

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 22 September 1982

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

Chairman:

Mr E. K. Russack

Members:

Mr R. K. Abbott
 Dr B. Billard
 Mr Max Brown
 Mr G. J. Crafter
 Mr I. P. Lewis
 Mr J. Mathwin
 Mr K. H. Plunkett
 Mr W. A. Rodda

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: The minutes of yesterday's proceedings have been distributed. Unless there are any objections, I will sign them as being correct.

Community Welfare, \$30 040 000

Witness:

The Hon. J. C. Burdett, Minister of Community Welfare and Minister of Consumer Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr I. S. Cox, Director-General, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr C. E. M. Harris, Deputy Director-General, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr W. Beattie, Director, Resource Services Division, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr G. Billett, Senior Finance Officer, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr C. Middleton, Senior Personnel Officer, Department for Community Welfare.

Mrs Leah Mann, Director, Community and Planning Services, Department for Community Welfare.

Ms W. Heath, Acting Adviser on Women and Welfare, Department for Community Welfare.

The CHAIRMAN: Before calling for questions, I point out that consideration of this line is in Parliamentary Paper No. 9, Estimates of Payments, at pages 84 to 86 inclusive. Are there any questions?

Mr CRAFTER: In introducing consideration of these lines today, I would like to make some brief comments. We have been presented in the community welfare area with a Budget that is a most depressing expose of the Government's response to the increasing needs of the community for services that are traditionally provided by Government and, in particular, by the Department for Community Welfare. I would like to place on record what I consider to be some of the more important assessments of the Government's continuing policy to reduce expenditure in the community welfare area. The department's figures show an increase in total expenditure of some 6.6 per cent. If this is accepted, it represents a fall of 4.8 per cent in real terms.

I suggest to the Committee that this figure is misleading and does not allow comparison with the annual reports to Parliament by the department and the Auditor-General. It does not allow for income to be received; nor does it discount

inter-agency support services not paid for, so it is an inflated figure. If these two factors are allowed for, the department's net operating cost can be calculated.

For the purposes of comparison, I will quote figures which show that what I am saying is correct for the years 1981-82 and 1982-83. I suggest that a more accurate assessment of the provisional delivery of welfare services becomes apparent when one excludes that category of grants and concessions. I seek leave to insert in *Hansard*, without my reading it, a table which shows that, when grants and exemptions have been included, there has been a change of 13.14 per cent in real terms in welfare expenditure in this State over those two financial years.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: May I see the table before it is incorporated?

Mr LEWIS: I will not be happy to agree to leave being granted without seeing the table.

Mr CRAFTER: Then I will read the table to the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: When leave is sought to incorporate a document, it is not essential that every member should see that statistical information before leave is granted. So far as the Committee is concerned, it is not necessary (or perhaps appropriate) that the Minister should be involved in the Committee's deliberations to such a degree. On this occasion, the member for Norwood having suggested that he will read the table, I think that he should do so.

Mr CRAFTER: I have several other tables that I was going to seek to have inserted. I will have those photocopied and copies supplied to Committee members.

The CHAIRMAN: It would be helpful if the honourable member did that.

Mr RODDA: I rise on a point of order. You have just ruled, Mr Chairman, that the Minister should not be involved too deeply in the Committee's deliberations. If the honourable member's documents are photocopied and submitted for consideration by the Committee, will the Minister be supplied with a copy?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes, the Minister can have a copy. I point out that the member for Norwood is making a statement and that an opportunity will be given to the Minister to reply or to make a statement, later.

Mr CRAFTER: If grants and concessions are included in departmental expenditure figures, the apparent percentage change is an increase in expenditure of 3.94 per cent and a change in real terms of minus 7.46 per cent. However, where grants and concessions are excluded from departmental expenditure, there is a decrease of minus 1.74 per cent. That is the apparent change, the change in real terms in welfare expenditure being minus 13.14 per cent. Those figures give a more accurate assessment of the real decrease in welfare expenditure in this Budget.

I will give some examples of this. I refer, for example, to the Budget advice service. Information given at page 15 of the yellow book shows an increase of 45 per cent in demand in the community for this service. Yet the increase in the Budget allocation is only 1.87 per cent, a decline of 9.53 per cent in real terms. On page 31 of the yellow book there is acknowledgement of the need for welfare services for Aboriginals, but funding is cut by 12.8 per cent, or 24.1 per cent in real terms. There is an absolute fall of 5.4 per cent, or 16.8 per cent in real terms, in funds allocated to welfare services for handicapped persons. Turning to the area of administrative and clerical support in the department, pages 72 and 74 of the yellow book detail a cut of some \$620 000 under the 'Administrative Services' heading.

There is reference to a lower demand for vehicles, and this concerns me with respect to the delivery of services; it is also stated that fewer vehicles will need replacement. More explanation of that is needed. I realise that the central

purchasing authority now exists in relation to motor vehicles. The allocation for staff development is down in actual terms by 16.3 per cent, and by 27.7 per cent in real terms. On the matter of overall departmental expenditure, I have prepared a table for the years 1976-77 to the proposed budget for the year 1982-83, and seek leave to incorporate it. I will not ask questions on this until it has been circulated.

The **CHAIRMAN**: At this stage I will make some further clarification. When I mentioned the Minister a few minutes ago, I wanted to say that the Minister had a right to table documents, if he wished, and to comment on them. It was just a matter of his obtaining leave. That is in the hands of the Committee members. In addition, Sessional Orders provide that this Committee will be conducted closely to the way in which a committee of the Whole House is conducted. Therefore, it is normal if a member wishes to incorporate a statistical table in *Hansard* that the member is asked to give the assurance that it is statistical; then leave is normally granted. The member for Norwood again has assured the Committee that the table is purely statistical, and has sought leave to have it incorporated.

Leave granted.

Departmental Expenditure

The following tables compare total expenditure over the past few years. The first shows expenditure as reported by the department, while the second includes the grants and concessions and other items included by the Auditor-General.

Year	Total expenditure \$'000 (excluding grants/concess.)	% change	% change in real terms
1976-77	23 336		
1977-78	28 548	+22.33	+12.43
1978-79	30 620	+ 7.26	- 0.14
1979-80	31 400	+ 2.55	- 7.55
1980-81	28 834	- 8.17	-17.37
1981-82	29 752	+ 3.18	- 7.32
1982-83 proposed	29 234	- 1.74	-13.14

Over the period 30 June 1979 to 30 June 1982 spending fell by 35.69 per cent in real terms. If the 1982-83 estimates are accepted, the real fall from the 1978-79 levels would be 52.54 per cent.

Year	Total expenditure \$'000 (including grants/concess.)	% change	% change in real terms
1976-77	30 300	+24.76	
1977-78	37 500	+23.76	+13.86
1978-79	44 701	+19.20	+11.80
1979-80	44 827	+ 0.28	- 9.82
1980-81	43 934	- 1.99	-11.19
1981-82	46 780	+ 6.48	- 4.02
1982-83 proposed	48 621	+ 3.94	- 7.46

During the period 30 June 1979 to 30 June 1982, expenditure classified in this way fell by 20.70 per cent in real terms. The real fall from 1979 would be 31.43 per cent if the current estimates are adopted.

Mr CRAFTER: The second table that I have prepared includes the grants and concessions, as well as other items included by the Auditor-General. I refer also in these introductory comments to departmental staffing, because this is probably the area that raises the most serious concern in my mind with regard to the department's ability to deliver fundamental services that are associated traditionally with the role of government in the States. We see that in the year ended 30 June 1979 the full-time equivalent of 1 353 staff were employed by the department. This has reduced

steadily to the proposed staff level of 1 243 at the end of this financial year, that is, a reduction of 110 persons within the employ of the department. However, it is estimated that some 180 workers in the department are affected by this steady and purposeful reduction of the work force.

I know that it is the Government's policy that there be substantially smaller government. Indeed, statements made by the Premier over a long period of time have indicated that that programme has been implemented with great gusto. I would like to hear whether the Minister is satisfied that his department has played its part satisfactorily in that overall reduction of the public sector, or whether his department should be excluded from the main thrust, because, given the staff reduction of 110 full-time equivalent persons, the Department for Community Welfare, with its size, might be thought to have borne a substantial brunt of that Government programme.

In addition, given that during the Budget Estimates Committee debate last year the Minister indicated that perhaps staff reductions were only a passing phase and that there would be a possibility in future of lifting staff ceilings and, indeed, of further additional employment within that department, I would seek some guidance from the Minister on that general downward thrust (as I would see it) in staffing expenditure and, I suggest, as a consequence, in the delivery of services to the South Australian community.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I would first say that there is no point in beating around the bush. This Budget is a tight Budget in all areas—not only community welfare but also in building roads and in everything else. It is a time of economic restraint in the whole community. I believe that the Government has successfully applied its mind to the way in which this kind of restraint ought to be exercised. The Department for Community Welfare has certainly not been singled out for any special treatment in this regard. It compares favourably with departments in other countries in the world where, when there have been economic problems, welfare services have been singled out for reduction. That has not happened here. Broadly speaking, we have been asked to exercise restraint in the same way as other departments.

The allocation of \$30 040 000 for departmental operating expenses, plus the same share of the round sum allowance for wage and salary award increases as applied last year (which was \$1 419 000), during the 1982-83 Budget year, would give an increase of 5.7 per cent. With the internal adjustments (which I will detail in a moment), taken into account, that figure represents an increase of approximately 8 per cent over 1981-82. I would suggest that, in a time of financial difficulty and budgetary restraint (which is necessary and responsible), an 8 per cent increase is a very responsible and reasonable one. I acknowledge, of course, that we are not debating the 'Miscellaneous' line at this time but rather the departmental line. However, I mention in passing, with a view to discussing it later, that the increase in the 'Miscellaneous' line is 22 per cent. I mention that, taking into account the internal adjustments, the increase is 8 per cent. I will detail those adjustments.

The major funding increases are as follows: to rationalise children's payments (that is, foster care, private care, intensive neighbourhood care, voluntary homes, and so on), the rates will be reviewed and adjusted from 1 July each year in line with c.p.i. movements. An additional \$291 000 is being provided for this purpose in 1982-83, an increase of 9.1 per cent. Secondly, the general operating areas, which have been labelled 'Contingencies' of the department, have been increased by 4 per cent in line with general Government policy. Thirdly, funds for the purchase of motor vehicles were referred to by the member for Norwood, and Mr Beattie will take up the matter later. The finance will now

be provided through the Department of Services and Supply from capital funds. The amount of \$299 000 has been provided for this purpose in 1982-83. Funds for emergency financial assistance have been increased by \$44 000 up to \$544 000 in 1982-83, an increase of 8.8 per cent. I will elaborate on that matter. It was stated by the member for Norwood that in some regions (and we are a highly decentralised department), we had problems towards the end of the last financial year.

When I appeared before this Committee the previous year, I said that if there were problems with emergency financial assistance (and this is particularly a demand area, of course, as most of the services offered by the Department for Community Welfare are), they would arise because it is very difficult to know what the demand is going to be. So, very often budgeting is simply an accounting figure: one has to wait and see what the demand is. In regard to both of my portfolios, community welfare and consumer affairs, one cannot control the demand, so one has to respond to the demand.

What I said last year was that, if I found that the emergency financial assistance was falling below what was needed, I would go back to the Budget Review Committee, and I did, and received an extra allocation of \$50 000 which, in the event, was not needed in the latter part of that financial year.

It is a feature of this department that one has to respond to the demands. Emergency financial assistance is increased in this way: I applied to the Budget Review Committee, it was approved by Cabinet and implemented by the executive of the department. This is one of the few departments, I suspect, where the executive determines the policy, subject, of course, to what the Minister might say but, broadly speaking, the executive does determine the policy of the department. Therefore, it is not a Government matter: it is a matter for the department at senior level. Finally, there was only one month when the new emergency financial assistance commitments, in terms of money, had any operation, and that was the last month of the financial year. In that month it did, in fact, cost an extra \$2 000.

So, the way that this Budget was put together for emergency financial assistance was to take last year, add 4 per cent for contingencies (which is standard), and add \$2 000 a month, namely, \$24 000. That is the way that we dealt with that. In these adjustments, I have mentioned the increases, and I now mention the decreases: first, the Jellicoe Ward at the Magill Home, \$271 000. The salaries of the staff who are affected by the closure and who are awaiting placement will be covered by additional funds supplied by Treasury, so that these people's salaries will not come within our area of funding at all: they will be funded by additional funding from Treasury.

Secondly, the member for Norwood mentioned a reduction in regard to the care of Aborigines. There is a special reason for that. In regard to the Wami Kata Home for Aged Aborigines, it was \$130 000. This has been transferred to the Aboriginal community and is separately funded. Therefore, that has come out of our funding, but the service is still being supplied. There has been no cut in service whatever, but we do not fund it any more. It has been transferred and is Federally funded, which was always the case. So, it does not go through our lines.

Thirdly, this department has been required to reduce its operating budget by \$195 000 in 1982-83. A strategy to achieve this, not for budgetary reasons but because it was in accordance with the policy of succeeding Governments over the past 10 years, of deinstitutionalisation, was to close Colton Cottage and to close the Northern Admission Unit.

I repeat, this was not done for budgetary reasons; it is something that has occurred over the last 10 years and my

Director-General, Mr Cox, has been most involved in it. It has been the belief of successive Governments and the department that most people can be best cared for by keeping them away from institutional care and keeping them in the community. Therefore, we believe that the handicapped people in Colton Cottage and the disturbed people in the Northern Admission Unit can be best cared for by placing them back in the community in foster care or something similar.

In relation to the admission units, the accommodation available is grossly under-utilised. I think it is true that of the admission units available to the department only about 50 per cent of bed space is taken up. Obviously, that is not practical and it is not reasonable. Having regard to the department's general policy in relation to institutions, it seemed sensible to close some of the units. Our strategy for meeting the budget was that we should close Colton Cottage and the Northern Admission Unit, but not with a budgetary motive. If we had been able to do that on 1 July we would have been able to meet the budget cuts supplied to the department.

Unfortunately, we are in a confrontation or dispute situation with the Public Service Association over the closure of Colton Cottage and the Northern Admission Unit. As I have said, the closure of these two units was suggested with the best of motives. In fact, Colton Cottage will be closed in the middle of next month; that has been agreed to by the P.S.A. However, we have agreed to keep open the Northern Admission Unit for a period yet to be determined because of the dispute situation. Our strategy for meeting the budget was destroyed because of this dispute. Therefore, I had to look at the possibility of cutting the number of field staff, which is something that I did not do last year and it is something that I do not want to do now.

I have had discussions with the Chairman and with the appropriate Treasury authority, the Budget Review Committee, about the possibility of reducing the number of field staff. I have been authorised to say that at present I do not intend to reduce the number of field staff. I have been supported in continuing to maintain the number of field staff at the present level. It is obvious from the Budget figures that this will lead to an over-run and I will exceed the Budget allocation for my department. Therefore, it has been agreed that, when this occurs and the amount over-spent is evaluated, I will go back to the Budget Review Committee for further discussions with the Treasury. I am authorised to say that at present I do not intend to reduce the number of field staff.

In relation to the other matter raised by the member about budget advice, I point out that the Government strongly supports the Budget Advice Service and we do not intend to cut this service. In fact, since the Budget figures were put together there has been an increase in salaries back-dated to 1 January 1982. Those increases were approved by Cabinet in July 1982. This increase amounts to \$11 000 in a full year and represents a substantial percentage increase of 11.87 per cent. Therefore, there will not be a reduction, but an increase. This increase will be met from the round sum allowance. Therefore, this service will not be cut; it will be increased.

There was an increase in new clients of 24.6 per cent to 2 130 in 1981-82, compared with 1 710 for the previous financial year. I have already told the honourable member that in both of my departments we must rely very much on the demand from the public. I assure the honourable member that all demands from the public will be met. When members of the public seek service from the Budget Advice Service they will receive it.

The difficulty in relation to the Budget is to know what the level of demand will be. It is very difficult to know who

will approach us, how many people will approach us and how many will not. The Budget has been put together in the best possible way. The department gives the promise that it has no control over this expenditure—whether there are more or less people who seek assistance from the Budget Advice Service or from other areas of the Budget. In relation to community welfare, we do not know how many people will seek counselling or emergency financial assistance services. We make the best estimate possible, and that is reflected in the Budget. The member referred particularly to the Budget Advice Service; I assure him that those who seek advice from that service will receive it. I hope that more people approach this service earlier.

The problem with this area has not been with providing sufficient money or with providing budget advisers. I think only three full-time staff were engaged by this service and about 50 part-time and contract advisers. The problem is that not enough people come to us. Most of the people who seek budget advice do so too late. If the member for Norwood can use his influence to get people to come to us earlier we will be delighted. Mr Cox will expand on my remarks and Mr Beattie will then comment about individual areas.

Mr Cox: In relation to the Budget Advice Service, approximately four hours per person is spent on those who seek that service. Payment is made on an hourly rate. There has been no reduction in salaries and no decision has been taken to reduce the salary component bill. In fact, it has been increased by 11 per cent. The budget advice required is unevenly distributed throughout the State. That is an interesting situation. For example, Mount Gambier and some of the southern areas have a higher take-up rate. In fact, the executive looked at this yesterday.

I think the member referred to departmental expenditure in relation to the tables. The reduction shown in the tables between 1979 and 1980 and between 1980 and 1981 of about \$2 600 000 relates to the Commonwealth taking up supporting parent benefits over the first six months. I have asked for an accurate figure to be provided. Once that figure is taken into account it distorts the percentage change indicated by the document referred to by the honourable member. In relation to staffing statistics, the member referred to 1 353 for 1979-80.

There was a figure in the Budget papers of 1 243 staff members, and the honourable member asked what happened to them. The situation is that there are 65 fewer staff members. They have come from the accounts branch and financial assistance section because of a reduction in work for supporting parents. Coinciding with that was a change in family maintenance, which meant that people who used to come to us directly with supporting parents benefits inquiries do not now come to the department. That resulted in a further reduction of four staff members, and the executive branch of the department has had a reduction of two.

There has been a reduction of three staff in the personnel industrial affairs and relations section of the department. The staff number there was reduced because there was less movement of staff and thus less need there. There are 20 positions which relate to some of last year's cuts. That makes a total of 65. The positions on which we decided and which were debated here last year related to some of the consultants and residential care workers whom we did not need. What you have done with the 1 242 Budget papers does not include people on workers' compensation or leave, and that alteration to the figure makes it 1 253. The number of staff to be considered this year has been dealt with by the Minister.

Mr Beattie: I would like to comment on motor vehicle expenditure for 1982-83. The department has a motor vehicle fleet of 257 vehicles, and there have been a number of changes in the way in which that fleet has been administered.

The first major change was the extending of vehicle life from two years to 2½ years and from 40 000 kms to 50 000 kms. This change resulted in our having to reschedule our replacement programme considerably between last year and this year. There has also been a 10 per cent reduction in expenditure on the replacement programme, which means that, instead of reducing the number of vehicles, we are purchasing slightly smaller vehicles.

Another policy decision has been made that any specialist vehicles will be kept and not replaced until they are beyond economic repair. Therefore, we are not replacing some of our specialist vehicles in the country. We have also contributed to a central car pool of vehicles for the city square mile area. That has resulted in a reduction in the replacement programme for this year. However, that replacement programme is now based on a 50 000 km, 2½-year cycle, so it will probably increase during the next financial year.

Mr CRAFTER: I did not hear the Minister delineate the areas from which the staff would come in the current financial year. Last year the Minister provided a list of staff and the areas from which they were to come.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I think that 17.5 positions will be cut, but I will ask Mr Beattie to delineate those positions in a moment. I repeat what I said before: I do not intend to cut field staff numbers. We had the requirements of the Budget to meet in financial terms, and certain positions had to be lost. We were able to do this if we put into effect the closure of Colton Cottage and the northern unit, which would have been in line with the deinstitutionalisation procedures that have been carried out by the Director-General, Mr Cox, since he has been in office. I think that this was one of the reasons why he was brought here.

Mr Cox's coming here was a very happy occasion. He was first sought by the Hall Government. At the time of the Government changeover, I think Mr King went to Victoria to see Mr Cox and decided that Mr Hall had made the right choice for Director-General. We are interested in deinstitutionalisation across the board. Keeping people out of institutions is a very important matter. Many young offenders, sick, aged and handicapped people are much better coped with from their point of view and from a community point of view if they are kept in the community. Colton Cottage and the northern admission unit were closed because we did not have the need to do this any more. The Colton Cottage people, the mildly retarded people, who were residents at the time, were much better suited to foster home care than they were to that kind of care. No other people were coming in, so the closure of Colton Cottage and the dispute that we have with the P.S.A. have been agreed.

I turn now to admission units. A total of three admission units is available at present. Only about 50 per cent of the places available are occupied, which is very inefficient. Our purpose was to remove this inefficient procedure. If we could have done that as from 1 July, we would have achieved our target in terms of money saved and positions lost. However, because of the dispute that arose with the P.S.A., we have not been able to do that, although we are working towards it. We can again close Colton Cottage, and the northern admission unit is still under review.

The point which I made to the honourable member before and which I now repeat is that, because my strategy had been destroyed, and because I was not able to put it into effect, I went back to the necessary authorities (to Treasury and to the Budget Review Committee) and said that I could not do this and that I did not want to lose field positions. That was agreed to; I was authorised to say that I have no present intention of cutting field staff and that I can consult further with the Budget Review Committee when I overrun, and that has been agreed to. I do not intend to cut field

staff. I will ask Mr Beattie to detail the 17.5 positions involved in the closure of Colton Cottage, the northern admission unit and Jellicoe ward.

Mr Beattie: The 17.5 positions mentioned are full-time equivalent positions. They will result from the closure of Colton Cottage, 2.5 positions, and another two staff will be transferred from Colton Cottage to Lochiel Park. We will also make a saving of six positions at the Central Northern Admission Unit, and the remaining two staff members will be transferred to the two other admission units. Another eight staff members will be saved from the closure of Jellicoe ward at Magill Home. One position will be saved by the transfer of the Huntingtons Chorea project to the Aboriginal Health Commission. That accounts for the 17.5 positions.

During the past financial year the department experienced considerable difficulty in recruiting, because the attrition rate reached close to 36 positions per month. To compensate for that, increased recruiting was undertaken. Because of the lead time involved, our recruiting was completed this financial year, and we went over our average staffing level by approximately eight positions. Those eight positions will be reduced during this year and will be managed by the department's manpower planning committee. They will be reduced without affecting field staff. Savings will primarily be made by delaying the filling of positions. Our attrition rate is at present running at 13 persons per month, so there is a considerable drop in the number of staff who are leaving the department.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee came to the understanding yesterday that three questions would be asked by each member. If the member for Norwood has only one question to round off, an indication can be given. However, as a general rule, three questions will be asked. Then, someone from my right will be given the opportunity, and vice versa, in progression.

Mr CRAFTER: I understand what the Minister is saying about the maintenance of delivery of services to the community, despite the various cuts that have been outlined. I am concerned about the cumulative effect of these cuts over a number of years. That is why I raised that question earlier. I noticed that last year in this Committee the Minister said:

The cuts were in the administrative, co-ordinating, and consultative areas, and I have said what they were.

That is also what he has said today. He continued:

I have also said, and I repeat, that we believe that at least in the short term those cuts will not result in any cut in services to the public, in any cut in delivery of welfare services to the people in the field, the people who are in need of welfare, and that is our concern.

Has that short term period arrived, or how much longer can the department sustain the staff reductions and still deliver those fundamental services?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I said today not that we were making more cuts in the administrative area (and, indeed, we are not) but that we are making cuts in areas where we probably should not be engaged, anyway, namely, in some areas of residential care, where children are better looked after in the community—in family situations, fostering situations, or whatever. I am not saying that we are making any more cuts in the administrative area, because we are not doing so.

I recognise very well the question raised by the member for Norwood, namely, how long we can sustain the cuts that have been made previously (not now) in the administrative area without adversely affecting the delivery of services. My estimation is that certainly we can make them for another 12 months. Although I do not want to say very much about the overall state of the economy, I can certainly see areas in which revenue available to the Government in the next financial year will be very much greater than it is during this financial year or previous financial years. I

support what I said before and what I was quoted correctly by the member for Norwood as having said before. I believe that the financial restraints on the South Australian Government are short-term because of Cooper Basin royalties and things of that sort. However, the time will come when much more money will be available—in the longer term, perhaps with Roxby Downs, and things of that sort. In the shorter term, one can see where more revenue will be available.

Although we have not this time gone on with the cuts in the administrative area, they are maintained. The cuts that I have suggested are in areas where it is not appropriate for residential care, anyway. I certainly take on board what the honourable member has said, and I agree that it would not be tolerable to continue for a long period the cuts that we have made in the administrative area, research, and so on. In order for the department to operate correctly, these things must continue and be done. In the research area we fortunately have been able to continue that. In the administration area, we have made cuts that could be reviewed if greater funds were made available.

So, my answer to the member for Norwood is that I am in complete sympathy with what he has said and I do not believe that the cuts that we have made in the administrative area are tolerable in the long term. However, I think that they are necessary in the short term.

Mr MATHWIN: I wish, first, to make a brief statement before asking my questions. I congratulate the Government on its increase in some areas of allocation of extra finance for the department and some of its responsibilities. I also congratulate the Government on the improvement and widening of the department's outlook in order to help those people who are for many different reasons facing problems. There are now more problems than there have been over the years, and I believe that this Government has faced up to that problem and to its responsibilities.

It is all very well to talk about the allocation of money. One must realise that we are in difficult times financially and that, therefore, it is imperative to trim the cloth a little, but not at the expense of people who are experiencing dire problems. I believe that the department certainly has done its best, and I hope that it will continue to do its best for those people who really need assistance. The problems and indeed the people who call on the department for help are becoming more numerous. I am well aware of that.

I also take this opportunity of congratulating the Government and the department on the incentive that it has taken in introducing the family impact statements, an area that the Government emphasises particularly, namely, the family unit and its importance to society generally. I believe that it was a good, bold step that the Government took in introducing that aspect, where the importance of the family unit was deemed to be paramount in relation to society.

The placing of more children and more handicapped people into the community rather than keeping them in institutions and institutionalising them deserves some comment, I am sure. Of course, we are following on, because I understand that it was also the policy of the former Government to get out of institutionalising young people, particularly. In relation to people who are in conflict with the law, I see that we have a new heading, where we now term them as 'children at risk'. Nevertheless, I suppose that we have to call it something. The Government and the department have shown sympathy for these cases. One of the factors involved is the high cost of keeping young people, particularly young offenders, in institutions.

There is a better reason than that with which the Government and everyone present would agree. The real concern is what is better for the child and what is possible where we can make some progress in keeping children out of

institutions and putting them on the right path so that they can become competent and responsible members of the community. In relation to the emphasis that the Government is placing on the family unit, family care and family assistance, would the Minister advise the Committee on the progress of the Family Research Unit? I refer to page 15 of the yellow book, which, under the heading 'Broad objectives—goals', states:

To enable individuals and families who seek help to function in society to the best of their ability and to preserve, strengthen and, where possible, restore the family unit; by counselling, advising and assisting families in need and by identifying and developing community support.

Will the Minister give some idea of the progress being made in relation to that aspect of the department?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The Family Research Unit is being maintained under the guidance of the same officer that we had in the first place. She has now become Director of Community Services, and is continuing in her role. The other aspects of family research have been decentralised and scattered. We have had a number of individual projects to develop areas where the family can be supported. I will ask Mr Harris shortly to give the figures for the cost of supporting young offenders. The cost of SAYTC (formerly McNally), the South Australian Youth Training Centre, is very high, now being over \$40 000 per child per year to run. At SAYRAC (formerly Vaughan House) the cost is also fairly high, which is only one of the reasons why we are keen to keep children out of secure care if we can. The main reason is that we believe that, if we can keep young offenders out of secure care, they have a better chance of being rehabilitated in the community.

The other initiatives that we have taken are the intensive neighbourhood care scheme, which was introduced under the previous Government and which has been very much supported and extended by this Government. It has been very successful. I certainly have the highest regard for the INC parents—the parents who are prepared to take into their own families and their own care children who have offended. I think that they are the salt of the earth. I have spoken to many INC parents. I find, when I ask them, that they have done this so often because, when mother and father have talked about the children and said that young offenders ought to have a fair chance, their own children have said, 'Why do you not do something about it?' They have seen advertisements in the press and have insisted that their parents do something about it. Almost a universal message from INC parents is that it has helped them bring up their own families. When an INC child comes into the family they must have rules, which they have not always had before, and the whole family, including the INC children, must abide by the rules. I have not struck any INC parents who have been disillusioned. Although they have had problems and difficulties, they are always prepared to go on with it.

The other specific initiatives of this Government to keep children out of secure care have been the community work orders scheme whereby children, instead of being in secure care, are looked after by their own family or in INC families and do community work of a kind that would not otherwise be done by anyone else. There is no intention, of course, in these times, of depriving anyone of a job. I have seen some children doing this work. Although it is hard work, it is not slave labour, as was suggested in one television programme. It is hard work and it is a way whereby the children realise (as do other people) that they are fulfilling their obligation to society, having offended.

Another scheme is the IPS (intensive personal supervision) scheme, which has often been called the special mentor scheme, whereby a child who has offended can be asked by

the court whether there is anyone in the community to whom he can relate. Usually he is not relating to his parents, and that is one of the reasons why he has offended. He is asked whether there is anyone in the community to whom he can relate. If he comes forward with someone, it is commonly a sportsman, a trade union leader, business man, school caretaker or someone of that nature. If the young offender says that he can relate to that person, the court has the option of putting him on a bond and making it a condition of the bond that he spend a certain amount of time relating to the special mentor. The mentor is paid \$4.50 an hour and is expected to spend up to 20 hours a week, during which period the child is under his supervision. We do not expect that that scheme will apply to a lot of children. There are a small number of children under the IPS scheme at the moment. However, it does have a special slot.

The question asked by the member for Glenelg related to young offenders, and we are using all the resources available to us to take care of them. There is a hard core who have to go to SAYTC or SAYRAC. Where possible, we keep children out of secure care because we find that, almost always, when they get into secure care (and the honourable member knows this very well), they offend again. They get into the school and are taught how to offend by their fellow residents. We think it is very constructive to keep children out of secure care as long as we can. We have also had the unfortunate experience with young Aboriginal offenders who go into secure care and usually very quickly pick up all the worst traits. We are trying very hard to keep away from secure care wherever we can, wherever it is consistent with the needs of the child who has offended and the needs of the community. I ask Mr Cox and Mr Harris, who specialise in this area, to refer to some matters raised by the member for Glenelg.

Mr Cox: I think members would be aware that the family research unit works first and foremost on family impact statements. It then became policy to involve each district office, where possible, in research that relates to families in the area.

The reason we did this was to develop a new sensitivity to the family and the ways we service them, and what is happening to the family because we do service them. So, we have had a good response from our local officers with the help of the research unit. Such areas studied this year have been the unattached refugee youth, emergency financial assistance, foster care, adoption contact register, budget advice and children's aid panels. All in all, we finished nearly nine or 10 studies within this 12-month period. So, that has been quite an achievement in our way of approaching research into families.

This supplements what is happening in the Institute of Family Studies, established under the Family Law Act in Victoria. That is an excellent institute and is giving us some very broad statistics, and we have been able to supplement it with small studies in South Australia.

In relation to definite family programmes, family support services are funded by the Federal Government and administered by our department in co-operation with social security, local government associations and SACOSS. That has been re-funded as a developmental programme for another three years at a cost to South Australia of \$1 300 000. That, of course, has covered a number of programmes and they include the home maker services, the Port Adelaide family support programme, the Catholic welfare care resource team, and so on. So, there is something like nine programmes which are constantly being funded by the family support programme. I felt that those details would be extra to the material the Minister offered.

Mr Harris: As the Minister has said, our direction is to try and move children from institutional care into the community as much as we can. That policy applies to young offenders. During the year we have made considerable inroads into the provision of community care for young offenders. For example, some 255 children have been placed in intensive neighbourhood care placements in the community and these children may otherwise have been in a detention unit.

The average occupancy at the two main centres has been reduced marginally. The average occupancy rate at the South Australian Youth Training Centre for 1981 was 70, and for 1982 it was 63. The average occupancy at the South Australian Youth Remand and Assessment Centre at Enfield in 1981 was 33, and in 1982 it was 29. Clearly, the cost of institutional care is high and the average cost per child at both of those main centres has risen. Unless one can reduce the total intake to those centres to the extent that one can reduce a total unit, the average cost per child will go up proportionately as the numbers decrease, until one gets to the stage where one can reduce by a unit and that staff can be used in other places and locations in the community, or the equivalent of it.

Mr MATHWIN: What are the costs for those centres?

Mr Harris: The average cost per child at the South Australian Youth Training Centre was something like \$48 190 per annum. The cost per child at the South Australian Youth Remand and Assessment Centre was \$56 655. So, it is a very costly type of care. The numbers of children that have been placed in the intensive personal supervision scheme (the mentor scheme) for this year is something like 20 children. That is a scheme which needs to develop slowly and progressively and on a firm foundation, because one of the essential parts of the programme is that the supervisors (the mentors) must be acceptable to the children and can work with them and should also be people of sufficient understanding of children in the community who can really help those children. That puts the perspective of the increased community placements. We have slightly reduced the average occupancy of the two main centres. We have developed the other programmes sufficiently so that they are now taking more children progressively.

Mr MATHWIN: The Estimates of Payments, on page 85, refer to the Central Southern Region. I see that Community Welfare Centres, District and Branch Offices had an actual payment last year of \$913 326 and that this year it will be increased to \$1 024 900. Also, the Residential Care Facilities for the same district will be increased to \$1 034 700, whereas last year the actual payment was \$980 776. Is this an increase of staff or clientele, or is it just a normal increase as there are expected to be more problems in that area?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I do not think that there are more problems in the area. I will ask my officer to explain the increase in the figures.

Mr Cox: The line that the honourable member is describing is the increase to a total of \$1 024 900, but he will see that the line entitled 'Social work services to general practitioners' has no figures included this year. What has happened is that it is now funded through the State and is included in the State Budget for that area. In the southern region I think that there are more health social workers working than in some other areas of the State. So, it is a transposition of those funds into the total line of \$1 024 900. I think that the honourable member will find that it works out with inflation.

So, it is a reallocation: it is not that we think that the southern region has any great increased problems, although there are areas in the southern region, such as Noarlunga, which are making large demands, but there are also some other compensating changes in the region.

Mr MATHWIN: Regarding child protection, page 20 of the yellow book, under 'Broad Objective(s)/Goal(s)', states:

To protect children by increasing community awareness, by preventive action to overcome problems which lead to child abuse, by compulsory notification of suspected maltreatment, and by developing appropriate intervention and assistance programmes where the child abuse has occurred.

We all know that this has been a problem for a long time and that Governments have grappled with it for many years. Everybody is concerned about it, irrespective of who they are. Has there been much public support of this particular programme? Does the Minister feel that we are getting all the assistance that we can get? Is there any success to the present time?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The short answer is that we are getting a great deal of support, help and success. The problem of child abuse is of special concern to me. If there are 300 children in South Australia who have been abused and that has been reported, that is bad enough, but we can expect that there are a great deal more.

In my view, if one child has been abused, that is of great concern. There has, fortunately, been a great deal more concern among communities all over the world about child abuse than there was in the past. Reported cases have increased quite dramatically. That does not, I believe, indicate that there is any increase in child abuse, but it does indicate—and this is part of what the honourable member was asking—that people are becoming more concerned about it and are more ready to report it.

South Australia took a considerable lead in 1976 under the previous Government in relation to compulsory reporting by various classifications of people such as medical officers, teachers, and so on. The Community Welfare Department has extended the range of persons required to report. The question is what should be done with those people who do not report and whether they should be prosecuted. There is a monetary penalty for that offence. As far as I am aware, no-one in South Australia has been prosecuted for that offence. However, the incidence of reporting has greatly increased.

I think the benefits of the Act passed by the previous Government were mainly educative rather than related to the effect of the Act as legislation. As I have said, as far as I am aware, no-one has been prosecuted for not reporting, and there has been a much greater incidence of reporting. In fact, there has been an 18 per cent increase in reporting compared with the previous year. Since 1976, the number of reports have been progressively increasing each year. Last year I attended the Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect in Amsterdam, which dealt with this precise subject. I found that there were two main areas of concern, the first being the incidence of reporting.

It is interesting to note that it is an existing problem for developing countries as well as Western countries. In fact, it is probably more of a problem in those countries than it is in so-called civilised areas. However, their problems are different and it was interesting to hear the nature of those problems. Two issues were raised: first, reporting and how to encourage the reporting of suspected child abuse. In a number of States and Provinces in the United States and Canada, there is a law which provides a civil remedy for non-reporting. In this State we have the criminal remedy of a fine. In several Canadian Provinces and in some States of America there is a civil remedy, that is, if a case is not reported a person on the child's behalf can bring a civil action against the person who had a duty to report, usually a doctor. That seems to produce quite dramatic results.

There has been a great increase in the incidence of reporting in South Australia, not because of the penalties involved but because people have been educated about their duty. A

large percentage of reports come from the teaching profession. Teachers seem to have a particular ability to recognise an abused child and to know that something should be done. There has been a great increase in support from that area. One of the things provided by the Act is immunity for people who report in the honest belief that something has occurred, even if the matter is not proven to be correct. I think it is very necessary that people who report without malice or ill-will in the belief that there is a suspected case of child abuse should come forward. That has been part of the success story.

I believe, from what I have seen overseas and throughout Australia at recent conferences, that South Australia has made better advances in dealing with this terrible problem than anywhere else in the world. I am sure that no member of this Committee would tolerate the concept of a child being abused and, in some cases, terribly abused and even killed. While we cannot be happy about that and cannot cease to take further steps to discourage it, I think we are doing all we can at the moment and we will continue to do that.

The second issue raised at the congress was a particular incidence of reported cases of sexual child abuse these days. Once again, that has not increased; it has always occurred. *Once again, it is a matter of reporting.* I suppose that, because of the shibboleths attached to sexual activities, people have declined to report them. It is one thing that people have not wanted to report, but the total incidence of sexual child abuse and serious sexual child abuse affecting the lives of children is very enlightening indeed. I have been quite concerned about the number of children who have been abused, particularly sexually abused, who subsequently become abusers as adults. This is a definite pattern, it is an area that we are most concerned about and we have spent a great deal of time and effort on it. We cannot be complacent about this problem. The problem has not been solved, but we are getting there. We will continue to work in this area. Mr Cox may be able to add to my comments.

Mr Cox: The 18 per cent increase in reported cases from last year means that 427 cases were confirmed in South Australia. Of that number, 52 per cent involved physical maltreatment, 24 per cent involved sexual abuse, 20 per cent involved children at risk, and 3 per cent involved children who were emotionally mistreated. About 60 per cent of those cases were females and about 40 per cent were males; about half of the children were under the age of seven years, 40 per cent were between the ages of seven and 14 years and 13 per cent were over 14 years of age.

To clarify the situation, the department has three phases in its work: first, attempting to develop community awareness (that occurs in local areas so that people know where to report); secondly, preventive action in relation to children and families in health and management practices and in the family; and, thirdly, crisis prevention. The advisory panel set up in South Australia under the Community Welfare Act is unique in the world in relation to its integrated approach and the inclusion of local doctors, educators, and so on.

Mr ABBOTT: I appreciate the comments made by the Minister and the Director-General in relation to budget advice. I will pursue this matter a little further, because the number of people seeking this advice is growing rapidly. In a study of clients seeking this advice, the number has grown from 829 in 1977-78 to 2 480 in 1981-82. Given the 45 per cent increase in demand for budget advice during 1981-82 (and I expect it to increase by just as much in 1982-83), I cannot see how the department expects to handle any further increase in demand when funds for this programme have been maintained at last year's proposed level of \$109 000.

Many factors have been identified as contributing to the demand for budget advice, that is, increasing unemployment, increasing housing difficulties and other living costs. These problems do not appear to be declining in South Australia; in fact, I think the reverse is the case. I express some concern that any net reduction in this programme could place a further strain on non-statutory agencies such as the Para Districts Counselling Service, just to name one, which is already facing major financial difficulties. Will the Minister say how the department sees those agencies trying to cope with this enormous demand?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I will reiterate what I said before, that this is a demand area. One just does not know how many people will come to seek budget advice. This applies fairly generally across the department, and indeed across my other department. That is why budgeting is very difficult. If one is building a road or sewerage service one can budget for what one is going to build. The difficulty that I have had in both of my budget areas has been that most of it is a question of demand from the public and having to meet that demand. One does not know what that demand is going to be.

In the past year and the year before, when I have found that the estimates in the Budget have fallen short, I have been able to get the necessary additional funds. The thing that I have constantly maintained to Treasury, and to the Budget Review Committee, is that I am in a situation where I have no control over demands that are made. I think it is fair to say that the whole of the both of my budgets are estimates of what the demand is likely to be because some estimate has to be made, one has to make some allowance and go through the accounting procedure. I repeat, with regard to budget advice, that we have never been in a position of having to reject anyone who sought budget advice. In fact, I said to the member for Norwood, and say again to the member for Spence, that we will not be doing that. On the contrary, we want more people to come to us seeking budget advice because we know that there are many people who need that advice but who do not get it because they do not come forward, or do not come to us.

I also repeat that probably the biggest problem is that people do not come to us in time. Some of those who come seeking budget advice do not do so in time and do not do so whilst there is still an opportunity to repair their budget situation. A lot of people come to seek advice in response to the note put on unsatisfied judgment summonses alerting them to the availability of the Budget Advisory Service. While help can be given at that stage, it is really too late. If a person has started receiving unsatisfied judgment summonses they have already had an ordinary summons and a judgment has been made against them in court. If a person starts coming at that time it is difficult to pick up the bits. However, our budgetary advisers do pick up those bits where they can. I am not trying in any way to discourage people from seeking budget advice. I am saying that no-one will be denied that advice. If people get that advice and I am running over budget because of that happening, that is a matter I will certainly be more than happy to take back to the Budget Review Committee to seek its further direction. I am sure that I would get a sympathetic hearing because all I can do, and my department can do, is put up a figure that we expect might be correct.

People who need budget advice will not be denied that advice. I explained the situation with regard to this matter last year. The primary objective of the programme is to provide a free budget advice service to people in financial difficulties or people seeking information about budgeting. The Budget Advice Service has two full-time officers. I mentioned this before. It uses 59 part-time budgetary advisers who are under contract. The total use represents the equiv-

alent of 6.7 full-time staff members. Most of these budget advisers are people such as retired bank managers, accountants (practising or retired) and housewives with specific knowledge of budgeting, and so on. The total salaries paid to these staff members in 1981-82 was \$103 479. Contingencies for that year were \$3 780. In 1982-83 the salaries allocation is \$105 100 and an amount of \$3 900 is allowed for contingencies. I have explained the pay increase which has occurred since the Budget was drawn up and have indicated that the total percentage increase will be 11.8 and that the additional money for salaries will come from the round sum allowance.

There was an increase in new clients of 24.6 per cent in 1981-82 compared with the previous financial year, from 1 710 to 2 130 new clients. There were 118 talks given, including 69 to school groups. More than 5 000 free budgeting kits were distributed. The substantial increase in the number of new clients was handled with only that percentage increase in total costs that I have mentioned. A closer liaison was developed with other financial counselling organisations (a matter alluded to by the member for Spence) both within South Australia and interstate. This was done particularly through participation at the first national conference of financial counsellors held in Sydney in May 1982.

While I certainly appreciate the other counselling services available (and Para districts was mentioned as also was the Central Mission and other groups which have budget advice services) I point out—referring to my other portfolio of consumer affairs—that most credit unions carry on a most effective budget advice service. I appreciate those very much and am grateful for them, but I am not in any way suggesting that the department is going to opt out of budget advice. We have a clear responsibility to the Government to continue to give this advice, and will do so. We have, in the event, allowed in the Budget for a most healthy increase for this purpose. I am not saying that we will opt out of that in any way at all. In fact, I am saying that if the member for Spence, and I extend this invitation to the member for Norwood, can get more people to come to us we will be pleased to accommodate them. The budget advice service conducted by the department is recognised as one of the two leading counselling services in Australia. I think that the Director-General, Mr Cox, has something he wishes to add to my remarks.

Mr Cox: The increase in relation to the number of clients last year was met substantially by a decrease in the time taken for each counselling service. In the early days of budget counselling it sometimes took up to 14 hours with a client in an attempt to find a method that was satisfactory in terms of the client's financial situation. By reducing the number of part-time budget advisers and trying to keep their experience we have changed the nature of budget advice so that it takes approximately four hours per person, on average, spent on the client's financial problems.

In relation to clients coming to the budget advice service, about 50 per cent come through our community welfare workers. I think that that is an interesting figure because this is a programme that is used as ancillary to work we are doing in the community. I think that that shows why there can be an increased number of clients. If there is an increase (I think the Minister has touched on that) there will have to be further budgetary consideration. There have been those changes and that is how these matters have been handled. One other matter not touched on is that in the past 12 months \$33 000 went through the department to pay creditors, so that alongside some of the people who need budgetary advice we also offer a scheme to pay the cheques if they pay the money through and \$33 000 went through the department in that way. That amounted to 30 schemes, and it really is a growing area of our department.

Mr ABBOTT: I thank the Minister and the Director-General for that very lengthy reply. I will now try a short question. What is the purpose of joining in one line in the Budget the fees for members of the Community Welfare Advisory Committee and the Community Welfare Grants Advisory Committee?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: This was simply something that was imposed on us by Treasury. It is logical, I suppose, because they are the two principal paid committees engaged by the department.

Mr ABBOTT: Is there less activity now?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: No, there is no less activity. In fact, the activity is very great indeed, particularly with the Community Welfare Grants Fund Advisory Committee, and the Residential Child Care Advisory Committee is also very active. There is no intention whatever to cut down the activity. I can certainly assure the honourable member of that. If the honourable member wants a breakdown of the fees for those two committees, we will provide that after lunch.

Mr ABBOTT: I refer now to page 7 of the yellow book in relation to the Aboriginal advancement programme and the youth services scheme. During the triennium of Commonwealth funding, the youth services scheme laid a very strong emphasis on Aboriginal community participation in programme design and management. It is not clear how this emphasis could be maintained if the scheme simply became another departmental programme, nor is it clear what will happen to the staff employed and the assets purchased under that programme. Will the Minister be more specific on how the Aboriginal youth services scheme previously funded by the Commonwealth will be absorbed into the department's young offenders programme?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: Yes. When that programme was first set up (and I have looked at the correspondence between the then Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and the person who is now the member for Spence), I noted that he clearly did not accept the Minister's suggestion, and I agree with the honourable member. The Federal Minister said that this was for three years and that at the end of the three years it was expected that the State would pick up the tab for the rest of the programme. The honourable member's reply as Minister (as he then was), was one which I very much support and with which I agree. The honourable member made clear that he was not committing himself necessarily to picking up the tab at the end of the period of funding. He was saying that any future commitment by either the Federal or the State Government should be subject to evaluation.

An evaluation was made, and that evaluation, particularly from the Commonwealth department, was a negative one. It indicated that there were aspects of the programme that were not effective, that were negative and that could not be continued. In this circumstance it was not reasonable to expect the State Government to pick up the tab and further the whole of the programme. We made our own evaluation of it. We considered that it was positive, but the Federal Government did not. I took up the matter with the Commonwealth Minister, with whom I am still having discussions. I still believe that it is possible that I may get some money from him to continue some part of the project.

Another thing which the honourable member said in his letter, and to which I think he referred in his question, was that he thought that by the time the triennium was up probably most matters relating to Aboriginal young offenders would have been absorbed in the general State young offender programme, and in that I think that he was quite right. I think that they mostly have been. The honourable member is asking how that has occurred. In most ways, I think that it has occurred. Some fairly small parts of the programme

in some areas need to be continued, and that probably can happen without costing a great deal of money. I refer, for example, to the Port Adelaide area, where a disco is supervised for young Aboriginal people and others who want to attend. That seems to have been most beneficial, and I think that it can continue. Certainly, I have followed very much my predecessor in this, and I feel that I am entirely in touch with him and have done what he was saying, as far as I can determine from his letters and from what my departmental officers have told me about his attitude. I think that Mr Harris would be the best person to elaborate on the extent to which the Aboriginal young offenders programme has been integrated into the total South Australian young offenders programme.

Mr Harris: There has been a clear thrust amongst the Aboriginal community workers in the department to work more with Aboriginal young offenders, and at their request we have concentrated our programmes in this area. There also have been developments in the intensive neighbourhood care programme to make it more applicable to Aboriginal people. I think that at the onset of the intensive neighbourhood care programme we tended to set very high standards. We still have high standards. In some cases, we set impossibly high standards for the sort of people whom we would select for that programme, and I think that by the standard of housing accommodation that was required we sometimes made it very difficult for young Aboriginal people to be accepted into that programme. There is now a thrust to increase the intensive neighbourhood care programmes for Aboriginal people. We have staff who are allocated to work in that area specifically.

There has been a more intensive development of youth project centres in country areas, for instance, at Whyalla, Ceduna and other locations that affect Aboriginal people. There has been a thrust to ensure that Aboriginal people are involved in assessment, screening panels and things of that kind, so that there can be an input for them. It is very clear that the Aboriginal young offenders should not be isolated from other young offenders and that our programme should be able to encompass them more adequately than occurred at the outset. I think that we are achieving that and that the youth project centre and youth project services throughout the State are being developed more widely. The increase in the Aboriginal intensive neighbourhood care programmes, the increased involvement of all Aboriginal community workers, and consequently those district offices in which they are located, in working with Aboriginal young people, have ensured that we did as the former Minister had requested and indicated in his letter to the Commonwealth, namely, involved Aboriginal young offenders more in the total community programmes.

Mr LEWIS: I want to comment in the first instance about the value and use of tables to explain and illustrate points that have statistical importance and to show how trends have occurred. In the first instance, before I speak about the general case, I refer to the tables that were presented to the Committee by the member for Norwood in the course of his opening remarks.

In most instances we expect statistical tables for which we give leave to be incorporated in *Hansard* to be valid. We believe that they are based on the material that is accepted as factual. However, I have been concerned for some time that, in general, the A.L.P. is not doing that. It is fabricating figures and using methods of calculation that have no acceptance in the profession of statisticians or analysts and would not enable them to get past Grade 1. Not only the arithmetic, but also the logic and the method are wrong. I am distressed in this instance to note that, as happened before, it has happened again. The table has now been incorporated in *Hansard*. I know that it will turn up

at meetings of community welfare workers and other concerned people and will be quoted verbatim as though it were the gospel according to St—the member for Norwood.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): Order! Members must be referred to by their correct title.

Mr LEWIS: That material will be accepted by the general public as being factual, but it is not. It does not give a true representation of the situation. It does not illustrate what has happened in the department. It does not even reflect the level of service provided by the department to the community in any valid way. The figures, for instance, do not even take account of the transfer of responsibilities from the State to the Federal Government in the case of supporting parents.

Furthermore, the figures for 1982-83 are the proposed figures and are based on salaries as at the beginning of July and on contingency factors contained in the proposal. We are looking at a Budget. Perhaps Opposition members ought to take a look at the dictionary to ascertain what a Budget really is. They are, therefore, not comparable figures. One cannot compare proposals with realities and expect to come up with valid conclusions.

The third point that I want to make about the table and the inferences which I know the Opposition will attempt to draw from it, as well as the publicity that it will try to get by using it through the media, is that there has been a transfer of responsibility for the purchase of motor vehicles to the Department of Services and Supply. That impacts on this line by \$650 000. Anyone who is capable of swift mental arithmetic can calculate that as a 2.3 per cent figure of the total of the Budget line. One has merely to look at page 84 of the Estimates of Payments to see that it is 2.3 per cent. Does the Opposition imply that the quality of services provided by officers of the department and by the department itself are proportional in some way to the cost of motor vehicles? Which has been transferred to another department? Is that the kind of argument in which it is indulging? I thought that these Committees were for the purpose of obtaining information and not for disseminating misconstrued untruths for the purpose of political opportunism in the form of propaganda. It does not have basis in fact, integrity in idea, or persuasion in argument. It is quite invalid. That is my view of it. I ask the Minister whether that is his considered opinion of those tables.

Mr ABBOTT: Are you going to circulate this speech to the farmers in Mallee?

Mr LEWIS: I will circulate it to as many people who ask me for it. If citizens in the honourable member's constituency would like copies, I will provide them for him to balance the imbalanced views put by the Member for Norwood.

Mr Max Brown interjecting:

The ACTING CHAIRMAN (Mr Mathwin): Order! The honourable member does not need the assistance of the member for Whyalla to get his point over.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The member for Mallee has asked me for my considered opinion. I have not been able to consider my opinion on those figures. When leave was sought to table them or have them incorporated, I said that I wanted to see them. I was sure that they were delivered at that time. However, because I was engaged in answering questions, I have seen them only now. From a cursory view (and I am very indebted to the member from Mallee, who has made his point very well indeed), it seems that the figures are very raw, to say the least. The honourable member put his finger on the two main trouble spots: first, that the responsibility for the first six months of supporting parents benefits was moved from the State to the Commonwealth, and it is a misleading attitude to take. The figures are misleading and, I believe, false. They do not create a correct picture at all.

The second matter referred to by the honourable member related to motor vehicles. That was perfectly correct. I very much doubt whether any consideration has been paid in those figures to our proportion of the round-sum allowance each year. That ought to be done. The figures in my view are quite misleading.

During the course of the debate the member for Whyalla asked what the member for Mallee intended to make of these figures. He said that he would disseminate them where requested. He is quite entitled to do so, as I have no doubt the member for Norwood and others will disseminate these figures, rely on them and refer to them in any future election campaign. They are, indeed, quite inaccurate unless they are explained and related to realities such as questions of supporting parents benefits, motor vehicles, round-sum allowances and various other things.

The Director-General, Mr Cox, in the short time that he has had available to examine the very brash and unreal figures, has come up with something. It may be that after lunch when we have the department's statistical person to look at these figures we may be able to come up with some further explanation. The figures as presented are quite inaccurate and misleading at present. I ask Mr Cox to make his contribution on the reality of the figures in the best way that he can, having regard to the short time that he has had to apply his mind to them.

Mr Cox: The figures exclude the gross figure for supporting parents given in the statistical table. In 1979-80, the supporting parents benefits paid by the State amounted to \$7 655 000. In 1980-81, it reduced to \$1 498 000, and for 1981-82 and 1982-83 there will be no payment. So, these statistics had not taken that into account. If we put in a figure on the supporting parents benefit alone, which does not take into account all the other changes, I can give percentages. However, those percentages do not indicate that the figures do not include grants for voluntary childrens homes that were changed over from the current account to the miscellaneous account, involving \$1 000 000.

Motor vehicles have been mentioned previously. An amount of \$130 000 was taken out of our Budget for Aboriginal Affairs and is in the Commonwealth Budget. The housing deficit for Aboriginal houses was in our Budget and has been transferred across to the Housing Trust. The running of the Lands Trust was originally in our Budget and has now been transferred to the Lands Trust direct. The salaries for the two people on the Aboriginal Affairs co-ordinating committee was in our Budget and has now been transferred to the Department of Lands. Of the grants figure, nearly \$300 000 was transferred to the Department of Community Development at the time of the separation of the departments, and it is now the Department of Local Government.

So, there have been massive changes in figures. The detail for percentage changes would need very careful calculation to make them real figures. If one adds only the supporting parents figure on to the totals, one finds that the increase for 1980-81 was 17 per cent, the increase for 1981-82 was 5 per cent, and that for 1982-83 it can be expected to be approximately 8 per cent, without taking into account all the other matters to which I have referred.

Mr LEWIS: I am grateful to the Minister and Mr Cox for that response at such short notice. I further illustrate the point that I was making by stating that it has happened not only in this instance, but also constantly over the past year or so, when the A.L.P., in the Parliament, not only with this department but also with education and other departments, has tabled the figures in this way. It circulated the information to the public, completely misleading them, and creating groundless anxieties and concerns, without any reasonable cause whatever, other than for the purpose of

political opportunism on its part by promoting a line of propaganda based on untruths. It has been worse than that.

In some instances I have seen presented for incorporation in *Hansard* material which has cartoon commentaries and which contains words that are taken out of the kind of comic book jargon that one would expect to read in propaganda from a second rate communist journalist. That has been incorporated in graphs that have been presented to *Hansard*, and the A.L.P. expects other members of this Parliament to let that material constantly go by unchallenged. If that is the case, the A.L.P. has another think coming.

I want now to refer to another matter that illustrates the concern that this Government has for all people in South Australia who happen to be clients or prospective clients of the department, not just those in marginal or Labor seats. I refer to page 86 of the Estimates of Payments under 'Southern Country Region', and note that, under the heading 'Community Welfare Centres, District and Branch Offices', (one of which in a part-time capacity has been opened in my electorate in the Strathalbyn area), there has been an increase from last year's actual payments of \$853 521, which was greater than the \$760 000 voted, to the proposed expenditure this year of \$934 100. Will the Minister comment about the way in which he has found it necessary to beef up the services provided to other people in South Australia, outside the area where the previous Government, for political opportunism reasons, established it in the first instance?

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

The CHAIRMAN: I point out that there has been a change in the membership of the Committee: Mr Becker, the member for Hanson, will replace Mr Rodda, the member for Victoria; and Mr Ashenden, the member for Todd, will replace Mr Mathwin, the member for Glenelg. Before the luncheon adjournment the Minister had been asked a question by the member for Mallee.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I think Mr Cox can supply the rest of the answer to that question which, I think, related to the breakdown of departmental costs in previous years. It was suggested in the paper circulated by the member for Norwood that there had been a 58 per cent reduction in departmental funding. That fact was partly refuted before lunch. I suggested that the figures were very raw because vital matters mentioned by Mr Cox, such as sole parent benefits being transferred to the Commonwealth, had been omitted from the paper. I think that was part of the honourable member's question. Subsequently, I think the member for Mallee referred to southern country regions and commented on the fact that funding for that area, on the face of it, had been increased. In fact, on the face of it, that funding has been increased. In the event, this again is explicable because of various movements within the department. I must inform the member for Mallee that I do not think that there has been a great increase in real terms in his area, but Mr Cox will give the exact figures.

Mr Cox: Page 86 of the Estimates of Payments refers to community welfare centres, district and branch offices. The figure for regional administration also applies to this area. One course of action taken by the department in following up the Mann Report was to restore in the last 12 months a director to the southern country region. We now have a full-time director in that area; we were considering administering this area from the metropolitan southern region. Therefore, that is a direct increase in funding for that region. In relation to funding for this region, the Mount Gambier centre has been completed. It is a complete community welfare centre which is in full operation.

There is also a new project centre at Yahl for the treatment of young offenders. In fact, the Minister attended the opening

of that centre last week. That will relieve a great deal of the pressure in that area. One of the noticeable things about the southern country area, which was dealt with in the Mann Report, is that in many ways whilst the figures mentioned in the community service districts and branch offices line reflect an increase, the greatest effect has been in some of the things that have been accomplished through capital funds and the replacement of the regional director.

Mr CRAFTER: I wish to make a personal explanation. Earlier today, during the progress of this Committee, I was accused of all sorts of heinous crimes. I point out to the Committee that the figures that I tabled earlier were taken from official Government reports, that is, the base figures that I have quoted. I understand that the Minister and his officers are critical of the interpretation I have placed on those figures. I point out that I have not given those figures to the press or to anyone else. Indeed, I thought that the most responsible thing to do was to bring them before this Committee where they could be fully explored and commented on. That is the process that has taken place, and I think it will be of benefit to Parliament and to the community.

At the outset, I said that those figures convey to me a disturbing trend. I gave the Minister an undertaking that I would not question him about this matter until he saw those figures. I believe that I have acted absolutely responsibly in this matter. I could have acted in the manner that the member for Mallee wished to allege of me, but I did not. I believe that this is such an important area of Government service that we need to know the facts and the trends. When we have that information we can then draw our own conclusions and use it for the purposes we see fit.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I do not deny that the honourable member said that he would not question me until I had had an opportunity to see the figures. I point out that he has still not questioned me—not even now. The figures produced were quite dishonest. They did not give a correct overview of the situation for the reasons that have been mentioned. It has not been possible, even over the luncheon period, completely to investigate the import of those figures. As I have said before, the figures are extremely bald and brash and bear no relationship to what is actually happening. As I said before, a major factor is that, in the first six months, payments to self-supporting parents were removed from the State area and given to the Commonwealth. There has been no reduction in services as a result of that. The honourable member has tried to suggest that there has been a decrease in the level of service. That has not occurred, and certainly not to the extent he suggested, and his figures do not show that that has occurred, either.

I think the member should have spoken to his figures and brought these matters forward. He simply threw his figures forward and has not yet questioned me about them. Quite properly, the member for Mallee raised the matter of the honesty of these figures, and I am indebted to him. I believe that the figures are not honest. Certainly, if those figures are promulgated I will say so. If the member for Norwood wishes to pursue this matter, he is free to do so, but it is remarkable that he has simply thrown the figures forward. At that stage I had not seen those figures, because they had not come to my notice until the member for Mallee raised this question. I am disturbed about the member for Norwood's method of questioning.

We will have to wait for a detailed investigation of the figures until we can have our statistics member of the department investigate them. I ask Mr Cox whether he can comment further at this stage.

Mr Cox: I think that I did mention the factors that are not taken into account when the figures are collected. I have only mentioned some of those figures because I have

accountants here and they cannot be in two places at the one time to work out the exact figures. I said before lunch that the figure for supporting parents, which was about \$6 000 000, ceased during the 1979-81 period. Voluntary homes grants were transferred from current account to miscellaneous account, motor vehicles was changed in the way it was placed in the Budget and Wami Kata has transferred to the Commonwealth fund completely. The Aboriginal Land Trusts costs have been moved out of this Budget. We used to pay the Aboriginal housing deficit out of this Budget, but that is now paid out of the Housing Trust figure.

The co-ordination committee for Aboriginal affairs was part of this Budget but has been transferred out. The money from the grants funds went to the Local Government Department from the Community Welfare Grants Fund. Those were some of the things we have had to transfer and that has resulted in the gross figures being distorted so badly that they do not reflect an actual figure.

Mr CRAFTER: Perhaps I should wait until the department provides that information and then use it in some other forum. I would have hoped it was possible to do that in this forum, which I think is a most appropriate one, and to examine the Minister on information available to us. I think that I quoted the Minister accurately when I said that he said this morning that the cuts I was referring to are not tolerable in the long term.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I was talking about administration and services. I was talking about administrative costs.

Mr CRAFTER: I was asking the Minister general questions and referring to the Minister's comments during the Estimates Committees last year and that was his response. I repeat that what I did was put before the Committee the raw information on which I was hoping to receive some further information from the Minister. That is, in fact, a true record of the amount of money that has been spent by the department. How there has been a devolution of the functions, responsibilities and importance of that department is the thing that I was questioning. I will now seek to do that at another time.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: As the honourable member is passing to another question I must first say that he knew perfectly well the major areas of those devolutions and changes. He knew quite well that the massive amount of money for sole supporting parent benefits has been taken out of this Budget and taken up by the Commonwealth Government, as have various other things. I can only think that the honourable member having incorporated in *Hansard* a table of figures without any reference to that being done beforehand was being quite improper. He should have mentioned those things about which he well knew.

He should have said that there were distortions in the figures. He should have then gone on to claim, if that is his claim, that the figures still show that there has been a reduction in the amount spent on community welfare. I suspect that that is correct, because that applies in every other department. I believe that the honourable member's action was not proper and that he simply threw in a figure in a table which we did not have the opportunity properly to acquaint ourselves with. Also, there were various areas which we have mentioned and which indicate that the figures he gave were grossly distorted. That disturbs me.

The CHAIRMAN: In calling on the member for Norwood I must say that I believe that statements have been made in an endeavour to clarify the position, and I ask the honourable member now to seek further information.

Mr CRAFTER: My first question follows the Minister's comments in some detail this morning about child protection. The Minister said, I think, that there was an increase of some 18 per cent in the reported incidence of child abuse.

However, the final paragraph on page 20 of the yellow book states:

The decrease of \$211 000 is because of a reduction in the Generic Social Work apportionment allocation from 10 per cent in 1981-82 to 5 per cent in 1982-83. This follows a reassessment of duties of generic social workers for the 1982-83 programme papers.

My calculation is that that reduction is equivalent to approximately 10 average full-time equivalent staff members. Bearing in mind the increase in reported child abuse and the obvious concern in the community about this matter, how will this decreased function affect that overall programme?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: It is not a decreased function at all. I think that the confusion from which the honourable member suffers results from the difficulties which arise in comparing programme performance budgeting with line budgeting. Programme performance budgeting for a department requires the distribution of costs for generic social workers, a matter to which the honourable member referred, and to the programmes in which they are employed. This is very difficult and one of the departments used as a pilot programme to use programme performance budgeting only was in my other department of consumer affairs. It fitted that department like a glove because there are programmes there, anyway. There are consumer services, licensing, births, deaths and marriages, and Public Trustee which fit perfectly well. However, it is difficult to implement properly in community welfare.

I am sure that the honourable member who asked the question would agree with me that that department is decentralised with about 50 branch or district offices throughout the State staffed by varying numbers of social workers. Most of those social workers are generalists and do a whole heap of things such as dealing with young offenders, fostering, adoptions, counselling, emergency financial assistance, and so on. The problem we have in spreading costs across the board with programme performance budgeting is to cut a social worker up between about 10 or 20 different departments and saying that a tenth of his time is taken up in a particular area.

On the other hand, the operation is perfectly logical in the Department of Consumer Affairs because they are mostly specialists, anyway. However, it is no good trying to do this in the Community Welfare Department because it is staffed by generalists in various areas doing perhaps 10 or 20 jobs. Using programme performance budgeting it is difficult to say exactly what the generic social worker is doing. In the 1981-82 financial year the department estimated apportionments to five programmes. The formula used was for individual and family support, 30 per cent; young offenders, children's aid and children at risk, 40 per cent; child protection, 10 per cent; foster care, 10 per cent; and, emergency financial aid, 10 per cent. In the 1982-83 programme budget estimates, generic social work costs have been apportioned directly to 10 appropriate subprogrammes including a new programme identified as 'welfare development in the community'.

Two surveys were conducted in May and July this year to determine the average hours worked by generic social workers per subprogramme. These surveys involved 205 generic social workers and provided information which established a reassessment of their duties, resulting in the following formula for 1982-83: first, programme and, secondly, subprogramme and, finally, apportionment; programme, individual and family support, subprogramme, general counselling for individuals and families, 25 per cent; social work services in health care, 5 per cent.

Returning to the programme, child protection, three subprogrammes, 5 per cent; young offenders and children at

risk, children's aid panels, 5 per cent; supervision of young offenders in the community, 20 per cent; work with school children, 5 per cent; emergency financial assistance (payments to recipients), 10 per cent; foster care co-ordination and licensing of foster care, 10 per cent; promotion of community participation, volunteers and community aides, 5 per cent. Welfare development in the community was 10 per cent; salaries and contingencies for the 205 generic social workers have been notionally allocated from support services to the 10 subprogrammes. Further surveys will be conducted quarterly in 1982-83 to determine apportionment rates in 1983-84. I think that the matter the honourable member raised relates to a new apportionment of the generic social worker services, rather than to a cut in the service, because there has not been one. I think Mr Cox can elaborate.

Mr Cox: The problem we have had in relation to generic social workers and how to apportion their time is that it often differs from office to office. So, we have an average apportionment of time throughout the State. In our first years of programme performance budgeting we did not try to single out where they spent their time. We became more refined as time went on. We hoped to become even more refined in relation to how people spend their time so that we could work out the effectiveness of time spent. It is becoming more important for the department that the apportionment is more carefully calculated. We plan to have further surveys in future to find out what proportion is spent in, for example, adoption. There was no apportionment in the list the Minister gave. That causes confusion. When one looks at the programme performance budgeting one may conclude that there has been a decrease in money. It is actually a notional allocation, which is an apportionment allocated out of the total sum.

The CHAIRMAN: It is the intention of the Chair to call the member for Norwood once more; then we will revert to the normal procedure.

Mr CRAFTER: I am concerned about the level of youth unemployment in the community. I would be pleased if the Minister could explain what initiatives and staff allocations there are within the Community Welfare Department to tackle the problem and what experimentation and research is going on in respect of social problems associated with youth unemployment.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I will shortly call on Mr Cox to expand on this. A large part of the responsibility for this area rests with the Commonwealth with the CYSS scheme, which has been fairly successful in most areas. Of course, it is community based, which is inherent in its name. In my observation, its success has depended on how much it has been supported by communities. Where it has been supported it has been successful: where it has not it has not been successful. A large part of the other thrust in dealing with unemployment, of course, is not in my portfolio. In the State area, it is in industrial affairs. My colleague, the Minister of Industrial Affairs, has worked very hard in this area with programmes that I will not detail whereby he will see that unemployed people can get training and thereby get employment.

In regard to young people who cannot get employment, my department, I think, has been very responsible in dealing with them as far as it can. In regard to job opportunities and planning for employment, that is not our specific responsibility. In regard to concessions on transport or other things of that kind I think the Government has been most responsible. The figure shown in the Budget for transport concessions for the unemployed is really only an accounting figure. It does not amount to anything because any unemployed person who seeks a transport concession will get it. The figure is simply an accounting one. I notice that the honourable member for Norwood when speaking in another

debate raised this question, as to whether the amount was adequate. Of course the amount shown in the Budget is not adequate. He also commented that he would have thought that it should be in the transport line which, in the future, it will be because this matter has been raised and accepted by Cabinet. I think he is quite right. The question of concessions for riding on STA buses should be in the transport line and not in my line. My point is that no unemployed person has been or will be disadvantaged. If those people apply they will get their concession. There is no question about that. The figure is really for accounting purposes.

Moreover, since the date of the Budget during this financial year my department has put up a proposition to Cabinet, which has been accepted, to extend the transport concession to under 16-year-olds who were not previously entitled because they are not entitled to unemployment benefits. We have extended that. There is no question whatever of disadvantaging any people who are entitled to those benefits. But, regarding further particulars about assistance to the unemployed I will ask Mr Cox to speak about that shortly.

Our thrust, as a department, is to people in need, whether they are unemployed or not. Employment is not our specific area. In an area of concern, which I very much share with the Commonwealth Minister, Senator Chaney, his and my view is that when one is dealing with welfare or social security money the main thrust must be to help those who are most disadvantaged first, so that people who are less disadvantaged will not cream off their money. It is certainly my concern, as Minister of Community Welfare, to see that people who are most disadvantaged are those who are helped. I think that in these ways we are doing that. I repeat, my concern is to see that seriously disadvantaged people, through unemployment or any other reason who do not have enough money to buy food or who are in situations of not being able to pay for rent, or whatever, are looked after. I ask Mr Cox whether he can add to my remarks based on this question of specifically looking after the unemployed.

Mr Cox: The department was involved directly in job hunters clubs and, as the honourable member will know, they were incorporated into the CYSS programme. Throughout the State our officers are involved directly with the CYSS programme either by providing counselling or by supporting the management committees. Very few officers are not involved directly in that.

The situation in relation to specific work that is done with the unemployed relates, of course, to those who are offenders. We have been doing some very energetic work with people who are released from the South Australian Youth Training Centre (SAYTC) after a period in that centre as we regard a task for them to do once they get out after their time is completed as very important. We have had much success in that situation. In the third area we have our youth services programme. We changed the nature of that late in 1981. We have 14 youth worker positions in the department. Nine are available in the city and five in the country to establish projects in the community that can be taken on by the community and then can be developed for the particular needs of young people in that area. There are many successful ones that have been started already for unemployed youth and, of course, the co-related problems of lack of accommodation, isolated young people, and some offending deviant behaviour. We have taken on, by establishing a new process for our youth workers, some very interesting social support that gets the community behind us. I think that those three areas are quite significant in our work with the unemployed.

Dr BILLARD: Initially I would like to ask some questions relating to the INC scheme. How are INC parents selected? What sort of criteria are applied in their selection? Is it, for example, their financial or accommodation capability, or

are other criteria applied, such as stability of home life? Are there enough potential INC parents offering to meet the demand? Is the demand growing, and is there a high turnover of INC parents?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I will ask Mr Harris to respond in greater detail to this very interesting question. Certainly, in broad terms, the criteria are not restricted simply to financial stability, but more importantly to stability as parents, to the ability of the INC parents to be able to provide something for the child. We advertise for INC parents and most of them, I think, come through the advertising procedure. Mr Harris can give more up-to-date statistics in a moment, but I think from what I know that about 50 per cent of those who apply to be INC parents are rejected, so it is a fairly highly selected team of people who are considered to be satisfactory. Mr Harris can, I am sure, give details as to the guidelines, but basically they are that the INC parent will be a responsible person who, with his spouse and his whole family, is likely to help the INC child; the maximum period is three months, which can be extended to six months.

One of the reasons why I said before that I regard INC parents as being the salt of the earth is that an adoptive parent, for example, does get a child. He has a motive. A foster parent or an INC parent does not get a child. The INC parent specifically cannot get a child because the period is three months, which can be extended to six months, so there is no way that he is bringing a substitute child into his own family. He simply is giving aid to the child that has to be provided by himself and his whole family. He knowingly is putting himself and his family at risk because these children are offenders. Whilst most of them respond well to INC care, there are cases of theft in the home, of property in the home being damaged, of cars being illegally used, and so on. Therefore, the INC parents are putting themselves at risk, and knowingly, because, I would say, of their desire mainly to assist young offenders in the State. The rates are much higher than foster care rates. I think they are \$120-plus per week at the present time but, of course, you would have to bear in mind that the INC parent is virtually a part-time social worker. So, the responsibility and the mode of operation of INC parents is a very great one indeed and they are putting a lot into the system of looking after young offenders. I think that Mr Harris, who is our Deputy Director-General and has a particular responsibility in regard to young offenders, could give some further information in these areas, particularly as to the criteria that are used in selecting INC parents.

I might add finally that it is not just the question of when they are selected. After they are selected their training continues. They have a training course before they are selected. After that, the training continues, usually on a group basis, generally speaking about once a month or something of that order. It is a programme of which we are (justifiably, I think) very proud and which we want to operate correctly. We are putting all the means that we can into making it operate effectively. I ask that Mr Harris be allowed to give a more detailed explanation of the questions that have been asked.

Mr Harris: There are a number of aspects to the question. I will attempt to answer them as clearly as I can. First, in order to enable the scheme to operate, each region has a Supervisor, Young Offenders, whose responsibility it is to supervise the general work done throughout that region in relation to young offenders and to know what is happening in all the areas of it. Some regions also have social workers specifically working in the recruitment and training of intensive neighbourhood care families. The things that we consider important are the selection, the training of the INC parents, and the ongoing support to them. In relation to the aspects of the selection that were mentioned by the honourable

member, first, obviously we have to choose people who have a clear ability to relate to youth, who are interested in working in the area and who are prepared, I think, to take some risks. They are really prepared (in colloquial language) to put their necks out to help young people because they are interested in them, they want to work with them, and they want to do something for them. They are not chosen on financial aspects, although obviously their ability to provide a home and suitable accommodation within which the young person can be placed is important, but principally it is their ability to relate to youth, their understanding of young people, their willingness to take part in selection and training programmes and their willingness, too, to refer issues and problems that occur when they get out of their depth, as sometimes does occur.

I guess we are looking first at the ability to relate, the ability to provide accommodation or a suitable place for the young people to live, and the ability to work with that young person as if he were a member of their family and to help him in every way that one would attempt to help a family member. Bear in mind that the children placed in intensive neighbourhood care are children that are there as a result of a court order. It is an assessment process. A recommendation is made to the court. If the court makes an order which has a placement as part of it, often the intensive neighbourhood care parents go to the court, take the child from the court and look after the child from there on. If the child is in remand the parents may also undertake the responsibility of getting the child back to court on the due date. They are paid at a rate of \$15.90 per day but for children that are there for a longer placement (up to three months or longer in special circumstances) the rate is \$20.40 per day. There is an 'on call' rate for those who may be, in a sense, expected to be available at short notice to take children.

Because of the nature of the task there is always a need to recruit more people. We need to be constantly recruiting and renewing because it is a demanding task and sometimes the parents have their own responsibilities in terms of their family or situation which changes. For that reason there is a high turnover rate. Currently there are about 79 families involved over the span of a year. Currently about 68 families are available with whom children may be placed. That covers most aspects of the question. As I mentioned earlier in relation to Aboriginal young offenders, there are also Aboriginal workers who are aiming to increase the opportunities for young Aboriginal offenders to be placed in intensive neighbourhood care, rather than institutions, where appropriate.

Dr BILLARD: I refer to a comment made in regard to page 22 of the yellow book. Under the heading '1981-82 Specific Targets/Objectives', reference is made to the central northern region, which has had an increase in staff to work with children in schools. Can the Minister advise precisely what those staff are doing within the schools? Is it to educate the children or the teachers or perhaps to take a work load that arises from the school?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I call on Mr Cox to answer the question as a matter of detail. I notice the section to which the honourable member refers. It goes on to say that the central northern region has had an increase in staff to work with children in schools. It also states that the key worker scheme has been introduced in that region. I would say, first, that both the project centre and the key worker scheme are designed to deal with children who have severe problems in schools. I refer to such problems as truancy, anti-social behaviour, disturbing peers, classmates and teachers and an inability to operate in an ordinary classroom situation. An answer that the department has developed over a period is the Norwood Project Centre which, while being physically

situated in Norwood and therefore in the central western region of the department, deals with the whole of the metropolitan area. It is quite a unique service and a very good one.

The co-operation between the Education Department and the Department for Community Welfare is good. It is one of my beliefs that there needs to be close co-operation in the human services area: fundamentally, education, health and welfare and some other areas. The way in which the Americans sought to go some years ago of having a Department of Education, Health and Welfare, was quite wrong. That monolith was bigger than the rest of the Government. It was enormously powerful. It did not work out. While education has now been separated, health and welfare are still put together as applies in most other countries of the world. The United States Budget for health and welfare is still one of the biggest budgets in the world. That tends to be monolithic. It is better to adopt the procedure of having separate departments but undertaking close co-operation. Certainly, that applies in regard to the Norwood Project Centre.

I have been to the centre, and co-operation between the education and welfare staff, volunteers and people from other areas of expertise, is very good indeed. The children are very disturbed children—children who certainly would disrupt the school if they were to remain in their own school. I was impressed, indeed, by the programme being carried out there and the apparent response from the children. The ultimate crunch is when the child goes back to its own school, as ultimately needs to happen. While the Norwood Project Centre is very good indeed, that is the crunch, as the success rate in getting children back into the school from which they came is not very high. That is where I think it needs to happen.

The section referred to by the honourable member on page 22 goes on to address the key workers scheme. That scheme is another approach to this problem of keeping children in their own school and asking them to nominate a person to whom they can relate. It is similar to the IPS scheme for young offenders, but these children are not offenders. They often nominate the school caretaker or the lady from the deli on the corner as someone to whom they can relate. They remain in the school and are taken under the wing of the worker concerned. That person is a volunteer and is therefore not paid. The volunteer in question tries to develop a greater sense of responsibility in the child and, in the pilot scheme, this appears to be proving fairly successful.

They are usually children who cannot relate to their own parents, as otherwise this would not be necessary. We insist that their own parents agree to having a key worker allocated to the child. We insist that there be confidentiality in communications between the child and the key worker which is not to be broken to the parents, the school or the D.C.W. workers. It is to be maintained. That scheme is another way of looking at the same problem. A similar project is currently being conducted in Murray Bridge. Do we take children from school to some other place and train them and put them back, or do we keep them in the school but give them special support, as the key worker scheme does? In order to reply in greater detail to the question raised by the honourable member as to increases in staff, I ask Mr Cox to answer.

Mr Cox: There is a person out there who is a senior staff development officer in the department who is unique in his training of human service skills. The department seconded that person to the Education Department and that person is now full time working with teachers and principals in relation to the area of schools and giving them some different skills as far as the tasks are concerned. We also allocated

two group workers who are taking up the functions of the northern project team and their aim this year is to help 50 individual children and to effect 150 other children in that particular area.

The department is also supporting the key persons scheme as a pilot project. In the key persons scheme at the moment there are approximately 20 children and it is working successfully. It has the co-operation of teachers in both schools and, as a matter of fact, the recent publicity on it has gained it something of an international reputation because it did get into other papers. The seeking of a co-operative plan between education and the children, who otherwise would be truants, is going to continue for many years, because it is the merging of those sorts of skills that will prevent such things as truant homes, which other States have: children are being locked up for truancy and, I believe that that is the wrong way to go about it.

Dr BILLARD: Before I move to the last question, I commend the work in that area because it appears to me that perhaps one of the greatest opportunities for putting the finger on problem areas within homes comes through the schools. Ways of opening up that channel of communication are all to the good, as far as I am concerned. My last question relates to community service orders. I notice on page 22 that it says a little about what, I believe, is the community service order scheme and it mentions that this programme is capable of taking 60 young offenders in a full year.

I am aware that when this scheme was mooted there was a big backlog of unpaid fines and that this scheme was facing at its instigation a big backlog. To what extent has that backlog been overcome? Will the 60 young offenders in a full year cater for the foreseeable work load? Could the Minister give us some idea of the number of different community organisations that are being involved in this programme to supply the work?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: There are really two separate schemes. Perhaps there is some confusion in the mind of the honourable member who asked the question. One is the defaulter scheme and the other is the community service order scheme. In regard to the defaulters, the scheme is different. The Warrants Default Scheme is its technical name. It relates to children who have been fined and a period of detention in secure care is imposed in default of their paying their fine.

The thrust of that scheme has been, first, to follow up defaulting young offenders who are not paying their fines, to follow up the non-payment, speak to them about that and try to encourage them to pay their fines, perhaps over a period. That scheme has been very successful in that many young offenders who otherwise would not pay their fines, because of this scheme, do pay their fines. That, after all, is the object of the exercise, to encourage children who have been fined for traffic offences mainly, and other offences, to pay their fines. The period of detention which is already in default is usually very short and it really does not do any good to a child to lock him up. There is not the possibility in the short period of 10 days, or something like that which is ordered in default, to carry out any useful programmes.

So, on the one hand, one has to make it clear that a young offender cannot thumb his nose at authority and has to acknowledge his obligations and accept his punishment. That is where the Warrants Default Scheme has been most successful in persuading many of the young offenders to pay their fines. If they do not pay their fines they can work them off.

This is quite separate from community service orders. Under the Warrants Default Scheme they can work it off on a specified basis as to amounts of fine, as opposed to

amount of time worked. Some young offenders do this. This scheme has been quite successful. Its main success has been in persuading young offenders to pay their fines, perhaps over the period in the first place, but some have worked it off.

The community service order scheme is a different scheme: it is an alternative to secure care. So, courts, instead of ordering a child into secure care, can keep them out of institutional care (out of SAYTC and SAYRAC) at those enormous figures that were mentioned earlier as being the cost to the taxpayer, and order the child (the young offender), as a way of paying his debt to society, to carry out some useful work for society.

We have very carefully watched the implementation of this scheme and I am in the process of establishing an informal committee with the unions to ensure that there is no misunderstanding about this. There is no intention, in times of unemployment, for getting a young offender to carry out work which could otherwise be carried out by a person in the workforce. The intention is that the work that is carried out will be work which would otherwise not be carried out at all. This was part of the honourable member's question when he was seeking more information, which Mr Harris can give him, as to what are the community bodies in respect of which the work is done.

The scheme has been successful and I have seen young offenders carrying out the work, digging out the ground for retaining walls and building the retaining walls. This has been in circumstances where otherwise that work for aged people and so on would not have been done. So, the community service orders, as opposed to the Warrants Default Scheme, are designed to keep young people (where appropriate and on the direction of the court—it is up to the court) out of secure care and perhaps leave them in their own homes, put them in care, or whatever is appropriate, as their means of paying their debt to society; the purpose is to direct them to carry out some real community work. I will ask Mr Harris to answer the more detailed part of the question, namely, the community bodies for which this kind of the work is done.

Mr Harris: Perhaps I could deal with the Warrants Default Scheme first. We were asked to provide some figures on that. The number of warrants that was received to be handled during the 1981-82 financial year was 2 056. Of those, 195 were worked out, 726 were paid out by the payment of a fine when departmental officers contacted the youths concerned, and 136 were referred back to the court for further police action.

The type of work that is being done in that scheme (and that would be fairly consistent with the community service order scheme that the Minister mentioned) is work in gardening, painting and general maintenance (largely for pensioners, work with the CYSS groups), work for Meals on Wheels, work in some schools in general ways, (assisting with swimming centres, picking up papers sometimes, supervision of children), work at the Woorabinda camp site, some work in tourist parks, general cleaning up in youth project service activities, and with the offender project, OARS.

A fairly wide range of work is done under supervision. I do not have the precise number of persons engaged under community service orders this year, but it would be a relatively small number. It is a direct order of the court, usually as part of a bond, that a youth serves or works in the community, perhaps instead of being placed in a detention centre. About 20 offenders would have worked under this programme this year.

The CHAIRMAN: I point out to members that a difference in procedure may develop between the two Committees. Although it is encouraged that questions be asked on the

same line under consideration, it is quite admissible for a member to begin a different line of questioning, provided that it is within the vote under consideration.

Mr MAX BROWN: I refer the Minister to the Estimates of Payments and the lines 'Income Support' and 'Family Maintenance'. I point out that the actual payments for 1981-82, particularly for income support, were greater than anticipated. How did that come about and in what areas? In my opinion, very little increase in expenditure is proposed for family maintenance next year, although there is a proposed increase for the income support line. The Minister has said that he has a tight budget and that there is a possibility of some flexibility, but I do not believe that the proposed expenditure will be sufficient for the next 12 months.

As an example, I can only refer to my own experience with my own district of Whyalla. I do not believe that the Budget takes into account the increase in inflation. Secondly, and more important, I do not believe that the Budget takes into account the possible increase in demand. In my district there is a considerable demand for family maintenance and income support. It was quite noticeable, particularly following the closure of the Whyalla shipyards, that people left Whyalla, creating a ready availability of Housing Trust homes. Those homes have been occupied by welfare families. It is obvious from the influx of those welfare families into my district that the demand for family maintenance and income support has risen.

I question whether the department's personnel and the service being given to these welfare families have significantly decreased. Why was there a substantial increase in voted finance last year and why is there a limited increase for 1982-83?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The member has raised two separate matters: first, family maintenance, which is the term he used, and, secondly, income support. Family maintenance is administered by the department's Family Maintenance Branch, which assists spouses who are separated or deserted and who seek maintenance from the deserting spouse. This is an extremely varied area because, until a short time ago, as has been mentioned, the Department for Community Welfare picked up the tab for the first six months of sole supporting parent benefits. We insisted that reasonable efforts be made by the deserted spouse to obtain maintenance from the other spouse. That is family maintenance in a different area. As I have said, a short while ago this area was taken over by the Federal Government which, henceforth, has picked up the tab for this whole area from the first day that a spouse is deserted.

At that time staff numbers in the Family Maintenance Branch were reduced, because no longer was my department paying the bill and, therefore, we no longer required a deserted spouse to make a reasonable attempt to obtain maintenance from the deserting spouse. However, the wheel has turned full circle, because the Commonwealth Government now requires a deserted spouse to make reasonable attempts to have the deserting spouse pick up the tab. Therefore, this requirement applies once again, and that has occurred since the Budget was introduced. This area is largely funded by the Federal Government, so, I recently wrote to the Minister responsible, Senator Durack, the Federal Attorney-General. My department reduced its staff in the Family Income Maintenance Branch by four officers, because they were not required during that interim period. As I have said, I have written to Senator Durack asking him for about \$90 000 to fund this area, because the Commonwealth Government now requires that, before deserted spouses can receive sole supporting parent benefits, they must make reasonable attempts to get the deserting spouse to pick up the tab.

I sympathise with the member in relation to the name used in the Budget papers, that is, income maintenance. That term is mainly used by Treasury. My department does not think it is appropriate and does not use it. We use the term 'emergency financed assistance'. Quite some time ago an arrangement was arrived at between the Commonwealth and the States in relation to income maintenance: that if a person was unable to obtain an income, it was the responsibility of the Commonwealth. Therefore, aged pensions, invalid pensions, unemployment benefits, sole supporting parent benefits, and so on, are paid by the Commonwealth and not by the States.

This has been the arrangement for many years. Let me make it perfectly plain that under this arrangement the State has no responsibility whatever to assist in income maintenance and in maintaining income that is less than it would otherwise be because a person is unemployed, sick, aged, or whatever. That is the responsibility of the Federal Government. Whether it carries out its responsibilities as well as it should, and whether or not the amounts given are adequate, is its affair: it is not the affair of the State. The other part of the bargain is that emergency financial assistance is part of the responsibility of the States and is specifically not income maintenance or a substitute therefor. I have taken up this matter with the Federal Minister on a number of occasions, and when I have complained I have been joined by other State Ministers. Indeed, the former Victorian Minister was one who joined with me in this complaint.

I complained that I considered that the Federal income maintenance by way of aged pensions, and various other things that I mentioned, were too low and that, because they were too low, additional claims were being made on the States by way of emergency financial assistance. The arrangement certainly must be maintained while we have the present State-Commonwealth financial arrangements: we pick up the tab for emergency financial assistance. However it arises, it is not part of income maintenance, and we cannot accept the responsibility for it. We are not funded to accept that responsibility. That is the point that I particularly make: the income tax reimbursement that we get in this State, and that they get in all the other States of Australia, is not geared to enable us to pick up the tab for income maintenance. The Federal Government retains that responsibility. We are given tax reimbursements only on the basis that we are responsible for emergency financial assistance. That relates to emergencies however they arise. It is not a substitution for income maintenance.

Emergency financial assistance becomes involved when, for example, a person does not receive his normal income because a pension cheque comes late, or if for some other reason he should suddenly find himself, through no fault of his own, perhaps because of sickness, deprived of his income or suddenly with additional expenses. If there is, through whatever cause, an emergency relating to financial assistance then, within the guidelines, we will provide that emergency financial assistance. I made clear earlier that the provision in this Budget is quite realistic. If I find, as I found in the past two Budgets, that the amount is not adequate, I will do what I did on both those occasions and ask the Budget Review Committee for a further allocation, which I received on both the previous occasions. This depends very much on demand.

As I have said, most of the areas in both my portfolios depend on demand, but this one especially does so. One does not know how many people will ask for assistance. The honourable member's estimate that more people may approach us for emergency financial assistance this financial year than occurred in the past financial year is probably correct, but we can only base our estimates on what has happened. That is what we have done in this Budget. As I

have said before, the allocation for emergency financial assistance is the same as it was last year, plus 4 per cent for contingencies, which is the standard figure across the board for contingencies, as well as \$2 000 a month.

I said previously that, when I applied for and received an extra \$50 000 in the past financial year because we were falling short, it was late in that year and we did not spend all that money. I have been through before, and will not go through again, the procedures that met that situation. There was only one effective month in the past financial year during which an additional allocation was available. That was the month of June, and the amount was \$2 000. So, the allocation that has been made is quite realistic. I repeat that the figure is the same as it was last year, plus 4 per cent for contingencies and \$2 000 a month or \$24 000 a year, which proved to be the additional amount required during the one month when additional money was available.

This was a realistic way, for Budget purposes, of arriving at a figure and saying which figure we should put in this Budget. If I find that the amount is inadequate, as I have in the past two years, I will go back to the Budget Review Committee, as I did in those two years, I hope with the same results. I ask Mr Cox, who has some points to contribute, to speak first, followed by Mr Beattie, who will supply some finer detailed information.

Mr Cox: In the line 'Income support' money that is awaiting payment for Commonwealth pensions is the major part of the money available. That amounts to \$567 000. The amount for this year is \$321 000. That is a \$40 000 increase on the previous year. The other items are much smaller. One of the amounts would involve the emergency assistance that is given by the police, who have order books that they use to assist people who come into police stations. The amount involved there is \$4 000. Other items, such as \$2 000 for burials, are included in that figure. We are not sure whether we can anticipate the number of burials that we will have this year. Also involved are travelling expenses for clients, involving a 4 per cent increase. The total figure involves salaries needed for income support, the payment of arrears, payment of the early part of unemployment benefits if a person is really in trouble, and mainly small items which relate to police assistance, clients travelling and burial expenses.

Mr Beattie: I would like to refer to emergency financial assistance, which appears in line with income support but which also appears under each region in the Loan Estimates. There has been an 8.8 per cent increase in emergency financial assistance over last year's payments. That allocation was distributed on the basis of social indicators, and there is a loading for country regions of 13 per cent to cover increased transport expenses. Of those funds, 83 per cent is allocated to people for food. The next highest allocation is 6.4 per cent for transport. Of payments for emergency financial assistance, only 5 per cent is paid to employed people. All other people who receive emergency financial assistance are unemployed or are on other benefits such as pensions.

The second item relates to the Family Maintenance Branch of the Department for Community Welfare. This branch provides a free legal service to spouses who are separated or who are contemplating separation. It provides assistance to people seeking maintenance in respect of children placed in their care. It also provides counsel for parties in matters under the Family Law Act. It provides counselling advice to single mothers and *de facto* spouses on matters related to paternity payments of criminal expenses or maintenance for children born out of marriage. It is necessary for maintenance officers to assist these people to take appropriate steps, either administratively or by means of legal proceedings, to enforce compliance with maintenance orders. As part of the Family Maintenance Branch, there is a fairly

complex A.D.P. system that we use to control maintenance payments.

The staff of the branch has reduced from 38 to 34, as the Minister said, as a result of reduction in work load, because of changes in policy by the Department of Social Security relating to applicants not requiring action to secure maintenance, and also because of the change in payment of income maintenance for supporting parents being taken over by the Department of Social Security. Because of changes in the last Federal Budget, the branch will now be required to assist people who are seeking supporting parents benefits from the Department of Social Security to provide reasonable evidence that they have tried to secure maintenance. That will significantly increase the work load of the branch. We will increase the branch by four positions, so that it will be back to its original establishment of a year ago. Additionally, we are asking for assistance in updating our family maintenance ledger system, because that will come under more pressure, and we are also seeking assistance with administrative costs.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: Mr Harris would like to speak again about figures that he gave earlier in relation to young offenders. He feels that he may have inadvertently misled the Committee and would like to correct that.

Mr Harris: When I talked about community service order schemes, I said that I was not sure of the figures. I thought that it was in the vicinity of 20. I found on checking that there were 27 referrals. Of these, 15 were rejected on the ground that the children were not liable to go into secure care, and it was not necessary for them to be placed in the scheme. Twelve were accepted in the scheme, which has been operating since January 1982 and, of the 12 admitted to the scheme, 10 involved direct orders by the court and two were conditionally released by the review board.

Mr MAX BROWN: Does the Minister envisage any increase in the expenditure of his department because the Federal Government will now be paying for the fighting of maintenance orders? In my experience, these maintenance orders can go on for a considerable time, involving great expense. Do the department or the Minister envisage that there may be increased expenditure because of inability to do this? There could possibly be a very long and protracted fight ultimately to get maintenance. This is an important point.

My second question relates to emergencies. I am very well aware of the department's role in emergencies, but I find that, despite that, in many emergency organisations such as St Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army play a very important part if the Community Welfare Department finds itself unable or unwilling to enter into the area. Has the department ever considered providing funds for these types of welfare institutions, which play a very important part in our community?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I address first the matter raised outside the honourable member's question, that is, family income maintenance. As I said, when my department had the responsibility of picking up the first months of income maintenance, we were required to ensure that reasonable attempts were made by the deserted spouse to obtain through the court system maintenance from the deserting spouse. When we handed that over to the Federal Government, we ceased to have that obligation. Therefore, the work load diminished and four positions were abolished then because the need for them did not exist.

Now, the Federal Government has decided to impose the same obligation, namely, that when deserted spouses seek a supporting parent benefit they must have made reasonable attempts to obtain maintenance from the deserting spouse. We now have that obligation again. We estimate that we will need the four positions that we lost. The Federal Gov-

ernment has always recognised its responsibility in this area, because the service will alleviate its need to provide income maintenance. We expect that it will fund the positions. I have written to the Federal Attorney asking him for \$90 000, which is the estimated cost, including contingencies, of those four positions.

An honourable member interjecting:

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: It is not working against the background that the Federal Government now expects, as a condition precedent to obtaining sole supporting parents benefits, that reasonable attempts be made by the deserted spouse to obtain payment from the deserting spouse. It is not really true that it is not working. It is just that in the interim the Federal Government, now having the sole responsibility of sole supporting parents benefits, has not had that requirement. So, it has not required that the deserted spouse seek to obtain payment from the deserting spouse. Now that the Federal Government has that requirement, it has changed its tune. It has done what we did before, when we had that obligation for six months. The Federal Government is saying, 'If you want to claim sole supporting parents benefits, you have to be able to satisfy us that you have done your best to obtain payments from the deserting spouse.'

During the interim, between the period when we had the responsibility and the present, it has not done that. But, it is now doing so. Therefore, we can see that we will have in future a responsibility that we have not had in the interim. Because of this requirement, which is quite reasonable, more maintenance claims will be made, creating a greater demand. We will need more staff: we will need the four officers that we put off. Because the Federal Government, broadly speaking, accepts that we are helping it regarding income maintenance and sole supporting parents benefits, it will fund us. I have asked for an additional \$90 000 to get back the four positions.

It is not really true to say that it is not working. The true position is that if the Federal Government in its wisdom wants to impose this condition that reasonable attempts be made and if those attempts are to be made, as they must be, through my department, we will need more staff. Because in principle they accept the proposition that they should fund us because we are doing part of their job, I have made that approach to them. Concerning the actual question asked by the honourable member in regard, particularly, to organisations such as St Vincent de Paul, a part of the extensive operation of St Vincent de Paul—and it is a very broad operation, including hospital visits, visits to the elderly and all sorts of things; it is not solely related to hand-outs, and before I found the burdens of Parliamentary office getting too great to enable me to do it I was a St Vincent de Paul visitor myself—

Mr MAX BROWN: I did not ask the question because I knew that.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: A part of the operation is direct hand-outs of food, clothing and furniture. My department is not concerned in that area. St Vincent de Paul is not alone. There are a number of other organisations. I was in the South-East, as members would know, over the weekend and they have their South-East District Aid Society that does the same thing in hand-outs of food, furniture and clothing to people who need it. The State Government is not directly involved in this area. I think that there has been a very good partnership between the State Government, organisations such as St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army and others, and the Commonwealth Government. Certainly, my department gets many references from St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army and other similar organisations in areas where they cannot help but where we can. The department does refer people to St Vincent de Paul where what

they need is a hand-out of food and particularly furniture and clothing, of which organisations like St Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army usually have a ready supply.

The Commonwealth Government is also included in that partnership. We have not been funding these organisations such as St Vincent de Paul, and Salvation Army in this particular area through the Community Welfare Grants Fund. The guidelines for that fund have been established. In the past we had increased the fund very rapidly. We have not increased it very much—only by 7.4 per cent this year—because it was based on a very strong base in previous years, but we have never included direct hand-out organisations, laudable as they are, like St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army and others in this group. We do not intend to change our basis of funding.

The Commonwealth Government makes grants from time to time in this sort of area and, from my memory, St Vincent de Paul has been very much a recipient of Commonwealth Government grants from time to time in the past. So, I certainly have the greatest sympathy for the point raised by the honourable member. I know, as he knows, the need that there is in particular cases for direct help. I support, as he supports, the St Vincent de Paul Society, Salvation Army and the various other bodies who provide this kind of direct support, but I think that the way to go for the future is the way that has worked in the past, namely, that there be a partnership, that St Vincent de Paul knows that it can in proper cases where it cannot help refer cases to us, that we know that where it has the means to provide a bed which it has in its store but we do not have, we refer cases to it, and the Commonwealth Government usually provides quite substantial funding for organisations of this kind. I ask Mr Cox whether he can add further to what I have said.

Mr Cox: I think that some of the details for which the honourable member is looking relate to the costs of the collecting of maintenance that are paid by the Commonwealth that at the present moment stand at \$1 500 000. Last year we collected \$4 600 000. That is approximately 75 per cent of the amount due in maintenance orders. Western Australia and South Australia have this unique system. Western Australia is attached to the court. This maintenance collection is attached to the State Department of Welfare. In other States it is not as direct, and the Commonwealth Attorney-General would like to set up this system throughout Australia. That would give you some idea of the cost. It is one-third of what is collected.

The \$90 000 includes four staff, the ancillary staff and other costs, so we will not be without the other material that is needed to do the job. In relation to the E.F.A. the Commonwealth Government allocates throughout Australia \$500 000 each year for emergency financial assistance to voluntary organisations such as St Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army. That figure has remained stationary for the past three or four years, but the amount that comes to South Australia is about 10 per cent of that \$500 000, and that has been allocated each year to the various organisations.

Mr MAX BROWN: The Minister and his officers, would be very well aware that an experiment was conducted in bringing Vietnamese refugees and their families to the City of Whyalla. I understood at the time that this was a base experiment and that it was to proceed, although I have some reasonable doubt personally whether it has proceeded at all. Was there any increase in family problems and required assistance with that experiment when it first was envisaged? Secondly, is there any on-going family welfare problem with it at the present moment, and has the experiment literally dropped off in demand (as it could be crudely put)? I think that the Minister probably knows that I am getting at whether the on-going experiment has resulted in a real demand

placed on his department and whether there is envisaged any further extension to that scheme.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: When the problem of the Indo-Chinese refugees arose, of course, the first question was really a national one as to whether or not we would accept the refugees, and I believe that the Federal Government made the correct, humane, and charitable decision in saying that it was a matter of charity: that we owed it to the world to accept our proportion of the refugees. I feel that it was basically a Federal responsibility. The State Government, and the previous Government, did not have much say in it, but I think that we are most proud to have accepted our responsibilities and to have been prepared to accept our proportion of the refugees. I think that in some respects we probably got more than our proportion of the refugees because we were recognised as providing proper services for them.

The responsibility is basically Federal. It has a direct responsibility in regard to social work provisions and various other responsibilities. There is some argument at the present time between State and Federal Governments as to the demarcation line between Federal responsibility and our own State responsibility. We have tried very hard to help the Indo-Chinese and other refugees as much as we can. We believe we have the moral responsibility to do that. There are some very fine organisations working in the field. One is led by Rev. Father Jefferies Foale. Another is led by a Vietnamese gentleman. They are fine organisations which we support as much as we can. We give to those organisations a fair proportion of community welfare grants fund to enable them to operate. We believe that they are being sold a bit short by the Commonwealth Government.

In regard to what is happening in Whyalla, where a number of those people have been settled, I also point out that the ordinary services of my department in counselling, emergency financial assistance, or any other area, are available. I am not aware that that is imposing a very great burden on the department in regard to its ordinary services. Apart from supplying help for the volunteer organisations who are supplying a specific service to the refugees, our responsibility to persons established in South Australia is exactly the same whether they are refugees, natives of Australia, or whatever. They are persons in the community and are entitled to its services. While one would expect that refugees would have a higher need for those services than perhaps the general area of the community, I am not aware and do not think it is the case, either in the Whyalla community or across the board, that the extra demands made by the refugees impose a great burden on the department. The department is pleased, indeed, to service this section of our community, and I think we owed it to them if we have them with us. I ask Mr Harris to give further detail in the matter.

Mr Harris: As the Minister has said, the placement of Vietnamese and other Indo-Chinese refugees in locations has been done by the Commonwealth Government. The number placed at Whyalla has been through voluntary community groups and non-government organisations. My understanding is that there has been an increased work load to the department as a result of that and some difficulty has arisen in finding adequate translators in those areas. They are the principal difficulties and have not been noticeably greater as the Minister mentioned.

Mr Cox: I think the question relates to refugees being seen as a welfare problem. I think the tactic has been to ensure that they become a neighbourhood support issue and not a problem of welfare. Some of the country areas have done very well in the supporting of the family. Eventually they have got around to learning English and have been able to cope with their situation. Our task is related clearly to refugee children. The Minister has 34 such children under

his guardianship at the present time. When a group of people have become isolated or detached from their sponsors or their families, quite often their sponsors were an elder brother or sister. About 217 of those people are in South Australia now.

So, the situation is that our services are not greatly called upon for families but, in relation to children, there have been many problems. For the first group that came through we had difficulty in obtaining employment as they grew into that stage. With later groups we have had more success in supporting and helping them. That was shown by the refugee study done by the Family Research Unit.

Mr BECKER: The papers presented to us are an excellent idea and I have been one who has advocated Programme Performance Budgeting and the Estimates Committees for many years. I find that most of the information is extremely helpful. I think that the process of the Estimates Committees over the past couple of years shows that there is the need for members of Parliament to undertake a lot of reading and research before seeking information at the Estimates Committees because one can find on one page a matter that may provide the basis for a question, and if one looks a few pages further on, there is the answer.

I have gone through this document quickly and one area where I find there is a deficiency regarding the Department of Community Welfare is that it does not detail the numbers of motor vehicles allocated to the department and/or the various programmes. On page 16 it mentions that motor vehicles are estimated to be used 30 per cent by district officers. On page 21 there is only the mention of motor vehicles and no number, and this also happens on pages 26, 30, 37, 39, 44, 46, 59, and 64.

What is the number of motor vehicles allocated to the department and to each programme and to whom are those motor vehicles made available? Where are the motor vehicles stored? Are those vehicles for the use of departmental officers in home to work usage? I realise that in many cases there would be a high allocation of motor vehicles for some programmes, particularly social workers and/or officers constantly on the roads. To jump the gun, can this information also be supplied in relation to the Department for Consumer Affairs if that has not already been done. Is this information available now as to the number of motor vehicles that the department has under its control, to whom the vehicles are allocated, where they are stored and whether it is necessary for some of the vehicles to be taken home by officers on call both day and night?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I appreciate the question, and it is very carefully thought out. The member for Hanson in asking his question first pointed out the need for research by members of this Committee before they ask a question. That is a very valid point and, generally speaking, it has been observed today and most members who have asked questions have read the Budget papers, the line budget or the Programme Performance Budget where applicable, the yellow book and the Auditor-General's Report. The member for Hanson is quite right when he supports the Budget Estimates Committees system. It is a good system and can and should be used by members to extract more information for themselves and members of the public about the Budget.

In the first year, and even in the second year, I was worried that it was being used politically and not for the purpose it was intended. I believe that it now has settled down, certainly on my experience of today. Most questions have been designed, whatever the motive for them, to obtain greater information about the Budget. That is what I think the system was meant for.

The member for Hanson also said that he believed in and supported Programme Performance Budgeting. So do I. It is more suited to some departments than others and

my other department, the Department for Consumer Affairs, was selected for the pilot programme because it was one of the few departments that did not have a line budget and which would, for the first time, present a Programme Performance Budget.

In regard to the Department Consumer Affairs, that was no problem because it is a department of programmes. It includes the Consumer Services Branch, the Licensing Branch, Public Trustee and Births, Deaths and Marriages; they really are programmes and there were no problems. There was a greater problem with the Department for Community Welfare as it was a very highly decentralised department, as it should be. I think that everyone here would agree with me. It contains district offices with various numbers of staff, sometimes down to three people.

Most of the staff in the Department of Community Welfare are generalists: they are not specialists or operating any particular programme and the same number of staff may be dealing with counselling, emergency financial assistance, adoptions, fostering, and so on down the track to quite a large number of programmes. I believe that it is desirable to have Programme Performance Budgeting in a department of this kind, but it does make it more difficult because one has to take, in effect, a particular social worker in a district office and work out where that person spends his time, say, one-fifth on fostering, two-thirds on something else and two-thirds on another thing, and it can become rather artificial.

It is worth carrying out the exercise, particularly at a reasonably high level. I felt that perhaps the second and third time round with Programme Performance Budgeting, when one is looking at the central office of the department, to try to dissect the time of the office boy when he goes to post a letter, is rather useless. At the higher levels I believe very much in Programme Performance Budgeting and I am very much in sympathy with what the honourable member has said.

There are two matters in relation to cars. First, the Committee would be aware that in future the money for motor vehicles will be transferred to the Services and Supply vote and taken out of departmental lines. In the past, the accounting system used by the department allowed for more flexibility. I appreciate the remarks made by the honourable member, particularly in relation to my department where a social worker can receive a telephone call at 9 p.m., requiring him to use a car. To say that this work could be done using taxis is probably not correct in most cases. There is a great need for flexibility in relation to the use of cars, probably greater than in relation to most departments. I suppose the police and one or two other departments might match us in that area.

There is a great need for social workers to be mobile. At 9 o'clock or 10 o'clock at night there is no way that a client could get to a social worker. There is a need for flexibility, and I think that has been reflected in the way in which we have presented our figures. I appreciate that the figures may not be presented in the Budget papers in the way that the honourable member would have liked. Mr Beattie will provide further details.

Mr Beattie: The department has a fleet of about 257 vehicles. I cannot give an exact figure because vehicles come and go all the time. We have no policy in relation to the garaging of motor vehicles, mainly because garaging in close proximity to many of our offices would be very expensive. However, if vehicles are left out in the open they are prone to vandalism and damage which would cost the department a lot of expense. As the Minister has said, officers need to use vehicles outside normal office hours. Most officers work out a system whereby those officers likely to be on call have access to a vehicle. The department budgets for its motor

vehicles from a central pool. They are allocated on a regional basis.

We take the number of social workers, the area to be covered and the approximate population to be serviced to determine how many vehicles should be placed in each region. The regional director then makes an allocation for each office. That is a very flexible way of managing the fleet at local level. Unfortunately, our regional structure is not compatible with the programme performance budget papers at the moment. We can only make approximations in the programme performance budget papers as to how much of the motor vehicle fleet is used for each programme. It is a very broad approximation which will be refined and made much more accurate as we come to grips with programme performance budgeting.

Mr BECKER: I appreciate that point. Personally, I would not like to see the programme performance budget papers extended any further; I think they have gone as far as they should go in defining programmes in the lines. If we go any further it becomes very petty and minor and, quite honestly, it is extremely expensive and I do not think it would benefit the Estimates Committees. If additional information is required, Committee members can obtain it. The main programmes are identified. A quick perusal of the department's lines indicates that the major programmes, if not all the programmes, are set out pretty well.

I am a little concerned that there is no policy in relation to garaging the 257 motor vehicles. That area should be looked at. The allocation of 257 vehicles means that one vehicle is provided for every five members of the staff. That seems to be a high ratio, but I bear in mind that the intense nature of the work performed at a district office could very well justify the provision for cars. However, the ratio of one to five does seem very high.

I refer to page 10 of the yellow book and 'Community participation in welfare delivery—funding to other organisations, including self-help groups'. 'Funding to other organisations, including self-help groups' in 1981-82 had one staff person proposed. In 1981-82 it was increased to three, and in this financial year it will be increased to 4.2. What role do those people play in advising the Community Welfare Advisory Committee? I acknowledge that those two committees have now been merged. What is the personnel of the Community Welfare Advisory Committee, how many members does it have and what are their qualifications? Will the Minister give some background information about the organisations that the members represent and the broad policy adopted in the past and the policy adopted towards the various agencies that will be assisted this financial year? I have been told that a representative working directly with that committee advised a particular voluntary agency that it could expect a cut of between 30 per cent and 50 per cent in programme allocation. In actual fact, last year that committee overviewed allocations of \$1 165 000.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: In relation to cars, I will ask Mr Cox to provide more detail, because the honourable member's question relates to the general operation of the department. Obviously, with this type of department there is a very high need for welfare workers to use cars. The ability of our clients to come and see us is sometimes very restricted. Last year I thought that some departments in the United States had gone quite the wrong way. In Denver, for example, everything has been centralised; there is one office and no branch offices—every officer is situated in the general office. The social welfare workers think that is wonderful. They have a gymnasium, a swimming pool, and so on. However, I think that might be quite frightening for their clients.

In San Francisco, which is a very large city, there is only one office. It is a massive building with security requirements to gain entry. I was quite frightened going into that building

and getting up to, say, the eighteenth floor. How a poor welfare client requiring emergency financial assistance or some other welfare assistance can cope with that situation I just do not know. I do not believe that they would be able to cope. In South Australia we have been trying to bring welfare to the people, and I am sure the member for Hanson agrees with that. Therefore, the people who need that assistance know what it involves and can contact us. The decentralisation programme, which comprises 50 district and branch offices, has allowed us to achieve that. Another important aspect is for workers to have access to cars.

This is necessary so that when a member of the public or a client rings requiring a service they can get that service at the time and at their home. If a person cannot come to the district office or the branch office we have to go to them. I am entirely in sympathy with the honourable member who asked the question about details of the breakdown of the provision for cars. We will do the best we can. I have been most concerned about the cost of cars, which is one of the major costs for the department. We have been under pressure from the Treasury and Budget Review Committee to contain costs ever since we have been in Government and, because I want them to be contained in ways which do not disadvantage the department or the client and do not prevent us from doing what we are supposed to do, I have been most concerned about expenses such as car expenses because there is such a lot of money involved.

The Director-General and I have had a number of 8 a.m. conferences about this matter because I have made it clear that I am worried about the question of cars and about the total amount of money involved. I do not want us to be cut down on money in this area unnecessarily or improperly, but I do want to be sure that money is properly spent. Mr Cox can carry that on shortly. The second part of the question related to the advisory committee. I think that Mrs Mann can give us the make-up of the Community Welfare Grants Advisory Committee in a moment. Mrs Mann will say who the members are and what they do. I am extremely pleased with the work of this committee. The Community Welfare Grants Fund amount was \$1 100 000 last year. This year it is \$1 185 000. That is only a small increase of 7.4 per cent, but against a background of massive increases. It has been increased massively since this Government came to office because it wants to support the voluntary sector.

There are a large number of organisations that want help. Most of them are very deserving, but some are not so deserving. Because of the massive demand in this area as against the supply of money it is important that the finite fund which one ends up with from the Budget when this Bill is passed (which I expect it will be by both Houses) is cut up equitably and properly. I am proud of the work done by this committee, which has been chaired by Mrs Elaine Martin from the Flinders University. Mrs Martin was recommended for this position by my predecessor and I had no hesitation in appointing her.

The other members of the committee have also been assiduous in their duties. The job has been well and carefully carried out. The honourable member who asked the question referred to the officers who advised the committee. There have been two, mainly, and they have been good officers who have very carefully advised the committee. I think that one of the important things about the committee is that it takes the politics out of the question of dividing up a substantial amount of money. It takes the Minister one step back because I have never done anything other than approve the recommendations made to me by this committee since I have been in office. There have been a small number of occasions when I have asked for a matter to be reconsidered, but I have always accepted the final recommendation.

I think it is good that money of this order is not used as a political football, to bolster marginal electorates, or for something of that kind. This money is allocated on the recommendation of the Community Welfare Grants Advisory Committee and I can say honestly (and I have said this to many people who have been disillusioned about the amounts of grants they have received or because they have not received a grant) that I always accept the final recommendation of this committee. I think that this committee is to be greatly commended. As to its exact make-up and the people who run it, there is no secret about that. Mrs Mann can certainly give the Committee that information. I will ask Mr Cox to speak first about cars and then Mrs Mann will talk about the advisory committee.

Mr Cox: I think that there might have been some misunderstanding relating to the question of motor vehicles when the honourable member took the number of cars and divided it by the number of social workers. There are 60 locations and 40 centres or service centres such as project centres, institutions, and child-care institutions. The figure is a combination of buses, vehicles which go to the Far North on patrol, and other vehicles. That means that there are a certain number of cars for use in the city. For instance, Elizabeth, which has 19 permanent and four part-time staff members and which serves an area of 151 square kilometres, has nine cars. This means that at any time those cars have to be used morning and afternoon so that all staff have the use of a car. There is a private kilometre allowance, but we have reduced that to make sure that the Government cars are fully utilised.

I have a list of the number of cars allocated to each office. It shows, for instance, that Salisbury, which has a staff of 10 in the office and three part-time officers and which serves an area of 2 605 square kilometres, has five cars. There are real rostering problems in getting work done because of this problem and it is quite complicated because it is a tight situation with motor vehicles. There are 21 small buses which are used to transport children from centres and children's homes, and people from Magill Home for the Aged. Turning to the matter of parking policy, about two years ago, before Mr Beattie was appointed Director of Resource Facilities, we studied the parking possibilities at every location. In some locations our office is in the midst of an area where there are a great number of youths. In other places there is no overnight parking other than in the streets. We have not had the sort of capital required to establish parking facilities and there has been no increase in current expenditure that would allow us to park vehicles privately. Therefore, we have a problem here. In relation to officers taking vehicles home, those officers are either on duty, have done night duty, or are on call. There is a particular rule in the Public Service about who shall take cars home, and that rule is followed.

Mrs Mann: The membership of the Community Welfare Grants Advisory Committee in the current year is Mrs Elaine Martin (Chairperson), who is a senior lecturer in social administration at Flinders University and, I believe, has a Masters Degree from the London School of Economics. At this time I do not know the qualifications of the other members of the committee, but I can give their names. Mr Claude Cunningham, Mrs Marion Disney—

Mr BECKER: Do you know which organisations do they represent?

Mrs Mann: They do not represent organisations, but are people who have been active in community services and community affairs. They do not come as representatives of organisations. They are nominated by the Minister and have no sectorial affiliations.

Also on the Committee are Mrs Eve Shannon, Mrs Helen Morris, Mrs Heather Crosby and Mr Murray Kidney, who

is an officer of the department and is a departmental nominee of the department. Their membership expires in 1983 and 1984. The honourable member asked a question about the role of the staff on the committee. There are two officers and a part-time officer attached to the committee: the Secretary, who provides all the administrative support work to the committee; a project officer, who is responsible for ongoing assessments of the projects, providing support to the projects, organising administrative procedures within the department, liaison with district office staff, and so on; additionally, there is a part-time clerical officer responsible for sending out quarterly payments of cheques and keeping the bookkeeping side of the grants programme.

Usually, about July each year advertisements are placed in the press seeking new applications and applications from existing organisations for a further grant. At that time, when we receive an influx of applications, varying between 200 and 300, a number of additional staff are used to evaluate applications for grants. That makes up the increase in staff. It is an apportionment of staff that has been used in evaluation work for the two or three months of the year in which an additional four or five project officers become involved. Every grant application is fully investigated. Those which have been approved in past years are evaluated in terms of meeting their objectives, whether they continue to function effectively, whether they continue to meet the needs for which they were funded, and so on. New applications are assessed in terms of whether they duplicate existing services. The committee has the unenviable task of considering all the reports of each of the organisations and applicants and having to list them in some order of priority in terms of who should get grants in the coming year. The grants are actually made on a calendar year basis, while the funding is allocated on a financial year basis. The grants are usually announced at the end of November and go from the period January to December.

I am not sure what additional questions there were. I think I have covered the policy. There are guidelines each year as to the areas of high priority. They have been nominated in major funding category areas: the family, the aged, the ethnic community, the handicapped, youth, particularly unemployed youth, have been the priorities for the last two years, so that the projects seeking funds to develop their work in these areas receive priority consideration. The major policy criterion, in terms of approved funding, is the effectiveness of the ongoing grant. Does the organisation previously funded still continue to be effective in this area?

Referring to an instance where an organisation may have been advised that it is likely to receive a cut, I point out that it may well be that that organisation is not functioning as effectively as we would like it to be or is no longer meeting a need of high priority or, in some way, is no longer meeting the criteria. It has been policy to advise organisations in advance where this is likely to be recommended so that they can begin to scale down their operations or consider funding from an alternative source.

Mr BECKER: It was indicated that there would be a general cut back. I wanted to find out who was authorised to make that statement and why it was intimated that the Government was going to cut back its funding when, in actual fact, it has not.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I have, as I said, been disappointed with the increase in funding in the Community Welfare Grants Fund, which is within the Miscellaneous line, which has been as small as 7.4 per cent, but the total increase since we have been in Government has been of a massive order, about a 70 per cent increase on the 1979-80 expenditure of \$697 000. So, our first Budget distributed \$697 000 between community welfare grants and community devel-

opment. Since that time there has been a 70 per cent increase, which is massive.

We have made it clear that our policy is to increase funding, where appropriate. But, against that very high base it was hard to find any reason with a restricted Budget (and there is no dispute that this one has been restricted) to make any greater increase than that. I think we are maintaining the high base that has been established. Another point, as I have said before, is that we are talking about funding the voluntary sector. When one talks about that one has to recognise that, be it women's shelters, clients of the Community Welfare Grants Fund, or whatever, they have to realise that they are in the voluntary area and they are seeking Government funding. They cannot necessarily expect to be fully funded. One finds that some, not many, voluntary organisations expect to be able to say, 'We have established the need in this area; we have established that we can fulfil the need and, therefore, you fund us.' That is a philosophy which we will not accept. We say that we are talking, in connection with community welfare grants funds, about the voluntary sector.

People who are voluntary, and God bless them, who do this out of the goodness of their heart for charity, and who are prepared to provide part of their own funding, cannot necessarily expect to get their whole funding from the Government. They cannot expect to say, 'We have established the need and you find the money.' That, I think, is something further to what Mrs Mann was saying when we were talking about the Community Welfare Grants Fund; we are talking about part of the voluntary sector. We will give every support we can, which we have done since we came to office, to all those organisations, whether they are under the Community Welfare Grants Fund, women's shelters, or whatever. But, they have to acknowledge that they do come within the voluntary sector. While they want to retain, which I am sure they do, their individuality and autonomy, they cannot just say to a Government, 'You fund us fully.' I think we have tried to keep this balance fairly well.

The CHAIRMAN: I took the last call from the honourable member as a clarification of a previous question asked. He has one more question.

Mr BECKER: At this stage, I am only talking on this line about the role of the committee. I cannot talk about the grants. As far as the programme performance budget papers are concerned, on page 52 the 1981-82 specific targets, objectives, significant initiatives, improvements and achievements are mentioned. I take this to be the role of the committee in advising the Minister, and that is why I asked about its composition and its qualifications. The programme performance budget papers states:

Expenditure on grants in 1981-82 exceeded that for 1980-81 by 24 per cent. This was largely taken up by ongoing projects, due to the large increase in projects funded in 1981 which meant an increased ongoing commitment as grants are given for calendar years.

One hundred and sixty-two projects receiving grants in 1981 were asked to submit progress reports if they wished to seek continued funding for 1982. Funding for these organisations for 1982 was generally approved at the 1981 level plus 6 per cent for salaries and 4 per cent for operating costs. Twenty-five projects organisations had their funding reduced. Funding was not continued for 14 projects either because they did not apply (9) or they were assessed as not operating satisfactorily.

Priority in funding new projects was given to projects assisting people living in country areas. Thirty-four new projects were funded, 16 of which were in country areas.

Approximately 50 agencies were visited to negotiate a clearer understanding of their aims and objectives and to develop better statistical systems which will be used as a basis for future assessments.

I agree with that last point in relation to clearer understanding in order to develop better statistical information. I am concerned with the role of the Committee in relation to the

accountability of the agencies that are funded and whether the agencies that are being funded currently have undertaken any incentive or initiative to become self-supporting—in other words that they will not continually rely on the department to fund them. We know the number of organisations funded, but can the Minister tell me at this stage the organisations that were funded and the amounts granted, with the specific purpose and emphasis now being on accountability, in view of the statement that was made that obviously some projects were funded and were assessed as not operating satisfactorily?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The annual report that has been tabled in both Houses of Parliament sets out the organisations that were funded and those that have applied and were not funded, so I do not think that there is any need to develop that in any great detail. The current year's annual report has not yet been tabled, although it will be tabled. These matters have always been made available to both Houses of Parliament through being tabled in the annual reports.

I appreciate the honourable member's question. I know his concerns, which he has discussed with me from time to time. I know particularly of his concern with a very worthy voluntary organisation. It is very difficult for the advisory committee to split up a finite sum of money. It is fraught with problems. The success that it achieves in doing so amazes me. Of course, I get complaints about people who think that they should have been funded and have not been funded or from people who think that they have not been funded enough, but it amazes me that these complaints can be answered so easily in most cases because the committee has done its work so well.

When I get the recommendations to approve or disapprove, I always read them all through very carefully. There are a large number of them. I am edified by the efficiency of the reporting and the way in which every aspect of each application has been sorted out and talked about in the recommendations. I certainly can say that I have every confidence in the overall allocation and in the recommendations by the committee to me. I suppose that it would be amazing, having an organisation that has to assess the number of applications (I think that Mrs Mann said that there were 200 or 300 and that would be about right), if we did not find some mistakes, but very rarely have I been able to identify those mistakes.

Where we have had matters such as those raised by the honourable member where, for example, during the last financial year at my direction, because the Committee sought my direction, we ceased to fund one organisation altogether, that was generally acceptable. Therefore, I have the greatest confidence in the operation of this Committee. As I say, it may not be perfect.

The honourable member also raised the question of becoming self-sufficient, which is very important indeed. I have said before that we are looking at the voluntary sector—people who are by their own acknowledgment in the voluntary sector and therefore, in my view, cannot accept 100 per cent funding by the Government. They must seek some funding from elsewhere. I certainly accept the proposition that if you get people in the voluntary sector who want, for example, seeding grants that will start them off and who are likely to become self-sufficient thereafter, that is something to be taken into account.

I have discussed this with the honourable member who asked the question in regard to a particular organisation, and we have agreed that we will increase the grant to that organisation, and it was increased in the past year. He was able to tell me of a procedure to become much more self-sufficient in the future. A problem that quite often arises is that when one is told this by an organisation it says, 'You fund us now so that we can conduct a membership campaign

or whatever that will increase our funds, and we can become more self-sufficient in the future.' One finds that it does, but when one tries to cut its funds in the future it gets very cross about it.

Mr Becker interjecting:

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: It is indeed. I have been assured by the honourable member in regard to the organisation about which he was talking that he will not do that. I accept that, but it is a problem. I ask Mrs Mann whether she can cast any more light on the matter that was raised by the honourable member.

Mrs Mann: There is very little more that I can add to what the Minister has said. Particularly I could reinforce the last point about the number of organisations that come to us assuring us that they will seek to become self-sufficient. But that time very rarely seems to come. The argument has been put to us that by reducing our level of grant to them as they increase their financial stability we are actually providing a disincentive to the organisation, so that sometimes it shifts the ground of its argument from wanting to be self-sufficient to wanting to attract the largest level of Government funding that it can. But we work out the balance with them to provide the incentive for them to continue fund-raising and provide their own self-sufficiency, but at the same time assuring them of support from the community welfare grants programme.

Mr Cox: A couple of matters have been raised. One is that every agency is asked what contribution it will make in relation to its funding. This is, of course, very difficult for self-help groups that do not have the business acumen in relation to the members who relate to their problem. Some groups are very clever in raising money. Other groups that want to do a task of welfare find that they preoccupy themselves with raising money, and finally lose something of their first objective. We attempt to evaluate it (and in human services the evaluation of whether they are successful is extremely difficult) by our project officers going out and asking more specific questions, and more specific target questions. In this way, we are improving our accountability. This is in the whole human services area very difficult. Some agencies may work very well with five people and cost a certain sum of money. However, when we start relating the dollar to their success it is a very complicated issue. We are very aware of this in the department. As you can see, in our programme budgeting we are setting specific targets all the time. We are attempting to get that into the field, but voluntary organisations have incredible complications when one starts to get so technical about it and ask them to follow those lines. I feel that there is a move on that accountability. Some of them are very small grants, and we must ensure that the paperwork to get the grant and getting the accountability to prove that they have spent it right does not counterbalance the small sum of money that they get.

Mr ABBOTT: I refer to several matters raised briefly by Government members. Unfortunately, because of the way in which we operate, we do not have the opportunity of following up questions at the time. I refer to community supervision of young offenders as referred to on page 25 of the yellow book. The resource allocation for supervision in the community shows that \$2 012 000 was proposed in 1981-82. The outcome was \$2 087 000, and \$1 931 000 is proposed for 1982-83. The employment levels also fell. The number of 79 people was proposed in 1981-82. The outcome was 77.9, and a figure of only 64.6 is proposed for 1982-83. Given the emphasis on non-institutional care and supervision for young offenders, I would like to obtain clarification of why there is to be a substantial reduction in funding and staffing for supervision in the community. Presumably, responsibility for such supervision will be reallocated to

another programme area. It would be interesting to know which one.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The honourable member is quite correct. There is a change in allocation and not in funding. The programme performance budgeting for this department requires the distribution of costs for generic social workers to the programmes in which they are employed. For the 1981-82 financial year, Department estimated apportionment rates to apply to five programmes. The formula used was; individual and family support, 30 per cent; young offenders and children at risk, 40 per cent; child protection, 10 per cent; foster care, 10 per cent; emergency financial aid, 10 per cent.

For the 1982-83 programme budget estimates, generic social work costs have been apportioned directly to 10 appropriate subprogrammes, including a new programme identified as Welfare Development in the Community. Two surveys were conducted in May and July to determine the average hours worked by generic social workers per subprogramme. These surveys, involving 205 generic social workers, provided information which enabled a re-assessment of their duties, resulting in the formula for 1982-83. The resulting formula was as follows:

Programme	Subprogramme	Apportionment per cent
Individual and family support	General counselling for individuals and families	25
	Social work services in health care	5
Child protection	Child protection (three subprogrammes)	5
Young offenders and children at risk	Children's aid panels	5
	Supervision of young offenders in the community	20
Emergency financial assistance	Work with school children	5
	Payments to recipients	10
Foster care	Co-ordination and licensing of foster care	10
Promotion of community participation	Volunteers and community aides	5
Welfare development in the community		10

Salaries and contingencies for the 205 generic social workers have been notionally allocated from support services to the 10 subprogrammes referred to. Further surveys will be conducted quarterly in 1982-83 to determine apportionment rates for 1983-84.

I assure the honourable member that I appreciate the problem that he has raised. It may be one, when one has had officers in 60 district branch offices delivering the services, of correctly allocating, in programme performance budgeting, those services to a certain area. Mr Harris may be able to add to what I have said.

Mr Harris: We have indicated the direction in which we are moving in community programmes. It is evident from that that there has been no clear reduction on them. There is a difference in the apportionment.

Mr ABBOTT: My next question is in relation to services for Aborigines. I refer to page 31 of the yellow book. The programme estimates do not mention that the department has applied to the Commonwealth for funding for Aboriginal community aides to assist Aboriginal community workers and district office staff. In the past, training for Aboriginal community workers in the department has tended to be rather *ad hoc*, and district office staff has been expected to take on some of the Aboriginal community worker training responsibilities in addition to their other duties. Can the

Minister advise the Committee as to the specific proposals for improving in-service training for Aboriginal community workers and Aboriginal aides in 1982-83?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: It is true that in the past training of Aboriginal welfare workers has been rather *ad hoc*. This came from the time of the former Government. We have been trying to improve that. Certainly, it was very much there at the time when we came to office. It has been difficult because we are dependent on Commonwealth funding for many of the Aboriginal community welfare workers. The funding is usually on an annual basis. We cannot be sure that it will be continued. We must employ most of the Aboriginal welfare workers on a contract basis because we cannot commit ourselves (nor could the previous Government) to an obligation when we did not know whether or not we would have the funds to do that.

This has been a problem in the area. We have tried very hard in the area of training Aboriginal welfare workers. They have their own organisations and they have numerous meetings and seminars, at some of which I have spoken. I believe they are very productive indeed and very useful. The workers have done a great deal, and I must commend them. We try hard to give them the appropriate training. We have limitations, as I have mentioned. Mr Harris can elaborate on them in greater detail.

Mr Harris: Some years ago, when Mr Cox first came here, efforts were made to establish a task force at the Institute of Technology which was directly funded. That would hopefully have supplied some workers in the Aboriginal field. Some came to the department and some did not. Some went to other departments and other organisations as appropriate. That meant that, in order to provide Aboriginal community workers in our department, we had to take in people with little or no training and train them as best we could through the department.

The department set up structures to do that. Whether or not it is Aboriginal community workers or community workers who are appointed after they have qualified, there still needs to be ongoing training and emphasis on in-service support and development for those workers throughout. Having many Aboriginal community workers without formal social worker or other qualifications has implications for their present work and obviously reduces their career options, particularly if they wish to transfer to community welfare worker positions or seek other promotion within the department.

The department, with the assistance of \$7 000 of Commonwealth funding in the 1981-82 financial year, negotiated with the South Australian Institute of Technology, which was also running the task force, and arranged for the group of Aboriginal community workers to commence study in some aspects of the associate diploma and social worker course on a block basis. Funding for this year has continued, and the Commonwealth has provided \$15 000 this financial year for that programme to continue. So, we are giving them this opportunity of improving their paper qualifications and general understanding of social work activities through a recognised tertiary institution.

Nonetheless, there will still need to be ongoing training and support for these workers in their locations. In order to facilitate and improve that, we re-established an Aboriginal training and development committee which comprises the department's senior staff development officer, the senior Aboriginal community worker, three Aboriginal community workers (one from the northern country region, one from the southern country region and one from the metropolitan area), the senior personnel officer, and another staff developmental officer. That committee will have the task of both supporting those workers who are undertaking sections of the associate diploma course at the institute, and also of

arranging for the assessment and supporting the training needs of the other workers currently in the department.

Mr ABBOTT: In relation to the INC programme, the Minister answered a question asked earlier regarding INC families generally. What initiatives are proposed by the department to recruit, train and support increased numbers of Aboriginal INC families to care for Aboriginal young offenders, as an alternative to secure care?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I think that this was, in part, answered previously. The fact is that the department is most concerned to obtain as many Aboriginal INC families on its books as possible, because we recognise very much that the Aboriginal people, and properly so, do not want their children cared for by white families: they want them to be cared for by Aboriginal families. I am fully supportive of that.

All members of the Committee would realise the high standards that the department expects to set for INC families. Those families will have to look after young offenders, most of them offending fairly seriously. In most cases the INC scheme is an alternative to secure care, so in most cases they are serious offenders who would otherwise go into secure care. That means that the standards applicable to the INC family are fairly high, and properly so.

The department tried very hard to recruit Aboriginal INC families, with some success, but we found (and this is no disrespect to the Aboriginal people) that some of them are not prepared to accept those standards of imposing discipline on INC children in their care, and so on. So, we have a problem in getting enough Aboriginal INC parents.

I have been pleased, when I have visited the department recently to try to get to every service delivery point, to find that INC parents have ongoing training where they meet in groups. I was pleased to find that the groups are delighted when they have an Aboriginal family which is prepared to put its name on the books and which comes within their group. I will ask Mr Harris to detail this in a moment.

It is not exactly a problem, but it is of constant concern to the department, that we have enough INC families, particularly enough Aboriginal INC families, to cope with the needs. As I have said, I have a very high regard for the Aboriginal people, but this kind of structured and disciplined approach that one needs to be an INC parent is not always easy to identify among Aboriginal people. So, one sometimes finds a special problem in getting enough Aboriginal INC parents. I ask Mr Harris to expand on that.

Mr Harris: As stated previously, each of the Aboriginal community workers in the department, at their own wish as well as at the department's request, are giving more time to working with Aboriginal young offenders and the families of those young offenders. In addition, the district officers and supervisors of young offenders are giving prominence to this and supporting the training and selection of Aboriginal community workers. The department has an Aboriginal community worker at each of the main training centres who will work with both male and female Aboriginal youth who

come into either of those centres and, in addition, will supervise young offenders to help them find community placements, including Intensive Neighbourhood Care placements. They will be helpful not only in the selection, but also in the training and support of those Aboriginal families as we recruit them.

Dr BILLARD: I want to ask some questions about Crisis Care, as I have done on previous years. I notice again this year, as with last year, that it is stated that there has been a gradual increase in the work load of Crisis Care, as shown on page 43 of the yellow book, under 'Issues and Trends' and again under 'The Specific Targets and Objectives for 1982-83', where it states that the number of telephone requests are increasing. However, the figures supplied at the top of the column, that is, 35 000 telephone requests received during the past year, are lower than the number quoted for the previous year. I understand that the previous year's figures were lower than the number quoted for the year before that. Can the Minister give a breakdown, either now or later, of the precise numbers of telephone calls and face-to-face interviews during the year?

If the numbers that applied last year held true, this unit, which has had an increase in funding last year of 14.2 per cent, and has a proposed increase in funding this year of 18.2 per cent, would reach the stage in the coming year, if it maintained the same number of contacts, where the cost would be \$13.50 for every telephone call, or, on my calculations, \$266 for every face-to-face encounter. So, the cost is going up quite a lot, and I would appreciate some breakdown as to the areas in which the increase is occurring.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The actual breakdown may have to be provided later by letter. The Crisis Care Unit in this department provides a 24-hour emergency welfare counselling service in the Adelaide metropolitan area. It is essential that staff levels be maintained to provide an effective service at all times. The 1981-82 Budget allocation was based on an establishment of 19 staff and 42 volunteers, and I stress the importance of the volunteers.

However, in cases of extended sick leave, long service leave, leave without pay, staff are replaced from other areas of the department to maintain the same 'working establishment level'. This resulted in 'double counting' of salary costs. The estimates for 1982/83 are based on the current staff level only. Because it is impossible to anticipate what staff adjustments will be required, no allowance has been made. I refer to the expenditure summary, as per page 86 of the Estimates of Payments as follows:

81/82 Voted	81/82 Actual	Variation	82/83 Proposed	Variation
\$ 400 800	\$ 454 976	\$ 54 176	\$ 474 000	\$ 19 024

During 1981/82 the unit received 35 000 telephone requests for assistance and attended 2 100 crisis situations.

The crisis care assistance provided during 1981-82 was as follows:

	Child removed	Accomm- odation	Goods, Services	Counselled or referred	Total
Problem:					
Domestic disturbance	3	97	42	212	354
Child related	66	189	98	229	582
Sexual and/or violence	3	56	50	121	230
Accommodation	7	149	25	8	189

	Child removed	Accommodation	Goods, Services	Counselled or referred	Total
Other traumatic experience	4	24	64	112	204
Personal problem	2	44	108	134	288
Other	1	11	42	97	151
Total	86	570	429	913	1 998

This data has been provided from the department's 1982 Annual Report, and it will be made available to the honourable member. If the member requires a further breakdown I will see that he receives those figures.

In relation to crisis care, the honourable member has assiduously asked this question in previous years. I am aware that he is interested in Lifeline, an extremely good operation conducted by the Central Mission. From what he has said to me on several occasions, I believe that he thinks that possibly the telephone counselling area of the Crisis Care Unit could be reduced. However, I think the honourable member acknowledges that the Crisis Care Unit should be maintained.

The Crisis Care Unit in South Australia is unique in Australia. In fact, it is regarded as an extremely good service which should be maintained. Not long ago I received a request from the Central Mission for more funding for Lifeline, which would mean less funding for the Crisis Care Unit. I contacted the Police Department, which made it clear that, in relation to direct contact cases, its members would not deal with any other organisation but the Crisis Care Unit. Because the Crisis Care Unit is a branch of a Government department, the Department for Community Welfare, the staff are trained public servants who are responsible officers who have established a good relationship with the police.

The police made it quite clear and gave me something in writing stating that they were not prepared to countenance the same kind of co-operation that they have with the Crisis Care Unit in regard to a voluntary agency. The Police Department has established a relationship with the Crisis Care Unit, which is part of a Government department. The unit is accountable for its actions; therefore, the police know where they are going with it.

In relation to the telephone service, the initial contact is almost always by telephone. When the initial contact is made, one does not know whether the net result will be a case that can be handled over the telephone. Many cases can be handled over the telephone and Lifeline has performed in that area very successfully and very well. In fact, it is proposed to extend a Lifeline service to the South-East and Whyalla, because we believe that there is a particular disability in country areas in that a client or an officer must travel some distance, so there is an even greater need to establish this kind of service.

The initial contact with the Crisis Care Unit is usually by telephone. Until a telephone call is received one does not know whether the person in need requires counselling or simply to talk to someone, because very often that is all that is required: the client simply needs someone to talk to and that is the end of the matter. However, until the call is made we do not know whether that is all that is required. I am quite convinced that no other agency provides mobile assistance as well as the Crisis Care Unit. Certainly, no other agency is as well accepted by the Police Department as is the Crisis Care Unit.

Last year I informed the Committee that I had been on patrol with the Crisis Care Unit and had seen the very seriously disturbed cases dealt with by its officers. When I travelled with them, I found cases involving serious dis-

turbance which could not be dealt with over the telephone or by any other agencies. The Crisis Care Unit was the only organisation which was relative and which could have been effective. In reply to the honourable member, the calls I responded to with officers from the unit came in over the telephone.

When telephone calls come in, one does not know which of them can be dealt with through telephone counselling, that is, by simply talking to the person, and those that will require an officer to get into a car fast and in most situations get the person concerned, who is usually a woman, away from a disturbing situation and into a women's shelter or elsewhere. One simply does not know in advance what proportion of the telephone calls can be dealt with in that way and what proportion can be dealt with over the telephone (or even whether telephone counselling will be completely satisfactory).

I think I have given the honourable member a fair answer to his question, which he has asked assiduously every year. I am aware of his concern. I strongly support Lifeline, which is operated very effectively by the Central Mission. However, I do not believe that it is an alternative to the Crisis Care Unit. I do not think that there is any argument that funding for the Crisis Care Unit should be cut. Mr Cox may wish to add something to my comments.

Mr Cox: The honourable member may be interested in statistics from the department's 1981-82 Annual Report, which has not yet been tabled. The figures mentioned by the Minister came from that report.

The interesting thing about Crisis Care Unit is that it is handling more of the difficult cases. For instance, there was a 58 to 86 increase in the number of children removed from their homes by crisis care people. That is a statutory function, and a responsible function. That is an increase of one third on last year's work. There have been somewhat similar problems in finding accommodation. However, that really relates to one of the women's shelters issues, which is a fairly complex matter.

During the hours between 1 a.m. and 9 p.m. about 284 calls are taken, and between the hours of 5 p.m. and 1 a.m. about 970 calls. Those are the very busy times and costs become inflated because people have to be employed on penalty rates and those people have to be experts. I think that we have been fortunate that we have been able to get professionals to work those hours because that is not usual in many places in the world (that people will work shift work to be available at those times). During the day about 744 calls are received. There is a limited staff on duty during the day, usually only one or two people. Those people have to follow up the calls to the local district office, so whilst some of the results are not child removed in the Crisis Care Unit statistics they can be handled within the district office. I think that that is a fairly important part of the whole crisis care network.

The CHAIRMAN: Earlier this afternoon there was an understanding reached (not a firm agreement, but an understanding) that we would try to finish these two votes by six o'clock. There is still 'Miscellaneous' to be dealt with and quite a number of members have indicated that they wish to ask questions on this line. I am in the hands of the

Committee, but if questioning is not completed by six o'clock then it may be that the Committee wishes to continue at 7.30 with 'Community Welfare'. The only other thing I can suggest is that both the questions and answers be as brief as possible.

Dr BILLARD: I feel that I ought to respond to some of the things said by the Minister, because I want to assure him that I have no axe to grind so far as the Crisis Care Unit, *vis-a-vis* Lifeline, is concerned. I have not had recent contact with Lifeline, although I have had contact over past years. However, because of information given to me some years ago, I have maintained an interest in that organisation. I think it is fair enough to make sure that the Crisis Care Unit is accountable for what it does. It has concerned me that costs have been increased and that there has appeared to be some inconsistency in the stated increase in the work load and the figures quoted, although I accept what Mr Cox said that the nature of the work load is changing and shifting to more demanding areas. I just note that I find it interesting that the figure the Minister quoted for the face-to-face encounters was about 2 100 for the past year because the figure for the previous year was 2 105, which is almost precisely the same.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I would respond shortly that the Crisis Care Unit is quite accountable and is prepared to continue to be held accountable.

Mr PLUNKETT: Can the Minister say what steps the Government is taking to employ more multi-lingual staff in the department and to place those persons in areas where they are most needed. While I was in hospital two months ago, an elderly Greek person who was there was seriously ill. The doctor had trouble communicating with that person to inform him about his illness. One of the young Greek women employed there as a cleaner was used as an interpreter on one occasion, as was an orderly on another.

I spoke to both of those people later and they said that the elderly Greek person could not understand completely and that there was a language difficulty between that elderly patient and the Greek cleaning woman. That was not a satisfactory way of passing on a message to a person seriously ill. Has the Minister given this matter any thought?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: Yes. This problem does arise from time to time. I make no apology whatever for using the services of the on-the-spot people who could speak Greek—the cleaner and the other person concerned. In a practical situation it is a sensible thing to do. I guess that this question runs over into the province of my colleague, the Minister of Health. The question of people who are hospitalised not being able to speak English is an important one which my department tries to address as best it can. For example, when I went to the Campbelltown office not long ago, which is situated in an area where there is a large number of Italian speaking people, I found that a group of Italian speaking women were being trained as voluntary aides for the Community Welfare Department to engage in hospital visiting. While I was there they raised the question that the honourable member has just raised. They raised particularly the question of the aged non-English speaking person who is hospitalised and who cannot relate to the staff at the hospital, cannot say what he or she wants, and has no way of communicating. The Campbelltown office of the department has developed a quite large group of Italian speaking voluntary aides who were given some training and who can go into hospitals and speak to the Italian speaking patients who cannot speak English and who are not able to communicate.

I also have a close relationship in this matter and good co-operation, as always, with my colleague, the Hon. Murray Hill, Minister of Ethnic Affairs. We call on his department when it is necessary to provide interpreters. When social

workers visit non-English speaking clients and they do not speak the language of the clients they always call for an interpreter. We have quite a number of social workers who speak languages other than English and we try to foster that as much as possible. Where there is a case for a social worker needing to visit a client who does not speak English, and the social worker does not speak the client's language, an interpreter is always used. We have tried carefully in the department to cater for the needs of the ethnic community. A thing I have often made clear when referring to the Aboriginal people or to what is generally called the 'ethnic community' is that my department is concerned with the welfare of every person in South Australia who needs welfare services, whether that person be an Aboriginal who lives at Ceduna or a white person or an ethnic person living in Mount Gambier.

We accept the obligation to provide the best services we can for those people. We acknowledge that groups like Aboriginal people and ethnic communities have special problems, special areas of need, and we try to provide activities for them. Regarding the ethnic community, we have training courses and an ethnic co-ordinator. We try very hard and devote a large proportion of our expenditure to see that the ethnic community's special needs are catered for. I think Mr Cox can add to what I have said.

Mr Cox: The question of the way in which we can help ethnic people is always very complicated, because they very seldom come to the office when we have a Greek person on duty or anyone who can speak their language. Ten per cent of our intake in the past two months has been people of ethnic origin, which reflects our task in the department. We have a very widespread ethnic population. We have just completed eight or nine cultural awareness courses. Our staff were placed before a number of lecturers, with an emphasis on the Greek area, to give them an idea of how families function in those groups to make them aware of how they should fit into the cultural practices of those communities. Two voluntary Greek agencies receive a grant from the community welfare grants fund. Therefore, they have their own style of service available, if they wish to use it. Those are the facts in relation to the ethnic services.

Mr PLUNKETT: I was not only referring to Greek speaking people. This has also happened to an Italian person. It was not only the person who was ill. As Committee members would be aware, in the Greek and Italian communities if elderly relations become sick and hospitalised, whole families tend to visit. I asked the question specifically to find out the Minister's attitude towards employing more people. I did not mean volunteers, and I was not asking about training people for those purposes. I was asking about money to employ more people. As I said, a young Greek woman, cleaning at a hospital was used as an interpreter on two occasions; she told me later that she could also speak very good English. She explained that it was upsetting and hard for her to interpret not only for the sick person, but also for some of the relations.

It is not always the case that a cleaner, who may speak Italian or Greek, speaks the language required. I gather, from speaking to people at Royal Adelaide Hospital, which was the hospital in question, that they also have great trouble in obtaining someone to act as an interpreter, whether it be on a voluntary or employed basis. I would like to ask a similar question in relation to social welfare officers. Near my office on Henley Beach Road, Torrensview, is a social welfare office where there are problems. My secretary speaks fluent Greek and has often assisted in interpreting for people who work there. I am not asking about voluntary work, because a volunteer cannot be expected to be available at all times. Is it intended that more people be employed in this area?

The Hon J. C. Burdett: Employment of interpreters certainly would not come within my area. It would be in my colleague's area, the Hon. Murray Hill, Minister Assisting the Premier in Ethnic Affairs. His department is the one that supplies interpreters. We do not. We try to provide hospital visiting services, usually voluntary. Our department does not really have much connection with hospitals. When we do, it is generally on a voluntary basis, which is why I referred to the voluntary sector and the community aides we have trained. It is not really a function of our department to provide paid interpreters in hospitals. That would have to come from either health or ethnic affairs.

Although we recognise the problem and will do as much as we can to alleviate it through the use of aides and other ways, we do not employ anyone specifically as an interpreter. We do employ people as members of our staff who are ethnic speaking and we regard this as important, but we have a sufficient number of staff members who speak other languages. We will try to expand that. I doubt whether many of them would go into hospitals, anyway. Also, I doubt whether many of them would alleviate the kind of situation the honourable member mentioned. He is really asking the wrong Minister. We take seriously the provision of welfare needs, which is our job, to the ethnic communities. We recognise their special needs and the need for someone to be able to talk to them in their own language. We try to provide that as well as we can from within our own staff and through our community aides.

Mr MATHWIN: My question relates particularly to the problem of the aged population. I see at page 29 of the yellow book under the heading 'Need being addressed':

The number of people aged over 65 in the community is increasing (from approximately 9 per cent in 1976 to an estimated 13 per cent by 2001). Generally, the development of assistance to the aged is being based on principles of independence, choice and self-realisation. The implementation of these principles requires that an individual has adequate income and accommodation, and access to services promoting health care, mobility, occupation and activity, and providing support in times of difficulty.

I see that the allocation in one section here last year was \$852 000, which has suffered rather a drop. I also see that of this year's allocation the Magill Home is to receive \$2 364 000, which might, of course, eat into the allocation and the money the Minister has available. Is the drop because the Department of Health is possibly taking more responsibility for the aged? Is it the intention of the department to call for more voluntary assistance from community-minded people to offer their services in capacities in which they will be able to assist with the aged problem which will, as we know, increase in the very near future?

I have in mind such areas as Meals on Wheels and other areas in which many people now are assisting. However, to deal with the problem as I see it, and I am sure as the department sees it, we will need many more volunteers than we have at the present time if there is going to be a problem of finance.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: As a matter of clarification, when the honourable member asked this question was he including the question of the allocation for senior citizens clubs, or was he not? If he is not, I will not talk about it.

Mr MATHWIN: No I just wanted some idea of what the department had in mind and how wide its scope was in this problem.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: It appears that he was addressing that question. I very much agree with the honourable member. There is no doubt that the population is ageing and that we are getting older—not only those of us here, but also the community. I do not think that I have aged very much today. Because of your Chairmanship, Sir, it has been a very easy trot today. However, the general age of the community is getting higher that it was before. We are very

much aware of that and very much in sympathy with the honourable member. The Government very much wants to help the ageing community as much as it can. It may not be appropriate for me to say this now, but we have a number of quite exciting initiatives to assist the ageing section of the community.

I think that much of the truth of the Magill Home issue has been lost. I think it is worth stating what the truth of the matter is. At the Magill Home, probably as an accident of history, the department is charged with the responsibility of a hostel care facility that perhaps does not sit very well with Community Welfare, but we have been saddled with it and we do it to the best of our ability and do it very enthusiastically because we believe very much in the need to care for aged people. There was associated with Magill Home a nursing home comprising four wards. They received the appropriate Commonwealth funding. It became perfectly clear that those two wards were run down physically. They were not adequate; they were not suitable to continue to care for sick elderly people, which is what they were designed for. The Commonwealth Government made very specific statements to us that it would not continue to fund them and not continue to fund our bed numbers there. Unless they were upgraded we would lose the funding.

The cost of upgrading, as estimated by the Public Buildings Department, was very high. It is some time since I have had to consider this question, but it was in excess of \$2 000 000 to upgrade those units. At Windana there were a large number of high-class nursing home beds (I went and saw them, of course—very good accommodation) that could be funded if we transferred some of our places to Windana. There has been talk about a waiting list. It is all very well to talk about the waiting list, but the people on the waiting list would never have been funded. They did not come within the criteria of the Federal Government. The Federal Government, rightly or wrongly considered that South Australia was over-supplied with funded nursing home beds in that category. They gave us figures, which we could not refute, to say that we were better supplied than any other State with nursing home beds of that order. The matter that presented itself to the State Government was this: we have and will maintain—let there be no mistake about that—the hostel care unit at Magill. We had to have in association with that an appropriate number of nursing home beds that would attract Commonwealth subsidy, because there was no way that you could function otherwise. We had two alternatives: either to spend \$2 000 000-odd in a time of financial restraint in upgrading the facilities at Magill, or simply transferring the places and using those beds in another site where the beds existed and were absolutely first-class. That is what we decided to do.

It is obvious that the honourable member's question relates in part to senior citizens centres. In regard to those, the expenditure of \$338 000 proposed for 1982-83 represents the balance of funding available for the 1980-81 to the 1982-83 triennium for senior citizens centre projects under the States Grants (Homes Care) Act, 1969. It is a Commonwealth Act, of course. The sum is less than that for 1981-82, as some projects originally planned for funding during 1982-83 received their subsidies prior to the commencement of the financial year. This came as a result of projects in other States being deferred. Consequently, Commonwealth funds became available for projects in South Australia that otherwise would not have received their subsidies until 1982-83. In addition, an announcement has been made recently by the Commonwealth Government that a further \$3 000 000 would be made available in 1982-83 for additional projects Australia wide, and a proportion of this sum would be available for projects in this State. Further, the Commonwealth has decided to extend the current funding triennium

by providing a further \$7 000 000 for senior citizens centre projects during 1983-84. Again, South Australia will share in this funding.

State Government grants will be provided also for centres receiving Commonwealth subsidies where those centres have not received already the maximum grant of \$10 000, as specified in the terms of the Aged Citizens Clubs Subsidies Act, 1963-71. In regard to senior citizens clubs, first, the State responsibility is fairly limited, and it was transferred from the Department of Health to the Department of Community Welfare in, I think, about October last year. So, it is for this department a fairly new responsibility and one that we welcome because, whilst we recognise that in regard to the care of the ageing population that was mentioned by the honourable member, we have to look at co-operation between health and welfare particularly, and also the Department of Further Education to a certain extent, and the Department of Housing and some other departments. It has now been decided by my Party that the umbrella responsibility will be in my area. I am very pleased to take that up. In regard to senior citizens clubs, the responsibility is new. I have been saying that there is no lessening of the funding available; the apparent discrepancies occurred because of the particular stage of the triennium.

Mrs Mann: With regard to the Magill Home and the apparent decrease in funding, when we transferred the approval of 36 beds to Windana, we were not able to transfer any residents. We have maintained the operation of three of the four wards we had, although we are receiving only half the number of Commonwealth bed approvals at the present time. We will be phasing down the operation of the infirmary. While the number of residents in the infirmary is reduced this year compared with last year, they will continue to reduce and, therefore, we might see a continuing decline in the Budget allocation because we are phasing down the infirmary wards in the long term. Part of that has happened and it will continue, over the next two years, to close down.

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

Minister of Community Welfare, Miscellaneous,
\$22 735 000

Chairman:

Mr E. K. Russack

Members:

Mr R. K. Abbott

Mr H. Becker

Dr B. Billard

Mr Max Brown

Mr G. J. Crafter

Mr I. P. Lewis

Mr J. Mathwin

Mr K. H. Plunkett

Witness:

The Hon. J. C. Burdett, Minister of Community Welfare and Minister of Consumer Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr I. S. Cox, Director-General, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr C. E. M. Harris, Deputy Director-General, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr W. Beattie, Director, Resource Services Division, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr G. Billett, Senior Finance Officer, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr C. Middleton, Senior Personnel Officer, Department for Community Welfare.

Mrs Leah Mann, Director, Community and Planning Services, Department for Community Welfare.

Mrs Wendy Heath, Acting Adviser on Women and Welfare, Department for Community Welfare.

Mr CRAFTER: I ask the Minister about the Government's policy in respect to women's shelters. I understand a meeting was held with representatives of the women's shelter movement, the Minister and the Premier on 23 July this year. At that meeting it was understood (as I had reported to me—and I would be pleased if the Minister could clarify the matter of contention) by representatives of the women's shelter movement that an undertaking was given by members of the Government for funding in the Budget on the basis of equity (I am not sure what equity means—whether it is equitable funding or some other form of funding) and that consideration would be given to the inflation factor in the running of those shelters. Further, it was believed that there would not be a playing off in funding between one shelter and another. I think the Minister is aware of that expression in that context.

It has been put to me that the Budget does not contain those undertakings. Whilst there has been an increase in the general allocation for women's shelters, it is suggested that there is an undertaking in relation to equity (not within the period of the current Budget) but that there has been only a 4 per cent increase in operating costs. Further, it is believed that the Government's policy is that it will contribute to the budget of those shelters and not meet the full expenses or funding concept that had hitherto applied. I would be pleased if the Minister could clarify the matter.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The first point I make, I make very strongly. I believe that women's shelters got a very fair deal in the Budget. I am surprised that they have demonstrated and complained in the way that they have. I do admire the women's shelter movement and do support it. It fulfils a very real need in our community. This Government and preceding Governments have always supported the women's shelter movement and I am not the first Minister who has been upbraided for an alleged lack of support. During the term of the previous Minister, I think Mr Payne, he had a sit-in outside his office in the G.R.E. Building. I am not alone in having been demonstrated against. The increase in the women's shelter area was 18-plus per cent.

As far as I can ascertain, it is the biggest comparable increase in the whole of the recurrent State Budget, and not just the welfare budget, for any similar organisation. I have asked those ladies, for whom I have the highest regard, to accept (although they disagree with me on this point despite the fact we agree on most other points) that, in Budgets in times of financial restrictions, increases do not come any bigger than that. An 18-plus per cent increase is the highest increase that one could hope to get. They will not get a bigger increase. Certainly, I argued very hard with Treasury and the Budget Review Committee for the amount they got. I cannot say, in the context of the whole Budget, that I felt that they ought to get any more.

The member for Norwood raised the question of equity and what it meant. I would like to clarify that. The position is that, apart from the shelter Irene (which was established when the Government ceased to fund the Naomi shelter), no new shelters have been set up. The previous Government set up various shelters. The funding situation in regard to those other shelters was, to say the least, a bit chaotic. Some of the older shelters were well funded and were able to provide some of their own capital assets and, within the

shelter movement, were doing fairly well. Some of the newer shelters (Port Lincoln and Whyalla would be amongst them) were poorly funded. I am not blaming the previous Government but it was a legacy with which we were left. We had a situation where there was chaos and complete *ad hocery* in the funding of women's shelters. Some were quite reasonably funded. Some were totally inadequately funded. That was not due to this Government but due to the previous Government. I am not necessarily blaming the previous Government, but that was the situation.

In some cases it was because the previous Government believed that some of these shelters (Whyalla was one which was associated with the YWCA) had other support. They were not well funded for that reason. Whether or not they had other support at that time, I do not know, but they certainly do not have it now. The situation which this Government found itself in this year was that it had a number of shelters operating in South Australia at various levels and in various categories but the funding was quite inequitable because the older funded shelters were well funded and some of the newer ones were grossly underfunded. This Government believed that it had the obligation of producing equity and bringing the lower-funded shelters up to some sort of equity.

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

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: When we adjourned I was talking about the question of equity in women's shelter funding. I would like to resume that line. I point out that under the previous Government the funding of women's shelters had become completely chaotic and there was no equity between the various shelters. The Government had impressed on it the need during this financial year of producing both equity and some kind of increase in funding for the shelters themselves. The Government has done that. That is why there has been a massive increase of 18 per cent, which, as I have said, is bigger than any other comparable increase anywhere in the current Budget.

From 1 July 1981, funding allocations for the women's shelter programmes was transferred from the Commonwealth community health programme to individual States General Revenue grants and the level of funds available to women's shelters became a State responsibility. The history of past funding to women's shelters had resulted in inequitable funding between shelters which, for comparable services, received from \$25 300 to \$96 600. The 1982-83 allocation for women's shelters has been increased by 18 per cent to enable the establishment of a funding formula for the funding of women's shelters that would provide a base level of funding to each of them on an equitable basis. A formula has now been established which sets the goal for the funding of all shelters; it is four full-time staff, a level that was recommended by the Women's Shelters Advisory Committee. However, it was not possible immediately to implement this formula for all shelters as it required far more funds than were available. Of course, the shelters had to engage the staff before they could establish themselves at this level.

I have noticed in press reports that a demonstration was held yesterday by the women's shelter movement. One of its complaints was that their staff was the only staff that had not received the wage increase that had been granted to public servants in August. The true position about that is that the Women's Shelters Advisory Committee itself had asked the department to establish a funding basis that related to the number of staff funded at CO5 and CO3 levels. This as a basis for annual funding was accepted by the department, on the basis of the various categories of shelters to which I have referred; they are to be funded on the basis of calculating

the amount of money that they would receive on the basis of so many staff at CO5 and CO3 levels.

Everyone knows that voluntary organisations which are funded annually are not and cannot be indexed and that they receive a specific amount of funding. It did so happen that the increase occurred in August, shortly after the Budget was fixed. The fact is that the shelters can and do allocate their funding to employ staff as they please: they do not ask and have not been asked to conform to the level of staffing on which they have been funded. It is simply that the staffing levels to which I have referred at the CO5 and CO3 levels have been accepted as a basis for working out the annual funding.

Therefore, to say that those shelters have not received an increase, as other public servants have, or because they have not, is quite ridiculous. The Government had to operate on some basis in order to establish the funding and we operated on the basis of taking various levels of staffing and saying that reasonable figures on which to operate for the purpose of establishing the funding were so many staff at CO5 and so many staff at CO3 levels. The Government has done that. How those shelters deploy that money is up to them entirely. Most shelters do not have the staff at those levels and do not pay them at those levels. Shelters deploy their staff differently and pay their staff as they see fit, which is their privilege and prerogative. I do not think that that should ever be taken away from them.

Therefore, the strategy for 1982-83 is to phase in the funded staffing formula in a way which is designed to progressively upgrade funding staffing levels of all the shelters not already receiving this level of funding. Application of the revised funding staffing formula has narrowed the funding gap between the shelters. Five shelters are now being funded at the top level of four staff (an increase of two shelters), four shelters are funded at the second level of three-plus staff, and two shelters (both of which have organisational back-up) at the third level of two-plus staff. Percentage increases for the shelters range from 78 per cent in Whyalla to 5 per cent. These funded staffing levels will apply from the October quarter of the 1982-83 financial year and will be adjusted each year in accord with the wage movements of the classifications involved. The contingency allocations for all shelters are to be increased by 4 per cent, as with the rest of the public sector, on the 1981-82 allocation, with adjustments to two shelters for rent, which I will mention later.

It is planned to introduce a formula base for future contingency allocations to ensure a more equitable distribution on this item among the shelters, the current range being \$11 550 to \$32 800. For the first time in three years, this year's funding also provides for capital items. Most shelters are seeking to replace their motor vehicles, and \$36 700 will be available for distribution. Despite the large across-the-board increase, women's shelters are still dissatisfied with their new levels of funding. The Women's Shelters Advisory Committee has met me on this basis during the past couple of weeks, and they are particularly dissatisfied with the 4 per cent increase in contingency expenses which, in effect, represents a cut in the value of this component of their line. That, I guess, is true, but it has been applied to the public sector generally.

Much emphasis has been given to the fact that the Government grant to women's shelters is to be seen as a contribution towards the operating cost of women's shelters and is not expected to fully fund their operations. Women's shelters say that the policy of the Federal Government before was to say that they would be fully funded. I am not aware of that: they are part of the voluntary sector and, as part of the package which the Government has given to them at this time, we have said that we will not, in future,

as we have in the past, take into account resident funding which they may receive, or other voluntary funding which they may receive. In the past we had taken that into account and had called on them to account for it. In future, we will not.

The Government is quite prepared to say that, if they can obtain resident funding, which they can in many cases from residents, or other funding, in the future that will be fine. They will not be asked to account for that money, and it will not be taken into account when fixing their funding. Therefore, any income generated or received by shelters will no longer be deducted from their grants as was the past practice in relation to Commonwealth funding, which operated as a disincentive to the shelters in relation to this type of funding. The summary in relation to shelter funding is as follows: North Adelaide, \$93 500 in 1981-82 and \$98 300 in 1982-83, which is an increase of \$4 800 or 5.1 per cent; and Irene, \$94 600 in 1981-82 (under the name Naomi) and \$91 600 in 1982-83. On the face of it, that is a reduction of \$3 000, but I point out that there has not been a real reduction.

I think that most members of the Committee would know that the Naomi shelter ceased to receive funding in the early part of this financial year. Irene was set up to fill the gap. The original management committee was, and I think the present management committee is, made up of members of the Women's Shelters Advisory Committee. Those members are doing a very good job in relation to the management of Irene. There has not been a real reduction in funding, because funding for Naomi included a rental component of \$3 500. When Irene was established that funding was transferred from Naomi to Irene. The Naomi Women's Shelter was actually paying rent to the Housing Trust, but Irene is located in departmental premises, so it is not paying any rent. In fact, until the end of the financial year we continued to pay Irene the rental figure that it paid back to us. That became rather ridiculous, particularly in relation to equity, and it made no sense.

The only apparent reduction in relation to Irene is that it no longer receives funding in relation to rent, because it uses departmental premises on a peppercorn rental basis. Previously, the department paid Irene's rent, which it paid back to the department. That no longer occurs. The same situation applies in relation to the Hope Haven Shelter. In 1981-82, Hope Haven received \$92 000. In 1982-83, it will receive \$86 900, which is a reduction of \$5 100. Hope Haven owns its own premises. Previously, it received a rental component of, I think, \$6 500 in its funding, even though it owned its own premises. At that time Hope Haven regarded it as equitable; it may have been, but I do not know.

Irene agreed that it was fair that it should no longer include a rental component in its funding. In relation to Hope Haven, I met with members of the board at Parliament House a few weeks ago. I told them that I did not think it was appropriate for the department to pay them \$6 500 rental for their own premises, and they readily agreed. However, they seem to have changed their tune to some extent. When I met with them they said that, if they received their funding on the previous basis, they would be most happy if the rental component was removed. It has been stated in the press that two of the largest funded shelters, that is, Irene and Hope Haven, have had their funding reduced. As I have said, that has occurred because they no longer receive an artificial rental component in their funding. The shelter funding summary continues as follows:

	1981-82	1982-83	Increase	Per cent
	\$	\$	\$	
Christies Beach	80 200	89 600	9 400	11.7
Port Augusta	78 800	92 900	14 100	17.8
Para District	71 200	82 900	11 700	16.4
Western Area	71 500	84 200	12 700	17.7
Mount Gambier	53 900	67 900	14 000	25.9
Port Lincoln	47 400	67 000	19 600	41.3
Bramwell House	50 600	55 900	5 300	10.4
Whyalla	25 300	45 100	19 800	78.2

The funds available for 1982-83 amount to \$899 000, and funds that have been distributed amount to \$862 300. The balance of \$36 700 is for capital.

As I have said before, the total increase is the largest increase of which I am aware in the recurrent Budget for comparable kinds of funding over 18 per cent. Certainly, I share the concern expressed by the ladies from the Women's Shelters Advisory Committee. However, I have told them (and I think they accept what I said) that I strongly support what they are doing. In times of budgetary restraint, I think the Government has done the best that it can to assist shelters, by giving them what amounts to a massive increase. As I have said, I do not believe that increases of this order, in excess of 18 per cent, come any higher in a recurrent budget during a period of financial restraint. We have listened carefully to the women's shelters movement, and I have met with the advisory committee over the past couple of weeks. I certainly respect the comments made by those members. Mrs Mann, who is responsible for this area, will elaborate.

Mrs Mann: I would like to add a few minor points. The Minister referred essentially to the distribution of recurrent grants. When we add capital distribution to each of the shelters the percentage increases rise for most shelters. I will add the actual increases for this year, including the capital component, to give a complete picture.

Members will see that most shelters have received a substantial increase. The North Adelaide shelter, including its capital grant, has received an increase of 7.8 per cent. Irene has received an increase equivalent to 6.8 per cent, and I say 'equivalent to' because we are taking into account the rental adjustment. Although it causes the figure to appear as though it has been cut, they do not now have the expenditure for that item that they had before their budget was reduced. One must look at this matter in terms of equivalents. Christies Beach has received an increase of 15.7 per cent; Port Augusta, 25.6 per cent; Para Vista, 17.9 per cent; Western Area, 22.1 per cent; Mount Gambier, 29.5 per cent; Port Lincoln, 57.2 per cent; Braemill House, 10.4 per cent; and Whyalla, 78.2 per cent.

My other point is that this is the first time in three years that the shelters have received any capital allocation, and most of them had a dire need to update their vehicles. In fact, 90 per cent of the capital allocation went to the provision of new motor vehicles for eight of the shelters. The other issue to which I would like to respond is the question of full funding these shelters. Although it might be true that in the very early days of Commonwealth funding the shelters were under the impression that they were fully funded, it certainly would not be true for the past three years, when it was not possible under Commonwealth funding for them to receive any approximation of the funds for which they applied in their budgets. The practice in the past three years has been to give the shelters the same funding as the previous year plus 10 per cent. That did not really provide full funding. It did not allow for expansion of services, and certainly did not allow for country shelters that had been

so inadequately funded to come anywhere near providing adequate staffing.

The point that we need to make is that most of the 11 shelters have about the same capacity to provide for women and children in terms of bed capacity and the size of their facility. As honourable members have heard, the magnitude of difference between the shelters was an enormous anomaly. When we talked of equity, it was this anomaly that we needed to redress. We had the difficulty of women's shelters refusing to provide us with adequate statistics. As a group, the Women's Shelters Advisory Committee has refused to give the department statistics that it could use to determine their funding. In the absence of statistics as to numbers of people served on a bed-night capacity, we needed to look at other formulae for determining equity.

One alternative would have been to take the allocation in the grant of \$899 000 and divide it by 11. We looked at that as a possibility, but it did not seem an appropriate way of dealing with the situation, because a number of the shelters would have had to take a substantial cut. Those shelters funded in the high \$80 000s and the low \$90 000s would have certainly had to take a cut, so we needed to look at a way of introducing a formula that, while it was moving towards a goal of absolute equity, would move in the direction which would ensure that each of the shelters got a reasonable increase for this year, as well as moving towards the ultimate goal of equitable funding. That is why we chose the particular formula that the Minister outlined. As the Minister pointed out, we have been able to achieve our aims.

Lastly, it has been suggested that we are playing one shelter off against the other. I think that that is quite an unfair comment to make because, obviously, in redistributing funds, some shelters will gain more than others. However, I think it is inappropriate to say that they are gaining at the expense of the other shelters.

The alternative to what we have done would be to perpetuate the inequality of the past. I think that it could be said that the playing off of one shelter against another was far greater in that sense, because we were rewarding the shelters that came into funding early in the piece and were able to get substantial funds from the Commonwealth against those shelters that were more latterly approved when funds were not so liberal.

Mr CRAFTER: I thank Mrs Mann for her reply. I will try to get the Minister's answer published in due course and sold in soup kitchens.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I ask the member for Norwood not to make such comments and to ask his question.

Mr CRAFTER: I turn now to the subject of concessions. Almost one-third, and a growing sector, of the Community Welfare Department's Budget is allocated to concessions to a particular group of people in the community who own their own homes. I received a letter from the Minister dated 26 August in which he talked about those concessions and said, in part:

... doubts about whether the assistance is being concentrated on the most needy, as pensioners in rental accommodation do not benefit from the scheme.

I would like the Minister to elaborate on the comments that he made in that letter to me and tell the Committee what proposals the Government is considering to extend those concessions on a more equitable basis.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The Government has not yet been able to decide on a proposal for making concessions on a better basis. It is a difficult problem if one takes into account the question of rate concessions and rental concessions for people paying rent, and so on. It has proved to be most difficult. We have not been able to work out a formula. I think that the honourable member was addressing his

question to the broad subject of concessions of all sorts, including transport.

Mr CRAFTER: Yes.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: If the honourable member was saying that, then we can address that question. As I have said regarding other matters relating to community welfare and internal affairs, it is an area where one cannot control the demand. In most of these areas the demand will be met. Turning to concessions and, for example, to unemployed persons who want transport concessions, every unemployed person who has applied for a transport concession and who has met the criteria, which have not been adversely changed, will get that concession. I read what the honourable member for Norwood said in his Budget speech. He seemed to indicate that a likely alternative to be put into effect by the Government was the reduction of the amount of this concession, but that is not so. No unemployed person who qualifies for that concession at present will be refused such a concession in the future. The figure shown in the present Budget is really an accounting figure, because the total figure is not known. To some extent this is going to be redressed in the future.

The Department of Transport realistically wants to know what is involved in this matter, so that in due course most of this amount will be put into that department's line instead of into the community welfare line. It will then be realistically assessed. That will not be used for the purpose of depriving people who are now entitled to concessions of their concession warrant. In fact, the thrust of my department has been to increase concessions. This has been done and has been approved by Cabinet. At the present time (and this goes way back to the time of the previous Government), only persons who are entitled to unemployment benefits can get a travel concession warrant.

We have now moved to give travel concessions to people under 16 years of age, so there is no suggestion that anyone will lose a travel concession that he already has. I do not know why, but for some reason or another it appears that some people entitled to travel concession and who are among the unemployed are not asking for those concessions. Those who ask will get that concession, which will not be reduced.

That is all I need say about the general question of concessions. I ask Mr Cox and perhaps some other officers whether they want to elaborate on that.

Mr Cox: There is not much more to say. Initially, looking at rates and taxes, water and sewerage rates, it is very complicated. Those pensioners in Housing Trust Accommodation who meet the income test get some allowances. It is a problem to make it more equitable and to see where the most need is. As the Minister intimated, it is a matter for further consideration.

Mr CRAFTER: My third question relates to the Community Welfare Grants Committee welfare work. At page 52 of the yellow book there seems to be a discrepancy. It states that the grants had been increased by \$80 000, yet on page 87 of the Estimates Committee document it seems to be \$85 000. I am not sure whether it is a grant of \$80 000 or \$85 000 there. I am somewhat concerned, first, about the inability of that increase to provide for at least a continuation of those programmes over a number of years, with at least a real increase in money terms of the factor involved. As I see it, the Committee is being asked to do an impossible task if it is to continue funding programmes in existence at current levels, given the Government's clear policy of transferring considerable responsibilities to volunteers and the non-government sector.

I understand that earlier this year the Government decided to advertise very extensively throughout the community details of the Community Welfare Grants Fund. To me, that raised unnecessary expectations among groups in the

community that may well, in all sincerity, apply for a grant, and might well go to considerable effort to prepare an application. Obviously the Minister could not do this now, but could he tell me in the future how many new applications have been received this year? One can only assume that they are as a result of the advertising campaign and of a transfer of responsibilities to the non-government sector.

Indeed, I ask how many organisations have applied this year, resulting from previous successful applications, which will receive fewer funds than they received in the past. I have looked at the numbers of groups assisted in the community and, on my calculations, there has been a steady decline from 1977-78. This information comes from the annual reports. A total of 499 groups were supplied with funds then, and in 1980-81 185 groups were supported. I do not say that is undesirable, given the nature of the work that the Community Welfare Grants Committee has been doing, but it seems that to conduct an advertising campaign on this basis may do unnecessary harm to a very vital area of delivery of welfare services in the State.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: In regard to the apparent discrepancy to which the member for Norwood referred, I will ask Mr Cox, and perhaps other officers, to give details. Regarding the other matters, as I said, one should take out 1979-80, because there was then a split between the funds. That applied to the Community Welfare Grants Fund and the Community Development Fund, which previously existed. It went to local government. From 1970-80, there has been an increase of 70 per cent, which is enormous. That big increase is because of this Government's determination to encourage the voluntary sector, which is what we are trying to do. We do not want to fund it to do things that can be best done by existing organisations or by ourselves. However, we want to fund it to involve volunteers, which we want to continue. There has still been an increase of 7.4 per cent in excess of that, which is not a big increase for this year. It was in the previous two years that the base was increased so very much, and it is against that base that we have the small increase of 7.4 per cent.

We advertised because we felt that it was necessary that organisations which had the right to apply should be aware of that and apply. Those organisations that did apply, or wanted to do so, were assisted by departmental officers and, I understand, by the South Australian Council of social Service. So, they did not have to go to great cost. It was not held out to them that they would get funding in any way: it was simply that we thought it honest and proper for the Government to make known to voluntary organisations the assistance that was available.

No kind of suggestion was made in the advertisements that people who applied would get funding. In fact, of course, what the honourable member has suggested is likely to happen. The traditional clients of the fund are likely to get continued funding on a similar basis. There will not be a lot available to new organisations because of the amount in question. However, there will be some organisations which have either fulfilled their purpose or which will not comply with the guidelines in the future. Some more money will be available and it will, of course, be distributed. In other areas of Government, it is well known that one is encouraged to save. If one is building a road or bridge, or something else, and if the funds are not spent, one does not get the money on the same basis for the next year. It is fair to say that in any grants area one spends the whole amount. I think that because of a mistake we failed by about \$50 to spend the whole amount for the Community Welfare Grants fund last year. But, generally speaking, we spend all the money that we have in the grants fund; it is distributed. We will continue to distribute the money in the future. We simply felt that it was a matter of honesty and equity to

invite all organisations in South Australia that felt that they might come within the guidelines to apply.

Mr Cox: The first question related to the sums of \$85 000 and \$80 000. The \$85 000 is the actual increase in funds, and the \$80 000 is the amount that can be distributed. The reason for this is that two transfers are included in the fund, one being the transfer to the Anglican Child Care Centre, which came out of the current Budget, and the other being the amount of \$28 000 that was transferred to the home maker service of Anglican Child Care. The sum of \$23 000 was transferred to the Health Commission for COPE, which makes the difference of \$5 000. That accounts for the way in which those figures differ.

The other matter involved the reduction from 499 to 185 in the number of bodies funded. When the local government assistance grants scheme was set up, many of the small A.A.P. funds were transferred directly across. As they were not welfare, they seemed to be a community development or local government responsibility. That is when the massive move of \$50 and \$100 went across into that other fund. That would explain why the larger organisations that have staff responsibility seem to feature far more now in community welfare grants.

Mr MATHWIN: I would like to raise questions regarding capital subsidies for non-government children's homes. Does this in the main relate to offenders—those children in conflict with the law—or to organisations such as the YMCA, YWCA, church groups and the like that provide services in some form, many in drop-in centres or houses like that or provide coffee and the like? The Minister would be aware that in Canada and America, particularly, they rely greatly on the private sector in relation to this problem and on organisations such as the YMCA, YWCA, church groups and the like, to provide good, cheap, but proper, accommodation and programming for this type of child. Of course, as the Minister and the department would be well aware, it helps in that they remain in the environment that they are used to.

That leads me to another aspect where we have difficulties with some of the Aboriginal children from outlying areas by bringing them into the city to institutions or homes within the city and taking them away from their environment. It would be much better, as I am sure that the department and the Minister would be well aware, to keep them in their own environment where they are used to living rather than bringing them here and in a way in so many cases spoiling them and making it even more difficult for them ever to get back to what they know of as a normal life style. In that respect, does this line relate to the fact that we are providing or intend to provide more private assistance for these children? Also, as the Minister will be well aware, in the other countries—particularly in Canada and America, the accommodation provided is first-class and much cheaper. Indeed, in Canada when I was there two years ago they were doing it for about \$50 per head. In America it was a little more: around Boston they were paying about \$100 per child, which makes our mouths water when we look at the cost of our problems. Does this line relate to this kind of thing?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: It does not relate to offenders. It relates to other children in non-government children's homes. The figures are as follows:

	1980-81	1981-82
	\$	\$
Lutheran Emergency Home for Children	\$49.50	\$43.85
Adelaide Central Mission	Nil	9 141.09
Norwood Youth Shelter	371.98	702.16
The Ranges Youth Shelter	Nil	419.50

	1980-81	1981-82
	\$	\$
Little Para Youth Home	564.72	Nil
Port Adelaide Central Mission	Nil	2 000.00
OARS City Youth Hostel	4 381.64	3 321.97
Anglican Child Care Services (Kenyon House)	19 274.61	14 207.43
Adelaide Kids Shelter	367.75	164.00
Total	\$25 460.20	30 264.77

The points that the member for Glenelg raised about taking children out of their environment and how they are less cared for are very interesting, and I read with great interest his report about his overseas trip and what he did in the United States and Canada. However, I do not believe that in our context that really can be translated. He mentioned himself that most of these children would be outside the area of secure care. They would be children who needed some sort of care, but not necessarily secure care. I think that in our environment we have related better to that kind of situation. The only people that we now put in secure care, namely SAYTC and SAYRAC—particularly I refer to SAYTC—are those who otherwise would be a menace to themselves or to society, just that small hard core who sadly have to be shut up in secure care. These, I think, were not the people about whom the member for Glenelg was talking. He was talking about those who did not come into that category, but who did need some kind of care.

In the United States and Canada, this was being provided for in the form of private enterprise homes. In South Australia I think that they are being accommodated by schemes such as INC and IPS and the Key Workers' Scheme and other schemes that I have mentioned before. INC, of course, is a private enterprise scheme. The INC parents are paid and are in the private sector. The mentors of IPS are paid and are in the private sector, I think in a different historical background from that which applies in the United States and Canada. We are using these sectors to do what the honourable member suggested ought to be done. I agree with him very much in principle. It is very much my principle that you keep children who offend out of secure care if you possibly can. If you have to put them in secure care I think that in the United States, Canada, here or anywhere else, you do have to shut them up, I am afraid, in a place like SAYTC.

If you keep them out of secure care you have alternatives. One alternative was that which the honourable member mentioned applied in some parts of Canada and the United States, of the Government paying private enterprise places to look after the children in institutions. Whilst that has many merits, they are still institutions. The policy of this and the previous Governments—in fact, of the department ever since Ian Cox has been the Director-General—has been to get children out of institutions, to deinstitutionalise them, to keep them in families such as INC, to keep them fostered or whatever, but out of any kind of institution, be it private or public. I think that particularly with our background—and I am not criticising at all the remarks that the honourable member has made tonight and in his report about the private enterprise institutions in the United States and Canada—the alternative that we have adopted is to keep them in the community, in families, in INC families and so on.

A point which the honourable member made was a very good one relating to Aboriginal children. He is quite right in saying that if we have to bring Aboriginal children to Adelaide and put them into SAYTC in secure care I am afraid that, as much as I support the Aboriginal people, we find that young offenders are apt to pick up quickly the

worst attributes of white offenders and to learn from them. For some time my department has been trying to organise (although we have had legislative and other difficulties which we are still trying to overcome) in regard to young offenders in the northern part of the State and the north-west reserve, so as to keep them in their own area if we can with INC or similar schemes. We have been working on those versions of the INC scheme which might suit them.

Also, instead of bringing them down to SAYTC if they need secure care, we have been trying to negotiate procedures whereby they can be cared for in Giles House at Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. However, there are some constitutional and legal problems to overcome. Some have to be overcome by legislation. Not only is it cheaper than SAYTC but also they can be cared for by their own people. They can go on supervised and unsupervised leave which they cannot do at SAYTC. They are brought up with their own people and other Aboriginal children at Giles House.

Giles House has a high success rate. It is a good operation for us to look forward to. That is what we are trying to do. We are trying not to bring young offenders who, the court believes, need secure care, from the north-west reserve and Aboriginal areas down to SAYTC, as it does bad things for them. I have been to Darwin and met the Minister to talk about this matter. We want, if we possibly can, to provide for them to be cared for at Giles House in Alice Springs by their own people where they will not come back big-noted and will not meet the worst dregs of our juvenile white society. They will be amongst their own people and can take supervised and unsupervised leave. Mr Harris may like to add to what I have said as it is under his area of responsibility.

Mr Harris: An interstate conference is being held for people from welfare authorities to look at the question of transfer. It relates to the transfer of Aboriginal offenders.

Mr Cox: Sometimes the amount shown is small and sometimes large, from \$47 to \$11 000. That supplements the cost of carpets, heaters and refrigerators, as well as being part of a building scheme for residential care homes. In taking up some of the points spoken about, the Minister has written to the Residential Care Advisory Committee in relation to where institutions for children are still going and what can be done to encourage foster care. It is in relation to the move to license foster care agencies.

Since 1970 there has been about a two-thirds reduction of children in children's homes in this State. The figure has dropped from near 600 down to under 200. Therefore, this move has been kept going. It is quite important to see this in focus; the amount of capital has not increased because the number of institutions has decreased.

Mr MAX BROWN: I come back to the question of women's shelters. Despite the Minister's half-hour preamble in answering the member for Norwood on the question of increased funding of women's shelters, he pointed out that the increase was in excess of 18 per cent. I put to him that it was not questionable that the Government has increased its funding for women's shelters. We point out that both major political Parties, when in power, have had tremendous trouble on the question of women's shelters. I put to the Minister that two problems exist which he and his department should be investigating. First, the problem is increasing mainly because of high unemployment, high interest rates and inflationary trends. All three are leading to an increase in broken marriages, deserted wives and wife and child bashing. All these three things are leading to a demand for women's shelters. I question whether the percentage increase in those sort of areas is not in excess of the sort of percentage we are talking about in the question of financing.

The second point is that I believe quite seriously that in the area of women's shelters, the Y.W.C.A. has probably

handled those sorts of areas far better than anybody else because it has been answerable. I put to the Minister that it might be an idea if he, his Government and his department were to look very deeply into how the women's shelters are using the money and why they are using it. We may then get a better return for our money. I do not need a 30-minute preamble about it. I put to him that the Government ought to look at it because, obviously, both political Parties, when in power, have had the same problem. It seems that they are not getting any closer to a solution to the problem than we were years ago.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I agree with quite a lot of what the honourable member said. He said that it has been a bi-Party approach: it certainly has. Both Parties have supported women's shelters. It so happens that, as we have been in Government in recent times, we have been the ones to give them the big increase. The honourable member referred to the Y.W.C.A. which has been involved with the Whyalla Women's Shelter. I am told that, as against last year, the figure is 78.2 per cent. Since 1979 there has been a 116 per cent increase. That shelter is backed by the Y.W.C.A., which bears out some of what the honourable member has said. There has not been much problem in regard to Whyalla, nor have they placed any great pressure on us, although it was inequitably treated before. It was recognising the equity of the situation and we have increased its funding. In regard to the women's shelter area, the honourable member has been quite sensitive, and I compliment him. It is a difficult and involved area, and previous Governments have found that out as well.

In South Australia, broadly speaking, this Government and the previous Government, have handled it better than other Governments interstate. I remember in Victoria some quite shocking circumstances developing. In South Australia the Government of the day has been fairly sensitive to the issue. It is not easy to say how much you pay to them. I certainly recognise the preventive area, which the honourable member was talking about, that one can save broken marriages and so on.

However, the main problem is a problem outside the control of Governments and that cannot be met just by increasing funding to women's shelters. The question is the breakdown of marriages and the other reasons, the bashing and so on, which the honourable member properly talked about, which lead women to seek shelter care. If one had the answers to those things, we would be in a very happy position indeed.

Regarding funding to women's shelters, I think the Government has to be realistic and fund them realistically in regard to the needs demonstrated and based on the figures which we receive. Some of my officers have said previously that we do not always receive the best and most reliable figures that we would like. If we did receive better data we would be in a better position to assess the actual needs of women's shelters. I am very sympathetic to the matters raised by the member for Whyalla.

Mr LEWIS: My question could perhaps come under the heading 'grants for welfare activities', or 'research grants', and could be included under any one of the lines. I do not care which one the Minister answers under. My question relates to a matter the member for Eyre has asked me to bring to the Minister's attention again. By way of background I refer to some communications which the member has given me and they explain the problem. A telegram was received from Henry Tjamumalyi, Chairman of the Amata Council, asking assistance from the member for Eyre, which stated:

Amata council requests your assistance in transferring D.C.W. premises located in the settlement to Amata Community Incor-

porated. Amata women propose community centre in premises. Your help in this matter is urgently sought.

Another telegram of a similar nature was received by the member for Eyre from Sharon Highfold of the Iwantja community, which stated:

Please provide your support in obtaining transfer of D.C.W. house to the community.

A letter was also received from the Far West Aboriginal Progress Association, which I will not quote. I think the Minister is familiar with it. The letter is dated 5 August and refers to an amenities centre and is signed by Mr Haynes, who is the co-ordinator of that association. A request was made that the premises be transferred to the Yalata community after the Department for Community Welfare had closed down its operations in the centre without consulting the association—or so it is claimed by Mr Haynes in his letter.

There is another letter about those matters addressed to the Minister from Mr Gunn in which he requested the Minister to discuss the matter with him and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. The reply from the Minister gave an explanation, but did not address the question of whether or not the Minister would be prepared to discuss the matter with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the member for Eyre or any one of the communities involved to see if the matter could be resolved. The member for Eyre has asked me to ask the Minister if he would be prepared to discuss the propositions with those people. I put this question on behalf of the member for Eyre.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I really do not understand this. I did receive approaches from the member for Eyre and I have met and spoken to him. I have received letters from him about these particular matters and have given detailed replies which speak for themselves. I do not think there is any need to talk about any further consultation because consultation has been made. I cannot see why I am being asked these questions at this time.

As I recall it, in regard to the house at Amata, we do have a need as the Department for Community Welfare to visit Amata by patrol and, therefore, have a need for somewhere to stay. The department has problems because the house it has is constantly semi-destroyed, beaten up and vandalised. But, the department has a need for people to stay there. The department has been trying to negotiate with the community for a flat or unit, or something of that kind, in exchange for the house.

In regard to Indulkana, the department has a house there at the present time which is used by another Government department, I think the Education Department. My department made it clear to the Education Department that we will eventually give the house to the community when we are satisfied that it is appropriate to do so, and I think that that is about now, and at that time the Education Department will have to make its own arrangements for its own staff to stay in Indulkana.

In regard to Ceduna, there are particular matters relating to the centre and we do not think that it is appropriate to give up the centre at the present time. I am amazed by this form of questioning because the member for Eyre did speak to me, has seen me and I have given him a reply by letter. I just do not know what further consultation is necessary. Mr Cox was with me when we met Mr Gunn and he may be able to add something to what I have said.

Mr Cox: I do not have much more to add, except that in each of these places it is impossible for us to do patrols without a base. The department is negotiating with communities to find how we can obtain a flat or a secure building, so that we can let them have the house. The department, however, over the past, when it has moved out of reserves or out of the communities, has given all the

buildings that we had previously, all the houses, to the communities and these are the sole remaining ones which are essential for our patrol system if we are going to maintain support to the communities. In each case there are negotiations going on.

In Ceduna, in particular, there has been a complete new hostel built for the purpose that the original amenities centre existed. We have no place for youth activities in that city and we have given Ceduna an extra youth worker, so that is essential for that situation. The use that was made of the amenities centre by Aboriginal people was very small and, in fact, in the past six months might have amounted to two people using it. The department has guaranteed that, if they use the Aboriginal hostel and come into town and are short of money, it will help pay the hostel bed costs. So, that is exactly where that situation stands.

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

Public and Consumer Affairs, \$8 346 000

Chairman:

Mr E. K. Russack

Members:

Mr R. K. Abbott

Mr H. Becker

Dr B. Billard

Mr Max Brown

Mr G. J. Crafter

Mr I. P. Lewis

Mr J. Mathwin

Mr K. H. Plunkett

Witness:

The Hon. J. C. Burdett, Minister of Community Welfare and Minister of Consumer Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr M. A. Noblet, Director-General, Public and Consumer Affairs Department.

Mr P. F. Young, Deputy Director-General, Public and Consumer Affairs Department.

Mr W. A. Pryor, Chief Management Services Officer, Public and Consumer Affairs Department.

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

Mr CRAFTER: I refer the Minister to page 95 of the yellow book and the programme title 'Industry/Occupational Licensing and/or Regulation'. I note that for the second year this document states that, 'Liquor licence fee avoidance continues to cause concern'. What is the nature and extent of that avoidance and how many offenders have been prosecuted? Have additional staff been allocated for that purpose? From the document it appears that no further staff have been allocated. In fact, there is a reduction in staffing for that section of the department.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: When I have commented I will ask Mr Young to reply to this question in detail. In this small, highly specialised department there are areas where the Director-General, Mr Noblet, specialises and other areas where Mr Young, his deputy, specialises, and one area is licensed premises. From my own knowledge, the evasion of liquor licensing fees has been a serious problem. This is not confined to South Australia. At the last conference of licensing officers, which Mr Young attended, this was a problem that occurred right across the board.

Mr CRAFTER: And across borders.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: Yes, in each State and also across borders. The problem is trying to keep track of it. In fact, while the total number of officers has been reduced, the officers allocated to this area have had the time they spend increased, and I think Mr Young will bear me out in that. This started in, I think, May this year. I do not think there have been any prosecutions, but there has been something which is far more effective, namely, looking at the appropriate fee to be paid.

I understand that in the past, in relation to the evaluation of a new fee, there were no court hearings in the Licensing Court. However, a hearing began, I think, yesterday. We have been investigating this area and have been dissatisfied with the amounts declared. In most cases, the licensee has agreed with the figures that we have brought up; but, in some cases, that has not occurred. I think two hearings commenced yesterday. In one case, the licensee agreed with the fee we put forward; in relation to the second case, the court hearing began yesterday and it is proceeding. I do not think I can give the member chapter and verse about the amount of money that will be saved, except to assure him that we are looking at it. We are quite sure that the money spent investigating this area will pay off. In the first week two inspectors were put on to this job. I think that occurred in May, but Mr Young will correct me if I am wrong. In the first week they saved the Government \$50 000, which would have paid their salaries for 12 months.

It is not through prosecution or any court action that this happens but because the licensee had agreed that he had understated the amount. This resulted in an amount of \$50 000 being the agreed figure for the licence fee. Therefore this is proving to be productive. This matter will be proceeded with, but I am sure Mr Young can give more detailed information than I can on this matter.

Mr Young: In the financial year 1980-81 there was a proposed staffing level in the Licensed Premises Division of 27.5 people. In fact, the outcome for that year was a figure of 30.5 persons. The proposed employment level for 1981-82 was 32.5 persons and we achieved a level of 31 people, so there has been an increase of about 3.5 people over a period of two years. I say this by way of an aside.

The history of the examination of the financial records and returns of licensees dates back to last year when, following a conference of all States, it was agreed to adopt some uniformity and consistency in licensing legislation. South Australia moved in this direction and earlier this year the Licensing Act was amended to give inspectors wider and broader powers, including powers to enter premises and inspect books without necessarily having approval of a magistrate. The Assistant Superintendent and I went to Sydney and examined the procedures that existed in New South Wales, the only State at that time employing accountants and those with an accounting background in the commercial licensing area.

We examined their procedures and then spent some three or four days with them, after which we decided to adopt, with some qualifications, their methods. We came back and recommended that two accounting officers be appointed. That has happened and a senior inspector and examiner has been appointed at the CO5 level who is an accountant. We have also appointed an economics graduate at the CO4 level. They went to Sydney and examined the methods used there. They then returned to South Australia and designed the procedures that they thought would be appropriate for this State in this field.

In May they went out into the field and, as the Minister has quite correctly said, it was revealed within a short time that some of the returns being lodged were not accurate and, indeed, a number were found to be understated. As the Minister said, corrections were made by agreement with

the licensees. During the past two months, these two officers, using their accounting knowledge, have been active in the field and have, by agreement, been successful in increasing the amount of revenue that has accrued to the Government.

This week, for the first time, the Assistant Superintendent has had to contest a matter in court because agreement has not been reached. That court case commenced on Monday afternoon and is set down for the whole of this week. In fact, one of these two examiners has been in the witness box for 2½ days. I do not know that there is anything that I can usefully add.

Mr CRAFTER: To clarify this position, as I understand, a licensee is required, according to law, to pay a certain fee for the sale of liquor. If he understates that sale of liquor, he avoids paying proper taxes. The policy, as I understand it, is that there are only rare instances of prosecutions proceeding and that the amount of understatement is usually agreed between an officer of the department and the licensee of the premises, that that agreement is checked by the Superintendent of Licensed Premises, and that the licensee who has so offended then pays the amount agreed by the parties. Is that the situation?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I think it is fair to say that, in the cases that we have been talking about, that has been the procedure. It is also fair to say that, if there were not that kind of co-operative approach and discussion with the licensee involved, we would not ascertain these cases. If we had to prove each case on the seat of our pants, and if we had to establish proof of understatements on the necessary onus of proof basis according to law under the Licensing Act, I am sure that we would not succeed in the number of cases in which we are succeeding at the moment. We are starting from a situation where there had not been any inspections and we now have two inspectors with accounting backgrounds carrying out inspections.

I suggest that the sensible procedure is to start with the 'kid gloves' approach and discuss matters with licensees who have not been subjected to this kind of inspection before. Mr Young will speak about that in a moment, but I suspect that the same kind of approach is being adopted interstate. When one starts in an area where there has been abuse (and there has been abuse in this area), one tries to start in a co-operative way to get people who have not been subjected to this kind of inspection before to agree the figure. Certainly, I would say that, if the department can get hard evidence of a breach of the law and tax evasion in this way, or licence fee evasion (which is not a tax, strictly speaking) that will stick, we will not hesitate to use that evidence. Broadly speaking, it is hard to get the hard evidence that one can use and prove in court. It is much easier to get people who are being subjected to this kind of inspection for the first time to agree that they are paying too low a fee. I think that is a summary of what I have said and what Mr Young has said, but I ask him to comment further on this matter.

Mr Young: To date it has not been revealed that there has been any deliberate falsification of returns. Some returns have had mistakes caused by the manual process of comparing supplies and returns with retailers' returns. If the supplier is incorrect in his figure, it follows that, in the normal course of events, the retailer submits that figure. It has been found that in some instances the correct figure has not been supplied because a nought has been left off in a figure in a statutory declaration made by a distiller or storekeeper. There have been mistakes found where the licensee has overdeclared his figure. I make the point that the Licensing Court is the authority that finally fixes and determines the fees. The Assistant Superintendent or the Assessor and Inspector recommend the fee to the court for consideration at the time of the renewal of the licence, and

that is the time when the fee is determined. The recommendation is made and on that recommendation the licensee has the ability to object to the figure recommended. To date, as both the Minister and I said earlier, there has been only one objection, and that is being heard by the court this week.

Mr CRAFTER: The Minister said that there was already a saving of some \$50 000, to use one case. Whether this was intentional or unintentional is obviously a factor in bringing the matter before the court. But, I suggest, there would be a strict responsibility in law to make sure that the proper dues are paid. If that one case of \$50 000 is repeated on a number of occasions each year, and it is the kind of matter that has come to the attention of Parliament now for the second year, I wonder whether it is not a matter that should be the subject of legislative review as a matter of urgency. It seems to me that, if that figure can be ascertained by comparing cartnotes and other documentary evidence, the deterrent factor would overcome, surely, the casual attitude of those responsible for payment if not an insignificant amount of money to the Treasury of this State. There is a very real awareness in the community right at this moment of the penalties one pays for tax evasion.

It is more than just a matter of conscience: it is a matter of law, a law passed by this Parliament. I am most concerned that that law not be enforced by negotiation, which ousts the jurisdiction of the court. If there are problems in obtaining evidence, although sufficient evidence can be obtained by casual negotiation to influence a licensee to pay an amount of money, then I think that this is properly a matter that should be brought to the attention of the House by way of legislation and dealt with there so that, indeed, we can have an effective law.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I suggest that we do have an effective law. While in the past, including the period of administration of the previous Government, nothing was done in this area to check up on licensees and their figures, now this is being done. I suggest also that steps taken by this Government (which have been implemented, as the superintendent said, since May this year) will have the required result. There is no question of ousting the jurisdiction of the court, because if one is taking a matter before the court there are two subsections of the Act to which Mr Young can refer in a moment. Regarding one of them, it is necessary to prove the amount of liquor that was purchased. In regard to the case being heard this week, I am quite sure (and I do not think this is taking anything away from the court to decide) that we will not be able to establish the amount of liquor that was purchased. There is another section or subsection which says that the court may fix the amount which it deems to be proper. That gives a wider possibility of using other than strict evidence and being able to establish the amount of the fee that ought to be paid.

I would think, as a matter of practice, that the member for Norwood would be well advised to let us get on with the job that we are doing, namely, to use two inspectors with accounting qualifications to enter this area. I suspect that we are being at least as successful as other people are interstate. The honourable member referred to legislation as a matter of urgency. I have made it clear that I consider that there ought to be a complete inquiry into the licensing laws in South Australia and into the whole licensing law procedures. I have made it clear that, in my view, this ought to be on the basis of tearing the Act up and starting again and saying, 'If we were right in setting out the procedure of licensing or regulating the sale of liquor, what should we do?' I have given the promise that when we are re-elected we will set up such an investigation.

I have not yet decided on the form that the investigation ought to take—whether or not it ought to be a Royal

Commission, as before. I would like to think about that. I think the honourable member who asked the question ought to let us, in the meantime, get on with the job in a practical commonsense way of trying to make sure that people pay the proper fee, because, as the superintendent said, in the investigations which have been held, some people were paying too much and some were paying too little. In fact, more paid too little. The main thing is simply that licensees have not recognised the importance of making accurate declarations. We are trying to encourage that. I ask Mr Young whether he can add to those remarks.

Mr Young: The member for Norwood mentioned the word 'negotiation', and said that licence fees have, on occasions, been settled by negotiation. I did not mention the word 'negotiation'. I said 'agreement'. By that I meant that it was agreement by the licensee. In other words, all the evidence available to the licensing administration is added up and we take the highest possible fee that we think is the proper fee. If the licensee does not agree with that fee, then he has to object. There is no question of staff of the licensing administration negotiating with licensees for determination of their fee. If there is certain evidence or an objection by the licensee, the matter comes before the court and it is for the court to determine the proper fee. It does this having regard to the percentage scale fee system. But, once again, in the absence of supporting evidence, the court has the ability, pursuant to section 37 of the Act, to fix a fee it determines as reasonable.

I merely make the point that the fee is not agreed between the staff of the licensing administration and licensee by negotiation. If the licensee does not agree with the licensing administration, the matter goes before the court. That is the situation in which we find ourselves this week with one case.

I would like to clear up one fairly small matter. Right at the beginning a figure of \$50 000 was mentioned by the Minister. That \$50 000 in that one case was turnover, so therefore the fee recovered by the Government in that one case was 9 per cent of \$50 000, not \$50 000. In fact, the Government has recovered more than \$50 000, but in a series of cases. There has been no one case of a licence fee of \$50 000 being avoided. It is difficult to obtain evidence in licensing matters. For instance, the matter which is being dealt with this week involves a fee that would normally have been dealt with in April 1982. The turnover, the purchases on which fee is being assessed, is for the 12 months ended 30 June 1981. So, in fact, we could be looking at purchases back in July 1980, as indeed we are. So, much of the liquor has been bought, sold and transported as much as 18 months ago. That is part of the complexity of the whole procedure.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: One of the reasons, of course, that the amount on which the licence fee is based is taken from previous years is related to the complexities of constitutional law, which the member for Norwood would well know and which relates to the petrol franchise selling fee and the tobacco franchise selling fee.

Under the Commonwealth Constitution, States may not enter into the area of excise and may not charge an excise, which is essentially a fee based on sales. The various leading cases that have gone before the courts have established that, where a State is not charging a tax or excise but is engaged in a genuine licensing operation, as is fairly obvious in regard to liquor, an appropriate fee may be charged by the State. However, attempts always have been made in the areas of liquor licences, the petrol franchise selling fee and the tobacco franchise selling fee to ensure that it does not look like an excise or tax on goods sold at the time.

In all those areas, therefore, it is common to assess the fee not on what was sold at the time—because that would

be clearly an excise and un-constitutional and within the sole province of the Federal Government—but on previous sales. That applies in the case of liquor. That, as the Deputy Director-General, who is also the Superintendent, has said, is one of the problems, because we have found that in some of the cases before us the licensed premises have changed hands in that period of 12 months. We are not talking about the activities of the present licensee: it is one licensee, or even two licensees, before.

We have the problem of trying to establish what amount of liquor was purchased by the licensee during that period. It is a very complex area, as the Superintendent has said. I suggest to the member for Norwood, who has properly raised this and is properly pursuing it, that, having regard to the existing legislation and also to our legislative powers, and having gone into this field quite recently, as other States have (in about April or May, when we appointed the two inspectors), we are doing a reasonable job. I suggest also that we can best get on with that job if we are allowed to do that for the time being. When the Government is re-elected and there is a complete review of the Licensing Act, certainly, the matter can be looked at from a legislative point of view. In the meantime, I suggest that, if we can get on with what we are doing, that is the best way to go.

When licensees realise that we are looking at this matter, they are likely to take more care because, as the Superintendent has said, in most cases that we have turned up it has not appeared that the fault was deliberate. Rather, it was inadvertent. Some mistakes, as has been said, have gone against the licensee as well as those that have gone in his favour. For a few years, and going back to the time of the previous Government, not much has been done by way of checking up, so people have not worried very much. That is human nature. We are trying to establish with licensees in general that we are checking up and doing something. I suggest that if we are allowed for the time being, until legislative change can be considered, to get on with that job we will produce the best results in seeing that the revenue of this State receives the proper amount of money that it ought to receive.

Dr BILLARD: I refer the Minister to pages 95 and 96, particularly page 96, in the yellow book 10, volume 2, of the Programme Estimates. It appears to me, particularly looking through the 1981-82 specific targets and objectives and the specific targets and objectives for 1982-83, that a great deal of effort is being expended on reviewing existing legislation in a wide variety of areas and in setting up new systems, for example, a commercial tribunal. There are more than a dozen different areas where things are listed as being under review or under study in one form or another. Does the Minister know how much effort is being put into these areas, perhaps in terms of man-years, in terms of the review? How much staff would be involved in this reviewing process?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The purpose of the reviewing process is to lessen costs and the multiplicity of regulations in regard to business. It is part of this Government's policy to deregulate—to dispense with unnecessary regulation. On the other hand, of course, we acknowledge that all business is regulated in some way. It is a question, really, therefore, of degree, of ascertaining the necessary level of regulation. When the honourable member referred to the commercial tribunal, I do not know whether he was arguing against himself to some extent, because this was an attempt to deregulate, not to regulate.

Dr BILLARD: I am not being critical, because I can see great benefits coming through this review, but I am asking what effort has been put into this reviewing process.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I will ask the Director-General, Mr Noblet, to draw together his knowledge of the effort. I suggest that in this area it is probably not very great. At

present, we administer eight Acts that provide for the regulation of business, and I think that there are eight boards. These boards have different personnel, different Chairmen and different secretariats, and the cost, of course, is very considerable. Not only is it a question of cost, but also the various Acts are different in some areas where they should not be.

The question of interpretation in each case is different. It is difficult, therefore, for the legal profession and the courts in a matter of appeal, because there is not commonality in areas of the law where there ought to be commonality. There are some areas where there ought not to be but where there ought to be special provisions for the individual businesses concerned. The intention of the Commercial Tribunals Act, which has been passed by the Parliament, is that there be a common Chairman, a common Secretariat, and a common clerk, and that it will have different members in appropriate cases with appropriate expertise, and that we will bring all these matters together. When I suggested this at the outset, the member for Newland suggested that he supported the concept and wanted to know how much work had gone into doing something about preparing the Act. I will ask Mr Noblet to give the best answer that he can. I am sure that he will not be able to do so at short notice in matters of man hours.

If the honourable member would like that to be supplied later by letter, it can probably be done. It would mean considerable expense to work out the number of man hours involved. Work in that kind of area is done by the department's Policy Research Division, which is fairly overworked and has a high work load. At present, about 50 matters have not yet been dealt with. Undertaking this research in order to achieve a genuine benefit for the State, for business people and consumers in the State is the kind of thing that the department ought to be doing. While, doubtless, the amount of man hours is quite high, that is what we are here for.

The suggestion of a Commercial Tribunal is the brainchild of Mr Noblet, the Director-General. He raised the issue shortly before the former Government went out of office, and he has raised it with this Government. True, it was favourably looked at by the former Government, although it did not have time to do much about it. However, we have had the time. It is not a simple procedure. It is something that one looks at carefully and does not bring into operation quickly. I make no apology for the fact that the Act has now been passed after this period of time. We hope in this session of Parliament to pass other Bills that will bring it into operation in certain cases.

I will ask the Director-General whether he can give the honourable member some estimate of the amount of man hours involved. I believe that, although they will probably appear to be quite high, this applies in regard to every kind of change in legislation in the fairly complex consumer affairs field. If we are going to be serious about deregulation and about being logical regarding occupational licensing, we must be prepared to spend that kind of money, which is minimal compared to the whole amount of money involved with both consumers and business people. I ask Mr Noblet whether he is able to give any current estimate as to the man hours involved.

Mr Noblet: The short answer to the question is 'No'. The Policy Research Division that the Minister has mentioned consists of four officers including a chief project officer and three project officers. It carries out a wide range of duties, including not only major policy initiatives, such as reviews of legislation, deregulation initiatives, investigating major policy changes, such as the establishment of a Commercial Tribunal (which is designed to dispense with the proliferation of the individual tribunals) but also a great deal of day-to-

day matters which are also time consuming. If someone, be it a member of Parliament, a member of the public or anyone else, writes to the Minister with a suggestion that something ought to be done about something that comes within the Minister's portfolio, the suggestion is to be treated seriously. It needs to be researched, and the Policy Research Division spends a great deal of its time on some of these more distracting projects at the expense of some of the major projects in which it is also engaged.

It is simply not possible, without some very complicated recording of time system, to say what number of man hours are spent on a certain project. It is not a case of someone sitting down in an office and saying that for 37½ hours that week they will work on the review of the Licensing Act or the Commercial Tribunal project. During that 37½ hours, it may be necessary to spend some time working on 10, 15 or more projects. It would not be possible to devise a system that would enable the question to be answered in accurate terms.

The priorities of the officers who are doing this type of work obviously vary from time to time according to the exigencies of the time. Three of the major initiatives that are being worked on at the moment have already been announced. They are the introduction of a building indemnities scheme, a new Second-hand Motor Vehicles Act (following a report tabled earlier this year), and legislation to control the activities of insurance intermediaries. They are but three of the many projects that are being worked on, but they happen to be the three that are being given the greatest priority at the moment.

Regarding the resources devoted to policy research as a proportion of resources available to the whole department, it is very difficult to devote too much of our limited resources to that sort of activity. Naturally, we tend to devote resources to the areas where we have a demand for our service, such as the consumer complaint investigation service and other services over which we have no control in relation to the demand. I refer, for example to the provision of information about births, deaths and marriages, public trustee services, and the like. It is in the areas where we do have some control over the level of activity (such as research, which is a more nebulous thing) that we have had to keep down to reasonable levels.

The Commercial Tribunal was an initiative that had, by its very nature, to be phased in over a period of time. It would have been very difficult suddenly to decide that the Commercial Tribunal was to take over the jurisdiction of the various individual occupational licensing authorities at a certain time. To start with, there was some industry reluctance based partly, I think, on fear of the unknown, to accept a new system. Industry gets used to a particular system and, therefore, tends to have some fear of a new system.

That resulted in the need for a fairly extensive consultation with industry to explain the purposes and intents of the new system and, to that end, a discussion paper entitled 'Business Regulation Current Developments' was prepared and circulated to industry and interested parties earlier this year.

The Commercial Tribunal Act has been passed, but the Act itself merely sets up a shell on which jurisdiction will be conferred over a period of time. As particular occupational licensing Acts, including the Secondhand Motor Vehicles Act, the Commercial and Private Agents Act, the Land and Business Agents Act, and other similar legislation, are reviewed, consideration will be given to the appropriate method of transferring the jurisdiction of existing boards and tribunals to the new Commercial Tribunal.

It may not necessarily be that the process will be the same in each case. To summarise, I do not think that it is possible,

for the reasons that I have mentioned, to give an accurate indication of the number of man hours, or even man years, spent on these projects.

Dr BILLARD: I thank the Minister and the Director for the answer. In fact, the sort of answer I was looking for was 'four', which was the number of people involved in that sort of work, which is a guide. My next question follows in one of those areas and I notice that one of the areas listed for review is the Builders Licensing Act. Could the Minister comment on some of the parameters of that review and on some of the perceived deficiencies with the present operation that have caused that review to be undertaken?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I will ask Mr Noblet, whose area of speciality that is, to add to what I have to say. Certainly, the main concern is the question of indemnity, insurance or something of a similar nature. One of the main problems is that, try as one may, one finds that a builder, although he is registered and is apparently a competent builder, from time to time either goes broke or shoots through. The home owner is then left lamenting. He can pursue his civil remedies according to law against the builder if he can find him. If the builder is bankrupt, that is no joy to the home owner.

I am quite proud of the record of my Party in pursuing this matter because, in 1974, when there was an amendment to the Builders Licensing Act, my colleague, the Hon. Mr Hill, moved an amendment, which was passed, to provide for an indemnity fund in order to cover this very circumstance I am talking about.

It was passed in 1974, but that part of the Act was never proclaimed by the previous Government. There were difficulties, because the Hon. Mr Hill's proposal was for a fee to be determined by regulation, to be paid by a builder into a fund in respect of each house. In fact, something like \$10 per house was suggested. Even in those days the fund to be provided was really a piggy bank and would have not necessarily amounted to a full indemnity. There are quite a number of disparate amendments. The Act has been in operation for some time. By and large, the Act is satisfactory but some areas need to be amended.

The main one relates to providing proper insurance cover to assist the home builder in the circumstances that I have described. There have been extensive industry discussions which have been successfully resolved. In fact, the Housing Industry Association was one of the main bodies pushing for this to be done in a proper way. The legislation is necessarily complex, and it has taken our Policy Research Division some time to bring this matter to fruition and for Parliamentary Counsel to draft it.

Since the first batch of amendments was agreed to by Cabinet some other areas have arisen which we believe should be addressed. I do not know whether we will get them up in time, but I certainly hope we can get the Bill up to provide for an indemnity or insurance scheme, because I believe that area is absolutely vital.

Mr Noblet: It appears that the review of the Builders Licensing Act, mentioned in the yellow book, will probably be conducted in two stages. The most urgent and pressing need is for appropriate provisions to be inserted in the Act to set up a proper building indemnity scheme, as mentioned by the Minister, to protect those who are unfortunate enough to find that their builder has died, become insolvent, or disappeared leaving them lamenting with their claim. The second area to which I believe the member's question is mainly directed is a more comprehensive review of the present Act. The honourable member asked what was wrong with the Act as it stands at the moment.

Occupational licensing is a dynamic area that has been developed over a period of time. I think it is fair to say that procedures and methods have been improved over a period of time. Some of the early pieces of legislation intro-

duced would not be introduced in anything like that form if the same problems arose today. We are constantly seeking new ways of controlling undesirable practices in the trading area through licensing systems or something similar, without at the same time imposing unreasonable restraints or burdens on legitimate business activity.

Part of the reason for the review was simply that, over a period of time, improvements have been found in this general area which should be reflected in the Builders Licensing Act. Some of the particular areas being looked at include, first, the fact that the Act is essentially administered by a board, which creates some inefficiencies. A board that meets once a week is sometimes not necessarily in the best position to make some of the day-to-day decisions necessary for the proper administration of this type of legislation. Prosecutions under the Builders Licensing Act must be approved by the board, or at least by the Chairman, rather than in the normal way. If disciplinary action is contemplated against a builder, two separate proceedings must take place. The Builders Licensing Board is a licensing body and also an adjudication body in relation to complaints by owners against builders that building work has not been carried out in a proper and workmanlike manner.

There is a separate authority, the Builders Appellate and Disciplinary Tribunal, which hears appeals from decisions of the Builders Licensing Board and which is also the disciplinary authority. If a question arises as to whether it is appropriate to take some form of disciplinary action against a builder, first, it is necessary for the Builders Licensing Board to satisfy itself that there is some sort of *prima facie* case justifying it to lodge a formal complaint with the disciplinary tribunal under section 19j of the Builders Licensing Act.

If it so decides, it is then necessary for the Builders Appellate and Disciplinary Tribunal to hear the complaint, usually with counsel appearing for the builder and for the consumer, to determine whether disciplinary action is, in fact, appropriate. The procedure tends to be fairly long-winded and cumbersome and we are endeavouring to simplify it. We believe that there is no continuing reason why there should be two separate tribunals. There is no reason why the new commercial tribunal should not be able to absorb the functions of both the Builders Licensing Board and the Builders Appellate and Disciplinary Tribunal.

One other factor is that there is no reference at all in the Builders Licensing Act to any process of conciliation of complaints against builders. That has tended to result in the expectations of some persons who lodge complaints that they would lodge their complaint and that the Builders Licensing Board would immediately take out some sort of order against the builder and that the matter would be resolved in quick time. Again, it is not necessarily efficient for the investigation process to be handled by a committee and the policy at the moment is that complaints of this kind should, first, be investigated by an officer of the department to determine what are the parameters of the dispute, because no action at all can be taken until one ascertains what is the nature of the dispute, how far are the parties apart, is there any possibility of bringing them together by agreement, or is it going to be necessary for some formal arbitration or adjudication to take place. So, first, there is the investigation process.

Then we believe there should be a process of conciliation along with the process of investigation because experience shows that in many cases it is possible to talk to parties, to bring them together and to arrive at a mutually acceptable resolution of the dispute, a resolution which may not necessarily be ideal to either party but which is at least acceptable as a compromise. Only if that process of conciliation fails to resolve the dispute do we believe it should be necessary

to go to the third stage of some formal adjudication or arbitration, which tells one party or the other that he must do or refrain from doing something in particular. Therefore, it is proposed that the conciliation process, which we believe is a valuable one, should be given some specific recognition in the Builders Licensing Act so as to avoid unrealistic expectations of what the system can do for people.

Since the move was made 18 months or two years ago to transfer some inspectors formerly attached to the Builders Licensing Board to the Consumer Services Branch and to submit building complaints to this process of conciliation before they were formally referred to the board, it has been established that a great many of those complaints can be resolved by this conciliation process and that it is simply not necessary to take up the valuable time of the board of five people, including a legal practitioner, two persons experienced in the building industry and two persons representing consumers, to deal with this initial investigation and conciliation stage.

There are other minor matters that will be dealt with under the review. One of particular interest to builders is that they claim, and I think in some cases with justification, that some consumers tend to use existing procedures as a way of avoiding, or rather delaying, payment of accounts to builders. The board has said that it would like to have a system whereby, to put the complainant on his mettle and to make sure that he is *bona fide* and not simply trying to delay payment, he could be asked to pay the money that is outstanding to the builder into some sort of account administered by the board. The board would then determine who that money should be paid to in due course. That is a matter that is being considered and appropriate provisions are likely to be introduced when the review is completed.

Mr CRAFTER: Could the Minister tell me whether or not these figures are accurate? They relate to staffing in two areas of the department currently under consideration, one is consumer protection and the other is the prices branch. The figures for 1979-80 show that in consumer protection there were 94 full-time equivalent positions, which were reduced in each subsequent year to 86, 81.5, and the current year estimates are for a staff of 76 persons. In the prices branch in 1979-80 there were 10 full-time equivalent staff. In 1980-81 there were 6.5; in 1981-82, five and in 1982 three to four staff members. Could the Minister verify those figures and provide figures in due course as to actual expenditures in those branches for those years. Could he advise whether there has been a real reduction in delivery of those services provided by those departments to the community?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: The present staff is four in prices, which is a considerable reduction on what it was, because of the acknowledged and stated Government policy. There is no secret about this. The Government believes that there should be no price control in an ideal economic society. In the United Kingdom when Mrs Thatcher abolished price control, the net result was that prices came down, because very often price control procedures are used by sellers to jack up prices. In an ideal economic society it is the power of the forces of competition which keep prices down. This has certainly been so in the U.K., with regard to petrol. In South Australia the prices of petrol are at least comparable with anywhere else in Australia. They are cheaper, but there is price control there. Mr Borrie, the Commissioner of Fair Trading, agreed with the proposition that the abolition of price control in the U.K. had lowered prices; prices had gone up of course because of inflation. But, he agreed that they were lower than they would have been had price control continued.

I also had a very interesting half day with the U.K. Consumers Association. Its members agreed. They were

quite satisfied that the abolition of price control in the U.K. had led to prices being lower than they would otherwise be. In South Australia the situation is different, because we are a much smaller community. If price control is abolished in the U.K. competition will occur. Not very many monopoly or near monopoly situations exist there. The same does not apply in South Australia. We feel that price control cannot be absolutely abolished. We have, of course, reduced from formal price control to where we now only have bread at a retail level, and infant and invalid foods, country milk, school uniforms and footwear, school exercise books, towing, recovery and storage of motor vehicles, quotation fees for repair of motor vehicles, gas, minimum prices for wine grapes, petroleum products, and motor spirit only at the wholesale level.

I think I heard an honourable member mention beer. That is at the justification level only. I will not read through all the products but there is a bracket about the same size in each level where formal control justification and monitoring are listed. Because we have reduced to that level, of course the work of the branch has reduced and four people are satisfactory to carry it out at present.

The main point that I have made, which I repeat, is that price control does not necessarily mean lower prices. Prices have, of course, escalated in South Australia as they have in other States, particularly in some areas, but generally speaking they have—and I heard another interjection—escalated at a lesser level than they have in the other States. So, we make no apology for the fact that there has been a reduction in the staff of the Prices Branch. The other figures that the honourable member gave, I think, were 94, 86 and 76 in regard to consumer protection. I am not quite sure just what he means by 'consumer protection' or whether the term has been uniformly used.

Mr CRAFTER: That is what I am asking.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: Exactly, but I am not sure that it has been used uniformly. As I said in regard to the previous portfolio of Community Welfare, the Treasury, particularly with some of the programme performance budget figures, has imposed on us terminology that we do not use ourselves. I do not know, and I am sure that my officers will not know at this juncture whether those figures are accurate or not because it is a terminology that we do not use ourselves. I will undertake—I think that this is more satisfactory—to provide an answer in writing to the honourable member about the question that he has asked.

Mr CRAFTER: On that same line, on page 94, consumer services, which is the area to which I was referring initially under the heading of 'consumer protection', the policy area is, I notice, protection of persons, their rights and property, and the programme area is fair trading. I note that in the 1981-82 outcome there was an expenditure of \$1 795 000. The proposal for this year has been reduced to \$1 639 000 and the staff has been reduced from 83.3 to 76. There seems to have been no account at all taken of overrun of expenditure from the previous year's budget, or for inflation, for that matter. Could the Minister explain why it has been necessary to make such drastic cuts in the area?

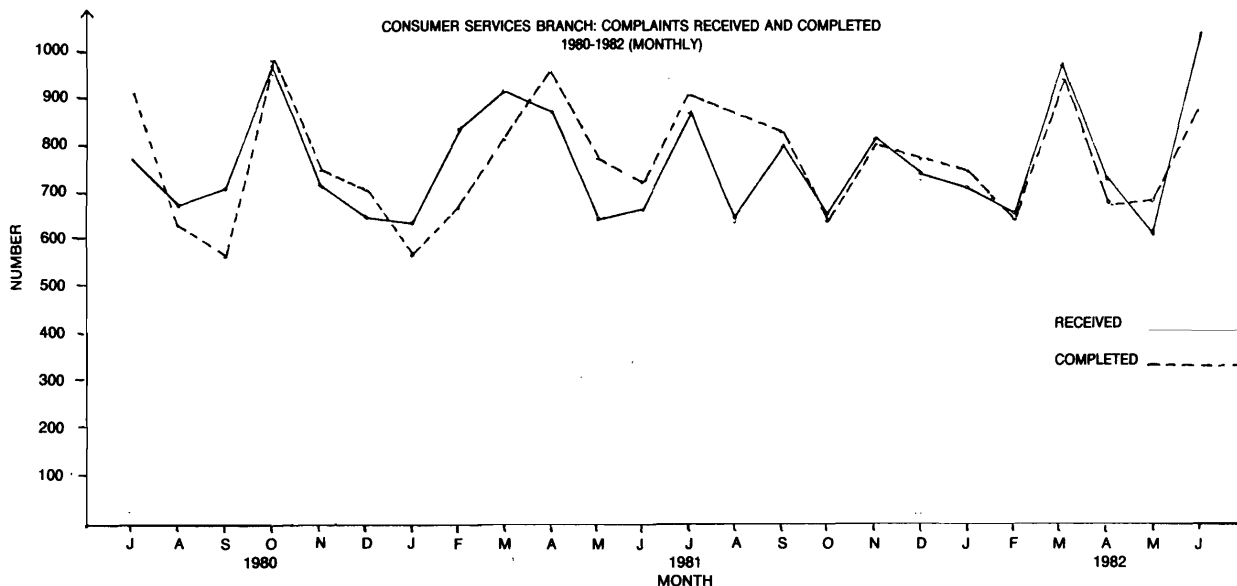
The Hon. J. C. Burdett: As I said before in regard to the previous portfolio that the Committee was discussing, it is no secret that this is a tight budget. The Government has felt constrained to impose a tight budget. It has been, as I have said, fairly universally applied across the board. It does not apply only to Community Welfare and Consumer Affairs, but to the other areas as well. There is no secret that there had to be cuts made. I believe that in regard to the Consumer Services Branch the branch is able and will be able in the future and with less staffing to deal with the complaints received. I said before that in regard to both of my portfolio areas it depends on the demand. It depends

on the number of complaints in regard to Consumer Affairs. In regard to Community Welfare, it depends on the number of applications that are made. Therefore, while you can in some other areas decide how many roads you will build or how many sewerage plants or how many bridges, in regard to Consumer Affairs you do not know how many complaints you will receive, and you have to try to meet the demand.

I have a graph, and I think I have enough copies to supply to members of the Committee.

An honourable member: You will insert it in *Hansard*.

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: I seek leave to insert the graph in *Hansard*. The graph provides for complaints received over a period from 1980 to 1982 and complaints completed. Leave granted.



The Hon. J. C. Burdett: While the two graph figures bob up and down, one will find that, broadly speaking, over the years of this Government, the performance figure of complaints completed matches fairly well overall with the complaints received. Therefore, I believe that, even with this reduced budget and reduced staffing, we will be able to complete the complaints which the department receives. I will ask Mr Pryor to give simple details of expenditure for the Consumer Services Branch as well as the staffing at the present time.

Mr Pryor: Comparing figures for consumer services is very difficult. This department has gone from a line presentation to a programme presentation. In revising our financial management information structure we have identified some areas where we previously made arbitrary allocations to programmes that are no longer correct. In looking at the 1982-83 expenditure, there are three positions (equivalent to \$57 000) of investigation officer in country regions which were previously shown under 'Consumer Services' and are now shown more appropriately under 'Occupational Licensing-Residential Tenancies'. (That proportion of staff are involved with residential tenancies.) Also, in the 1981-82 figure of \$1 795 000 we had a terminal leave payment because of the variation to the commutation of superannuation which amounted to \$58 000 for which we did not budget in 1982-83. We had a provision of \$55 000 for the purchase of motor vehicles which the department used to purchase from our expenditure and which is now to be taken out of capital expenditure. In effect, the reduction of staff has been from 83.3 to 79 in real terms. Two of those people were specifically provided for in the actual increase from 81.5 to 83.3 to assist with a short-term back-log of work transferred from the Builders Licensing Board. In effect, the reduction would be in the vicinity of about 2.5 people. The corresponding money figure would be about \$57 000 for the programme.

Mr CRAFTER: What are the circumstances surrounding the transfer of the responsibility for the Sex Discrimination Act from the Consumer Affairs Branch to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet on 21 January this year?

The Hon. J. C. Burdett: That matter has been under discussion by Cabinet for quite some time. It is difficult to know where the branch ought to sit. It did sit, when we came to Government, with the Department of Consumer Affairs because it was engaged with occupational licensing and business. It was thought that that was the appropriate place. Another appropriate place could have been with the Attorney-General because it is very much related to the law. Alternatively, it could come under the Premier's Department. I believe that the administration of the Act was not committed to me.

It was committed to the Premier all along, and he delegated part of the administration of the Act to me, and part to the Attorney-General. So, the Premier, Attorney-General and the Minister of Consumer Affairs have been involved all along. The actual responsibility under the previous Government rested with the Premier. Now, it has been sent to the Premier entirely, with a good deal of involvement on the part of the Attorney-General.

The reasons are pragmatic and practical. It was considered sensible to put that unit, in regard to equal opportunity, in the Premier's Department to be in close relationship with the Women's Adviser in that department. It was thought to be practical as a plain administration matter to have those people in the same place. There is certainly nothing sinister about the change. It is rather difficult to say where the responsibility ought to be.

Of course, now we have the Handicapped Persons Equal Opportunity Act, which, I think, is administered by the Attorney-General. So, it seemed to be that there was no place left for the Minister of Consumer Affairs, as such. The appropriate people were the Premier and the Attorney-General and it was such simple, practical administrative issues as this which determined the change.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.57 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Thursday 23 September at 11 a.m.