid rate of technological change in today's society, current security systems have been upgraded in the state's prisons. Mobilong Prison has been selected as a stage 1 project because of its medium size and close proximity to Adelaide. As such, upgraded digital systems installed at the site can be readily inspected for correct operations.

In line with keeping our community safe, I am happy to provide an update on the government's commitment to funding an additional 200 GPS units to monitor offenders in the community. The use of GPS-based technology will enable the creation of monitoring with even more stringent compliance requirements, including the creation of no-entry or no-exit zones, or exclusion zones. It will also enable more effective intelligence activity with SAPOL.

The electronic monitoring of offenders is currently provided by the department through a contract with G4S Custodial Services Pty Ltd. In February 2014 the department signed a new contract with G4S to migrate its existing fleet of 410 electronic monitoring bracelets to GPS-capable bracelets. This will enable greater flexibility in determining the level of electronic monitoring of offenders. This is a critical public safety initiative, and the department will be working closely with SAPOL, the courts and the Parole Board to ensure the effective supervision of offenders in accordance with the required conditions.

The department is also moving forward with its Bail Accommodation Support Program, which formally commenced in July 2013. The program will provide an alternative to remanding some offenders in prison who lack bail accommodation in the community. The program will specifically assist disadvantaged groups including those homeless and Aboriginal offenders who often lack bail accommodation if they are arrested while visiting the metropolitan area from remote areas.

The program will also assist with managing prisoner numbers, as it aims to provide 30 beds for alleged offenders who would normally be remanded to a prison. The 2014-15 target is to complete the procurement for the program. The department continues to demonstrate its commitment to law and order, and I take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard and dedicated work undertaken by departmental staff.

**Mr GARDNER:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, pages 142-3, relating to the workforce summary and the program net cost of services summary. Does the government have any plans or has the government done any scoping work on getting any services privatised in the coming year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We actually have a number of savings initiatives.

**Mr BROWN:** There are four initiatives that we are focused on in budget savings. One is looking at hours of operation in our facilities and redesigning those. One is making increased use of prisoner industries to deliver support services. The third is some further reorganisation of our Community Corrections organisation, especially in the northern country region. They are the key initiatives.

**Mr GARDNER:** Was there a fourth? There were hours of prison workers, prison industries, reorganisation of Community Corrections. Was there a fourth one?

**Mr BROWN:** The fourth is looking at general productivity improvements.

**Mr GARDNER:** Do any of those—and I am particularly looking at what is described as general productivity improvements—fall into the remit of what might be described as privatisation of services?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No.

**Mr GARDNER:** In any of the forward estimates is that anticipated?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No.

**Mr GARDNER:** Going now to page 149 under activity indicators, all of the performance and activity indicators identify an estimated result for the end of the 2013-14 financial year. As we sometimes discuss when we are past 30 June, do you have up-to-date figures for these indicators now, or would you like to take that on notice and we can talk about the estimated results? The 30 June would be the handiest one, I expect.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** These are average figures throughout the year.

**Mr GARDNER:** Okay, but the calculation of those average figures would be different on 30 June than it was on when the estimated result was calculated. You are free to take it on notice.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** So you would like the up-to-date figures?

**Mr GARDNER:** I would like the up-to-date figures for the actuals.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We can provide the actual figure.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you. Just for today we will work with the estimated results. It identifies that the daily average prisoner population has risen from 2,177 last year to 2,418 in the year just finished and is projected to rise further to 2,494; that is average prisoner population daily. This is compared with an approved capacity of 2,262 last year rising to 2,448 in the year just finished, and a projection of 2,500 at 30 June next year.

The gap between capacity and average prisoner numbers has narrowed from 85 at the end of June last year to six at the end of June next year, assuming that all the extra beds that you have got in the budget are completed on time. Minister, at current growth rates, when will capacity be surpassed based on the existing infrastructure announcements?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sorry, what was the last part of the question?

**Mr GARDNER:** When are you forecasting approved capacity will be surpassed by the average prisoner population?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As you would be aware, we have from time to time issues with surge. I am advised that for 2014-15 the daily prisoner average is 2,494 projections. For 2015-16 it is 2,572; and respective total beds approved capacity in the first year will be 2,500 and in the second year 2,610. In 2016-17 we anticipate daily average prisoner numbers of 2,654, and total beds would again be 2,610. In 2016-17 we anticipate, obviously, a shortage of beds, and we have to put some matters in place to deal with that.

**Mr GARDNER:** To achieve the 2,610 that you are hoping to have in 2015-16, is that based purely on the existing announcements?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Very good. In relation to surge capacity, which you identified, last year minister O'Brien described that there were 38 beds at the City Watch House, 14 temporary beds at Mount Gambier, and six at Cadell to deal with surge capacity; so that is 58 beds in total. Is that still the current surge capacity?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Bear with me, because I will give the whole answer. The Department for Correctional Services is currently funded for 2,448 prison beds. The prisoner peak during 2013-14 was 2,519 on 24 April 2014. During periods of peak prisoner numbers the department must rely on an additional 65 surge or contingency beds. In terms of the surge capacity, the department can accommodate prisoners beyond the approved capacity. The number of beds are as follows: Adelaide City Watch House, 38; Mount Gambier Prison, 15; and Port Lincoln Prison, 12. I think that answers your question.

**Mr GARDNER:** Yes, you have, sir. Have any police stations been used to fulfil this surge capacity necessity?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** In addition to the ones I have just mentioned—the Watch House and the two prisons—we also have 10 beds available at Sturt police cells, 18 at Holden Hill police cells and also six at the Port Augusta Prison infirmary.

**Mr GARDNER:** How many at Port Augusta, sorry?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Six.

**Mr GARDNER:** How often in the last financial year was the City Watch House or, indeed, any of these surge capacity beds used in what I think was described in your previous answer as peak times? How many were there and how many days in total did they last?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am not sure about the second one, but I can tell you that the Adelaide City Watch House was 308 days; Mount Gambier Prison, 61 days; and Port Lincoln Prison, 68 days.

**Mr GARDNER:** So if the Watch House was 308 days that would suggest, at the very least, that it is a vast majority of the year that you are operating in that surge area. Presumably, there may be a gap or two there.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Given this challenge, is the government considering any plan that would have involved utilising either of the juvenile justice facilities at Cavan to hold any prisoners?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No.

**Mr GARDNER:** So you can rule out any plan to utilise either of the Cavan juvenile justice facilities to hold adult prisoners?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The only thing I can say is that there are no plans on the table at the moment to do that.

**Mr GARDNER:** On how many days in these peak periods were police cells used to assist with the surge capacity?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sturt police cells were used for 21 days and Holden Hill police cells for 11 days.

**Mr GARDNER:** And Port Augusta?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Port Augusta is actually a prison.

**Mr GARDNER:** Okay. So it is at the prison?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Do you anticipate or are you prepared for any increase in incidents against staff as a result of the narrowing gap between prisoner capacity and prisoner population?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** To date, we have not received any feedback to suggest that there is any increase in incidents against staff because of prison numbers.

**Mr GARDNER:** We are very glad of that.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** So am I, I can tell you.

**Mr GARDNER:** Certainly. I refer to page 147: full-time equivalents as at 30 June are indicated to be cut in the custodial services area from 1,195.2 to 1,167.1, which is a drop of 28.1 FTEs, although the infrastructure is expanding and prisoner numbers are expanding, as we have just established. Firstly, can you identify—and feel free to take it on notice if you prefer—the head count that goes with those FTEs?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Mr Brown will provide some information now, and what we cannot provide now we will give you on notice.

**Mr BROWN:** We do not have the breakdown for the custodial program on its own, but what I can say is that the actual budgeted FTE for the agency was 1,696.6 FTE, and we employ a little over 1,720 staff across the agency. So, the difference is made up of people who are job sharing and part-time, and hourly-paid instructors.



**Mr GARDNER:** Sorry, can you identify the FTE figure you quoted? It strikes me as being different from the one on page 142.

**Mr BROWN:** Sorry, can you refer to the page number again?

**Mr GARDNER:** Page 142 has the workforce summary for the whole department and it identifies 1,651.7 which, unless I misheard you, is not the number you cited.

**Mr BROWN:** On the bottom of page 142 it has the estimated result for 2013-14 at 1,650.7. Is that correct?

**Mr GARDNER:** Yes.

**Mr BROWN:** What I am advising is the actual number.

**Mr GARDNER:** What was that actual number again?

**Mr BROWN:** 1,696.6.

**Mr GARDNER:** That is significantly higher than the estimated result when this was put together, and it would be 52 higher than at 30 June last year, and it indicates 65.3 FTEs being cut as per this budget. Is that correct?

**Mr BROWN:** What is not calculated in the number in the statement are some of these points: first, the funding. We do not get funded for the surge capacity beds, so we do bring on line where possible additional resources to cater for that activity, because it is more cost effective to deliver that activity wherever possible with paid employees rather than relying on overtime and call backs. We also as an agency, being a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation, have to cater for a level of unplanned activity that is not readily forecastable in a budget.

A third element is that quite often we have timing issues in the recruitment and training of our new recruits. We run a school for new correctional officers, which may see a significant number come on at one point in time and then it will drop away as we have natural attrition and people are promoted. The final point in terms of the 2014-15 estimate is that, of course, the 2014-15 estimate includes assumptions around budget savings and how many FTEs would be achieved in terms of reduction in that financial year.

**Mr GARDNER:** That is the point I am getting at, sir, because these are the figures that the Treasurer is requiring of your good officers. The figures announced in the Treasurer's budget paper identified a savings target of 19.4 FTE staff but, based on the actual figure you have just provided to me, that 19.4 staff cuts has in fact increased to 65.3 staff cuts to be achieved, the savings target that is being asked of your department. I am seeking clarification that that is in fact the actual figure that is being asked.

**Mr SEXTON:** In part, for example, the 1,696.6 actual figure did include 25 trainee correctional officers that Mr Brown referred to, so that would be considered a one-off in regard to those figures. We are comparing actual figures with budget figures, and I understand you are comparing the estimated result figure with that 1,632.3 budget figure, so there are adjustments there. That figure also assumes some of the savings strategies that the department does have to meet during the 2014-15 year are already in that 2014-15 budget figure, so that is part of that overall reduction; in fact, our FTE reduction figure this year is 37.8 FTE.

**Mr GARDNER:** That is 37.8 plus 25 trainees you are not expecting to have next year.

**Mr SEXTON:** They will come on, but the issue with the trainee custodial officers is one of timing. As Mr Brown mentioned, when they do come on board there is a rapid increase as they do their training over a 12-week period, but then those 25 staff are placed in funded positions once that training ceases. Of course, while they are in the initial part of their training, they form part of our FTE, so there is an increase.

**Mr GARDNER:** I am not trying to be difficult. I understand that trainees come online at different times, but in order to reach the savings target that has been set for you it is clear—if it is trainees, which seems to be about one-third of the savings task that has been marked—that is a group of trainees you are not going to be able to have online at the same time next year.

If 38 FTEs are being cut, even if the higher than anticipated result this year is because of the search capacity, they are still real staff people; they are people doing important work for the department. You have 1,696.6 staff, which is 40 or so higher than was estimated. That is fine, and I can understand the reasons why. I swear I am not trying to be difficult; I am just try to confirm that there are now in fact going to be 60 fewer there next year, rather than just the 19. I am grateful for your assistance in establishing some of the reasons around that, but that does appear to be the staff cut. We have said that there probably will not be as many trainees coming online at the same time next year, but where else are the job cuts going to come from?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** A couple of things we also have to remember are that FTEs are calculated on an average figure, whereas the 1,690 figure is a point in time; so we are not comparing apples with apples in terms of numbers. In relation to the savings in terms of FTEs, the average full-time equivalents throughout the year, we anticipate savings to be achieved as follows. There will be an increase in use of prisoner labour for some activities, and we anticipate a saving of between 12 to 15 FTEs. There will be consolidation of Community Corrections; we anticipate somewhere between 3.5 and 4.5 savings of FTEs. We are currently negotiating and reviewing the prison roster operation system, which we anticipate could save between 26 to 34 FTEs.

**Mr GARDNER:** What is the time frame within which the negotiations are sought to be concluded to meet your savings targets?

**Mr BROWN:** The focus this year is on achieving the savings targets just listed by the minister. We anticipate that, in terms of increased use of prisoner labour and prison industries to realise that in the near future, most probably before the end of the calendar year, as a broad time line. The Community Corrections changes are nearly finalised and, in terms of FTEs savings, have already been realised.

In terms of the prison roster and hours of operation, we are dependent, first and foremost, on some productivity improvements we are seeking through the enterprise bargaining process and, subsequent to that, the operational detail will need to be worked through at a local level with each site; we anticipate that will take a significant part of this financial year to achieve.

**Mr GARDNER:** I know that the member for Hartley has some—

**The CHAIR:** The member for Hartley.

**Mr TARZIA:** I refer to Budget Paper 6, page 30. I understand that the government is purchasing 200 new GPS tracking devices at a cost of \$2.258 million in 2014-15 and \$2.167 million per year indexed thereafter, with a total cost of \$8.894 million over the forward estimates, and I am sure that they will be a useful and worthwhile addition.

I note from the statement on page 30 that this initiative delivers on the government's election commitment. The government's election commitment, as outlined in minister Rau's initial release and the Labor Party's costings document, identifies \$950,000 in 2014-15 and \$800,000 per year thereafter, or \$3.35 million over the forward estimates, for the purchase of 200 GPS tracking units and three additional full-time monitoring staff. My question to the minister is: are there extra GPS tracking devices being purchased or are they of a substantially higher standard to those envisaged by the government prior to the election?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No. I think that the equipment and technology are what we anticipated. You have to remember that part of the GPS is not only the bracelet; there is also the supervision and staff required to monitor them and all the other activities. There is no point having a GPS system if you cannot respond or you cannot have supervision, so they have to be staffed to the levels appropriate to make sure that it is an efficient system and we can keep the community safe.

**Mr TARZIA:** Fair enough. Minister, why did the government underestimate the expense in its costing document by about, on most figures, \$5½ million?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am not sure how that figure was calculated; I was not the minister responsible. What I can say is that the figure in the budget papers is the figure we need to spend to make sure that it works effectively, and I will not be cutting corners to make sure that we keep the community safe.

**Mr TARZIA:** Are all 200 being purchased in the first year, or what is the cost per unit?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, we anticipate about 50 being purchased or put into operation in the first year. How quickly the rest go depends on how quickly the police or corrections or the Parole Board utilise and refer people to us who are appropriate for the scheme. The 50 may or may not be achieved, but we are aiming for that 50 in the first year.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Morialta.

**Mr GARDNER:** Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 147: the objective is security and management regimes that ensure risks are managed and the prison environment is secure—and a worthy objective it is. How many mobile phones were seized in the 2013-14 financial year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Mine was seized on the days I visited the prison!

**Mr GARDNER:** Let's restrict our considerations to those serving at Her Majesty's pleasure—or am I taking a great leap of faith there?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Not at all. We will have to take that question on notice and we will get that figure to you.

**Mr GARDNER:** If you are doing so can I ask a favour: that it be provided by facility and, if there is the capacity to do so, for the two years prior as well?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** There was a report sent by SA Health to the department on 10 July that a number of drugs of dependence had either been lost or stolen on 5 July. It was later identified that five packages that were delivered to the infirmary at the Adelaide Remand Centre subsequently went missing in relation to drugs of dependence. Minister, what happened on this occasion?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Mr Brown will tell you.

**Mr BROWN:** I can advise that on 5 July South Australian prisoner health service raised a concern that one of five packages containing medication and intended for the attention of staff at the health facility of the Adelaide Remand Centre was reportedly misplaced. We were advised of this misplacement of the package on 10 July, but due to the digital CCTV coverage of the area we were able to go back and review the available CCTV footage and to conduct a search of the various locations in the prison where the packages were expected to travel.

The review of the footage ascertained that all five packages were in fact delivered to the reception area of the Adelaide Remand Centre, and based on the footage reviewed by us a member of the South Australian prisoner health services staff attended the reception area and collected those five packages and took those five packages to the medications safe in the health centre, which is a safe controlled by the South Australian prisoner health service, not by the Department for Correctional Services.

My understanding is that the South Australian prisoner health service accepted that they received all five packages based on the review of the incident that we undertook, but they remained concerned about how they had not accounted for those packages within their own organisation. That is the level of detail I have got for you today.

**Mr GARDNER:** Perhaps you can help me with one matter that you might be aware of in relation to the five packages we are talking about—is it five packages that are supposed to have been missing or one package that was supposed to have been missing?

**Mr BROWN:** My understanding is that it was one package of the five.

**Mr GARDNER:** So SA prison health has taken five packages from reception which is in the Remand Centre—your facility—to the infirmary which is run by SA prison health within the physical locations of the Remand Centre. They have identified that five were probably received but at a later date have identified that one is missing which they have no accounting for. Is it your view that this one package may have ended up somewhere in the Adelaide Remand Centre in the prisoner ranks, or does DCS have no view on that matter because health has reported the problem and they have closed off their file?

**Mr BROWN:** Based on the advice I received and the review of the incident at the time, I considered it very unlikely that the package or part thereof would have made its way into the prison proper, as the review identified that they were secured in a safe in the health centre by SA Health staff. It then became the responsibility of SA Health to manage the issue internally, and as I understand it that included them needing to potentially report that to the Drugs of Dependence Unit and, if they felt necessary, to report it to SAPOL.

**Mr GARDNER:** But it was obviously their view that it was an issue within SA Health and that it was unlikely in their view—I do not want to put words in your mouth, but I am sensing in yours—that it made it into the prison community itself.

**Mr BROWN:** I would not want to comment on their view based on the information I have today, but certainly my recollection of the matter and my review of the briefing I received at the time said it was extremely unlikely that the package went missing in the context of making its way into the prison proper and into a prisoner area.

**Mr GARDNER:** How many drug tests were there in the 2013-14 financial year and how many of those tests showed positive results for illicit drugs?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that in 2013-14 there were 12,554 drug tests conducted within the prison system and Community Corrections. This is an increase of 966 tests conducted in the previous financial year. This just demonstrates our commitment to making sure that we try to have a drug-free system.

**Mr GARDNER:** How many of those tests showed positive results?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Of the 12,554 drug tests conducted in the system and in Community Corrections, an average of 30.5 per cent of tests returned positive results.

**Mr GARDNER:** So that I do not get caught out in a rounding error, do you have an aggregate total of the 30.5 per cent?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You have to remember our program is not a random selection, so therefore—

**Mr GARDNER:** I appreciate that it is targeted.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is targeted, so therefore we actually pick the highest risk people that we have intelligence on, so you cannot extrapolate that 30 per cent is 30 per cent of the total population.

**Mr GARDNER:** No, and that is one of the reasons I am asking for the actual figure—the number—and also it has been a targeted system, as I understand it, for a number of years now. It was targeted last year and the year before.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Another thing is it also includes Community Corrections, so these are people who are supervised on the outside.

**Mr GARDNER:** People under Community Corrections out on a parole order or for whatever other reason are still—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I understand that, I am just saying that if—

**Mr GARDNER:** I am not disputing any of that, but I am interested in what the figure was—the number.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The number? We have given you the figure.

**Mr GARDNER:** You have given me a percentage of 30.5 per cent out of 12,554 tests, and so that I am not misrepresenting you by virtue of the fact that there might be a rounding error I am interested to know how many positive tests there were in 2013-14.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It would be roughly 3,700 people. We will get an exact figure for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you, and when you do that I wonder if maybe you will be able to identify how many by facility and, if possible, by type of drug.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** Is there testing for synthetic drugs now as part of this process?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What was that, sorry?

**Mr GARDNER:** Synthetic drugs—synthetic cannabinoids or other—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We will need to take that one on notice, as well. We will get that detail for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** What is the government's view on how, by and large, these drugs are getting into the prisons?

**Mr BROWN:** Firstly, the test results reported include offenders who are under supervision in the community as well as those who are in custody, so we will be able to provide you the breakdown in terms of the separation between offenders testing positive to drug use in the community versus those testing positive in custody.

The other point that I would make is that, due to our targeted testing regime and our intensive supervision regime for offenders in the community, quite often offenders will find themselves put back into custody by the Parole Board on a Parole Board warrant. Subsequent to them being placed back in custody, we will conduct further drug testing on behalf of the Parole Board to establish whether they were using drugs whilst out under community-based supervision.

To the question of how drugs come into our facilities, our focus is multifaceted. Obviously, a key point of focus for us is our access control point with the community, in particular through visitors to our facilities who are entitled to have contact visits with family members that are in custody. We also, from time to time, face the challenge of attempts to introduce contraband to our facilities by throwing that contraband over the fence of the perimeter and into our facilities. We work very closely with Police Corrections and with other units of the police service to actively pursue organised groups that we believe from time to time are making efforts to bring contraband into our centres as well.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you; I am sure it is not going to be surprising that the way that people in Community Corrections gain their drugs is going to be different from those actually in the custodial services.

**Mr BROWN:** Sure.

**Mr GARDNER:** How many occasions have there been where illicit drugs and contraband have been detected on entry into DCS institutions in the 2013-14 year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Unfortunately, we only have an earlier year's figure, so we will have to get that figure for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** I am after the whole year figures.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, this is actually not the last financial year; I do not have the 2013-14 figures.

**Mr GARDNER:** Yes, I am after the 2013-14 figures if that is possible.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will have to take that on notice; the only thing I have is an earlier year.

**Mr GARDNER:** I have been given earlier years, so I appreciate that.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Okay; I will get the 2013-14 figure for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** How many prison visitors were searched during the 2013-14 financial year and how many were found to be carrying prohibited items?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am able to advise that the department is obviously committed to stopping contraband (in particular, drugs) entering the system. The use of intelligence and passive

alert detection dogs are key strategies. The department's Intelligence Investigations unit works closely with SAPOL, particularly the Police Corrections section, to monitor the activities of prisoners and visitors to intercept and reduce the flow of contraband into the correctional system.

Over 145,022 searches were conducted on visitors and prisoners in their cells and property throughout the state's prisons in 2013-14. As a result of these searches, a number of prohibited items were found and confiscated, and the figure you are looking for—

**Mr GARDNER:** For the visitors.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** —we will have to take on notice.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sure. If you are retrieving that information, I would not mind if you could get it for the 2012-13 year as well. Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 146, in relation offence focused programs: as per some of the other questions, I would be interested if we could get the final year 30 June 2014 results as well, in due course. One of the figures identified under activity indicators is the number of program commencements; I assume that means people. Are each of those 65 commencements separate people, or can some undertake a program or multiple programs more than once?

**Mr BROWN:** There is the possibility that some offenders may be enrolled in more than one program, but the vast majority would be individual commencements in a specific program rather than the same offender recording in multiple programs.

**Mr GARDNER:** Alright, so probably about 65 people. Why has there been a drop-off from the 2012-13 year, when there were 87 people undertaking these programs, to 65 and a commensurate drop in the number of hours?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise the following. The Making Changes program hours were lower than estimated due to specialist staff who deliver the program being involved in developing a pilot domestic violence program and were therefore unavailable to deliver the program. So, the resources were all put in to some what you might call curriculum development or program development; therefore, those staff were not available to actually deliver.

The program hours counting rule includes only the total hours once a program is completed. If a program goes over a financial year, it is not counted. Program hours that are delivered but not completed in the financial year are not counted. The rehabilitation programs branch started delivery of an SBC-me program. The importance of that program is that it is designed for delivery to people with intellectual disabilities; therefore, it takes longer to actually deliver; therefore, you have a smaller number of participants.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sure. So, those 65 are not just in relation to the Making Changes program. As I understand, there is also the violence prevention program (VPP) and the sexual behaviour clinic, or are those 65 just in the Making Changes program?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That is all of the programs.

**Mr GARDNER:** Your last answer was somewhat helpful for my next question so, hopefully, the information is somewhere handy. Those three programs—Making Changes, which has a focus on substance abuse but also for people with a disability; the violence prevention program, focused on murderers and other high-level and serial violent offenders; and the sexual behaviour clinic, which I assume is reasonably self-explanatory—are all listed on the DCS website. It also identifies the abuse prevention program, which is described as a '24-week program focused on the behaviours of domestic violence offenders'. Is that the pilot program that you were just saying Making Changes staff were working on creating?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr GARDNER:** When did that pilot take place, and how many offenders were involved?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The pilot of the program was 10 weeks in duration and was completed at the end of September 2013. The evaluation report is imminent and will assist in informing the future of the program.

**Mr GARDNER:** So, it was 10 weeks to the end of September 2013; the website identifies it as a 24-week program. Was the pilot program a draft version and the 24-week program is now expected, or was there a typo? What is the discrepancy?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I need to take that question on notice. I can only go on the advice I have got, and I am advised that that program was 10 weeks. I must confess, I do not recall the figure from the website.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sure. In relation to the abuse prevention program—the new domestic violence program—which I think anyone would consider to be a tremendously important arrow in the department's quiver of rehabilitation projects, you say that the evaluation report is imminent. Do you have a date by which you expect that report to be delivered?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It should go to the management of the department within the next month, and hopefully I will get briefed shortly thereafter.

**Mr GARDNER:** Obviously you project a number of program commencements. Do you have an anticipated or a budgeted figure of how many commencements in this new Abuse Prevention Program for domestic violence you expect to commence in the coming year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That will be informed by the evaluation itself.

**Mr GARDNER:** Which institutions will the program be available in?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The initial focus has been offenders in the community, but then we will also review whether it is feasible to undertake it for custodial prisoners.

**Mr GARDNER:** So that 10-week program last year, was that based in Community Corrections, not in a prison?

**Mr BROWN:** That's correct.

**Mr GARDNER:** Alright, so we are anticipating that it will be a Community Corrections program rather than a prison-based program.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, what I said was that we will also look at it to see its application for people who are in custody as well.

**Mr GARDNER:** Okay. How will offenders be targeted for inclusion in this program, through the Parole Board or any other means?

**Mr BROWN:** All offenders in custody who undertake our programs go through a comprehensive assessment process, following their sentence by the court, and that includes a general risk of reoffending assessment using a tool known as the Offender Risk Needs Inventory. Then, dependent on the offending profile, they may have specialist assessments undertaken that look more specifically at propensity to violence or propensity to sexual reoffending.

Part of what we would look for in the evaluation report for the domestic violence program is the assessment criteria and the admission process for prisoners into that program, but if it is being delivered in the custodial environment it would be through the individual development plan. If it is being delivered through the Community Corrections environment where they have not been in custody, then it is through the case planning process.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sure. I appreciate that this is not something that, minister, you seem to have been personally aware of, so I am not trying to target you in any way, but the website would certainly suggest to anyone who is looking at it that this program was underway, up and running. Can I encourage you to have a look at it and correct it so that it actually reflects the situation? What it presents it quite different from what we have been told today. Could you please provide the number of prisoners who undertook each of the three other rehabilitation programs in 2013-14 and how many are projected to undertake those programs in the current year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We will take that on notice.

**Mr GARDNER:** In relation to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 147, the objective is to ensure that the prisoner environment is secure, safe and humane and other worthy objectives. Health

minister Hill announced the government plan to ban smoking inside prisons in 2011 which was reinforced in my own readings by minister Rankine in estimates in 2012 for it to be implemented in 2015, although I note that former chief executive Severin identified some difficulties due to the lack of available space in the Remand Centre.

Have you received any complaints from staff at any centre that DCS standard operating procedure 077 is being breached? I am informed that is that smoking is prohibited in all DCS-owned, leased or occupied workplaces and within four metres of any entrance to buildings, air conditioning intakes or open windows.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Clearly we are trying to reduce the impact of tobacco smoking on the health and wellbeing of all South Australians. Currently there is a no smoking policy in all government buildings, including prison buildings and indoor visit centres.

Prisoners in South Australia are prohibited from smoking in prison buildings and indoor visit centres. They are, however, permitted to smoke in their cells when the cell door is closed, although the majority of prisons in South Australia require prisoners to smoke in outdoor areas during unlocked times. Prohibiting smoking in custodial environments is a complex issue, given that approximately 80 per cent of prisoners smoke. Added to this complexity is the issue of providing a safe working environment for the staff working in our prisons.

Yes, I have received representations from staff regarding prisoners smoking in the prison system. I have expressed the view that a no smoking policy can only be advanced in two ways to ensure that we have strategies in place to manage behaviour. When you take away people's cigarettes, they might behave in a way in which we would not like them to behave. Secondly, commencing a completely no smoking policy would have a cost impact on running the system. They are the considerations.

People from the union have met with me, and I note that they have gone away to work on some suggestions on how we can achieve those two conditions and meet the objective of no smoking. I am not opposed to it. I think it is something we should aim for, but, equally, the two constraints I have are how we need to manage prisoner behaviour if you take away their cigarettes completely and, secondly, the cost. We are monitoring what is happening interstate and overseas, and we will see how we can implement it if we can.

**Mr GARDNER:** Sir, I appreciate that answer but, when you say that you are not opposed to it, it is in fact something that your government committed to with some pride a number of years ago. You have identified that people are still smoking within their cells when their cell doors are closed. Presumably, there are outside areas where people are smoking within four metres of the entrance to buildings, air conditioning intakes and open windows. Is there still a government policy to have smoking inside, or within four metres, as identified, ended by 2015 in the prison system, or is that something that is an ex-policy?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As I indicated, I am keen to see that happen but, as you can imagine, unlike the general population, where about 20 per cent smoke, 80 per cent of people in the prison system smoke. You can have a policy, but you must implement it in a safe way that is safe for staff as well. It would be inappropriate for me to do something that risks the safety of our staff or other prisoners.

**Mr GARDNER:** I fear, sir, that you are suffering under the overspruiking of a previous minister, but I am happy that you have the preference, the goal, of achieving that. Are any nicotine replacement therapies being made available to prisoners? If there is anticipation that a future policy will revert back to the original promise of banning smoking inside, will those nicotine replacement therapies be made available?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can advise that the South Australian Prison Health Services, in conjunction with the department, has implemented a nicotine replacement therapy program (patches) in all eight state-run prisons. This program requires a small co-contribution from prisoners for the nicotine replacement therapy, depending on the employment status of the prisoner. So, yes, we are clearly encouraging people not to smoke.

**Mr GARDNER:** How has the take-up been?



**The CHAIR:** Do you have a final question, member for Morialta?

**Mr GARDNER:** I do.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will get that figure for you.

**Mr GARDNER:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 1, page 147, supplies and services. Hopefully, this is a very easy full toss for you. Who supplies the uniforms worn by our prison guards and where are they made?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We get our uniforms through Stewart & Heaton, which is a whole-of-government contract. It is the same place that SAPOL get their uniforms.

**Mr GARDNER:** And where are they produced?

**The CHAIR:** That is your last question.

**Mr GARDNER:** I was repeating the second half of the question to make sure the minister had heard it.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I need to confirm that.

**Mr GARDNER:** Thank you, sir.

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

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, \$501,908,000**

**ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE, \$10,022,000**

**Membership:**

Mr Wingard substituted for Mr Tarzia.

**Minister:**

Hon. A. Piccolo, Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr G. Stevens, Deputy Commissioner, South Australia Police.

Ms J. Holmes, Executive Director, Road Safety, Registration and Licensing, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr A. Milazzo, Deputy Chief Executive, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr M. Palm, Director, Investment Strategy, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr P. Gelston, Director, Road and Traffic Management, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Ms P. Norman, Manager, Safer People, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Mr I. Hartmann, Manager, Financial Management Services, South Australia Police.

**The CHAIR:** I announce that we are in the portfolio of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. I invite the minister to introduce his new line-up and then make his opening statement.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I would like to introduce on my immediate right Julie Holmes, executive director, Road Safety, Registration and Licensing, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. On my immediate left is Andy Milazzo, deputy chief executive of the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. On my far left is Mr Grant Stevens, deputy commissioner—acting commissioner at the moment because the commissioner is a bit sick, and he is in safe hands.

**The CHAIR:** Do you have an update of his condition?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, I have not been briefed this afternoon. I was briefed this morning that he was getting better and expected back on deck soon.

**Mr VAN HOLST PELLEKAAN:** As soon as estimates are over.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It would be quite inappropriate to infer that, but I will make a note that the opposition implied that he was avoiding estimates.

**The CHAIR:** We will move on to your opening statement.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I advise that the state government is committed to road safety and reducing the tragedies associated with trauma. While it costs the community over \$1 billion a year in road safety; however, the grief, suffering and loss of a loved one is beyond any measure. Last year, we recorded a lower number of fatalities than the previous five-year average, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Our commitment to road safety is documented in the Road Safety Action Plan 2013-2016, which was released in August 2013 and takes further steps towards reducing road trauma.

Governments, vehicle manufacturers, road users and the community in general all have a significant role to play if we are to achieve our target of less than 80 fatalities and 800 serious injuries by the year 2020. Towards Zero Together is the title of South Australia's road safety strategy 2020 and is about the collective vision for road safety in South Australia. No death or serious injury on our roads is acceptable.

Strategies, plans and targets are all very well and good, but what matters most is results. In 2013, we achieved our second lowest recorded road toll of 97, and serious injuries have continued their recent decline, to 790 in 2013. Obviously, we would like to achieve our targets earlier than 2020.

With the input of key stakeholders such as the RAA, local government and the Adelaide University's Centre for Automotive Safety Research, working together with SAPOL, MAC and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, good progress has been made and I am hoping to be able to further lead this change as the chair of the Road Safety Stakeholder Group.

As we move towards reducing the road toll we need to work more closely with the South Australian community to understand their preparedness to accept change and challenge social norms, in particular about the impacts of speed. Research clearly demonstrates that lower travel speeds reduces road trauma, yet speed continues to be a contributing factor in approximately a third of all fatal and serious injury crashes. Irrespective of the cause of the crash, the speed impact largely determines the severity of the injury.

Reduction in average travel speeds across the network is the most effective and swift way to reduce road trauma. It will produce significant and immediate road safety benefits and is very much a part of moving to a safe systems approach to road safety but, despite this, approximately 23 per cent of vehicles continue to exceed the posted speed limit. Realising the benefits of sustained improvement in speed management can only occur if the community and other stakeholders have a willingness to embrace a cultural change.

Last year the former minister for road safety asked the Department of Transport, Planning and Infrastructure to undertake a review of all state and council high-speed rural roads signposted at 110 km/h. The review involved considering the merits of applying the default speed limit of 100 km/h on these roads and looked to assess each road against the Australian Standards and Austroads Guidelines and took into consideration such factors as road function, land use, crash history and the roadside environment.

While the technical aspects of the review are complete, work is continuing and I have embarked on the second phase. I intend to work with the community to understand the public perception of speed, how to address the commonly held view that speeding is acceptable, and to build understanding of the road safety benefits that can be derived by reducing travel speeds. Earlier this month I started that work when I addressed, as chair, the Road Safety Stakeholder Reference Group, and invited the 42 member organisations to be part of the conversation.

Further, I intend to meet with the Minister for Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon. Geoff Brock, and elected members of the rural councils involved to hear their views firsthand and, importantly, to ensure that the research is well understood. This work is running parallel with the current review on the speed limits in the Adelaide Hills, and I look forward to the outcome of the consultation process that seeks to discover residents' concerns and views on appropriate speed limits in the Adelaide Hills. I understand that over 300 people have indicated their interest in attending a workshop.

It is clear that the government cannot walk away from making tough decisions. We know that enforcement can play a part in making a real change to driver and rider behaviour and reducing road safety risk. The rollout of point-to-point cameras will continue with the planned installation of safety cameras.

In September this year new laws will come into place to protect emergency service workers—and in part I have to thank the member for Stuart who, from memory, drove that process and at a reasonable speed—with the speed limit being reduced to 25 km/h when passing an emergency services vehicle that has stopped and is displaying a flashing blue or red light.

I have spoken many times over the past month about the much anticipated changes to the Graduated Licensing Scheme. The new laws come into effect on 28 July and will protect novice drivers in their first and most vulnerable year of unsupervised driving. P-plate drivers are eleven times more likely to be involved in a crash.

The state government continues to be committed to investing in road safety infrastructure and the remaining \$47.7 million provided by the Motor Accident Commission will address known crash locations. This funding will help to improve safety for drivers, motorcyclists, bike riders and pedestrians in targeted areas, including the Victor Harbor Road, Augusta Highway, Stuart Highway and the Adelaide Hills. The state government will partner with local communities to make South Australian streets and roads safer as part of the \$2 million commitment over four years in the 2014-15 state budget.

The new 'Resident's Win' program will be established to support local road safety projects in partnership with schools, councils and community organisations. This is providing communities with direct access to funding, allowing them to make decisions on what infrastructure is needed to improve road safety in their area.

The state budget also maintains more than \$36.6 million over four years for the State Black Spot program. In addition, \$8.6 million per annum indexed is allocated for the continuation of the rural road safety program. The program funds road safety improvements such as enhanced signage, minor junction upgrades and the removal, modification and shielding of roadside hazards.

The South Australian community is to be applauded for the results we have achieved but we are all in it together and each and every one of us has a role to play in improving road safety.

Working alongside the department and with the community is the Motor Accident Commission, which has played a pivotal role in raising awareness of key road safety issues. We continue to work to set high expectations on the behaviour of each and every road user, and we thank SAPOL for its vigilance in its work.

We also need to recognise that the vast bulk of fatalities and serious injuries happen to everyday people doing everyday things. We must therefore continue to also focus on putting systems in place to protect people if they make a mistake and, with the first day back at school today, I am hoping that both parents and drivers are being extra cautious as our young ones go back to school.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Mitchell.

**Mr WINGARD:** Thank you, Chair, and I must concur with what the minister said there as far as SAPOL, and the road safety staff I have dealt with DPTI have been outstanding, and they do a marvellous job in our community, and road safety is very important in that regard, I very much agree.

I would like to start by going to Budget Paper 6, page 82, and you mentioned the Motor Accident Commission and the road safety initiatives that are outlined on page 82. Given that \$100 million was taken out of the Motor Accident Commission in the last budget and that it has been shared across the two budgets: \$52.3 million was spent in the last financial year, I think it was, and \$47.7 million has been allocated to projects that will go for potentially, according to that, the next two years.

With the proposed liquidation, or the sale of MAC, whichever way you want to view it, I am wondering where the money will come from in the forward estimates for road safety initiatives, and how the government will fund road safety initiatives to the high current standard, beyond 2015-16, the ones that were previously funded by MAC.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** From my recollection, the Treasurer has answered that question publicly, and I have nothing to add to the Treasurer's comments.

**Mr WINGARD:** He answered them in the media last week, is that what you are saying?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr WINGARD:** So, it will be another levy on top of the new CTP payments?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No. The Motor Accident Commission reports to the Treasurer. The Treasurer has made comment on that very issue; as you aware, it is in the public domain. I have nothing to add.

**Mr WINGARD:** Are you confident that there will be the funds there to maintain the Motor Accident Commission's obligations and commitment to road safety and the funding for all of the road safety projects as we go forward?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The Treasurer has made public comment and given that assurance.

**Mr WINGARD:** Fantastic. With that, we have a number of community projects that the MAC and road safety are hinged to, and I can list them if you like. There is the schoolies project, which does glean a lot of funding from MAC; I think that it is \$400,000 per year. That money that has come from MAC, will it continue to come and, once MAC has been sold, how will that funding be attributed for the road safety programs that are run across schoolies weekend?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am not sure how many different ways I can answer the same question, or how many different ways you can ask the same question. I am happy to spend the whole hour answering the same question. MAC is responsible to the Treasurer. The Treasurer has indicated publicly his view of the future of funding for road safety projects. I have no reason not to believe the Treasurer.

**Mr WINGARD:** As the responsible minister for road safety, where do you expect the funds to come from?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** In accordance with what the Treasurer said publicly.

**Mr WINGARD:** So, we will go with the CTP increases. Do you have concerns about any of the programs that the MAC runs, that the funding will be there, or can you guarantee that all those fundings will continue to all those projects?

**The CHAIR:** This is pretty much what you did at the earlier session. He has answered the question for you, and it is really time to move on to another question. You have only a very short time in this area.

**Mr WINGARD:** I understand that. With the greatest respect, I am just trying to find out whether this minister will answer it.

**The CHAIR:** He has answered your question several times, to my knowledge, but if the minister is happy to keep reiterating the answer, I will leave it to him.

**Mr WINGARD:** Can I go with one last and final question then, and that is, as the minister responsible for road safety, are you confident that all of these projects that are currently underway, and the \$12 million that MAC spent on road safety, will continue?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As Minister for Road Safety, my responsibility is to ensure that funds which are made available to me are spent in the most effective way to improve the road safety on our roads, full stop. It does not matter if the funding went up by \$200 million, that is my responsibility.

**Mr WINGARD:** Or down.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, I did not say that; you are saying that. That might be a future Liberal government's projection. As far as I am concerned, the Treasurer has indicated the relationship between the MAC and road safety funding and also the issue regarding the MAC; he has made that public and I have nothing to add. I will make sure that whatever moneys I am given will be spent in a way that saves lives. We have a plan to save lives—I am not sure your side has.

**Mr WINGARD:** I think that is very unfair and unjust and now you are just casting aspersions. I just want to confirm this. You said there is the possibility of it going up by a couple of million?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, I said whatever the amount is (and I would love to get a few extra millions here and there; which minister would not?), whatever money is given to me, my responsibility is to spend it in a way to maximise road safety. That is my responsibility. What money I get is a government decision, year by year.

**Mr WINGARD:** I move on to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 75: road safety, school pedestrian crossing safety program. I need your help on this one. Having gone back through the budget papers I see that \$191,000 will be spent on the program for this budget period, whereas \$315,000 was spent in 2013-14, \$460,000 was spent in 2012-13, and \$280,000 was spent in 2011-12. On my maths, that is a total spend of \$1.246 million. In the last budget the Premier—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What was your actual question?

**The CHAIR:** He is bamboozled by the figures.

**Mr WINGARD:** I can get you to go through the background or I can explain it for you, because there is fair bit of background that goes on and we will keep asking questions all the way through. The point is that this was the program that at the last budget the Treasurer/Premier (being one and the same person) said that was going to be reconfigured and the money again was going to come out of the MAC to run this program. I notice that there is still \$191,000 allocated to this program this year, so I am just wanting to know whether this program is coming to an end or if the government is still honouring its original commitment to the road safety school pedestrian program.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I want to make sure we are on the same page: page 75, school pedestrian crossing safety program—the four figures are \$191,000, \$315,000, \$315,000 and \$460,000?

**Mr WINGARD:** Yes.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised there was a four-year program. Because the projected total amount of money was not spent in the first year it has carried forward into a fifth year, and that is why we have got the \$191,000, but it is part of the original four-year program.

**Mr WINGARD:** So there is \$191,000 left in the budget to keep spending?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Mr WINGARD:** That is fantastic. Going to the Towards Zero Together website and looking at the safety camera locations, under school pedestrian crossing safety cameras there are 11 operational. So, the \$1.25 million has got the 11 up and running, from what I can ascertain, and there are still nine proposed. Looking at the funding for the proposed nine, how will they be funded? Will that just be the \$191,000?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Unfortunately, the safety camera figure is actually of a number of programs, so this figure is actually part of the overall program and has different streams of money

coming into it. The other moneys are coming from, for example, mid-block safety cameras, which is another part of that—there is just under \$1 million there. We can get the figure which actually reconciles that amount. I have just been advised that what is on the website is funded.

**Mr WINGARD:** It is funded?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Over a range of programs.

**Mr WINGARD:** So the proposed ones have been paid for as well?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, they have not been paid for. They are funded. They are only paid for when they are installed.

**Mr WINGARD:** Yes, from the money that is in the budget?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The money is available for it to be spent on them.

**Mr WINGARD:** Right, and you will let me know where that is coming from. That is fantastic.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, we will reconcile that figure for you.

**Mr WINGARD:** Thank you, that is greatly appreciated. I just know with the changeover there it seems to have gone into a different pot, so I appreciate that. Will the government be doing more of these programs? The number that is there—as in the completed and proposed—will there be more of these programs going forward?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Beyond the existing program, there are not any bids before the government to fund at the moment, so that would have to be a new program.

**Mr WINGARD:** So it would have to be a new program if there were to be any more? So that is it: the school pedestrian crossing safety program will finish with these ones, so if you have not got in—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** There is the existing program, and there is no bid at the moment to expand that.

**Mr WINGARD:** So no chance for anyone else, okay. With that, how did schools apply, or what were the criteria for selecting the locations that got the school pedestrian crossing safety program funding?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The primary criterion, but not the sole criterion, is the number of crashes and severity of injuries at every site. Other factors which are also taken into account are the amount of heavy vehicles used on that particular road and also the nature of the environment and location of other measures in place.

So, there is a whole range of factors but, as indicated, one of the key things is the number of crashes and severity of injury at the site. We also take feedback from school communities, including local MPs who lobby. A number of MPs from your side have lobbied me for cameras, and we take those into account because of their local information, and we also undertake our own road safety audits.

**Mr WINGARD:** On that point, then, because I have to lobby you a little bit later, there is no room for anyone to gain a position now? All positions are filled, it is all said and done and there is no more funding budgeted—is that correct?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** With our existing program which is in the budget, yes but, having said that, road safety is one of those things where you take it on a case-by-case.

**Mr WINGARD:** Can I move on to Budget Paper 4, volume 3 again, page 80, and looking at local government road safety initiatives. Again, this centres around funding and the Motor Accident Commission funding local government road safety initiatives. Will they be able to be funded into the future and how will they be funded in the future? Given that you are just working off a pool of funds now, how will local government road safety initiatives be funded beyond the next two years?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That \$4 million was a once-off payment which came as part of the \$100 million which the Motor Accident Commission gave to the government; we did not actually take

it from them, as you indicated in your opening comments. Having said that, that was a once-off thing. Local government is also able to apply for federal and state blackspot programs; we have committed \$36.6 million over the next four years, and the federal government also has its own program, so the councils are able to apply for those.

**Mr WINGARD:** So this is seen as a one-off bonus, if you like?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That amount came out of that \$100 million; it was a one-off thing. Like I said, that is a one-off thing. That is the only information I have.

**Mr WINGARD:** Has that money already been allocated to all projects, or are people and local governments still able to apply?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The answer is, no, they cannot apply for it because the criteria for that amount of money will be advertised in September sometime, and local governments can apply for it.

**Mr WINGARD:** So they are not all full?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, they are not. None of it has been committed yet; the whole amount will be available for local government to apply for.

**Mr WINGARD:** Still on Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 75, Investments, under the Shoulder Sealing program only \$1.64 million was allocated to the program in the 2014 budget, whereas \$15.967 million was spent in 2013-14 and \$7.2 million in 2012-13. Was it just a one-off reduction to drop it down that low? Again, it was nearly \$16 million the year before and it is now \$1.6 million; that is a significant reduction.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What I can say is that 2013-14 received a one-off injection of funding. If you look at the budget papers last year, 2012-13 had \$7.2 million. The original 2013-14 budget had \$5.4 million. We anticipate spending around \$15.9 million because in addition to the regional budget an additional amount of money was brought forward for accelerated civil works of \$4.3 million, approved by cabinet in late 2013. In 2013, there was an additional \$6.15 million provided by the Motor Accident Commission's Road Safety Fund, which enabled a whole range of works to be done.

The original program included: the Barrier Highway, near Hallett; Wallaroo to Port Wakefield road; and Barrier Highway, near Yunta. Budgeted new works as a result of the additional money included Eden Valley Road, Tea Tree Gully to Mannum road, Spalding to Burra road, Mount Compass to Goolwa, and the Wallaroo to Alford road. In addition, the additional \$4.3 million brought forward enabled some work to be done on the Spalding to Burra road and the Barrier Highway, and the Motor Accident Commission injection of \$6.15 million enabled works on Port Pirie to Port Broughton, the Stuart Highway between Marla and the Northern Territory, and also audio tactile line marking on a 765-kilometre section of the Stuart Highway. So, it was money well spent in regional South Australia.

**Mr WINGARD:** So, you would be suggesting that the \$7.2 million from 2012-13 is more an average spend, and that \$15.9 million was a one-off injection?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We have brought some money forward, so that explains the 2014-15 figure going down because, if you add \$4.3 million to 2014-15, where we accelerated (which means we brought forward), you get \$5.96 million, which is roughly the figure, on average.

**The CHAIR:** Do you have a final question, member for Mitchell?

**Mr WINGARD:** Yes, I will move on to my next question, if I may. Again, I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 75, Investments. We are looking at rural point-to-point safety cameras. Expenditure on safety cameras did not meet the anticipated budget last year, so we have gone over on some and come under on others. I see that additional money has been factored into this year's budget for the point-to-point safety cameras. Can you tell us why the installation of these cameras was delayed and has been rolled forward to this year's budget?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** My view would be that we only install these when we get it all right. There is a whole range of factors. I am quite happy to make sure these are put in at the right place

at the right time. I would hate to be accused of putting them out there just for revenue raising, so I am making sure they work correctly.

**Mr WINGARD:** Have you budgeted for a revenue return from the point-to-point cameras?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You do put a figure in, but what we do anticipate—

**Mr WINGARD:** So you do budget a figure?

**The CHAIR:** The member for Mitchell!

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We make an estimate based on what our intelligence tells us for that road. The revenue is not part of this portfolio, but I will answer the question. What we anticipate is a reduction of 60 per cent after the first year because it will change people's behaviour.

**Mr WINGARD:** A reduction in—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Revenue of 60 per cent, yes, so it is certainly not a—

**Mr WINGARD:** My next question is—

**The CHAIR:** No, there will be no further questions, because we need to wrap up this line, have our break and move on; that is why you only had such a short time. We were very worried about your earlier line of questioning. There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the proposed payments adjourned until tomorrow. In accordance with the agreed timetable, I advise that the committee stands suspended until 4pm.

*Sitting suspended from 15:46 to 16:01.*

**DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE, \$49,379,000**  
**ADMINISTERED ITEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE,**  
**\$1,392,192,000**

**Membership:**

Dr McFetridge substituted for Mr Wingard.

Mr Knoll substituted for Mr Gardner.

**Minister:**

Hon. A. Piccolo, Minister for Disabilities, Minister for Police, Minister for Correctional Services, Minister for Emergency Services, Minister for Road Safety.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr D. Place, Chief Executive, SAFECOM, Department of Justice.

Mr G. Nettleton, Chief Officer, CFS, Department of Justice.

Mr C. Beattie, Chief Officer, SES, Department of Justice.

Mr G. Lupton, Chief Officer, MFS, Department of Justice.

Mr J. Schirmer, Business Manager, CFS, Department of Justice.

Ms L. Lew, Business Manager, MFS, Department of Justice.

Mr P. Lambropoulos, Manager, Financial Services, SAFECOM, Department of Justice.

Ms I. Calabrese, Business Manager, SES, Department of Justice.



**The CHAIR:** I declare the proposed payments open for examination. I call on the minister to introduce his advisers and then make his opening statement, if he has one.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Just to clarify, Chair, are we doing SAFECOM first?

**The CHAIR:** We have a list of dot points, which I read out this morning, and everyone sat there and nodded, so I am presuming all five dot points are open at the same time.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We agreed for the ease of—

**The CHAIR:** Who agreed? Not with me. So what are you asking?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** What we are suggesting is that we do SAFECOM first, general questions about the whole sector, and then we will do one portfolio at a time. Is that correct, member for Morphett? That is to make it easier for the staff so that they are not hopping up each time in a different order. So we will do CFS, MFS—

**The CHAIR:** It would just be nice to know, that's all.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I understood—

**The CHAIR:** Okay, opening statement.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sorry, I beg forgiveness, Chair.

**The CHAIR:** It's only an hour.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I assumed that you were advised.

**The CHAIR:** No, I am the last to hear anything.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I take the responsibility for that.

**The CHAIR:** Okay.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** My current adviser for the general SAFECOM question is Mr David Place, Chief Executive of SAFECOM.

**The CHAIR:** Do you have a very short opening statement or no opening statement?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I have a short statement, as follows. During the recent fire danger season, our state faced its busiest period of fire activity on record followed by an extreme storm, flooding and several heatwaves. It is remarkable that during these extreme events not one life was lost and property damage was minimised, thanks to the efforts of our emergency service workers.

The Country Fire Service, the Metropolitan Fire Service and State Emergency Service worked together to protect communities across the state, bringing great credit upon themselves and gaining the appreciation of a grateful state.

I would also like to acknowledge the way Emergency Service agencies work not only with each other but across government with agencies such as the Ambulance Service, SAPOL, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, amongst many others.

It is reassuring to know that we have capable government agencies with dedicated public servants who provide critical support to our emergency services volunteers on the front lines. In the last years, our emergency services agencies also supported our interstate colleagues in the Blue Mountains and in Hazelwood, Victoria, during their time of need. I know the governments of both Victoria and New South Wales were extremely grateful for our support.

Over the past 12 months our emergency services capabilities have been further strengthened through state government funding, including new MFS stations at Glen Osmond and Salisbury, a new CFS station at Tumby Bay, a new SES unit at Mount Barker, five new MFS appliances and approximately 40 CFS appliances, three new SES trucks and four four-wheel-drive service vehicles, one new vessel for the Australian Volunteer Coastguard, the expansion of the mobile phone emergency messaging system, and we have more than doubled our capital funding for Surf Life Saving SA's clubroom rebuild program, for which members along the coast are appreciative.

**The Hon. P. CAICA:** All South Australians.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** All South Australians. Looking forward, I will be responding to my cabinet colleagues in parliament on the Holloway review into the Fire and Emergency Services Act, which was tabled in parliament last year. After significant discussions in May and June this year with my Emergency Service's chief, the SAFECOM board, emergency services unions and volunteers and their associations, as well as the Public Sector Association, I embarked on a series of roundtables across the state to discuss how the emergency services sector can be reformed to ensure it is structured to meet future challenges.

As discussed, the emergency services sector performs extremely well, but the current governance model has flaws and has not performed as envisaged. There is room for structural change that would generate savings to be reinvested in the sector, particularly into frontline services. It is my intention to develop a home-grown model for South Australia that is generated using that ground-up approach.

After discussions with key stakeholders, including SAFECOM, MFS, CFS, SES, South Australian Ambulance Service, South Australia Police, United Firefighters Union SA, CFS Volunteers Association, SES Volunteers Association, Ambulance Employees Association, the SAS Volunteer Ambulance Service and the Public Service Association, it was decided by all that I should speak with as many staff and volunteers as possible across the state to discuss what works well in the sector and what does not from their perspective, from the people on the ground.

To date, I have facilitated regional roundtables to discuss these issues at Barmera, Port Augusta, Clare and Kangaroo Island. More than 250 volunteers and staff from the emergency services attended these roundtables. I have also undertaken several roundtables in Adelaide and peri-urban areas, including Noarlunga, Belair, and also to cover the Light-Barossa region.

I will also be undertaking several more roundtables in regional metropolitan areas, including Port Lincoln, Mount Gambier and Yorke Peninsula. I think I have two this week, one at Mawson Lakes and one at Hahndorf. Participants have expressed a wide range of views which have all been constructive.

I would like to put on the record my thanks to all the volunteers who came to those roundtables and engaged in the process. Their advice and views have been a very important part of the reform process. The participants have agreed on a whole range of guiding principles that must be incorporated into the new structure or reform.

What has been most pleasing to date is the way the various agencies and unions have come together both at the roundtables and in smaller groups at other times to discuss how they can work together for the betterment of their members and the sector. The initial engagement processes are expected to be concluded in September this year.

Some reforms are likely to be implemented fairly quickly, others will be rolled out over the next one to two years, avoiding any significant reform during the bushfire season. As you can see, there is a lot going on in emergency services. As always, the sector is performing well, but there is always more to be accomplished over the coming months and years. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Morphett.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I would just like to put on the record the Liberal Party's, in fact, the whole of the parliament's, strong support and admiration for our emergency services in South Australia, particularly the chief officers. Can I just say that we are probably all thinking of emergency workers in Ukraine at the moment, having to do what they are doing. I saw the fires there doing some pretty unsavoury jobs, but that is what they do. Emergency service workers go to the job when others are running away. Thank you again, and we will get on with the questioning, thank you, chair.

My first budget reference is Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 102, the net cost of services summary. Providing emergency services in South Australia is a very costly business. Do any savings that you put in place have to be returned to Treasury?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Do you mean the normal efficiency dividends or are you talking about savings which may come from the reform process?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Efficiency dividends in this case.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Because of changes just recently I will get Mr Place to answer to make sure that we get an accurate answer for you.

**Mr PLACE:** The efficiency dividend is a percentage across things like your total salaries budget, or I think there was one recently of contractors, etc. Does your question relate to where that money comes from?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No, are those savings returned to Treasury?

**Mr PLACE:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** All of it is returned to Treasury?

**Mr PLACE:** It is a cost saving we have to achieve.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** What is the total cost of the emergency services budget this year? The allocation was read out at the start.

**The CHAIR:** It is \$49,379,000 and the administered items are \$1,392,192,000.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you. With the increase in the emergency services levy, how much extra is going into the emergency services this year?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** My understanding is that the emergency services levy has been increased by removing a number of remissions. All that additional money is going into the Community Emergency Services Fund. That is replacing general revenue, or consolidated revenue, which has been reallocated to other parts of the budget. We have had to do that to support other sectors of the budget which have had to deal with federal cutbacks.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** To be clear, there is no money from the emergency services fund or the emergency services levy that is being used for any other purpose other than emergency services, because that would be illegal. Is that right?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That is correct. The act stipulates very clearly where that money goes, and that money is spent in accordance with the act. There will be a small residual, because there is still an amount—as I have explained in my talks around the state, if you can picture the budget for the emergency services sector is so much: approximately (not exact figures) 50 per cent came from the emergency services levy and 50 per cent came from consolidated revenue or general revenue.

Now that will probably increase to closer to 90 per cent from emergency services levy; there is still a small portion—that is because we still give a number of rebates to pensioners and concessions, and that portion is funded by general revenue. So, the budget itself is not affected. We do not actually take money from the emergency services to pay for those remissions or rebates; that money comes from other parts of the budget.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Can you take it upon yourself to inform the public, because volunteers I mix with are getting abused by the public who are saying, 'What is happening? You are getting all this extra money, so why are you still complaining about not getting the funding?' Is the government doing anything about that?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Not only are we doing something; it has been approved today. I have picked that up around the traps when I have been speaking with people, and that came up in a number of the round tables, with volunteers saying that they are getting some flak from people on the ground. When people get their ESL account or invoice, we have prepared a DL document which will go with that to explain exactly how the money is spent, and we strongly emphasise in that document that the money does not go towards volunteers. In fact, 93 per cent of our emergency services workers are volunteers who do not get paid, and we have made sure that we have explained that to people in this document.

In fact, we showed the draft document to people as we went around the state, and we have taken advice from CFS volunteers and SES volunteers and other volunteers on what message they

want to get out there. That document has been approved today and will go out with the first lot of invoices shortly.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Excellent news, minister.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I can assure you that we are very mindful and supportive of volunteers, and we are there proactively supporting them.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The next budget reference is the same volume and it is really the net cost of providing services on pages 64, 81, 103 and 121. It is really about the Holloway and Ernst & Young reports. How much money was spent on the Holloway report and the Ernst & Young report into the emergency services sector?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am advised that the Holloway report was a total cost of \$54,000 approximately, and the Ernst & Young one was \$95,000.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** When will the Ernst & Young report be released?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I am not sure, because it has to go to cabinet first.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Months, weeks?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It will be a cabinet document. I have seen a draft, and I understand a final version has been prepared. It has not come across my desk yet, because I have been very busy doing the reform process. The Holloway report is what has given rise, in part, to the actual reform process, because I would need to respond to the parliament with the government's response to the parliament as to how we are going to respond to those recommendations and findings of the Holloway report.

I have embarked upon this reform process as part of that response. The Holloway report, plus many other previous reports, informed the process. In terms of Ernst & Young, it is just a document. At this stage I am not sure of the timing of its release, but as soon as it goes to cabinet I will let you know when we propose to release it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** And that will be tabled in parliament, the Ernst & Young report?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will see what cabinet says first.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I look forward to it being tabled in parliament, minister. Budget Paper 4, Volume 4—once again, the same references—the cost of providing services. The Productivity Commission, in its recent report, indicated that there had been a \$15 million cut in real terms in the provision of fire services in South Australia. It went from \$193.4 million in 2008-09 to \$178.5 million in 2012-13. Can you explain why we are the only state that is cutting fire service funding in real terms? It is about a 7.7 per cent cut.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Mr Place will explain the funding arrangements.

**Mr PLACE:** I have read the Productivity Commission report and you are correct in that it does show a reduction comparative to other jurisdictions. However, every jurisdiction often measures this in a different way, so you have to be careful. In terms of the funding for emergency services 2013-14 to 2014-15, there has actually been an increase in the emergency service levy that is paid into the fund, from \$244 million to \$262 million, so there has been an increase this year.

Some of the issues include some money being put in to cover the presumptive legislation liabilities, the accelerated program for surf lifesaving buildings, the state contribution to the National Disaster Resilience Program, a small increase for the superannuation guarantee rate, some incentives for volunteers around training, thermal imaging cameras, and some other minor things. There is a total there of a reasonable increase from last year to this year.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I think my concern and that of fellow firefighters in South Australia is that firefighting services had a 7.7 per cent cut from \$193.4 million to \$178.5 million. There may have been money spent in other places, but fire services are expected to be doing more with less; people move on. Regarding the Holloway review, can the minister give a commitment to CFS volunteers that there is no one-service model out there?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I have given a commitment at every public meeting and forum I have had with volunteers and, in fact, on my own understanding of the volunteer sector—which is, I have to say, pretty good—a one-service model would not be acceptable to me.

What we have explored—and this is no secret, members of your party have been at these meetings—is the concept of one organisation but three services because the primary foundation of the services are those front-line services, whether they be MFS, CFS or SES on the ground. I acknowledge how hard the front-line services work on the ground. I acknowledge how efficiently they operate and it would be foolish to interfere with the autonomy they have on the ground because they can respond quickly to circumstances.

What we have explored at these meetings is how we actually reconcile three different services with perhaps an integrated organisation above that and that is what we are working through. The short answer is that I do not have a model for you at the moment; it is a work in progress. As I go from meeting to meeting people give me ideas and we actually start conceptualising something, and I am hoping by late August I will have a concept after I finish my round tables and also my discussions with the relevant parties. This has very much been a deliberate bottom-up approach to make sure that the high functioning capacity of our volunteers and our MFS workers on the ground is maintained.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I thought what SAFECOM was originally designed to do was to be the overarching body, but obviously not.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** It is no secret that SAFECOM was, in a sense, a compromise between a whole range of competing interests when it was set up some years ago. SAFECOM has done very well within those established constraints. You have three quite independent service providers and you are expecting one other fourth person to actually override that and that is going to be very hard. As I have made very clear, given the structures that our emergency service sectors have at the moment, which include CFS, SES, MFS, SAFECOM and also the volunteer marine people, they have done a very good job given the restrictions and some of the internal inconsistencies.

What we are looking at is how we build a better sector by maintaining what is really critical to the sector which is those front-line services on the ground. How do we build an integrated model above that to have a better sector and that is what we are working through at the moment. So far the feedback I am getting from the people on the ground is that everybody wants some reform out there and it has been a very strong message. Now, at the end of the day, some may disagree on some details of that reform and there are differing views, but at all the forums I have gone to the overwhelming majority, volunteers included, has said, 'Look, you can do this better. We need to do it better as a sector.'

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Staying with SAFECOM at the moment, but just going on to the presumptive cancer legislation—and there are numerous references in the portfolio here, pick a page—how much money has been set aside for funding the presumptive cancer legislation for CFS volunteers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** In terms of the implications of the presumptive legislation for the CFS, I can advise that there has been \$36 million as a one-off accounting entry to reflect the actuarial estimate for the cost of future claims as a result of the legislative changes. An amount of \$1.8 million was put aside in the previous year and current year. At this stage no claims have been put forward and that is based on the existing legislation.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is the next question: is the government reconsidering its position so that CFS volunteers going into the next fire season will realise that they are on the same level as their paid colleagues? Has there been any reconsideration with the member for Frome and others?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** As you would be aware, the government through the Minister for Industrial Relations and myself, as Minister for Volunteers prior to the election, wrote to the CFS Volunteers Association; that is a public document. We made a commitment and we are honouring that commitment. That review process to explore what the government can do is underway and we will meet the time frames we have indicated in that commitment to the CFS volunteers.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Just to be clear, the timing on that review is?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We need to table that or make it public by the end of September.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** This September coming?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, before the fire—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes; that is in writing, and we will commit to that.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to the Capital Investment Statement, Emergency Information Warning System (Alert SA). The proposed expenditure for 2014-15 is \$2.95 million for the development and implementation of the emergency information warning system. Can you give the committee some details on the system—how does it compare with interstate systems and how will it interact with the CFS app, which one hour ago showed that there was a vehicle fire at Wicks Road, Peters Creek, just near my farm?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I advise the member that Alert SA is a combination of a whole range of different alerts or system. Alert SA is a title for various public emergency warning tools, including:

- Emergency alert, which is SMS and landline warnings of pending danger;
- State Emergency Information Core Centre—state government employees from many agencies volunteer to take calls from people seeking information related to imminent or unfolding emergency incidents;
- Interactive voice response—pre-recorded further information to an emergency alert; and
- Web channel—web based-information portal, which I understand is out to market at the moment, and it should be ready in the current financial year.

That is the extent of that. What was the second part of your question, or that was it?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** That is really it. Just to follow on from that, though, are the SMS alerts now working so that they are directed to where the person is, not their billing address? We saw issues with this a couple of years ago.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Location-based alerts were introduced last season.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 114, Summary of major variations, the Emergency Services Fund. It states there that there is 'additional funding to Surf Life Saving SA to accelerate expenditure on replacement of club buildings'. Can the minister give the committee details on which clubs are benefiting from this advancement and how much it is going to save the emergency services capital spend?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Mr Place will provide that level of detail.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It is almost a Dorothy Dixier for you, I think.

**The CHAIR:** There is no such thing.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** You are right.

**Mr PLACE:** There was an increase in the expenditure for Surf Lifesaving announced of \$1.2 million, on top of the \$800,000 they had for their capital program, which will accelerate their club replacement program from something in the order of about 23 to 25 years down to about nine years. The next cabs off the rank, so to speak, will be Grange Surf Life Saving Club, where building work is expected to start this year, and also Keyneton Rocks, down on the South Coast, also expected to start this financial year.

We work closely with Surf Life Saving on their facilities management group, and we are supporting them in putting together a revised capital program so that they can leverage off this extra funding and make sure that the buildings get built on target within that time frame.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We might move on to CFS now.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I introduce Greg Nettleton, the Chief Officer for the CFS.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 64. The net cost of service delivery has gone from \$62,478,000 to \$62,848,000, a miniscule rise in anybody's language. How is the CFS expected to do what it does with such a miniscule rise in this funding? It is less than inflation.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I have the utmost confidence in the CFS to deliver the best product possible. I will now invite the Chief Officer to explain how he does it every day; he does it day in, day out.

**Mr NETTLETON:** Sorry, I missed the question. Could I have it again, please?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Are you being forced to do more with less, Chief Officer? In my opinion you are. You have my sympathy and you, your volunteers and your paid officers have my greatest support. However, the question is: how is the CFS expected to deliver its services when its funding, in real terms, has gone backwards?

**Mr NETTLETON:** The CFS funding situation is exceptionally tight. One of a number of reasons for that is that we have taken on new business that has resulted from, for instance, the 2009 Victorian bushfires royal commission. Our business has now moved more into information operations as well as firefighting operations, so there has been pressure on the CFS budget to meet the requirements of getting modern information technology solutions out to people—like smartphone apps, webpages, Facebook, Twitter.

We have also taken into account recommendations from other inquiries in Western Australia, Tasmania and elsewhere and implemented those. So all those implementations of recommendations from interstate inquiries, and the change of business, have placed quite a considerable pressure on the CFS budget.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The other thing—and just to concur with what the Chief Officer has said, and they do an excellent job—is that if there were a major fire of some sort the government does make a supplementary allocation available to the service involved. For example, I think there was an additional \$7.2 million this year for the fire season we had in the last 12 months.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Let's hope we do not have those campaign fires again this year. Regarding emergency services community safety issues, and Budget Paper 4, volume 2, page 64, have you considered or implemented any of the recommendations of the report of the Select Committee on Community Safety and Emergency Services in South Australia?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You are referring to the Cherryville matters?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes; and their other recommendations, which are wide ranging—including implementing my fire and emergency services volunteer charter, which I thought was a very good recommendation.

**Mr NETTLETON:** The recommendations, I recall from the select committee, were in relation to a range of things; Cherryville was added subsequent to the initial terms of reference. The recommendations that came out were that when it comes to the declaration of a fire danger period, and the cessation of a fire danger period, we involve the bushfire management committees but we give those bushfire management committees better tools with which to determine what recommendations they will make to the CFS Chief Officer.

Each of the nine bushfire management committees has previously made recommendations to the CFS Chief Officer on the start dates for fire danger seasons and for the cessation of fire danger seasons. What we have done is implement a matrix arrangement so that the members of the respective bushfire management committees can make decisions which are consistent across the state. That was one of the issues that was discovered during the select committee.

One of the other areas recommended was that outside the fire danger season we know that permits are not required to be issued for burn offs, but that a code of practice be established for people who burn off outside the fire danger season. That code of practice is being developed under the auspices of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** On those recommendations, there are a couple, in particular, regarding the establishment of a task force to remove barriers to volunteering, and certainly the cost of

screening. On the cost of screening of volunteers, is there an MOU between the CFS and DCSI about covering the costs of screening for volunteers?

**Mr NETTLETON:** No, there is not. When volunteers join the service, the screening is conducted by SAFECOM through the Volunteer Services Branch.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It does not cost volunteers anything at the moment; a \$10 cost was mentioned to me at some stage.

**Mr NETTLETON:** I am not sure of the cost, but my understanding is that it is picked up by SAFECOM.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** SAFECOM pick up that cost, whatever the cost is, in terms of processing volunteers checks.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So there would be no extra increase, or nothing coming out of the budget for screening costs?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I understand that you need to speak to minister Bettison, who is responsible for that area. I understand there are some announcements—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** But the budget bottom line will be in the emergency services; that is why I am asking you. Will it affect the budget of the emergency services?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Not that we have been advised at this point.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I know that for some of the NGOs in disabilities it is a quarter of a million dollars extra.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** You raised that question this morning, yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** It is horrendous, so I do not want to see that overlapping into emergency services. There were some issues around the funding of firebombing aircraft for rapid deployment at short notice outside the fire danger season. What has happened there? What agreements have been entered into? Have any protocols changed, anything like that?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We had this discussion last week with the chief, and he can elaborate further.

**Mr NETTLETON:** The CFS obtains its firebombing and fire reconnaissance aircraft through the National Aerial Firefighting Centre. At the end of last financial year, the national contracts expired. The CFS has been involved with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre assessing a worldwide tender, and the aircraft we used last summer was the first year of the new contract. It is a three-year contract with the option of two one-year extensions, so it could possibly be five years. All the aircraft we operated last year and will operate next year and the year after have been procured under the NAFC arrangements.

The NAFC arrangements call for what is known within the contract as a 'service period'. The service period is 84 days, which equate to three months. We bring aircraft on; once again, a recommendation from the select committee was for a matrix to assess how to bring aircraft on. We do not bring all the aircraft on at once and we do not let them all leave at once. As the season develops, we will progressively bring on aircraft over time. Typically, Eyre Peninsula gets the first water bombers because that area comes into the fire danger season first, and we gradually build up the fleet. The difficult part in assessing when to bring the aircraft on and when to end them—the shoulders of the season—is quite a tricky process. Once all the aircraft are in place, that is good and we have it sorted.

In the case of the 10 fixed-wing water bombers, the Air Tractors, we have two at Port Lincoln, two at Mount Gambier, six in the Mount Lofty Ranges, and quite obviously we step up the Mount Lofty Ranges as the season progresses in towards summer. We operate those aircraft in pairs; we found that the best way to operate them is in pairs. It is not an easy, cut-and-dried answer. We extend the season if necessary at the tail end of the fire danger season, and we have done that for the last two or three years. We can also bring aircraft on early if the season comes on more quickly. We have arrangements in place within the contract to be able to bring the season forward, and we have



provisions within the contract to extend the season at the back end. That is during the agreed 84-day service period.

The contract also has provisions to bring aircraft on outside the 84-day period. If I needed a water bomber today—I am not sure I would want one for your fire, Mr McFetridge—there are provisions in the contract to bring a water bomber on. The conditions of the contract allow the bomber to come on at the same rate as if it had come on during that 84-day period, and the conditions are that the aircraft has to be available, the aircraft has to be configured for firebombing because the fixed-wing aircraft are used for other purposes, and a pilot who is currently qualified as a firebombing pilot needs to be available. So, there are number of things that need to line up.

There is no expectation on the contractor's behalf that he will have an aircraft sitting on a strip somewhere with a pilot ready to go outside that 84-day period or the agreed extensions that we ask for. When we do an extension of aircraft or when we bring the season forward to the use of aircraft we make that decision based on operational grounds. We advise the minister to advise Treasury that there will be additional costs associated with those extensions.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** If I can just add: in terms of the advice which the Chief has already mentioned, often it is very hard to predict way ahead what they may be, in terms of start and ending, but the government would make money available if there was a period of time that had to be extended.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, minister, has the fire danger season working group reported yet, and if so what recommendations have they made?

**Mr NETTLETON:** The fire danger season, are you referring to the subcommittee that was formed—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Yes.

**Mr NETTLETON:** —from the select committee recommendations? That was formed as a small subcommittee of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee that was formed. That committee has met and that committee has finished the work that was assigned to it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Are there any recommendations from that subcommittee?

**Mr NETTLETON:** The recommendations from that subcommittee were that we use a consistent matrix assessment process for all fire danger districts across the state for the start and the ending of the fire danger season, that we use the same matrix for the determination of whether we bring aircraft on at the start and where we release the aircraft at the end of the fire danger season, and the other one was essentially the guide for burning off outside the fire danger season.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** In the annual report it says that a draft report will be prepared for consideration by the Minister for Emergency Services. You have not seen that report yet?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No. Sorry, I was not the minister at the time the report was prepared.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I will let you off on that one. On the thermal imaging cameras, Budget Paper 6, page 44, how many cameras will be bought and will they be bought before the next fire season starts, and is there a budget for training in their use and care?

**Mr NETTLETON:** In this year's budget there is an allocation of \$120,000 for additional thermal imaging cameras to be bought for the CFS. The intent with the thermal imaging cameras is we hope, it is our desire, to be able to purchase two additional thermal imaging cameras per region. Of course, we have not gone to the market yet so we do not know what the cost of each individual camera is. The reason for that is there are various quality thermal imaging cameras and a thermal imaging camera that may be suited for an urban building type environment may not be the best thermal imaging camera for a rural fire environment. We have based the estimate on a camera of a particular sum but we will obviously wait until we go to the market and see what price the market can deliver a number of cameras for us.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Nettleton. I hope it is the intention that every brigade has one camera at least because I have personal experience in how much they do save you in time and effort. Moving on: operational preparedness targets, Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 88, SACAD

and intercad. Is SACAD working as designed, with version 9.3 about to be implemented? I will just give the committee some personal experiences with SACAD. Just recently, I was part of the Meadows brigade attending a road crash rescue at Paris Creek, which is between Meadows and Strathalbyn. The Echunga brigade, which is north of Meadows, was turned out instead of the Macclesfield brigade, being just around the corner, or even the road crash rescue SES from Strathalbyn.

Then, Sunday week ago, there was a car versus a cyclist on Brookman Road, just near our property. A helicopter landing was required and instead of calling the Meadows CFS, which is just around the corner, Strathalbyn SES was called. I have many anecdotes of where SACAD is still providing inappropriate responses. People do not care what colour the truck or the uniform is, they just want somebody there, and I can understand that it needs to work. So, how is it working now? Are these just isolated incidents that I am a victim of, or that the brigade is a victim of? So, is SACAD working as designed, with version 9.3 about to be implemented?

**Mr NETTLETON:** What you have described are a number of isolated cases. In SACAD, if there is a motor vehicle accident it should dispatch two resources: one resource that has a rescue capability and a separate resource that provides for firefighting capabilities. The dispatch of resources depends on the location that the call-taker identifies from the caller's information where the incident is. It is quite common that the caller does not know exactly where they are, and so discussions between the call-taker and the caller may well result in the accident being somewhere further down the road or elsewhere, which may cause a different dispatch pattern to occur.

More generally, though, in relation to SACAD, I would have to say overall SACAD has given the CFS, particularly during the fire danger season, the capacity to dispatch multiple resources much, much quicker than it would have done in the past. We have found that, with the escalating model within SACAD, particularly during days of total fire ban, the first call sees four trucks dispatched instantaneously through the paging system. As soon as the incident is upgraded there are another four, and it just cascades.

I have found that over the last two summer fire danger seasons it has made it much, much quicker to get resources on the road. As for particular incidents, I do not have the details of the incidents you are referring to, so it is fairly difficult for me to say whether it is working in that particular area. A lot of it depends on where the call-taker thinks the incident occurs.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I will just invite Mr Grant Lupton, the MFS Chief, to add to that answer as well.

**Mr LUPTON:** Thank you, minister, and I will just respond to the honourable member's question. The first one, about the implementation of the SACAD 9.3: that is scheduled for November of this year to come into effect. As far as—and you mentioned personal experience and also lots of anecdotal issues raised around this—clearly those are matters that we want to know about and respond to and rectify as needed. To deal with that, we established the SACAD management committee, which is a cross-sector committee of CFS, MFS and SES representatives. That provides a mechanism for any issue to be fed into the system and documented and logged, and it stays in the system until there has been an adequate response. So, the process and structure is there.

When we had the initial transition to a single call-receive dispatch there were many issues, as you would expect, and a lot of them were anecdotal, but we worked through them in a systematic process. We are at a point now and, as the honourable member would understand, any system is only as good as the data that is put into it. It relies on pre-programmed data, but it also needs to be continually refined and improved. So, tracking issues, such as you have mentioned recently around Macclesfield, are the types of things we need to know about.

I certainly have the assurance that everything that comes to the SACAD management committee is logged, addressed and feedback is provided back to the respondent, but we have to have that information come forth. I believe there is a robust structure in place. I believe the enhancements that will be brought in November 2014 will add to it, but I also encourage any matters that arise to get brought up in that committee so that we can actually log them, deal with them and rectify them where necessary.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Lupton. I will certainly encourage the volunteers to send them to me and I can forward them on to the minister. I had another example: there was a road crash rescue I think it was almost outside of the Tea Tree Gully CFS and MFS responded to that. It seems nuts, but anyway, we will get through it.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** That is one of the things that have been raised during the reform process and it is one of the things we will take on board to see how we can actually improve it.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, minister. Just back to the CFS workers' compensation fund, who manages the CFS workers' compensation fund? If there is compensation, is it SAFECOM?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Do they maintain a similar system to WorkCover where there is a fund and unfunded liabilities? If so, what is the current status of the workers compensation scheme? Is there a fund separated for it? Do the services pay a levy like a self insurer would?

**Mr PLACE:** SAFECOM manages the workers compensation on behalf of all the three agencies. In the balance sheet there is a liability cover and an amount for the agencies to spend on actual costs during the year. So, the liability changes with the actual costs. I am not sure what your question is.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** The workers compensation fund has a \$1.2 billion unfunded liability on the last figures I am aware of. Is there a situation where the state government's unfunded liability for their workers compensation is about \$600 million? I imagine that emergency services is part of that. Is a figure available that shows what the potential liability is, whether it is funded or unfunded?

**Mr PLACE:** We are part of the self-insured scheme, as many government departments are. I do not have the figures, but I could probably find them for you, but there is a liability amount for each agency that is assessed at the end of each year actuarially and adjusted accordingly. The bottom line pretty much for our agencies is that the liability is shown, they spend what they spend and the liability is adjusted accordingly. I do not have the exact numbers here, but the good news is that in the last few years our actual cost of injuries has declined.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So just to be clear—I hope I am not missing something here—the agencies contribute—pay a levy—so there is a fund at the moment and it is fully funded?

**Mr PLACE:** In terms of budget we pay the amount we have to pay to cover the costs, and there is a liability noted on the balance sheet of what the amount is, and the agencies pay the annual costs of their injuries, and section 48s, 49s, etc. Our liability is what the government actuary decides it is, and the agencies are budgeted to pay for the injuries. It is a complicated accounting system, but at the end of the day our funds are covered. We do not have an unfunded liability.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We will get that information for you and translated to show what is the extended liability and how it is covered.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Certainly with the issues over cancer cover. One last question on the CFS, before whizzing on to the MFS. I do not want Mr Beattie to miss out either. I refer to emergency services capital works, Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 65. Will the minister provide at a later stage, or briefly now, the capital works projects that have been undertaken which comprised the \$12.328 million expenditure in 2014, and is Rockleigh fire station one of them?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Yes, Rockleigh is. I spoke to those volunteers at Murray Bridge.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Excellent news.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** We actually found a site in the Mid Murray Council area, from recollection, and we gave an assurance that it will be built this financial year, if I remember correctly. There is an issue of land tenure.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** We might get that list at some other stage if it can be provided to the committee. I have one last question about the \$12.328 million for CFS equipment. In 2012 the estimates committee on emergency services was told that the automatic vehicle location system for the CFS was at the stage of a business case being prepared. My notes here say that the business

case was complete. It was first announced in March 2010, over four years ago, so where is the automated vehicle location system, which was announced as a safety issue for CFS volunteers?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** While it is a very worthwhile project, other priorities have come up, and money has been spent on other things within the sector.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So, the business case did not stack up?

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, I said it was priorities. A business case can stack up, but then other things happen; you cannot anticipate a whole range of other major incidents and other priorities. That is one of the things which remain on the agenda, to be considered at budget times, and certainly one which we consider as part of the possibility with the reinvestments of any savings from the reform process. We will discuss that with the sector to see what the priorities are once we identify some savings and how they want to reinvest them.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Interesting. MFS—Mr Lupton is with us already; thank you, and thank you Mr Nettleton. The net cost of services—Budget Paper 4, Volume 2, page 81. Once again, minister, how does the government expect the MFS to continue to provide their excellent service and protect South Australians when their funding has actually gone backwards in real terms? There has been a \$1.7 million reduction on \$119 million, which is a 1.4 per cent increase. It is really asking too much of our fire services to do more with less.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I do not think it is a linear relationship between how you spend money and what you achieve; there is a whole range of different things which happen.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I do not think you are wasting it at the moment, quite honestly.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Sorry?

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I do not think anybody would be accusing you of wasting that at the moment—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** I was not saying that—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** —or spending frugally.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, I did not suggest that either. In fact, all the chiefs have made it very clear to me that given the current structural arrangements, there are no additional savings to be found. That is why you do not actually say, 'Well, how do we what we do now even better?' We say 'How do we actually do the business differently?' and that is why the chiefs, the volunteer sector and the unions have been working with me, because we all acknowledge that resources are required in different places. We need to free up resources in other places to—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** So you are not going to have three—

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** Let me finish. We have to free up resources from other places. No, we will have three services on the ground—I know where you are going with this question. I have given a commitment of three services on the ground. If there is a change in—

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I was going to say 'three fires on a truck'.

*The Hon. P. Caica interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** No, we are not cutting back services, and I have given a commitment about frontline services.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No, we do not want that, Paul.

*The Hon. P. Caica interjecting:*

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The Chief Officer can tell you how he works very creatively with his sector to deliver great service to South Australia.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I know, because it is evident every day. Mr Lupton, I must say I do have to read the omnibus questions in—

**The CHAIR:** Well, you have left yourself about one minute and 30 seconds, so answer the questions; we are interested in the answer now.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** He can do it, trust me. I will trust Mr Lupton to be very brief.

**The CHAIR:** No, why should he?

**Mr LUPTON:** My answer is yes.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Thank you, Mr Lupton. Mr Beattie, I am so sorry but we have run out of time. I do appreciate the fact the government—

**The CHAIR:** You were lured here under false pretences.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I appreciate the work that all of our chiefs do in these very tight budgetary times.

**The CHAIR:** Get on with the omnibus.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** I will read the omnibus questions in. Hansard, you do have these already, so it will not matter how fast I read them or how slowly I read them.

**The CHAIR:** It matters to me, though.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** Budget estimates 2014-15 estimates committee omnibus questions:

1. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on consultants and contractors above \$10,000 in 2013-14 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 2013-14, please provide the number of public servants broken down into heads and FTEs 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 the financial year 2013-14, for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, what underspending on projects and programs (1) was and (2) was not approved by cabinet for carryover expenditure in 2014-15?

4. Between 30 June 2013 and 30 June 2014, 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 budget of all grant programs administered by all departments and agencies reporting to the minister and, for 2013-14, 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 grant 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 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18?

7. What is the title and total employment cost of each individual staff member in the minister's office as at 30 June 2014, including all departmental employees seconded to ministerial offices and ministerial liaison officers? Mr Beattie, a question for you, as I have—

**Mr BEATTIE:** Thirty seconds left.

**The Hon. A. PICCOLO:** The member for Morphett is actually an occupational health and safety risk to our Hansard people.

**Dr McFETRIDGE:** No, no; I am very kind to them. They know I provide copious notes for them. Once again, how is the SES supposed to do more with less? That is the bottom line of that question. It is a rhetorical question. I thank the chiefs for their time and the officers for all the time

and effort they put into these estimates committees. Thank you very much indeed. I wish you all well for the coming fire season. Stay safe at all times. Thank you.

**The CHAIR:** We reiterate those sentiments. There being no further questions, I declare the consideration of the proposed payments concluded.

At 17:01 the committee adjourned until Tuesday 22 July 2014 at 09:00.