

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Wednesday 21 September 1988

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

**Chairman:**

The Hon. T.M. McRae

**Members:**

Mr M.R. De Laine  
 The Hon. B.C. Eastick  
 Mr I.P. Lewis  
 Mr J.K.G. Oswald  
 Mr M.D. Rann  
 Mr P.B. Tyler

*The Committee met at 11 a.m.*

Local Government, \$84 624 000.  
 Works and Services—Department  
 of Local Government,  
 \$2 168 000.

**Witness:**

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Local Government  
 and Minister of Youth Affairs.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Ms A. Dunn, Director, Department of Local Government.  
 Mr M. Lennon, Deputy Director.  
 Mr M. Herrmann, Manager, Support Services.  
 Ms B. Webster, Director, Youth Bureau.  
 Ms V. Siebert, Manager, Public Record Office.  
 Mr M. D. Madigan, Director/Chairman, SA Waste Management Committee.  
 Mr E. Miller, State Librarian.

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

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** At page 369 of the Program Estimates, referring to the Labour Market Awareness Program, much is said about how many young people are involved in the program. What was the total cost in 1987-88 and what will it be in 1989 for this program?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The budget for the program was \$225 000 of which the Commonwealth Government contributed \$110 000, so it has been a jointly funded program in this State.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Can the Minister explain in some detail what the program has done or what developments have taken place over its life thus far, and any fine tuning that is deemed necessary?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** It has been a two-year program aimed to provide accurate and relevant labour market information to young people and their parents, and also to teachers in the schools in which it has operated. It has been a joint effort between the Youth Bureau, the Office of Employment and Training, the Education Department, and the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training. A series of seminars has been conducted in each Education Department area to assist teachers in understanding the present labour market and to give them information about the trends emerging in that area. In addition, material is being prepared about the labour market that can

be readily updated by the Office of Employment and Training and the Federal Department of Employment, Education and Training.

Training programs for teachers and parents will be conducted during 1989 following the pilot programs to take place in term 4 of this year. The emphasis will be on training the trainer models to maximise the impact of the program in schools, and there will be participation by people in business, industry and the community sector, that is, those people involved with young people and who have a reasonable understanding of some of their needs.

It is attracting national interest because of the way agencies have come together to work on this project. Hopefully, what will come out of it is something of a model that can be used in other parts of Australia to bring young people up to date each year as they are moving towards that time when they may join the labour market or be considering further education or training options. At this stage we are not able to report on results, as it is in the development stage. Seminars will begin soon, and hopefully by the end of next year we will have something concrete to report about the success of it.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** As the Minister nominated to control or oversee youth services, to what degree do you integrate with programs involving youth in other ministerial portfolio areas? I refer particularly to matters which interrelate with the Department of Community Welfare where funds are made available for behavioural problems and so on. Is there an integration of effort or are those matters held completely away from those directly associated with this portfolio responsibility?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As I have indicated in previous meetings of the Committee, the role of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Youth Bureau in particular is to provide a coordination and policy development role within the State Government. One of the mechanisms we use to achieve that is a forum called the Youth Affairs Reference Group—a body made up of representatives from each of the Government agencies that has some service delivery function for programs for young people. Through that forum there is a regular exchange of information about what is happening in those various agencies, and projects are undertaken by that group when the need exists for cross-agency cooperation in the development of either programs or policies. A considerable amount of interaction exists through that forum by representatives of the Youth Bureau and people in those agencies. In addition, often the Youth Bureau will be requested to take part in working parties or other policy groups working on particular programs or problems that arise from time to time with respect to young people.

On occasions representatives of the Youth Bureau have worked with officers of the Department of Community Welfare on certain matters. At the time there were problems with so-called street kids in the city, the Youth Bureau had a number of meetings and discussions with people in relevant agencies, both in the Government and non-government sectors, about ways and means of assisting those young people.

So, there has been quite considerable interaction. The Human Services Committee of Cabinet, of which I am a member in my capacity as Minister of Local Government and Minister of Youth Affairs, from time to time discusses issues relating to young people. It also plays a coordinating role in attempting to draw together the agencies and policy directions that relate to young people. We have identified the needs of young people as a future priority activity area.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Has any serious consideration been given to placing total control of youth activities in the hands of one person?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The area of responsibility for youth affairs is a vexed problem because the range of services is as diverse as the interests and needs of young people in the community. From time to time Governments investigate the organisational arrangements in place. The honourable member would be aware that at various times during the past 10 years the responsibility for youth services in particular areas has changed not only at the State Government level but also at the Commonwealth Government area in an effort to find the most appropriate location or concentration of responsibility.

At the Commonwealth Government level there has been a shift in the direction of allocation of responsibility for youth affairs to the Minister who is largely responsible for a range of issues relating to education, employment and training because the Commonwealth Government is taking the view that it can be most effective in its concentrated effort in those areas of policy. However, whilst they are very important issues and must be addressed and given very considerable attention, youth affairs is much broader than simply addressing the questions of education, employment and training. Once one starts getting into that area, when the broader needs of young people in terms of their progress through life are investigated, one starts to think about recreation, sporting needs, health needs and a whole range of other areas, only then does one come to the realisation that it is virtually impossible to place the responsibility for young people entirely in the hands of one Minister or one department. It is a multi-functional portfolio area.

Therefore, the best we can achieve in Government is to bring those agencies that have specific responsibility for areas of policy together as often as possible and to work together in developing a common theme and strategy based on shared principles and ideals in the development of programs and policy directions for young people.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I refer to the task force on gaps and anomalies in income support for young people that was established and reported to the Minister of Youth Affairs. Can the Minister advise the Committee what the report said and, more specifically, is the report available for general consumption? Can she give an indication as to which of the recommendations are to be supported and, if some are not to be supported, why not?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The task force I established began its work in August last year and the report was completed and presented to me only recently. In fact, I launched it within the past two or three weeks. The work of the task force has been extensive, and the members of that task force probably did not appreciate, when they first took on the job, just how difficult and complex the issues they were addressing would be. They have done a splendid job in defining their task in a way which is manageable in order to address particular issues and make recommendations to be acted upon, both by the Commonwealth and by the State Government.

The task force was chaired by Dr Anna Yeatman from Flinders University and comprised representatives of both the Government and non-government sectors. They concluded that the task of income support is largely a Commonwealth Government responsibility, although there are areas in which the State Government also has some responsibility, especially in relation to the activities the State Government delivers for young people. I refer particularly to areas of education and training. The task force has taken a most unusual and different approach to this question from

that which has been taken previously in youth policy in Australia, in that it has examined the question of income support for young people not in the traditional way in which Governments have looked at it previously, that is, looking at what income support arrangements people might need at particular age-related stages of their lives but, rather, it has looked at young people as people who require support during a particular period in their lives.

It is a transitional thing. The report is saying that income support arrangements for young people should be about giving people the support they need as they move from dependence on the family to independent adulthood. It says that we should not assume that all young people will be doing similar things at given ages in their lives. That is an approach which has not been taken by policy makers in the past but, if one accepts that as the basis for one's philosophy and program development, it means that Governments across Australia should be looking again at the income support arrangements we have.

One of the things we have identified, for example, which has been publicised quite extensively, is that the changes the Commonwealth Government made during the past 12 months in the Austudy arrangements, which are based on age criteria for payment, have meant that a group of young people in South Australia and also in Western Australia no longer qualify for Austudy payments. That means an enormous financial burden is being placed, not only on those young people but on their families, at a time when the young people should be supported either for further education or for some training opportunity. Many of the recommendations in that task force report are very refreshing. They take a different approach. They are largely directed towards the Commonwealth which, as I indicated, has prime responsibility for youth income questions.

They also make some suggestions about the State Government and some of the measures taken at the State Government level that could perhaps be improved. One area of this report to which not much attention was paid was a comment on those employment opportunities for young people that are currently provided within the State Government service. They believe that there should be additional training places within the Public Service. The fact that they have not commented on the programs that are currently available is merely an indication that they do not believe that those programs are problematic. But, that aside, I believe that the report will be a very valuable one. Last week we hosted a seminar for people in the youth affairs field, to try to generate further discussion on the recommendations of the report and, out of that seminar and also from any written submissions that come forward, I will have a much better idea about the further direction for the report. I intend to take up its recommendations, where appropriate, with Commonwealth Government and the relevant State Government agencies.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Did the Minister say that the report was available?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Yes, the report is available, either through my office or the Youth Bureau.

**Mr RANN:** Can the Minister elaborate on the talk that we had previously about integration between the departments? Within the context of the Government's social justice strategy, what initiatives has the Minister of Youth Affairs proposed that will specifically meet the needs of young people?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As the honourable member would know, the social justice strategy pursued by the Government this year is a very extensive one that will have an impact in a whole range of areas for groups of people in

our community who are in need or who are disadvantaged in one way or another. One group that has been identified as needing particular attention is young people, and a number of initiatives are being taken by agencies across the Government. However, with respect to the Youth Bureau and activities on which we can have some direct influence, I am pleased to say that there is an allocation in this budget of \$50 000 which will go towards a youth services development fund.

This will be a small grants program; we estimate that no grant will be in excess of about \$3 000 but anything up to that point will be appropriate. Grants, which would be given on a one off basis, would be for projects that demonstrated a particular community need or targeted young people who were socially, culturally or economically disadvantaged in one way or another. They would also have a local or regional focus. We would give special consideration to programs where young people were involved in the planning or development of the project or in projects that were supported by their local councils. So, we will be working very closely with local government on the distribution of these funds.

In addition, \$2 500 will be allocated for the development of youth information services. About \$1 500 of that amount will be used to maximise the benefits to young people of a Commonwealth grant to publish a youth specific information directory, which I think is long overdue and which will be of great value to people in the youth affairs field, such as youth workers and others who come into contact with young people and who very often find it difficult to know the full extent of the plethora of programs and assistance available for young people.

A further \$1 000 will be made available for 35 youth specific information screens to be attached to the Viatel link. Community Information Support Services of South Australia is developing that aspect across the State so as to extend the information network for young people also. With those specific initiatives which we are able to pursue through the Youth Bureau, and as a result of working in close cooperation with particular councils, we will be able to influence the development of a number of youth projects around the State.

**Mr RANN:** Which particular issues relating to young people have been identified as warranting research under the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme for 1988?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The National Youth Affairs Research Scheme commenced in 1987. It was instituted as a result of work done by the Youth Ministers Council. All States contribute to the scheme, which is funded on a pro rata basis between the States and the Commonwealth. During this 1988 calendar year, NYARS, as it is known, concentrated on a number of issues, one of which is the question of information. Research is being undertaken to determine the best possible strategies which can be used in providing information to young people and to examine how effectively information is channelled to young people, with a view to increasing access and providing better training opportunities for people who work in that area.

Another area on which NYARS has concentrated is health. Research is being undertaken to document and analyse health services for young people and to identify existing gaps in current programs for them. In 1987 and 1988 NYARS concentrated quite a deal of energy on the labour market area, and further work is being done this year in that regard. In addition, a paper is being prepared about long-term accommodation that is available for young people, with a view to developing details on future alternative forms of options for accommodation for young people.

Research has also continued from 1987 on the question of income support for young people, living costs and the degree to which income and costs influence and affect their access to employment, education and training. In that respect, I anticipate that the report which is being prepared by our own task force into gaps and anomalies in income support will be very influential in directing that further research and discussion. In relation to the 1989 program, I understand that some options will be presented to the Youth Ministers Council, which will be held in November, so that we can decide on research programs for the following year.

**Mr RANN:** Mention is made in the Program Estimates of continuing research this financial year on the destinations and attitudes of young people in the senior secondary school years. Could you provide an update on this research?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** That is a program put together in order to try to trace what issues or factors influence young people in deciding whether or not they stay on at school, go on to further education, or seek some training option to further their career. The work that has been done in that area has ranged over the past 12 months or so, and I understand that the report will be ready for release some time next month. I hope it will give us a much better understanding of whether or not it is income issues or information that comes by way of people in the education system or whether it is about parental pressure or peer group pressure, whatever it may be, that influences young people when deciding on future options. In that way, we will have a much better idea of what sort of information should be fed to young people either through the school systems or the other avenues through which young people receive information when making future career and education choices.

**Mr LEWIS:** Referring to educational opportunities and the relationship they have apparently to accommodation as discussed by the Minister in answer to a question from the member for Briggs concerning the NYAD paper, did I hear the Minister correctly in that officers of her department were examining long-term accommodation alternatives for young people, and did that envisage that hostel type accommodation would be provided as an option extant of what might otherwise be available through families?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** This is a research paper being conducted on a national basis, largely focused in this State, and for that reason, I am sure members of the Youth Bureau would know more about it than I do. I have not had any progress reports on that paper. I will ask Bronwyn Webster to provide some further information.

**Ms Webster:** The research paper has actually been prepared by Dr Rodney Fopp from the Salisbury College of Advanced Education. He is quite an expert in the field of accommodation issues for young people. He chairs the Youth Support Accommodation Program Advisory Committee within the Department for Community Welfare. He will be looking at the whole range of long-term options, one of which is boarding-house accommodation particularly looking at rural issues for young people who come to the city for education or employment reasons. The other facet to this work will be as part of the Youth Bureau seminar series that we are planning that will look at the whole question of long-term housing options for young people as well. We will be using Dr Fopp's work in establishing the seminar and exploring further those issues.

**Mr LEWIS:** Who will be the participants in that seminar situation? What groups of people will actually be involved in the learning process, and what are their demographic backgrounds, subcultures etc. that it is envisaged might be included in it?

**Ms Webster:** Those people will be youth workers, teachers, academics, and people from both Government and non-government sectors who work with young people and whose responsibility it is to provide housing alternatives for young people for whom the traditional family setting is not appropriate or is not available for a whole range of reasons. The focus will be on providing options that move young people to independent living, which is the aim of the support accommodation program as well. There is a real gap in terms of long-term housing options for those who have been in shelters or situations like that in their transition to adulthood.

**Mr LEWIS:** Why has the Government systematically ignored the role and function of Rural Youth?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I do not believe that the Government has ignored the interests of young people in country areas.

**Mr LEWIS:** I meant the organisation called Rural Youth.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I do not think we have done that, either. In fact, my first engagement after being elected as Minister of Youth Affairs in July 1985 (I think in the first week after my election) was to attend the opening of the National Conference for Rural Youth held at Loxton. I made a special point of attending that meeting and being involved in it, because I believe it is important that we give as much support as we possibly can to young people in rural areas as well as young people in the city.

It seems to me that very often young people in rural areas have an additional burden to bear, if you like, in that transition from childhood to adulthood because very often in country areas the same range of services and support is not available to them. In fact, we spend a lot of time working on ideas that can support and assist young people.

We worked very closely with a group of people in Whyalla who were interested in setting up a centre for young people. That led to the development of a young people's centre called Sidetrack. That has happened during the past two years. Considerable contact is made through the Department of Agriculture with young people in rural areas and the organisation known as Rural Youth. In fact, the Director of the Youth Bureau (Bronwyn Webster), who is here today, is a member of the State committee and is also a judge for the Rural Youth exchange program which is now underway. Therefore, I do not know why the honourable member suggests that we ignore that organisation or the needs of young people in rural areas.

**Mr LEWIS:** Systematically over the past couple of decades and, more particularly, in recent times, the Government has reduced the amount of funds available for support staff to provide both an advisory and consulting role as well as secretarial staff. For instance, I recall in 1968 that there used to be six advisers, one senior adviser, and two and a half stenographic staff who worked with that movement.

It was a strong movement, was growing, and provided an informal and inexpensive network of activities for young people outside urban and provincial centres, even though they could participate. There was a strong club in Adelaide, for example. That reduction of support and assistance has resulted in a fall-off in membership and contributes to an increasing burden now on taxpayers to provide alternative structures that young people can join to develop their leadership skills, personalities, and relationships with others in their same cabal—peer group—and extend the network of people they know. I fail to understand why that was a legitimate sensible policy, given that we now spend far more on youth affairs and have higher levels of crime both in

rural as well as urban settings, and less autonomy within those youth movements.

I have always seen rural youth as an ideal model in terms of its constitution and stated objectives for any youth organisation in that it was capable of making its own decisions as an organisation and encouraged young people to accept responsibility to do that and be accountable for those decisions within the framework accepted by society at large. Removing that removed the training opportunity that came from participating in those situations and we have not yet replaced it with anything that I can see that is now or has been as effective as was Rural Youth. Why has the Government done that? Will the Minister explain whether or not it wants people to develop the view that some other party ought to be responsible for decision making and organising youth activities and lives, providing accommodation, and seeking out employment opportunities, or does it want young people as emerging adults to accept responsibility for that?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** First, Government funding given to Rural Youth is provided by the Department of Agriculture.

**Mr LEWIS:** Bit silly, though, isn't it?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Possibly it is. I guess it is historical that support for that organisation should come through the Department of Agriculture, but a number of other organisations relating to young people are funded through various other Government agencies that one objectively looking at it in 1988 would probably decide were better placed elsewhere. It could be said, without wanting to empire build, that some of those grants should be made by the Minister of Youth Affairs. However, the situation now is that that organisation is funded through the Department of Agriculture.

I am not aware of arguments that have been used during the past few years for the funding of that body: it has not made any representation to me as Minister of Youth Affairs about its funding, so I am not familiar with the discussions that have taken place with the relevant Government agencies on that question. If it had been funded previously to the tune of six staff members and 2.5 steno-secretaries, it was probably the best funded youth organisation in South Australia, because we are not able to provide that level of assistance for any other youth organisation as far as I am aware.

Some organisations in the State are very worthy, as is Rural Youth, and doing a fine job to assist young people with particular aspects of life but are unable to attract any Government funding because it is simply not available. Funding has to be seen in that perspective. I take the point that it is important to provide organisations for young people in isolated areas so that they can come together and provide each other with support and share information.

I have a feeling that some of these organisations that have been around for a very long time and provided a focus over many years are not necessarily as relevant to young people in the 1980s as they were previously. Whether Rural Youth falls into that category, I am not sure, but perhaps one of the reasons young people are not joining Rural Youth is not because there is not the same staffing level available to the organisation as in the past but that simply young people in country areas are not viewing it as being as important to them in helping them through that transition from childhood to adulthood as young people may have done in the past.

We have found that to be the case with other organisations in South Australia, and it is important for particular groups, if they are to remain relevant, to ensure that they

keep abreast of the trends amongst young people and present programs and activities that will continue to interest and attract them in large numbers. On the general question of Rural Youth, the Government certainly supports it, and whenever I am asked to participate and be involved in its activities in which they feel I can be of assistance, I am always happy to do so.

**Mr De LAINE:** Page 369 of the Program Estimates refers to the Youth Affairs Reference Group. What has that group done in the past 12 months?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** This group has continued to meet since its establishment about 18 months ago and has representation on it from each of the Government agencies delivering services and programs for young people. It provides an important focus for Government activities. One of the specific programs or topics it worked on in the past year was youth information. It established a working party to look at youth information needs for young people in South Australia, and presented its final report to me at the end of June this year. A number of recommendations contained in that report are being acted upon, and I expect that by the end of the year we will have implemented all of the recommendations. One of the recommendations to which I have already referred was improving access to information for young people by way of the Viatel link run by CISSSA.

We are also working with the Service to Youth Council to provide an '008' number to give greater access to information for young people in rural areas. I am sure the honourable member for Murray-Mallee will be interested to hear of that.

One of the things that clearly emerged from the working party report was the fact that young people in rural areas do not have access to the same level of support as young people in the city. Whilst it is not possible to duplicate all of those services in country areas in many cases, they can, or should, at least be able to have telephone access to them. Therefore, the '008' number, which will come into service very soon, will be one method of giving rural youth greater access.

The Youth Affairs Reference Group has also been working on issues relating to young people under the age of 16 who are unsupported, that is, young people who are not in education, employment or training. The Human Services Committee of Cabinet asked the Youth Affairs Reference Group to deal with this issue because we identified the group of young people within that age group as being particularly at risk. The report has now been put together and we are working on the development of a strategy to provide appropriate services for young people in that group.

Other working parties have been established. One of the committees is addressing the issue of young people and the law. That committee is looking at the question of the relationship that young people have with the police. Obviously, young people, young people's organisations and the police are involved in that. That investigation is already leading to a much better understanding between young people and police and, hopefully, will come up with some recommendations that will improve the situation even further.

Another working party has been investigating work experience for young people in rural areas which has focussed on legal and industrial issues. The committee has also investigated employment options for intellectually disabled young people. A response is being prepared at the moment by that group for the social security review.

YARG has had two representatives on the Youth Drugs and Aids Coordinating Committee to ensure that the needs of young people who are at risk in these areas are appropriately addressed by that committee. Generally

speaking, they have also maintained a watching brief on issues that are emerging with respect to local government's involvement in the human services area in youth sector training and also with the development of the youth offer for young people.

**Mr De LAINE:** What are the details of the grant to the Youth Leadership Training Scheme, and the extent to which that has been used over the past financial year?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The grant for the past financial year was \$2 563. That money went to the Southern Youth Action Group, the Noarlunga College of TAFE Student Forum, the Odeon Theatre, the Girl Guides Association of South Australia and the Young Christian Movement. That grant has enabled about 180 young people in South Australia to participate in leadership programs. These programs are designed to equip young people with the necessary skills, self confidence and motivation to undertake a greater leadership role, both within their own organisations and in the community at large.

It is important to note that the subsidy goes to non-profit community organisations. The scheme has been running since 1984 and has been successful. As I indicated, during this year it has given 180 young people the opportunity to develop skills that otherwise they may not have had for what is, in effect, a very small outlay on the part of the Government.

**Mr De LAINE:** I realise that the Community Youth Support Scheme and skillshare are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government. However, I am interested in the Minister's response in relation to the implications of the phasing out of CYSS. Will this change result in any major impact, whether positive or negative, on young people in the training area because of the phasing out of the scheme and its replacement by the Skillshare scheme which will broaden the coverage to people of all ages?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As the honourable member has indicated, the Skillshare program will change quite considerably. It will be a much more structured program than the previous program, with at least 60 per cent of the time available being devoted to structured training programs. The grants to community groups will be substantially larger than the current grant. From that point of view, it is a very positive change. However, sponsors will be required to raise 15 per cent of the grant themselves in the first year and 20 per cent in subsequent years. That will concern a large number of people currently running projects because many of them are being run in disadvantaged areas. This means that the pressures on those groups to raise their own funds, by way of sponsorship or fundraising activity, will be great.

The target population for the program is quite broad. That is another area of concern for me because the focus will be drawn away from young people. The previous programs have been youth specific but this one is not. Therefore, young people are much less likely to qualify for the scheme under the guidelines, and that is certainly another issue of concern. The Youth Initiatives Unit within the State Government is, as a consequence, the only community based labour market program which specifically targets young people in this State. That is a matter of considerable concern.

However, there is very little that the State Government can do to alter those arrangements because the time lines are such that the integrated program will commence by January next year. Therefore, the State Government will make representations to the Commonwealth Government in order to provide the very best possible use of resources and arrangements for the program. It is significant that the Commonwealth Government has increased the funding; that

is commendable. However, I have expressed my concerns with respect of the component that will now be applicable to young people.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** There has been a reduction of \$117 686 or, 17.39 per cent in the funding of the Youth Office organisation. It is just fortuitous that in a separate statement relative to the social justice package, provision is made for \$33 000 for the design and creation of employment opportunities, and \$85 000 for the information services for disadvantaged young people. That totals \$118 000. So there is \$324 more for the Youth Office in 1988-89 than in 1987-88—not even up to inflation.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** There has not been any shift in the funding for the Youth Bureau. The amount of money to which the honourable member has referred is largely covered by the fact that the Commonwealth paid its share of the labour market awareness program, which was \$110 000, and that does not appear in this year's figures because, obviously, the money was allocated during the previous financial year. With that amount of money out of the equation, the grants contained in that youth organisation line are quite similar to the amounts of money expended last year.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Plus inflation?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Yes, plus inflation.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** My next question relates to waste management. I am aware that a great deal of work has been undertaken over a period of time to establish destinations for rubbish, and to try to reduce the amount of rubbish involved by recycling and/or reduction at the point of production. May we have a quick overview of the benefits which have accrued in the past 12 months in relation to this important part of the Minister's portfolio: the whole waste management cycle, the location of places to put rubbish, the reduction in the amount produced and, generally, the prime goals of the board?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Enormous progress has been made in the past 12 months by the Waste Management Commission. As the honourable member would be aware, in a structural sense things have changed because the commission itself has been reduced in number as a result of the rewriting of the Waste Management Commission's legislation. The legislation itself now clarifies beyond doubt, we hope, the powers and responsibilities of the commission and, where the previous legislation was found to be wanting with respect to the commission's policing powers and the area of penalties, those matters have been addressed. That means that the Waste Management Commission is viewed by people in the waste industry as being much more effective and powerful than was the case previously.

Also, during the past 12 months, it would be true to say that the relationship between commission staff and those in the waste industry, both in the private sector and in local government, has improved enormously. Many of the complaints I, as Minister of Local Government, was receiving in the first year or so from particular councils are no longer being received. The commission has been very active during this past year in keeping in touch with local government, making local government more aware of its responsibilities in the waste management area and providing support and advice wherever possible to assist the operators of waste management sites to lift their performance.

One of the positive steps taken during this year was the introduction of a scheme to allow for waste management sites to be jointly assessed at least once every year by the commission and by the licensee concerned. Most of those sites are operated by councils, which assess both the environmental and management issues. That scheme has been

very well received by most licensees and has provided a reasonably objective measure for assessing the operation of the sites.

One of the other things it has brought about is a degree of competition between site operators to ensure that their sites rate at least as well as, if not better than, neighbouring operations. It has led to a number of councils, in particular, making contact directly with the Waste Management Commission to seek advice on lifting the performance of their sites as a result of receiving their particular grade in this assessment system, and this is very positive. Also, there have been a number of other steps taken during the year, both by the commission and by the private sector, to improve waste management practices and the provision of facilities for the management and disposal of particular forms of waste.

That also has been very positive and adds enormously to the prestige of the people within the commission who have been very influential in helping to achieve those results. Mike Madigan, whom I have not yet had the opportunity to introduce to the Committee, the Director of the Waste Management Commission, may wish to add to that in more detail.

**Mr Madigan:** I am not sure that I can add much to that excellent resume of the past 12 months activities. I can give a few additional technical details in respect of changes the commission has been able to effect. In the field of solid waste, in particular in the metropolitan area, a number of new regional organisations are in the process of being developed within councils, and they aim to consolidate their individual waste operations into larger and, therefore, more efficient and more effective operations. In particular, one was recently formed in the Adelaide Hills, and the Northern Areas Development Board is setting up a similar waste organisation.

Ultimately, we hope that the effect of these organisations will be not only more cost effective operations but lower cost of waste disposal to the ratepayers. With respect to liquid waste, the Minister referred to new facilities in the private sector. This is a major initiative for South Australia. With the commissioning of a facility being built by National Waste, for the first time Adelaide will have complete treatment of all its hazardous liquid waste, thereby removing the now outdated previous method of evaporation in large ponds. I understand that that plant will be commissioned next year.

With respect to hazardous waste in general and particularly to hospital waste, which were previously of concern to the commission, we now believe that there is adequate incineration capacity to deal with all the infectious waste being generated with the recent commissioning of a new plant. The commission feels confident that South Australia is now the equal of any State in the Commonwealth with respect to the disposal of that waste stream.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Regarding the 10 year plan and the knowledge that nobody ever wants a rubbish dump close to their particular domain or council area, has there had to be a major shift of emphasis on the probable destination of waste or have the necessary negotiations led to acceptance of the preferred sites?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I ask Mr Madigan to reply to this question.

**Mr Madigan:** The 10 year plan is due for revision. A number of directions which were originally proposed have been adopted; a number have not, due to changing circumstances. The Wingfield depot takes more than half of the total metropolitan waste stream, and the management of that depot has substantially improved under the careful



control of the Adelaide City Council. We believe that, with the introduction of new methods including, I understand, a proposed recycling operation, this will provide sufficient waste management capacity for the foreseeable future for that proportion of the waste stream. The Northern Adelaide Development Board, which I mentioned earlier is looking for a site north of Adelaide for its combined waste and, if it is successful in that, that site in conjunction with the Pedlar Creek, site, will, we believe, handle metropolitan Adelaide's solid waste for the foreseeable future.

With respect to the more detailed aspects of the 10 year plan for individual councils that are not in those regional organisations, the commission aims to have a draft revision of that 10 year plan available for consultation this financial year.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Have the negotiations that are directly associated with the fee structure expected of country councils, been defused or become acceptable across the board?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Whether it is acceptable to councils, I cannot be certain, but I can say that it seems to be accepted. A number of councils around the State still believe that they ought not to be included in the fee structure, but the fees have now been paid by all councils for the past two years, and during this past 12 months, to my knowledge, very few if any complaints have been made about the fees payable by country councils. In fact, I understand that a number of those councils are paying their fees in advance. So, I believe that the problem which emerged the year before last about councils in rural areas being included in the fee structure has now well and truly passed.

**Mr TYLER:** The Minister and the Director may have already answered my question about liquid waste disposal. I notice that past reports from the South Australian Waste Management Commission have been very critical of the standards of liquid waste disposal. Can the Minister or the Director add anything more to what has been said about this matter this morning, and can we expect any more improvements?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I believe that the Director covered the matter pretty thoroughly when he indicated that a private sector company is now setting up a plant to treat the liquid waste stream in South Australia, and that operation should be able to handle the majority of liquid wastes in South Australia. This means that some of the other operations in various parts of the State, or at least near the metropolitan area may find that they are not particularly viable. The previous method of disposal of this waste through evaporative ponds is obviously quite unacceptable and, I believe, has been rejected in most parts of the developed world. So the go-ahead that has been given for this company to set up its operation is very timely, and it certainly solves a problem that has existed in South Australia for some time.

That company is due to begin construction of its operation in October this year, and they think that the first stage of the operation should be brought on line by about February or March next year. In the meantime, the commission is examining the regulatory options which are open to it and which could lead to the closure of those existing or remaining depots that still rely on evaporative ponds for the disposal of liquid wastes. So, the situation is looking pretty good for that form of waste, and I expect that this company, with its much upgraded methods of disposing of liquid waste, will become the preferred option.

**Mr TYLER:** Illegal dumps have been a problem in the past and in my electorate of Flagstaff Hill there has been a running battle for some time with an operator who is dump-

ing illegally. The Happy Valley council, along with the State Planning Commission, took legal action in that regard. Is this problem of illegal dumping widespread; what is the commission's role in this; and does it have any policing powers to take action against those people who dump illegally?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I ask Mr Madigan to answer that question.

**Mr Madigan:** No, it is not widespread but, as the honourable member has indicated, there are sufficient numbers for the commission to be concerned. The new Act provided the commission with increased powers to apprehend and prosecute, and the penalties have been substantially increased for depositing waste without lawful authority where it would cause a nuisance, offensive condition or damage to health or the environment. The commission employs a number of inspectors who regularly visit licensed premises as part of their normal duties but who also respond to complaints from the public and, more frequently, to requests from local government to investigate what they believe to be incidents of illegal dumping.

**Mr TYLER:** I now turn to the question of big bins, which a lot of councils are starting to provide to their ratepayers. Concern has been expressed that this is having an effect on recycling. Can the Minister outline what effects this is having?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** An allegation has been made by some people since the introduction of big bins that it does not encourage people to separate rubbish and therefore have the opportunity to recycle waste. However, generally, the introduction of big bins into various parts of the metropolitan area has been well received by householders, particularly since the regulations changed to prevent burning of domestic rubbish. Because waste production has increased so, too, has the need for disposal of domestic waste.

The big bins now solve that problem for householders. Recycling does concern me and I know that it concerns the Waste Management Commission. We highly commend the efforts that have been taken in some council areas to encourage householders to separate, particularly their papers and bottles for collection. The Western Regional Organisation of Councils has a very good scheme. It has purchased its own recycling depot and it encourages residents in its own council areas to separate papers and bottles which are being recycled through the regional run depot.

In addition, in October a new 'Gus the Garbo' campaign will be conducted in Adelaide, and that will concentrate on a number of issues, one of which will be the recycling question. As part of that campaign people will be encouraged to separate their glass, papers and bottles so that those items can be collected separately and then recycled. Generally speaking, if we can encourage more of that sort of activity to occur, coupled with the introduction of big bins in many parts of the metropolitan area, the scheme will be deemed to have been an enormous success.

**Mr LEWIS:** If there is a significant quantity of radioactive waste in South Australia; how are we disposing of it; and is it a problem?

**Mr Madigan:** With respect to the Waste Management Act, radioactive waste is not waste with which the commission is involved. That is the province of the Health Commission, so perhaps the honourable member could address his question to the Minister of Health.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** In relation to the program of assistance to metropolitan and State councils, several councils were promised funding and proceeded to implement a library for their communities. On the basis of that funding being made available at a later stage, they acquired their

libraries by using bridging finance. They have now fulfilled their obligation of extending credit to the Government with that bridging finance and are having some difficulty in obtaining access to the funds which had previously been committed to them. What positive action is being taken so that the Government will fulfil its earlier promises, and will the fulfilment of those earlier promises have any effect on this year's program for libraries in this State?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The honourable member would be aware that, in the past two or three budget cycles, the Government and some departments have been under severe financial pressure, and the libraries area is no exception. The Libraries Development Program, which was embarked upon by the Government as a 10 year program, is still continuing, and I hope that it will be possible for the Government to complete that program. However, it will be necessary for it to proceed at a slower rate than we anticipated when the program began. As the honourable member would know, it was intended that it be a 10 year program.

Due to the financial constraints under which we operate, we have now gone beyond that but, during this year, as part of the development program, three libraries will be established in the Gumeracha, Mount Pleasant and Hallett council areas. The program is proceeding, but I regret that councils are waiting for funding of libraries that they have already established. However, I point out that all those councils proceeded with the development of their libraries knowing that they would not receive from the State Government immediate subsidies for development funding. No commitments have been given to councils as to when they might anticipate receiving Government subsidies for those libraries. In most cases, the amounts of money are not enormous, but I recognise that a small number of councils anticipate receiving a fairly significant subsidy, and I hope that we will be able to provide that funding as soon as we can. However, that will depend on the availability of finances through the budget process.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I draw the Minister's attention to departmental documentation about promised dates. The Nuriootpa library has cost a considerable sum of money, which has been bridged by the Angaston District Council. That cost was to have been met by the end of 1987-88, but that has not yet been the case.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** No date or timing commitment was given to Nuriootpa council as to the funding of its library. Each year it has been indicated that, if it was not funded that year, it would be considered for funding in the subsequent year, but no timing commitment has ever been given.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I would appreciate it if the Minister would make available to her the correspondence that followed a deputation to the former Minister (Hon. Gavin Keneally) before that project was put into place which identifies 1987-88. A letter is in the system and has been with the Minister now for several weeks under my name which identifies that fact.

In relation to the 1988-89 specific targets and objectives, under 'Public Libraries Automated Information Network (PLAIN) system to be selected', the Auditor-General in his report has been less than satisfied with some of the facilities made available in computerisation. What action has been taken to ensure in establishing the PLAIN system, which concept has bipartisan approval, whether it will be possible to ensure that we have a system that will be functional and not subject to criticism at any stage by, for example, the Auditor-General? In his report, it is very clearly indicated that the computerisation has not come up to expectations

and there is a question about the future of some of the equipment.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Certainly we regret that problems occurred with the ALIS scheme that was implemented in the library, but we do not anticipate problems with the computer system that will form part of the PLAIN system. We certainly did not want problems with ALIS either, but they emerged. It is much too early to indicate exactly the arrangements that will be made with the introduction of PLAIN because we are still very much in the early developmental stage of that program. Discussions are being undertaken by the working group with potential users of PLAIN and other people who need to be consulted before its introduction with a view to determining exactly what sort of information those people would want access to so that we have initially the very best idea possible of what it is that we need to build into the system.

The implementation group will be working very closely with representatives of the Information Technology Unit of the Government Management Board to seek the technical advice that we need in the implementation of that scheme. With respect to the ALIS scheme in the library, the problems there have not been of a technical nature but of a legal nature. The Department of Services and Supply had a problem with the legal agreement relating to ALIS, so that matter is continuing to be discussed and hopefully will be resolved. For PLAIN, we will be looking for the very best possible technical advice that we can gain access to in order to achieve the implementation of a system that will be of maximum benefit to those in the State Library system.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** At page 296 of the Auditor-General's Report, it is stated:

As previously reported, the system has not performed according to the contract specifications. The board continues to withhold \$75 000 and no further payments have been made pending a settlement on this matter which the Crown Solicitor is now attempting to negotiate.

Whilst there is a legal component at this moment (a clear statement by the Auditor-General), it was previously noted in last year's Auditor-General's Report that it was a technical specification problem.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I will ask Mr Miller to give greater detail on this since he has been very closely involved with the negotiations taking place. The problem has been largely a legal question relating to the contract and performance of the contract with respect to the technology that we have in the library, and whether or not the technology provided actually stands up to the specifications of the contract. That is the point being argued at the moment.

**Mr Miller:** The contract was drawn up between the Department of State Supply and the supplier of the equipment. Part of that contract required a certain response time for the computer to perform under various work loads. We have tested that response time, and while it meets our present needs, we bought the system on the understanding that it was designed to cater for our needs for the next five years. It failed to meet the response time tests when placed under the heavy load that we expected in five years time. That requirement was quite clearly specified in the contract. However, the supplier has not accepted that and has refused to fix it, so we have withheld the money to pay for the system on the basis that he has not delivered a system that we considered to be acceptable. That matter has been handled by the Attorney-General's Department over the past few months with the supplier to try to negotiate a settlement between the two parties. I must stress that for us the system is working quite adequately at present, and has done so for the past 18 months.



**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Under the provisions for the State Library Service, in the 1988-89 specific targets is the statement:

Undertake a stocktake of materials held in the reference collection.

For what purpose is this action being taken and is it a space orientated problem or in relation to the suitability of material?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The stocktake is taking place simply as an audit mechanism. It is not designed to be a check on whether or not we have appropriate book stock or anything of that kind. There has not been a stocktake of the reference collection for many moons, and it is time that there was one.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Nothing ulterior to be expected?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** No.

**Mr RANN:** Relating to the Mortlock Library of South Australia, which is attracting national attention for its excellent refurbishment, what developments are being considered to improve public access to that library?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** That is a matter of some concern, because the Mortlock Library, as the honourable member would recall, was a Jubilee 150 project, and it has been enormously successful, partly due to the Jubilee 150 celebrations and the concentration on our history and heritage. As a result, there has been an enormous increase in, first, the desire of people to know more about their family history background and, secondly, there has been an enormous increase in the number of records and other material given to the Mortlock Library, placing enormous pressure on staff resources and other issues.

That interest in the library and in history has meant a lot of pressure on us from members of the public to extend the opening hours, particularly on the weekends so that people can have access to the collection. That depends very much on staffing, and the Libraries Board is now funding two positions from trust fund sources to try to meet the demand that exists for Mortlock services. Additional funding has now been provided through the social justice initiative this year to improve services in the collection of materials for Aborigines in our community.

Several other matters are being considered that we hope will improve the access by the public to the Mortlock collection: for example, automation for reader services. The idea would be a PC controlled audio visual presentation that would provide an interactive introduction to services and the collection. Individuals who want to use the Mortlock materials will be more self-sufficient and will not need to call on the staff as much as they do now. We are also considering placing our pictures collection on video disk, which means that people would have more rapid access to that information, and it would protect the photographs from use made of them by members of the public.

An investigation is taking place into the automation of the ordering archives management and library management of Mortlock, as well as providing on-line public access to the catalogue. All those things would mean that individuals can gain more ready access to the collection without the need for staff to be involved. Another aspect is the question of users capacity to use the collection. One of the other issues being considered is whether or not we should be conducting seminars to educate people on how they can better and more efficiently use the collection available to them. I am hoping that through ideas like that being developed we may improve people's access to the Mortlock collection, and free the staff of the Mortlock Library to work on the vast amount of material it has collected during the past couple of years so that it can be properly organised.

**Mr RANN:** The Minister referred to the automation now underway for the Mortlock Library: what progress is being made on the automation of the Bray Reference Library?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** This area has not been considered for some time, and we need to think about ways of improving our methods of operation. The collections in the Bray Reference Library and the Mortlock Library are catalogued on to the Australian bibliographic network, which provides access to the holdings of about 160 libraries around Australia. Our State Library is one of six libraries taking part in a pilot project which established that network in 1981. In addition, a proposal is being considered to further automate the collections of both those libraries, much along the lines I have just outlined for the Mortlock Library.

Three options are now being considered: first, we are thinking about whether there can be a shared system between the Bray Reference Library, the Barr Smith Library, and the University of Adelaide Library; whether we should use the Government Computing Centre computer; or, whether there should be some sort of stand-alone system. Whatever system we eventually decide upon as the most appropriate to give greater automation in these libraries, it must certainly be compatible with the new PLAIN system. That is another issue being considered, but we will have to wait until we have a clear idea about what sort of technology we will be needing to implement PLAIN.

**Mr RANN:** What are the benefits of transferring the community information services to the South Australian Libraries Board?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The issue of whether or not the community information services should stand alone or whether there should be some link with library services has taken some time to resolve. It seemed desirable that the community information network and organisation should be closely associated with the work of libraries. The administration of community information has now been transferred to the control of the Libraries Board, and this will be very helpful to both networks.

Community information is well linked into a whole range of community networks; the libraries network is very well organised, and has a good system. The two groups can learn very much from each other. It might also lead to a much better sharing of available resources, in that many of the public libraries around the State could become known in local communities as information providers as well as places where people can gain access to books and other information. This means that we may, at very little cost, be able to extend our community informations network beyond the 16 councils now receiving Government subsidy for services of that kind. Over all it will mean that people in both spheres will broaden their outlook and provide a much better service to their local communities.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** It is indicated that in 1988-89 draft instructions will be developed for revised public records legislation. What legislation is deemed necessary, or why has it become necessary and provide such legislation?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Obviously, the keeping of public records is a fairly complicated business. I recall that during last year's Estimates Committees the honourable member had a conversation with Ms Siebert about the selection of materials, the criteria used for the keeping of public records, and how judgments are made as to what should be kept and what should not be kept as very often material that one might not consider to be terribly important today suddenly becomes very important at some stage down the track. Therefore, it is a fairly complicated business and it is, in fact, taking some time to develop legislation to

govern those principles and establish rules and guidelines for the keeping of public records.

Quite some time has been spent on reviewing what is happening in other parts of Australia with respect to the development of legislation. It is important to monitor what is happening and to gain whatever information becomes available from the work being undertaken by people in other parts of Australia. Therefore, with a view to developing our own legislation, in addition to that monitoring of activity in other parts of the country, two discussion papers have been prepared ('Why history?' and 'Records Management—Utopia') which give background information about the necessity for legislation.

The idea is to raise awareness and initiate discussion in order to clarify in the minds of those people who may have some interest in this matter why it is important that we have legislation to govern the area. Once those papers have been discussed we will be in a much stronger position to develop legislation for introduction into Parliament.

Broadly speaking, the Bill would formally establish the Public Records Office as an agency separate from the State Library and the Libraries Board, delineate the objectives and functions of the office, and set out clearly the responsibilities of Government agencies serving an educative as well as a proscriptive role with respect to the keeping of public records. It would have to be capable of realistic and, if necessary, gradual implementation.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** It is proposed that in 1988-89 there will be coordinated development of a general disposal schedule for local government records and for some types of State Government agency records. That would suggest that this legislation will have a scaling effect with regard to what is a 'must' and what is a 'maybe' or what is not on at all. What sort of discussions have taken place with local government on this issue, because a general disposal schedule was to have been developed in 1987-88. That program had commenced at that stage.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Representatives of the Public Records Office have had discussions only with individual representatives of local government. There has not been a large scale or formal consultation process with local government about the keeping of records. However, the PRO recently completed a major schedule for one local government authority—the Port Adelaide council. That schedule can now be used as a starting point for guidelines for other councils in the State. All precedents have been collated and are being reviewed for consistency and appropriateness in records collection. It is hoped that a general disposal schedule can be developed later in the year. Feedback from councils around the State can be incorporated in a final draft schedule which can then be used by local government as a basis for record keeping.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I would appreciate the provision of any available documentation, such as the seminar documents and the Port Adelaide council schedule in relation to the Minister's last two answers.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I would be happy to provide that material to the honourable member.

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

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** The program for 1988-89 indicates that we will encourage local government to participate further in human and community services. At whose cost? I pose that question against the background of a very clear understanding some time ago that, if human services were to be put in place, to reduce the involvement of Government in a number of these services, an arrangement would

be required whereby funds would be made available to local government on a continuing basis, not on a two or three year basis with those funds then disappearing because they were not enshrined in the agreement. How much work has been done to achieve any of these results, and will the Minister comment generally?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The delivery of human services and local government involvement is a matter which this Government views as a priority. It is very important, in our view, that those services which can be clearly recognised as those being delivered more appropriately at the local level should be delivered at that level. Very often local councils, which sometimes have a much clearer understanding of local community needs and are much more familiar with local community networks, are better placed than State Government agencies or the Commonwealth Government to establish appropriate ways of delivering human services in local communities.

Many councils in South Australia are already engaged in that activity in a wide range of services and are doing it very efficiently and effectively. Other councils in the State have not yet engaged in this area of activity to any great extent. Indeed, a number of councils, particularly in rural areas, do not believe that that is their function or responsibility. In some cases, some of those councils do not fully understand what is meant by human services programs, because some which are very strongly of the view that it is not their role to be involved are already involved in human services activities. For example, some councils run a community library or have established aged care accommodation for people in their local communities. They do not view those activities as the delivery of human services programs, although in fact they are. All that is being discussed by representatives of Government and others within the Local Government Association is a broader involvement and extension of some of the activities in which some councils are already engaged.

The question of funding has long been a problem in this respect because, quite understandably, many councils are reluctant to become involved in the delivery of a program where State Government funding is provided initially but at some stage down the track, for one reason or another, funding is withdrawn so that the councils are left to continue the program without financial aid.

With a view to resolving some of those issues, the Department of Local Government, working with other agencies in Government, has been attempting to work on appropriate schemes by which contractual arrangements for funding might be entered into with councils for the delivery of services. It would be true to say that the South Australian Health Commission and the Office of Employment and Training have gone furthest along this path in establishing the appropriate guidelines for contractual arrangements between those agencies and particular councils. There are at least a couple of examples of which I am aware where the Health Commission has already entered into contractual arrangements for human services programs when it has been determined that a particular council, in conjunction with the Health Commission, can appropriately deliver a service on the ground.

Those arrangements have worked very well and can be viewed as something of a model for other agencies. Considerable work is still to be done in that area, and it may not be that a model can be found; it may be more appropriate for negotiated agreements to vary according to circumstances and the sort of service to be delivered. However, these are issues which need to be discussed between the two levels of government and some agreement must be reached.

In the meantime, there are two pilot projects that are funded by the Commonwealth Government's Local Government Development Program, one in the Barossa area and the other in the inner eastern metropolitan area. Those projects are designed to test the concept of a prime role for local government in human services planning and the delivery of services at the local level. In the case of the Barossa project, a project officer has now been employed since April. A project officer is about to be employed for the inner eastern metropolitan area, so that work can begin. We hope that those two pilot projects will make available valuable information that will assist councils in other regions of the State to determine how best human services can be delivered to local communities and what the arrangements should be. Quite some progress has been made on this matter.

With respect to the funding question, it will not always be a case of one or other level of government being responsible for funding; it may very well be that some programs should be jointly funded and some entirely State Government funded whilst being delivered or, at least, facilitated by a local council. It may be the responsibility of a non-government group to deliver the service, but with local government or State Government supervision. There are a number of combinations which need to be discussed to make sure that arrangements in any locality are appropriate.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I notice that one of the broad objectives of the department is to develop community awareness of the role and function of local government and public participation in its activities. I suspect that that was pitched not at the program we have most recently discussed (the delivery of human services). In approaching this goal of local government, has the department anything in mind to improve community awareness of the conjunction of activity which could be quite useful in what we might call the new era of local government community activity?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** That is a difficult question; it is very broad. Certainly the Department of Local Government spends a lot its time providing information to members of the community and also to councils about the responsibilities of local governments. It also spends a lot of time and resources on encouraging councils to play their role in local communities in raising awareness of the work of local government, the importance of local government and the reasons for local communities and individuals within communities to take a closer interest in the work of local government. Very often, people do not fully appreciate how much impact council activities have on their own lives, their workplaces and their residences and the more they know about the responsibilities of local government and how they might impact on themselves, the more likely they are to take an interest in council meetings, in local government elections and indeed even take an interest in standing for local council themselves.

So, in association with the Local Government Association, the Department of Local Government has been involved in the preparation of various publications to be used by local communities and councils to raise awareness. The department has also been involved with campaigns prior to council elections, to encourage people to be more involved and more interested in local government affairs, and has directed attention to particular groups of people in the community who seem even less interested in local government than other groups.

We have encouraged councils to conduct open days which often have been held in the months running up to council elections, to invite members of communities into local councils to hear more about their programs, to get to know their local representatives, and to understand the role of

government better. In the areas where those open days have been held, they have raised community awareness and have been very successful. The department also publishes a series of fact sheets on matters that relate to local government affairs.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Regarding the second stage of the Local Government Act revision, is it still intended that that will become effective as from 1 January 1989? If it is to become effective, that will mean that all the necessary regulations, proclamations and other activities have been concluded. In the preparation of those documents, has the Government any particular concerns about any aspect of that legislation which was most recently passed? I am thinking more specifically about the area of entrepreneurial activity.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The Government still intends to proclaim the legislation on 1 January 1989, and it is anticipated that all accompanying regulations, etc., will be in place by that time. Some concentrated work has been done during recent months, which involved officers of the Department of Local Government and the Local Government Association in reaching agreement on the content of those regulations that need to be redrafted and it is anticipated that agreement will be reached in time for those things to be in place by 1 January.

In the meantime, a series of seminars is being conducted, organised jointly by the Department of Local Government and the Institute of Municipal Management, and the Industry Training Committee is also involved. It is proposed to hold five seminars in country areas and one in the metropolitan area during September and October to explain to local councils the full import of the legislation, what might be involved for them and what the legislation offers by way of new powers. One of the most complicated and far reaching areas of the new legislation which will be of interest to councils around this State are these entrepreneurial powers, to which the honourable member has referred. It will take some time before councils in South Australia fully appreciate exactly how far reaching those powers are and what activities it might allow them to engage in. I expect other seminars may be held in the next year or so, sponsored by the department, the Local Government Association or other bodies. The seminars will help councils to fully appreciate their responsibilities in this area, but we do not anticipate huge problems.

I believe that members of the Local Government Association recognise the potential for councils to become engaged in activity that they may not be able to handle and will be doing as much as they can to assist councils, and to prepare appropriate guidelines and information for councils to help them to engage in activities that they may not have otherwise been able to do in the past, and to make sure that they undertake those responsibilities appropriately and effectively. With the provision of that assistance and advice through the Department of Local Government and other Government agencies, depending on whatever activity they might be contemplating, I believe that any potential for conflict or difficulty can be overcome. With respect to the development area, the Department of Local Government is currently preparing a guide for development projects, in particular to assist any councils that might be thinking of becoming involved in that area of activity.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Could such guidelines contain advice as to what might be deemed to be a reasonable balance between rate income and the total amount of any project that is to be entered into? I say that against the background of some fairly major expenditures which are already starting to come out of the local government field

and which run into multi-millions of dollars, sometimes involving organisations which barely hit the \$5 million rate revenue income.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I will ask Michael Lennon to expand on the comments that I am about to make. This area of commercial activity is fairly complex and, with the arrangements for financing of projects being deregulated, this which will enable councils to negotiate directly with lending institutions in the way that any other organisation is able to, it will mean that the sort of criteria that apply for councils in the financing of commercial projects will be very similar to the criteria that apply to a private company or any other organisation involved in that sort of activity. However, our recommendation would be that any commercial activity envisaged by a council should stand on its own feet and it should not resort to support or subsidy from other council activity.

**Mr Lennon:** There is no hard and fast rule about what proportion of income councils might derive from traditional sources, such as rates and other fees and charges *vis-a-vis* other forms of revenue that might accumulate through the new provisions. It is important to bear in mind that the legislation requires that, where councils undertake commercial type projects, the projects themselves should provide some benefit to the area. The intention implicit in the legislation is that revenue raising *per se* is not a reason for a commercial undertaking; some broader community benefit should derive. However, where a project has a substantial objective towards the raising of revenue, the council is then required to consider the impact of that project on other businesses in the area.

The legislation allows councils to limit the exposure of ratepayers to risk by offering other forms of security, apart from rate revenue. Clearly, that is to allow the situation promoted by the department and that is, where a council proposes to enter into a commercial project, that project should be able to stand on its own merits and not depend on taxation as security. During the passage of the Bill the Minister gave an undertaking to inform all financial institutions, which traditionally have lent moneys to local government, about the change in the statutory provisions that affect borrowings in particular and to stress the need for financial institutions to apply far more scrutiny to the feasibility of proposed projects than has been the case in the past. The LGFA in particular, which I think provides more than 90 per cent of council borrowings, is already undertaking a major review of its own analysis for these kinds of projects. There is no hard and fast rule about what proportion of revenue might derive, and some guidance is being given about the circumstances in which it should be considered as a means of raising revenue.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** That is consistent with the attitude expressed by the General Manager of the Local Government Financing Authority.

**Mr Lennon:** Yes.

**Mr De LAINE:** The department has traditionally offered two scholarships to senior staff of the local government industry. Why were the Roy Guerin and Keith Hockridge scholarships not offered during the previous year and when will they again be offered?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** These scholarships were established in the mid 1970s by former Ministers of Local Government. The scholarships were designed to provide opportunities to employees in local government to broaden their knowledge and professional abilities. Since that time, particularly more recently when more power and authority has been given to councils (and I expect that this will be the case even more so once this second revised Bill comes

into effect at the beginning of next year), the range of skills and professional ability of officers within local government must be well above those of people who have managed local government authorities in the past. It is very important that their range of skills and professional abilities should be very broad and that they should have access to staff development and training to meet the new requirements of local government managers.

It seemed to the Department of Local Government that the criteria upon which the scholarships were awarded needed to be reviewed. In conjunction with the Institute of Municipal Management, there has been a review of both those scholarship schemes and, whilst that review was in progress, the awarding of those scholarships was placed on hold. That is why no scholarships were awarded in the previous year. In the meantime, the review has been undertaken and I have now agreed to the establishment of a new program, called the Guerin Hockridge Professional Development Program, which will be jointly administered by the Department of Local Government and the Institute of Municipal Management. The program will provide a broad range of opportunities for council senior staff to undertake professional training. Further, it will provide for specific course costs, cadetships in local government, management training programs, visiting scholarships, resource and training materials and guest lecturers, so that the range of activities has expanded and will be more appropriate to modern needs in local government.

**Mr De LAINE:** What professional development opportunities are available to council staff for staff interchange with industry or other spheres of Government?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** It is important for people working in senior management positions, in particular in local government, to have access to as broad a range of training opportunities as possible and to experience a range of work activities in order that they can be as effective as they should be in this modern world of local government. For that reason, the Department of Local Government commissioned a report, which has been prepared by the Industry Training Committee, on ways and means to implement a staff interchange program.

That report has provided some preliminary information and further work is now continuing on how it might be implemented. Preliminary information from that initial report indicates that the adoption of a model similar to that which exists for State and Commonwealth Government employees to be interchanged may be the sort of thing which should be implemented in relation to the State and local governments. A range of administrative provisions and other mechanisms to achieve a scheme of that kind is now being discussed and is the subject of negotiation.

I hope that some time in the next year or so we will be able to implement a scheme of that kind. In the meantime, one of our own officers, Malcolm Herrmann, is one of the pioneers in this area. Soon he will take up an appointment for a 12 month period with the Port Adelaide council and will probably have a lot more to do with the member for Price in that time. This is a helpful development in that it provides an opportunity for officers of the Department of Local Government to get out into the field and understand what it is like on the ground and get a better appreciation of the needs and responsibilities of particular councils. He will also acquire a range of skills and expertise that will be valuable for any future position he might hold within the Department of Local Government on his return. I hope also in future that we could bring a range of people from local government into the Department of Local Govern-

ment who will assist in that interchange of ideas and expertise.

At present we have four people in our department who originally were seconded from local government. That sort of process assists enormously in getting a Department of Local Government that understands the needs of local government more effectively, and also gives people in local councils a better appreciation of how the department works, if officers can be seconded for a period. I hope that a scheme such as that will get under way in about a year and be effective in encouraging considerable interchange between the two levels of government.

**Mr De LAINE:** On page 373 of the Program Estimates, under 1987-88 Specific Targets and Objectives, it is stated that a review of qualification requirements for Chief Executive Officers was undertaken. What are the details of the main thrust and findings of this review?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As part of changes taking place in local government, it seems appropriate to look again at the role of Chief Executive Officers within local government as to whether the present requirements and qualification standards etc. are appropriate for modern-day needs. It is very important in the 1980s and moving into the 1990s, with the increased responsibilities of local government, that councils have the ability to employ the best possible people for the job required.

At present, under the Local Government Act, is a provision for a CEO to be employed only if he or she is a person who holds a certificate of registration issued by the Local Government Qualifications Committee or, if that certificate is not held, in certain circumstances and with particular qualifications, by appointment of the Minister. It may be that in order to allow local government access to the skills and expertise of the broadest possible range of people in the community that that requirement is one of those that needs to be reviewed.

The qualifications committee last year appointed a sub-committee to examine that issue, and provide a report for interested parties on whether or not there should be some modifications to it. We expect that that report will be available later this year, and presumably it will be the subject of some discussion in local government circles as to whether or not the qualification requirements for CEOs should be altered in some way in order to broaden the scope of employment of people in the industry.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** During last year, a review of the common effluent drainage program was completed, and in relation to the 1988-89 specific targets, that drainage program is to be implemented. Did this review take into account the changed circumstances associated with the new septic tank requirements that add considerably to the cost of installation, whilst not likely to be any more effective than the present form of septic tank? In the review and any discussion that has taken place, has the Government identified the minimum size of population that can be effectively assisted by a common effluent drainage scheme? Most of the larger towns that are not on full sewerage are now completed or are in the chain for completion, and a number of smaller towns of, say, 250 to 400 people are equally badly affected by the health hazards associated with the pumping out of septic tanks. Has the work identified a cost benefit basis for future decisions?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** With respect to the review that has been undertaken on CED arrangements, one of the recommendations made is that the design and administration responsibilities for CED schemes should be transferred to the Department of Local Government. That and other recommendations made in the report are now being dis-

cussed by relevant Government agencies. As to the question of septic tanks, I will ask Michael Lennon to reply.

**Mr Lennon:** The review that was conducted was essentially an organisational review initially trying to streamline the various approval processes required for councils both to get schemes approved and to get subsidy for those schemes. At present separate approvals are required through the Minister of Local Government for funding the various health requirements under the Health Commission, and from the E&WS Department because of the effect on water courses. Our initial focus was to find some means of streamlining that and provide some better basis for planning for future eligibility for subsidy.

Demand for the scheme has consistently grown over the years, although councils have had some difficulty getting schemes up within the time initially designated. We constantly get ourselves into problems where the initial design indicates that the work would be completed within six months but, for various reasons, often with the need to consult with the public, it takes much longer. There has been a dragging out of the process of implementing a priority established some years ago. We have always relied upon a listing prepared within the Health Commission that ranks proposals according to public health risk.

The problem we now have has two components, one being that a number of schemes that were funded initially are now claiming a higher public health risk because of the need for extension or urban growth under the original scheme and some councils have now been waiting for some time. The second problem that arises is how, within the limited funds we have, maintenance and reconstruction costs can be built in. We are looking at some way in which we might be able to forward plan over five years to accommodate that. Since the report the new septic tank requirements have come into effect. Whilst there will be some higher public health standards proposed by those septic tanks, the expectation we have is that that will not affect the demand for new schemes and subsidies for new schemes. The critical question is how with councils we can organise a longer-term basis to bring the schemes on more quickly.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Whilst in the general area of building, on the last occasion the Minister attended before the Committee we dealt in some detail with the fire prone building zone requirements. The Minister indicated that she was unaware of some of the problems alluded to in that discussion. Since that time there has been an amendment to the building regulation 16 (1) (a). Whilst that variation is quite emphatic as to what shall be undertaken in respect of the building requirements in so-called fire prone areas, a number of people in local government and those in the fire services, both metropolitan and country, have publicly stated that they do not believe that buildings within an existing township, for example, within Tanunda, Angaston, or any other place around town, ought to be covered by the demands of 16 (1) (a). Notwithstanding that the powers that be in the fire services and local government are prepared to give way to reasonableness, there appears to be a persistence by virtue of the content of 16 (1) (a) amongst those who discuss it that the provisions shall apply.

It is costing a number of people between \$1 750 and \$3 000 for additional requirements in an area where it can be demonstrably shown that there is no advantage whatsoever in those additional provisions for the purpose for which they are instituted: for example, flying sparks, proximity to stubble, scrub or whatever. Anything that gives protection to a home is always a plus, but it is the reality of it and the cost factor that is seriously affecting younger people in the building program.



**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** This matter has been brought to my attention as a concern of a number of councils in the State—councils that represent people in areas with large urban communities located near or adjacent to rural areas which, it would be agreed by everyone, would be fire prone. Some of those issues relating to the requirements now being placed on householders with respect to building provisions in some of those areas have been raised with me as issues that ought to be dealt with as anomalies, and that the standards ought not to apply to some housing in some urban communities.

I referred the matter to the Building Advisory Committee, and it has recommended that the requirements be maintained. My view is that the matter requires further discussion and refinement. I have asked that the issue be taken up with the numerous fire authorities with a view to establishing whether or not in some cases provisions could be relaxed or removed if appropriate in those urban environments to which the honourable member has referred. At this stage the matter has not been resolved, but I intend to monitor it to see whether there should not be some change for urban settlements in rural areas.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** There is now an undertaking of a special fire prone area SDP by the planning department that will further confuse the issue, because on maps associated with that planning SDP, which applies to some 19 or 20 councils in the fringe area commencing at Angaston and going right down the Fleurieu Peninsula, is a clear indication that the fire zone regulations do not apply whereas in fact the Building Act is over and above the demands of the Planning Act. That matter is near conclusion, and would require that any discussion needed should be in the near future, preferably with the Minister for Environment and Planning who fortuitously is also the Minister of Emergency Services, and is not unduly perturbed by the reality of the situation applying to both of these portfolios but is at variance with the regulations applied by this Minister through the Building Act.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I have no doubt that the concerns raised with me as Minister of Local Government have also been raised with the Minister for Environment and Planning and/or the Minister of Emergency Services. I agree with the comments made by the honourable member that discussion needs to take place quickly prior to the settlement of arrangements for the SDP. I am sure we can resolve the issue appropriately one way or the other before the SDP is completed.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I notice that funds for the Local Government Advisory Commission have decreased when it would appear to be receiving more applications of greater complexity, and that is not an overstatement. Can the Minister indicate whether the Commission has fulfilled the purpose for which it was created, or whether there are any problems associated with it properly of fulfilling the task directed to its attention?

In the best interests of local government and bearing in mind the demands being made in relation to amalgamations and realignment of ward boundaries, are additional resources needed in order to have those issues determined rather than delayed?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The additional allocation last year to the Local Government Advisory Commission, which boosted the figure considerably, was made to enable the commission to undertake the additional workload that it had at that stage and to assist it in the advertising component for various proposals which were brought before it by councils which sought either the realignment of boundaries

or amalgamations with other councils. Therefore, last year's allocation was unusually large.

In addition, in April this year an extra staff member was added to the commission's complement to assist with the work that is currently being undertaken. However, the figure for that additional staff member will appear in the salaries budget as opposed to the Local Government Advisory Commission line.

In relation to the broader question of the work of the commission, as the honourable member would be aware, its workload is increasing quite quickly. That has come about because of the increasing interest in local government circles in the question of amalgamations and boundary realignments. That has come about largely because of changes in economic circumstances during the past few years. Individual councils, particularly those with very small rate bases, recognise that their capacity to survive in the current financial climate is being reduced.

The movement toward amalgamation began in the Mid North region of the State, which has some of the smallest councils in South Australia. However, in the past 12 months or so interest in the question of amalgamations has also emerged in the metropolitan area. A large number of councils in the metropolitan area are now having discussions about the question of either amalgamation or realignment of boundaries.

The procedures that are being used by the Local Government Advisory Committee have now been in place for the past four years. Although the commission has had the opportunity to work extensively on amalgamation questions in only the past two years, it nevertheless seemed to be an appropriate time for the provisions of the Local Government Act to be re-examined with a view to determining whether or not the work of the commission is assisted or hampered by any of the provisions in the current Act. For that reason I recently asked the commission to examine the Act and make recommendations to me if it felt that any changes were required. Essentially this is a tidying up exercise. The commission has now made some suggestions as to how it believes the Act could be improved in order to assist in its work. However, the commission has indicated that, by and large, it believes that the provisions of the Act have worked very well but that there are a few areas in which some change could be brought about.

It is my intention to incorporate appropriate changes in the next Local Government Act Amendment Bill which I hope to introduce during this session of Parliament and which would also include appropriate recommendations arising out of the Election Review Working Party's report, which has been circulated to councils and other bodies and on which we are currently receiving comments. One of the restrictions of this piece of legislation that affects timing is that some of the Election Review Working Party's recommendations relate to electoral provisions, of course, and if they were to be in place by the time of the next round of council elections the Bill would need to be passed by the Parliament, preferably by the end of the year. Therefore, I hope that any additional amendments that are included in that piece of legislation will have very broad acceptance to ensure the passage of the Bill through the Parliament. That is what I will be aiming to achieve: to enable a streamlining of the commission's work as well as appropriate electoral amendments to be in place by the end of the year.

This process certainly depends very much on the consultation process. It has been my practice as Minister of Local Government to consult as widely as possible in the drafting of legislation. By and large, that process has worked extremely well in that the vast majority of issues that has been addressed



in legislation have very broad agreement. Obviously, that is not always possible on every issue, as we discovered with the minimum rate question.

**Mr TYLER:** I recall that, during the debate on the second revision Act in the House of Assembly, the Hon. Gavin Keneally, representing the Minister of Local Government, referred to the review. What are the details of that review? Who has been involved? Has the review been completed, and what was the outcome?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** After the 1987 round of council elections, I undertook to establish a second election review working party to seek the views of local government as to whether those provisions were working effectively. The working party completed its report in late July this year and copies were immediately circulated to all councils around the State. Further copies have since been sent to other people who have an interest in these matters in order to provide the maximum amount of time possible for consultation prior to the introduction of an amending Bill into Parliament during the current session.

The election review working party comprised, as Chairman, Michael Lennon, a representative of the Department of Local Government, and representatives from the Municipal Officers Association, the Institute of Municipal Management and the Local Government Association. The majority of the recommendations of the working party's report suggest that there ought to be amendments to the Local Government Act, some of which deal with the question of improving the voluntary turnout of voters at election time. One of the recommendations is that the use of postal ballots should be extended to enable councils to use them exclusively, if they wish to, as an option for voting in council elections.

It was also suggested that electors should have the automatic right to vote prior to election day, whether or not they would be in the appropriate place at the appropriate time on election day, and that the use of mobile and temporary polling places should be extended. There was also a recommendation, particularly in view of that relating to the extension of the use of postal ballots, that the provisions relating to scrutiny and reconciliation of ballot papers should also be reviewed or amended in order to provide the appropriate safeguards.

A range of recommendations come out of that election review working party which I find attractive and which I am sure many councils will support. As I said, we are awaiting submissions from individual councils before drafting legislation, but I intend to introduce that Bill during this session. I hope that it will gain the support of the Parliament.

**Mr TYLER:** What has the Government resolved to do about the consolidation of building legislation? As far as I am aware, only limited progress has been made. What is the present situation regarding consolidating all the building related legislation into the Building Act and regulations?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** This is a fairly complicated matter, on which much work has been done over a very long period of time by people involved with building legislation around Australia. The consolidation of our own building legislation is being undertaken in conjunction with the proposed introduction of a building code for Australia. That was published this month, and in conjunction with that work we are looking at the question of consolidating the legislation. It has been a very time consuming exercise.

I suspect that some people who have been engaged in that process during the past 12 months have started to wonder whether or not it is a good thing, because it is very difficult to provide uniform building code standards across

Australia and to get agreement on those questions, as it is an extremely complicated area. However, the department is now preparing suitable legislation to allow for the adoption of the document, and the consolidation issues are being incorporated in that legislation. Although I cannot predict the time of its introduction, it will be fairly soon.

Most of the problems that were identified earlier with respect to provisions for hospitals, schools, rest homes, nursing homes, theatres, etc, have now been addressed, and it is just a matter of drafting.

**Mr TYLER:** What is the purpose of the national review of local government labour markets, and what has been its outcome to date?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** There has been pressure on all levels of government to provide a much wider range of services and to increase efficiency in responding to the effects of technological change on the content and organisation of work. Local government is no exception to that, and to assist local government to meet these challenges there needs to be an appropriate supply of skilled personnel to work in these areas. It has been widely accepted that there is too little flexibility in the local government labour market. Many of the existing arrangements can serve to restrict the most efficient use of their most valuable resource—their human resources.

In light of these problems, a meeting of Local Government Ministers nationally commissioned the review to which the honourable member referred. That has taken place over a period of three years and is the first of its kind in Australia. It seeks to provide practical advice on the means by which flexibility in local government labour markets can be increased. The initial step in the process was the preparation of discussion papers, the first six of which have now been produced and are being circulated in local government circles for consideration.

Late last year, a broad cross-section of local government representatives were answered on the first three papers, which related to improving flexibility in local government, reciprocity of qualifications and portability of superannuation. Following these consultations, position papers will be prepared by a review team and, again, circulated to all councils. In addition, Ministers of Local Government also agreed to a series of other recommendations that were put forward by that review team. Various recommendations are now being acted on in various parts of Australia.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** At this stage I place on record several pieces of statistical information that I would be interested to receive from the Minister for later inclusion in *Hansard*. Will the Minister make available an overview of sick leave directly associated with the departments for which she has responsibility? I believe that this question will also be asked in relation to tourism. How many registration numbers on the cars in the fleet that is associated with the Minister have changed from a Government number to a private number. Also, will the Minister identify the sale of any land directly associated with her portfolios?

I note, for example, that there is provision for an expected \$1 million profit for the Norwood land when the Libraries Department relocates, and it may be that land sales do not apply generally to the Minister's portfolio area but I place on record that I would like that information if it is available. My next question is: what are the current applications before the advisory commission in respect of both amalgamation or boundary adjustment and ward activities?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** With respect to sick leave, I was aware that questions relating to that subject have been asked in other Estimates Committees so we have done a little bit of work on this in order to prepare and also to

make checks for our own interest on the use of sick leave provisions within the Department of Local Government. We have taken 50 staff, selected at random as a basis for a quick check on what has been happening in this area, and we have discovered the following: 325 days sick leave were taken; 34 days were taken on a Monday without a medical certificate; 27 days were taken of a Friday without a medical certificate; and one day was taken on a day adjacent to a public holiday without a medical certificate. The greatest number of days taken by any one employee was five. It should be noted that a block of 85 days sick leave is included with those figures, so if we exclude that, then the results are: 240 days sick leave, 33 of those on a Monday, 25 on a Friday and one on a public holiday. So I believe that the degree to which the sick leave provision is being used in the Department of Local Government would therefore be considered satisfactory and that there is no widescale abuse as may have been identified in some other areas.

On the question of cars in our fleet which have moved from the Government to a private number plate, only one car falls into that category. On the question of sale of land that comes under my responsibility as Minister of Local Government, as the honourable member has indicated, only one property is proposed to be sold and that is the land currently occupied by the Public Libraries Branch on the Norwood Parade. Land has been purchased at Hindmarsh to relocate the Public Libraries Branch and, as soon as that takes place, that prime real estate on the Parade will be sold and some of the proceeds of that sale will be used to refurbish the building on the land at Hindmarsh to make it suitable for the purposes of the Public Libraries Branch.

With respect to the Local Government Advisory Commission and the work that it is currently undertaking, the commission is examining 15 proposals for realignment of boundaries between councils. Recommendations on four proposals which have been under investigation for some time are expected shortly, and these proposals are: from the District Council of Elliston to annex portions of the District Councils of Cleve and Tumby Bay; from the District Council of Pirie to annex portion of the District Council of Mount Remarkable; from the District Council of Berri to annex certain unincorporated lands; and from the Corporation of the Town of Renmark to annex certain unincorporated lands. Three proposals relating to boundary change in the Mitcham Hills area are currently before the commission.

The commission is also examining three proposals for boundary change involving the City of Henley and Grange, and proposals have recently been received and not yet dealt with, although hearings have been held, on proposals coming from the District Council of Jamestown to amalgamate with the Town of Jamestown. Proposals have also been recently received from: the City of Glenelg to annex portions of the Cities of West Torrens, Marion and Brighton; the District Council of Eudunda for the amalgamation of Eudunda and Robertstown Councils and portions of Morgan and Truro Councils; the Town of Jamestown for amalgamation with the District Council of Jamestown and portions of the Spalding and Hallett Councils; and the City of Salisbury to realign its boundary with Tea Tree Gully council. In addition, the work of the Local Government Advisory Commission with respect to the periodical reviews is also well under way.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** I am aware that, in the review of electoral matters, the body also considered the number of persons who may represent a ward in various council areas. That recommendation is in line with an undertaking that was given at the time of the passage of the second Bill.

I am aware that a number of councils have decided to take on the no ward model of representation, and I would appreciate the view of the Minister with respect to that change and whether the department foresees any difficulties in some circumstances with the no ward model, be it in the cities or corporations, *vis-a-vis* district councils.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The honourable member is quite correct in suggesting that the issue of the number of councillors per ward is one of those addressed by the Election Review Working Party and it is an issue with which I have a great deal of sympathy. I am sure that councils around the State will also agree that the current restriction should not apply. There does not seem to be any sensible reason for it to be so, and there should be some flexibility in the matter. So I envisage that that will be one of the issues that will be the subject of change in the amending Bill that we will introduce this session.

With respect to the question of councils moving to a no ward situation, there is no doubt that it is an increasing trend. A number of councils are proposing to move to no wards at the time when they are conducting their periodical reviews to be placed before the Local Government Advisory Commission. I think that, in all cases where councils have applied for such a change, it has been recommended by the commission that it should take place and I have agreed with that recommendation.

I do not envisage that there will be any problems with it. There are some very clear advantages in councils moving to a no ward situation. If nothing else, it has good psychological value, in that it encourages individual representatives on councils to take a global view of the area they represent rather than, as some councillors tend to do, a very narrow and parochial view in their deliberations. Individual councillors must always accept that they represent the entire council district and, accordingly, they must make their decisions based on the interests of the entire council area. The adoption of a no ward situation would encourage such a practice.

Obviously, if a council does not have any wards, the effect on the election of individual councillors using the proportional representation voting system is likely to be significant. If a proportional representation system applied, that would provide a broader base and could lead to a different combination of elected councillors. The significant advantage of having no wards is that it encourages councillors to take a more corporate approach to their responsibilities.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** The Advisory Commission was criticised for not giving attention to the regular council review of ward boundaries. The council elections had to continue on the basis of the old wards, even though the information had been before the commission for up to four or five months prior to the closing of nominations. Do you believe that the workload is such that that problem will be overcome in the future?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I do not envisage any problems during this year and leading up to the next round of council elections. I have just been advised that all but one of those proposals before the commission have been dealt with. In some instances the commission has taken applications back to councils in order to seek further information. The commission is therefore reasonably up to date on its review work. As the honourable member would know, this is all part of an eight year schedule, which is due to be completed in February 1993. At present, 49 reviews have been completed, a further 12 have been approved by the commission and are being processed, and 73 councils are due to complete their reviews by the end of February 1989. Another three

councils were due to complete their reviews by the end of February 1988, but those reviews have been deferred because those councils have been involved in work associated with the possible realignment of boundaries as a result of amalgamation proposals.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** This year the department has been called upon to conciliate, arbitrate and referee various problems directly associated with internal turmoil in local government. What is the current position in Elizabeth and are there any other problem areas? Further, although the position at Stirling would appear in some ways to be a different set of circumstances, it still requires direction from the department.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** During this past year, on a few occasions the department has been called upon to conciliate, arbitrate or provide advice in various areas. In July, I appointed Michael Lennon to undertake an investigation of the situation at Elizabeth, after longstanding problems within the council with respect to the council itself, staffing issues, financial issues and a whole range of other matters. That investigation has proceeded according to plan. All interviews have been conducted and the report is near completion. Until it has been completed, obviously I am not in a position to discuss the outcome of it, but in that situation, that was one in a long line of steps taken by officers of my department to try to assist that council to overcome its difficulties.

During the past 12 months or so officers of the department, and in particular Michael Lennon, have had a number of discussions with officers of the council and with council members to try to find ways of overcoming the problems. Michael Lennon participated on a small negotiating committee, which included a representative from the Local Government Association. That committee was established when relations between the Elizabeth council staff and the council broke down quite dramatically and the staff went out on strike. That led to a number of meetings with the council to try to overcome some of those problems. As a result of that process, at the recommendation of the department and the negotiating committee, a number of mechanisms were set in train by the council to try to rectify some of the problems. A management consultant was appointed, the auditor was brought in to look at certain financial issues, and certain allegations regarding the loss of money were referred to the police for investigation.

That has been quite a longstanding problem which probably dates back some years as an issue for the Elizabeth council. I hope that with the various investigations now underway, including the one conducted by the department, we may be able to assist that council to overcome its difficulties and again provide stability and a proper efficient form of local government for the residents of Elizabeth.

As the honourable member indicates, the Stirling situation is very different indeed. The Stirling council is struggling with the liability that it may have to face pending the outcome of deliberations of matters that are before the court. In this instance also, the department has been helpful in providing a range of information and appropriate advice to the council concerning its rights and responsibilities as a council, and has assisted the council in identifying the avenues open to it in a financial sense in order to manage the problem that is before it. I cannot say much more about that case, because what happens from here rests on the outcome of matters before the court.

There seems to be a trend emerging in some parts of the State for either the representatives of councils or people in the community to call on me as Minister of Local Government, or my department, to intervene whenever there is a

dispute between community groups and individual councils. This is a tendency I wish to discourage, because it is very important that, with the new range of powers and the increased authority now given to local government, it should also appreciate along with that comes greater responsibility for the conduct of its own affairs and the management of its own political and local community issues. In recent times, I have tried to raise this issue in a number of forums, including local government regional meetings, and by correspondence in the newspaper as well as responding to individual complaints or letters that I receive from members of the public.

Councils must take a much greater responsibility for their own actions and deal with local community issues themselves rather than standing back and allowing issues to become major local issues or controversies. They should step in much earlier, keep their communities informed about what they are doing, how they are doing it, and how they are addressing particular problems, so that the local communities feel confident that their councils are handling these matters in an appropriate way and will feel less inclined to ask the Government to step in. As everyone here would be aware, the powers of the Minister of Local Government to intervene in local council matters are extremely limited, and it is inappropriate for such complaints or issues to be raised with the Minister. They should be handled at the local level, and we ought to be doing as much as we can to assist councils to develop both the expertise to do that and the will to take on those responsibilities.

**Mr RANN:** In recent months, conflicts of interest have received considerable publicity in the media, including in my own district. Does that indicate confusion and a lack of clarity in the present provisions and, if so, what is the Government doing about it?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As the member for Briggs would be well aware, the present conflict of interest provisions of the Local Government Act were rewritten in 1984. In 1986, because of some problems that seemed to be emerging with the interpretation of those provisions, I issued a circular to all councils advising that a procedure had been established within the Department of Local Government for handling conflict of interest allegations that by that time were coming to the department. I also stressed that councils needed to take responsibility for these issues themselves, and that self-regulation should apply. There has been great reluctance on the part of councils to institute proceedings when a conflict of interest allegation has been made, and in almost all cases those complaints are made to the Department of Local Government.

Since 1984 some cases have been brought to court, so there is now some relevant case law to refer to, and the Crown Solicitor's Office has also provided opinions on various aspects of the legislation. By now the provisions of the conflict of interest parts of the Local Government Act can reasonably be interpreted. However, I believe there is need for some review of the provisions at this time, and I have recently written to the Local Government Association inviting it to participate in a committee to review the provisions. There is still a misunderstanding on the part of individual councillors around the State as to their responsibilities and obligations, and also a lack of clarity on the part of councils as to how they should administer the provisions of the Act.

Because the majority of allegations are now coming to the Department of Local Government, there may well be a need to look again at the mechanisms established to deal with the conflict of interest allegations as they arise, and I hope that this review committee will be established soon.

Prior to sending correspondence, I spoke informally with the President and Secretary-General of the LGA about the idea of setting up the review, and they believed it was timely for a review to take place. I hope we can establish that review committee soon, and that it will be able to report to me within six months of its first meeting.

**Mr RANN:** What is the purpose of the report 'Scale Economies in South Australian Local Government', and does the report indicate a change in Government policy towards council amalgamations as seems to have been indicated in a recent *Sunday Mail* article?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The *Sunday Mail* article to which the honourable member refers was one that irritated me enormously because the journalist concerned clearly chose to ignore all he knew of my views on the issue and my statements on the question. When he wrote his article he had before him both a speech that I had delivered on the topic and a press release, which made very clear the Government's position on the question of amalgamation. I have stated clearly over the past three years that it is the Government's view that proposals for amalgamation ideally should come from local communities or individual councils within such communities, and that it is very important for there to be a strong degree of community support if such amalgamation is to be successful.

The commission certainly shares that view, and the decision it has taken at various times on amalgamation issues reflects the view that community support is one of the relevant factors taken into consideration when amalgamation proposals are being considered. It is also quite clear from discussions I have had with council representatives from time to time that the feeling exists in some areas of local government that boundary realignment is an issue that should be considered, but they are not convinced that there would be real advantages in amalgamation. They would like to see some evidence to convince them that to take such a drastic step would be worthwhile in the interests of their local communities. With that in mind the Department of Local Government is now undertaking the preparation of a series of papers that will add to the range of knowledge available to councils and help them in their deliberations on the question of amalgamation.

The 'Scale Economies in South Australia' paper to which the honourable member has referred is the first in a series. It is based on research carried out for us by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies, and attempts to establish the relationship between the cost of service provision and the size of councils. The theoretical relationship that it develops is being tested against actual experience of three areas that have been subject to boundary change. The research paper suggests that the minimum appropriate number of ratepayers for a rural council is around 2 500 and for a metropolitan council around 10 000. Those numbers and that issue is likely to be a topic of hot debate within local government.

The information contained in the paper in a broader sense will be of great value to councils and councillors in determining whether or not they should join other councils in the State that have started to think about amalgamation. The remaining papers to be prepared as part of this series will emerge during the next 12 months, and I am sure will be of great assistance to everyone in local government.

**Mr RANN:** I refer to the third stage of the Local Government Act revision. In 1986 a consultant was engaged to work on the third stage review, and I understand the report was completed in 1987. Will the Minister elaborate on why the report has not been distributed to local government and what is the present timetable for the third stage?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Since the consultant started his work on the third stage of the review procedure things have changed slightly. The plans we had at that time have been revised, and in addition to the third Bill dealing with streets and roads—the subject of the consultant's report—we now intend to deal with other issues relating to council's control over squares, parklands, reserves, parking, and foreshore areas; that is, all provisions of the Act dealing with the management of land dedicated for public use. The plans have moved on a little. In addition, one of the other reasons the report has not been circulated is that it is a comprehensive document running into hundreds of pages. It is rather too large to circulate to councils around the State.

Amongst many of the recommendations made by the consultant, one is that further work needs to be done. The report is available in the department's library for anyone who wishes to wade through it. It has been a useful resource document for officers of the department in the preparation of the next stage. We are not as far down the track on the preparation of the third Bill as I would have hoped by this time of the year, largely due to the fact that considerable resources were devoted in the past 12 months to the preparation of the second revision Bill and the various negotiations that took place on that and, latterly, since the Bill has passed, on the preparation of regulations and the conduct of seminars to acquaint councils with its provisions.

We have also been working on the next housekeeping Bill on local government issues—other pieces of legislation such as the Bill to amend the swimming pools legislation, the Dog Control Act, and the Impounding Act. The discussion paper being prepared on the issues involved in the third revision Bill should be ready by the end of the year, and we will be able to circulate it to councils, have a consultation in the first part of next year, and introduce the third revision Bill in the August session of 1989.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** Will the Minister identify whether she or the department have responded to a view being expressed by the Local Government Association that it might take over the Country Fire Services as one of three options being discussed? Concurrent with that information the Minister might be able to advise whether the department has looked at the dual responsibility of some councils to both the Metropolitan Fire Service and the Country Fire Services. I would not want that to be misunderstood because some country councils have large urban or industrial activities which require the expertise of the Metropolitan Fire Service as opposed to those where it is an involvement of the past rather than a need of the present.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As the honourable member would know, this area of responsibility resides with my colleague the Minister of Emergency Services. He and the Director of the Country Fire Services have been conducting negotiations with local government on the management of the Country Fire Services. However, I am aware of the issues that have been raised by councils, and the option put forward by some people in local government that it take over the Country Fire Services.

This matter has gone on for a long time without resolution, and has been of some concern to me as Minister of Local Government, because it has been drawn to my attention from time to time by representatives of councils as I travel around the State. There is a degree of frustration emerging amongst some councils that the arrangements, whatever they might be, have not yet been determined. People have now reached the stage where they would like a decision made, whatever it may be.

With that in mind, and drawing on information that both I and officers of the department have been able to collect

from councils, there have been occasions when we have had the opportunity to put forward views to the Minister of Emergency Services to assist him in determining an appropriate outcome. I cannot say when this issue might be resolved. It has been some time since I discussed it with the Minister of Emergency Services, however, I hope that the areas of disagreement can be resolved before too long and that administration and financial arrangements for the funding of the fire services can be put in place once and for all to the mutual satisfaction of both State Government and local government.

**The Hon. B.C. EASTICK:** The Auditor-General's Report (page 138) refers to a quite marked reduction in the amount that was distributed in the Local Government Assistance Fund in 1988—\$139 000 as opposed to \$405 000 in 1987. What was the \$139 000 used to fund? What is the amount to be funded in 1988-89, and who are the likely recipients of those funds?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The sum of \$47 340 will be allocated to councils for debt servicing, and there will be sundry grants amounting to \$75 660. There are also amounts allocated to various youth organisations for grants under the Social Justice Strategy provisions, to which I referred earlier and which will total \$50 000.

The difference between the figures that the honourable member referred to for 1986-87 and 1987-88, and the significant drop in the funding under the Local Government Assistance Fund line simply relate to a reduction in moneys that the Government could make available for community grants during last year. There was a significant drop in view of the savings that needed to be found during the preparation of the last budget. That was one area subject to a decrease in funding. I hope that, at some stage in the not too distant future when the financial situation improves, we can increase moneys made available through the Local Government Assistance Grants Program to various community organisations.

Further to a point raised by the honourable member for Light prior to lunch in relation to funding of the library at Nuriootpa, I have been able to obtain copies of correspondence that the Hon. Gavin Keneally, former Minister of Local Government, sent to the Angaston council about the Nuriootpa library. As I indicated, the Minister did not give any assurance about the timing of funding for the Nuriootpa library. He stated:

As I explained to you, it is most unlikely that the Government would be able to provide capital subsidy until the development program is completed. This program is currently funding councils that do not have public libraries as a first priority. The program is due for completion in 1986-87.

However, he then went on to say that:

While I cannot commit the present Government, or any future Government, to subsidy in a particular year because this will depend on budget priorities at the time. I can confirm bipartisan support for public library development in this State.

Therefore, I think that he made it very clear that, although he expected that the Government would be able to provide the subsidy that comes with the first stage of the development program, he would not be in a position to commit that funding for any particular year.

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

Tourism South Australia, \$12 476 000  
Minister of Tourism and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts, Miscellaneous, \$4 256 000  
Works and Services—Tourism South Australia, \$750 000

**Chairman:**

The Hon. T.M. McRae

**Members:**

The Hon. J.L. Cashmore  
Mr M.R. De Laine  
Mr I.P. Lewis  
Mr J.K.G. Oswald  
Mr M.D. Rann  
Mr P.B. Tyler

**Witness:**

The Hon. Barbara Wiese, Minister of Tourism and Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts.

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr G. Inns, Managing Director, Tourism South Australia.  
Mr M. Fisher, Assistant Director, Regions.  
Mr D. Riley, General Manager, Marketing.  
Mr Paul van der Lee, General Manager, Planning and Development.  
Ms C. Luckett, Assistant Director, Corporate Services.  
Mr D. Packer, Assistant Director, Administration.  
Mr P. van der Hoeven, General Manager, Adelaide Convention Centre.  
Mr G. Ashman, Administration Manager, Adelaide Convention Centre.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the proposed expenditure open for examination and invite both the Minister and the lead speaker for the Opposition to make an opening statement.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Last year before this Estimates Committee I spoke of the establishment of a review into the role and functions of the then Department of Tourism. I am pleased to report that not only has that review been completed and a new organisation adopted, but also that all new and vacant positions in the organisation have now been filled. Along with its new title 'Tourism South Australia', the reorganisation has brought with it a significant number of new appointments. In fact, about 50 per cent of the staff in our restructured marketing division and planning and development division have come from outside the organisation. Those appointments have also brought fresh ideas for the promotion and development of tourism in this State. With the proclamation of the Government Management and Employment Act, so many of the previously centralised Public Service powers have been assigned to the Minister and to the Chief Executive Officer.

For this reason, the Government saw no advantage in altering the agency status of what is now Tourism South Australia. In fact, Tourism South Australia under the Minister has as much autonomy and accountability in the execution of its responsibilities as any statutory authority, particularly the Tourism Commissions of other States. All of these changes now enable the agency to adopt a much more commercial and entrepreneurial approach to its activities, and the benefits of these changes are already evident.

During the period in which we were undergoing reorganisation and making new staff appointments, a decision was made to engage outside marketing consultants to ensure that our marketing thrust did not falter during this important restructuring period. Honeywill Reid were appointed for a period of 12 months to provide assistance and advice

to Tourism South Australia, and their consultancy has proved to be valuable in this period. Their contract expires on 30 September 1988 and, as the agency moves into its new phase of marketing tourism, professional assistance in the form of creative design, media advertising placement, production printing, public relations, and so on, will be engaged by the appropriate appointment procedures on an as-required basis.

A new era in marketing tourism in South Australia has now commenced. Convinced that Tourism South Australia is professionally equipped to meet the new marketing challenges of promoting the tourism wares of this State, the Government has allocated a \$4.8 million marketing budget to the agency for the 1988-89 financial year. This increase of approximately 50 per cent or \$1.6 million will be used principally in a major media advertising campaign within South Australia and interstate using television. The quality and style of holiday experiences in this State will be promoted. In addition, radio and printed media advertising will be used in South Australia, and over a three month period a major advertising campaign will be conducted through the pages of the *Women's Weekly*. I will be launching this largest ever advertising campaign late in October.

In the year just past, several promotions were conducted interstate, while in South Australia our advertising campaign focused principally on Kangaroo Island, a region which had suffered from declining occupancy over a two or three year period. In addition, a major part of last year was devoted to a total redesign and production of our international and domestic brochures. Three high quality brochures have been in the marketplace since January of this year. A significant upgrading of our photographic library took place, and new emphasis was placed on our public relations positioning and familiarisations program for international tour wholesalers and travel press.

In fact, all the things that I said we would do when speaking last year to this Committee, we have done. This year has seen an increase in coordinated activity to secure direct international flights into Adelaide. A direct flights strategy plan has been prepared, and a working group of senior officers from Tourism South Australia, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Departments of State Development and Technology and Transport has been formed. This group has made a comprehensive submission to the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Communications arguing the case for a bias towards Adelaide in granting additional rights to international carriers. The group has met continuously with Qantas to negotiate a commitment for a non-stop Tokyo/Adelaide flight. I, too, have held discussions with Qantas and while I was in Japan earlier this year, held discussions with Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways officials.

I believe that we are making progress here, but our real coup was securing a commitment from Thai International Airways, which will commence a once a week service from Bangkok into Adelaide by April next year. Discussions have continued with Malaysian Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Iberian Airlines and Continental Airlines, and representations have been made to at least four other carriers.

Every few years it is vital that effective organisations undergo a period of re-examination to plan new initiatives and directions in order to sustain their vitality. During such periods there are those who will take advantage of the circumstances to complain that nothing is being done when just the opposite is. I would place on record the fact that I deplore those who have opportunistically attempted to discredit efforts of Tourism South Australia during this restructuring and reassessment period. I would also place on record

my appreciation for the work that Tourism South Australia staff have done for tourism in this State in the past 12 months and in planning the new marketing and product development directions for the agency.

In the year just past South Australia has performed creditably in attracting visitors to the State. We did not expect to reach the high levels of visitation of the 1986-87 year, which was assisted greatly by the events of the Jubilee 150 celebrations. But, we have seen sustained growth. The latest available statistical figures for the March quarter show that room nights increased by 7.2 per cent over the same period last year. Some of that increase can be attributed to the Festival of Arts, but most other regions in the State experienced lifts in visitation. Regrettably, three regions suffered slight reductions. There will be no surprise if the effects of Expo cause a plateau or even a decline in the visitor figures for the six months to September this year. It is evident not only in this State but also in Western Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria and Tasmania that many people in Australia have decided to take holidays in Brisbane this year.

However, Expo has also had its positive effects, and our tourism display on the Expo site has secured committed travel bookings to South Australia in the vicinity of 200 per week. In addition, our advertising campaign will also provide a boost to tourism in this State.

I should also make some brief comment about the new Planning and Development Division. This new division is not merely the merger of two previous activities, but represents part of the new entrepreneurial proactive method of operation of Tourism South Australia. Previously the development division adopted more of a reactive role, responding to investment and development proposals put to the department. The new direction places less emphasis on that form of advisory role, and less real funds are provided to subsidised infrastructure development. The focal point of activity of this new division is to plan and promote investment and product development in appropriate areas of the State which are high yield and are consistent with the tourism positioning of South Australia. Our new publication *Invest in Success* reflects this new approach.

In conclusion, I would also refer quickly to the Adelaide Convention Centre. Operationally it has exceeded all expectations. Apart from making an operational profit in its first year, it has brought over \$20 million worth of new business to the hospitality industry of this State since it opened on 30 June 1987. The teething problems of the centre have been remarkably few, and praise for its facilities from client users has shown what a great centre we have. With the proposed new Exhibition Hall as an adjunct to the Convention Centre, we will have the capacity to accommodate the majority of exhibition/convention events conducted in Australia.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** By agreement with the Minister, the Opposition proposes to question on the Convention Centre first and, if members of the Government are agreeable, that would mean that the Director and the Manager will not need to remain any longer with the Committee than the first batch of questions.

Three components of the ASER project are being subsidised by the Government through the tourism budget, namely, the Convention Centre, the car parking, and the common areas. There are indications of a significant increase in the construction costs of each of those components and, as this cost determines the Government's subsidy, my questions are as follows. For the purpose of clause 2 (c) of the Tokyo agreement which requires the Government to pay rental on the ASER Convention Centre based on 6.25 per cent of the capitalised cost of construction, what is the



capitalised cost on which the rental is paid? For the purpose of the same clause of the agreement which requires the Government to pay rental on the ASER car park based on 6.25 per cent of the capitalised cost of construction, what is the capitalised cost on which rental is paid? Similarly, for rental for common areas based on 40 per cent of the capitalised construction cost, what is the cost upon which this rental is paid?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** In order to ascertain the capitalised costs for the Convention Centre and the car park, I would have to refer the honourable member to the Treasurer and to statements that may have been made during the course of the Estimates Committee hearing on the Premier's lines. With respect to my responsibilities as Minister of Tourism responsible for the Adelaide Convention Centre, the Adelaide Convention Centre is informed as to the amounts of money that must be paid according to the agreement which, as the honourable member has indicated, is based on a percentage of the capitalised costs. For the purposes of this year, the figure is 6.2961 per cent, and the payments that we will be making this year are, in round figures, for the Convention Centre \$2 600 000; for the common areas \$1 121 000; and for the car park \$1 180 000.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** Those figures do not seem to relate to the figures under the miscellaneous line on page 116 of the Estimates for Payments. Can the Minister repeat those figures, relating them to the sums granted to the Adelaide Convention Centre for both operations and common areas.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The difference in the figures to which the honourable member has referred can be accounted for because there is another component to the State Government contribution which relates to the operational costs for the Adelaide Convention Centre operations, and that amount of money appears in the miscellaneous lines to which the honourable member has referred.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** Can the Minister answer the last question that I asked? I know it is clear that the actual payments for 1987-88 were \$2.7 million for operations and that there is a proposed sum of \$2.9 million for the current year. Of the \$2.9 million, what amount is rental for the car park, what amount is rental for the common areas, and what amount is rental for the convention centre?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I have already given those figures but I will be happy to repeat them. For the coming year, the rental for the Convention Centre will be \$2.6 million; for the car park, \$1.18 million; and, for the common areas, \$1.121 million.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** In that case, how is the figure of \$2.9 million for the proposed grant for the following year arrived at? Those figures do not seem to correspond with anything contained in the Program Estimates.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** It can be explained by the operations of the Convention Centre. The difference between the two amounts of money represents the amount that is contributed by the Convention Centre through its operations.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** I will place those questions on notice. What is the Government's estimate of the operating result of the Convention Centre this financial year? Has the Government made any projections for operating results beyond this financial year and, if so, what are they? Given that the Convention Centre is responsible for the day to day maintenance and cleaning of the common areas, what was the cost of this work in 1987-88, what is the estimated cost for the current year, and is this work undertaken by staff of the centre, or is it contracted out?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The best way to explain the contribution made by the work of the Convention Centre is to look at the Auditor-General's Report which, at page 22, under the heading of 'Operations', indicates that for the year the deficit on convention operations was \$3.4 million, towards which the State Government contributed \$2.8 million. So, the amount contributed by the Convention Centre and car park to the overall deficit was about \$600 000, which I think in anyone's language is an extremely acceptable result for a facility that has operated for only 12 months, during which time it has been extremely successful.

In relation to projections for the future, during the previous Estimate Committees similar questions were asked and, at that time, I indicated that for 1988-89 we estimated that the figure would be \$3.66 million; for 1989-90, \$3.95 million; and, for 1990-91, \$4.26 million. We have now revised those estimates and we believe that the figures will be reduced. Our revised estimates are as follows: for 1988-89, \$2.9 million; for 1989-90, \$2.89 million; and for 1990-91, \$2.77 million. The estimates for those latter two periods were made on the assumption that, by that time, the Exhibition Hall will be fully operational and, therefore, contributing to the revenue of the complex. That also is an outstanding result and we are extremely pleased that the work of the Convention Centre has already been so successful that we are able to revise our projections downwards for the ensuing three years.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** On what basis has the Government decided to increase the floor space of the Exhibition Centre from 5 000 square metres to 10 000 square metres?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** That decision has not been taken. The proposed Exhibition Hall will have a floor space of 3 000 square metres.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** What are the projected bookings for that exhibition space, how far ahead have those bookings been made, and what is the anticipated deficit of the Exhibition Hall for the first year following its construction?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** On the basis that we are able to promote our convention facilities with confidence knowing that an Exhibition Hall will be available, the management of the Convention Centre has been successful in attracting four international conferences which have been booked for 1990-91. During the past week or so a further convention has been booked for 1994 and that will bring 1 000 delegates to Adelaide for a major international conference. During negotiations for that conference, we had to compete against very strong bids from Sydney and Melbourne convention centres, which by that time will be operational. In fact, the convention organisers indicated that they would prefer to hold their conference in Adelaide.

The fact that we had an Exhibition Hall that would be appropriate for their needs was one of the key factors in that group deciding to choose Adelaide as its destination. The proposal to build an Exhibition Hall was carefully researched by the Government. A financial viability study was undertaken by Peat Marwick Hungerfords, our consultants on this matter. They presented a cost benefit analysis which indicated that, by combining the direct and indirect benefits to the Convention Centre, we would decrease the deficit funding for the Convention Centre.

We anticipate that the Exhibition Hall, in the proposed configuration, will enable the facility to be self-supporting, to cover all its costs including lease funding payments, and to return a surplus which will reduce the operating deficit of the Convention Centre. The latest surveys available to us indicate that about 60 per cent of the conferences that

take place now require exhibition space of some kind so, in order to remain competitive in the convention business, it is very important that we have this facility as quickly as possible.

**Mr RANN:** What is the total number of room nights accommodation booked by the Convention Centre and what is the estimated value to South Australia's economy?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The short answer is that the Convention Centre has been extraordinarily important and very influential in boosting the State's economy in a very significant way. With bookings that take us up to 1994, the Convention Centre has contributed to the booking of 107 172 room nights in South Australia. The total value, based on a room rate of say \$110 per day, is \$11.8 million in the accommodation industry, with a further spending by delegates estimated at around \$11.5 million. Using the usual multiplier effects provide by the Bureau of Industry Economics, we estimate that the Convention Centre has already contributed about \$37.2 million to the State's economy. Compared with the small amount of money that goes towards deficit funding on an annual basis, the decision to establish this facility was well and truly justified and should be welcomed by everyone in this State.

**Mr RANN:** The Minister has mentioned the winning of some very important international conventions. What overseas marketing efforts have been undertaken by the Convention Centre?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** At the beginning of this month we appointed a general sales agent to act in Europe on behalf of the Convention Centre. This person is based in Frankfurt and will be responsible for providing intelligence to the Adelaide Convention Centre about things that are taking place in Europe. He will also represent us at various events in order to attract convention business. He will also make contact with various associations and other bodies, the head offices of which are located in Europe, to make them aware of the facilities that the Adelaide Convention Centre can provide and to encourage them to hold their conventions in South Australia.

In addition, Pieter Van Der Hoeven, the General Manager of the Adelaide Convention Centre, visits Europe annually to attend the European Incentive Travel and Meetings Borst, which is the largest mart for meeting and travel related business. Our Sales and Marketing Manager visits the International Congress and Convention Association Conference on an annual basis in order to do the same things. Those conferences are held in various locations. There are also annual visits to various target markets in the United States.

In addition to that, we advertise in various relevant overseas conference and meeting publications, and through these means we have certainly raised the awareness of people in the conventions business about the existence of the Adelaide Convention Centre. Already that work is paying off. For example, on Pieter Van Der Hoeven's most recent visit to the United States, at the meetings he attended he was able to sign up four conferences just in that one visit. Certainly, investment in that sort of activity is extremely valuable and brings almost immediate dividends.

**Mr RANN:** What are the total bookings to date of the Convention Centre and what are the current and anticipated bookings for the next 12 months?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The Convention Centre bookings so far, as I indicated, take us up to 1994; 1 284 events have been booked. These vary, and include conferences, banquets, entertainment events, exhibitions, seminars, sporting occasions and functions such as weddings and so on. In 1987-88 there was a total of 402 bookings; we had projected to take about 194 bookings, so we really exceeded

all expectations during the first year of operation. So far in 1988-89, 265 bookings have been made. We anticipate that next year there will be a dip in bookings, because the convention centres in Sydney and Melbourne will come on line. There is always some novelty value attached to a new facility, and it may very well be that during the first year of operation of those facilities they will enjoy considerable business which may take away some of the trade that otherwise would have come our way. On projections for the following year, things are looking very healthy already and the management of the Convention Centre will be out in the marketplace working very hard to make sure that the numbers are as good as they can be.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** The news that the Minister is giving the Committee about conventions and the Convention Centre appears to be very positive, which is very good indeed. It seems a little odd that, unless I have missed it (and I have looked very carefully), nowhere in the broad objectives or goals of the department, in either the marketing or strategic planning policy formulation, is the word 'convention' mentioned. That seems to be a significant oversight.

My opinion was sought by the media on the Government's decision to offer interest free loans to conventions, and I warmly applauded this decision, knowing that it was long overdue. At that point, the interviewer switched off the microphone, indicating that the media was not interested in the Opposition's agreement with the Government on any point in relation to tourism. I make that point to indicate that I fully support the proposal. What will be the cost to the Government of the interest free loan scheme in the current financial year; how many conventions are expected to take advantage of it; and what is the estimated total value of loans in the current year?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I have information on projected conventions. At this stage two loans have been extended to people proposing to hold conventions in South Australia, and negotiations are under way with four other groups of people who wish to hold conventions in this State. Since the convention business in Australia is so lucrative, it is important that we do as much as we can to encourage organisations in whatever way we can to hold conventions, preferably in South Australia. Under the convention loan scheme, we will advance up to \$7,000 to an organisation planning to host a convention and the loans generally will be granted for a maximum of two years. An establishment fee of 3.5 per cent of the total loan value will be payable, and the amount is repayable 30 days prior to the convention being held. No interest will be payable on the loan. The two loans so far have been to the total value of \$13 500.

Agreements for a further four loans are currently being prepared for conventions to be held during the next three years or so. The convention loan scheme is jointly funded by both Tourism South Australia and the Adelaide Convention and Visitors Bureau and fully recognises the financial assistance some groups in the community need upfront when making a decision to host a convention in South Australia. Very often if money cannot be made available up front to do the preparatory work for a convention, groups in this State will simply not bid for a conference and the business will go elsewhere. By using this scheme we will be able to encourage a greater number of conventions to be held in South Australia, and I am sure that once the word gets around that these funds are available it will be a very successful scheme.

While on the topic of conventions and the value of the convention business, I point out that the new Bureau of Tourism Research established in Canberra, now undertak-

ing some valuable research work of one kind or another relevant to the tourism industry, has recently decided to undertake a pilot study to measure the value of the convention business in Australia and is using South Australia as its study area. Not only will that be an important source of information for people in the convention business nationally, but it is significant that South Australia has been chosen as the area in which to do the study because we have so much experience. Things have been well organised here in the convention business and, with South Australia being the first State in Australia to have a purpose built convention centre, we are the natural choice for a research proposal of that kind to be undertaken.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** To what extent has the cost escalated as a result of changes to the original design, increased labour costs and delays in completion of the Convention Centre?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I am not able to answer that question, but I understand that during the Premier's Estimates Committee similar questions were asked and replies given at that time and I refer the honourable member to them.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** There were replies but not actual information. I therefore have no further questions requiring the presence of officers of the Convention Centre. I refer to page 352 of the Program Estimates. Given that the Program Estimates system is designed to indicate to the Parliament the relationships between Government input and the economic or service delivery outcome, in terms of tourism budget inputs related to economic outcomes for the State, what are the Government's priorities and how did those priorities, as reflected in specific program expenditure last year, benefit South Australia through outcomes in the last financial year? What are the strict marketing priorities referred to on page 358 for the current financial year? I assume a relationship exists between that and the economic outcome.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The Government has indicated on numerous occasions that it views the tourism industry as an industry of significant importance in South Australia with respect to its capacity to add to the economic benefit of the State not only in terms of the financial impact that tourism can have on our economy but also in terms of employment creation prospects that the tourism industry brings since it is generally a very labour intensive area. Therefore, with that in mind, during the past financial year, as has been the practice of the tourism organisation in previous years, considerable work has been done in order to ensure that the benefits of the tourism industry can be realised in South Australia and to ensure that South Australia remains competitive in the Australian tourism market.

The honourable member would be aware of the numerous budget allocations made for various activities during the last year. During the year one of our major activities and a major focus for Tourism South Australia has been to undertake the reassessment and reorganisation process that I referred to in my opening remarks.

In a nation that is undergoing rapid change in tourism, where the industry is changing and where the needs and demands of tourists are also changing, it is important for an organisation such as Tourism South Australia to, from time to time, take time out to re-examine its direction and its priorities. Therefore, during the past two years we have spent a deal of time and energy on doing just that. We undertook a major market research study to determine exactly what was happening in the market place and where we should be focussing our activities. From that came a new marketing strategy and a new development strategy.

We have reorganised Tourism South Australia itself in order to match up with the information that has been derived from that process to ensure that the organisation is best geared to meet the requirements as a result of the changes taking place.

During that time considerable effort has also been applied to developing some of our marketing tools. We completely upgraded our brochures, posters, photographic library and other basic tools of trade that are necessary to project the sort of image that we believe is desirable for South Australia and its tourist attractions. The recent renovation and upgrading of the Travel Centre is part of building that new and different image of tourism in this State. We are doing this in order to project the attractions of the State in the best possible way. As part of that process we have, in the past 12 months, mounted what is probably the most sophisticated budget submission that Tourism South Australia has ever put together. That submission was primarily based on a cost benefit analysis of the tourism industry and what might be expected from an investment in resources into the marketing area in particular by the Government for South Australia if we were to pursue that approach.

The estimates during that process were applied not only to the return that could be expected from domestic tourism, that is, within Australia, but also the relative return that could be expected from particular market places internationally, taking into account other factors as well as spending but also access by way of direct flights and so on, that are needed to be built into equations of that kind. That approach has not been taken in previous budget submissions to the same extent as we did in the last financial year. I believe that the Government was heavily influenced by information I was able to present on these questions. Therefore, I was able to attract a \$1.6 million increase in the tourism budget this year.

During this financial year the next phase of our strategy can begin to be implemented, that is, increasing our prominence in the market place. For that reason almost the entire amount of the new money allocated for marketing this year will go into television campaigns interstate and within the State in order to raise the profile of South Australia and to increase visitation. This will increase the economic value of tourism to those various operators around the State that are likely to benefit from this activity.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** Of the \$766 000 that was spent on international promotion last year, how much was spent in each of our international markets? How does Tourism South Australia measure the cost benefit of that expenditure in determining the current and forthcoming allocations for each market, given the lag time in the availability of international visitor statistics? Given all those tourism determinants, to what extent does the Premier's Department influence the international marketing strategy of Tourism South Australia in terms of the State's overall economic objectives which go beyond tourism?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The tourism objectives of the State Government are based on a very broad range of factors. However, they are largely based on our assessment of the areas from which we are likely to be able to maximise visitation to the State based on the numerous indicators that need to be considered. For example, if there is a direct flight from Singapore but not from Kuala Lumpur, then one might expect that visitation from Singapore will be greater. Therefore, that is a significant factor in determining where market dollars will go.

The work of the Australian Tourism Commission and the markets in which it is most active will also have an impact on decisions taken by Tourism South Australia. That

is because to a very large extent we try to work with the Australian Tourism Commission (ATC) in overseas marketplaces in order to maximise the value of the marketing dollar we can invest in those areas. We piggy-back to a large extent on the work of the ATC. If they are concentrating energy in the United States and Japan, as they have been recently, then they are markets which are of interest to us. However, that is not the only deciding factor because, obviously, if another market is more important to us and other factors are more significant than that, they will override any decision that the ATC might be making.

Japan is a very good example of that, because at the moment we do not have a direct flight link between Adelaide and Japan, and that very much inhibits our capacity to promote Adelaide as a destination for Japanese tourists. Even though the ATC has spent much time and energy in Japan, it is not one of the areas in which we spend a large proportion of our marketing dollars at this time. We believe that other factors override the desirability of doing so.

There is a range of issues that Tourism South Australia needs to take into account, but when we are developing our direct flight strategy for the State, as we have been, one of the factors that we have taken into consideration in mounting our arguments to put to particular airlines is the State development argument in a much broader sense. The extent to which we are able to develop business links with particular countries and the extent to which trade might be generated with those countries, should a direct link be made available, is certainly one of the factors that we are very keen to pursue.

We work very closely with both the Premier's Department and the Department of State Development and Technology. To that extent, those two departments have some influence over the priorities that are determined but, by and large, the tourism priorities are taken in isolation. The extent to which we are able to marry the objectives of other economic development agencies with tourism objectives varies, but we do that as and when we can. As to the question of funds devoted last year to particular international markets, in 1987-88 we spent \$330 000 in Japan, \$235 000 in the US, \$195 000 in South-East Asia, \$115 000 in the UK and Europe, and \$65 000 in New Zealand.

**Mr De LAINE:** On page 358 of the Program Estimates, under the heading 'Marketing the State as a Tourist Destination', I note that Tourism South Australia will conduct a significant media campaign in the intrastate and interstate markets. What is proposed for this campaign?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As I indicated earlier, the significant budget increase that we were able to attract this year for tourism marketing will be spent almost entirely on advertising campaigns within South Australia and interstate. With respect to the intrastate campaign, that will be largely concentrated on television, although there will also be radio and press coverage. We hope to commence the campaign towards the end of October, and we will be highlighting a range of destinations around the State using the concept of short breaks. One of the clear indications that came out of our market research was that South Australians have a greater propensity for taking a number of short duration stays than for taking longer holiday breaks within this State. They usually seem to travel interstate or overseas for longer holidays, so the campaign will concentrate largely on the idea of short breaks, perhaps of two to five days duration or even longer.

To accompany the campaign a brochure will be produced that will contain a number of suggestions for sightseeing and touring, and people will be able to apply for that brochure in order to plan their holiday breaks. As I indi-

cated, we should be able to start that campaign in October and hope that it will run through until about April next year. However, we will exclude the December/January period, during which most people have either made decisions about their breaks or are not so inclined to be viewing television and, therefore, picking up our advertisements.

The interstate campaign will also concentrate on television and will appear in our major markets in Sydney, Melbourne and regional Victoria. That is also due to begin in October and will be shown on television at specific times to maximise the reach to our target audience. The interstate campaign will mainly involve couples who are in the over 40 age bracket and who choose, or are able, to travel without their children. Accompanying that, there will probably be a 008 telephone number to enable people to call and pick up a touring guide brochure, which will be a fairly extensive publication giving a range of holiday ideas for people to follow up.

I hope that both these campaigns will strongly re-establish our position in the marketplace and raise awareness of South Australia and some of the more recent developments that have taken place here with respect to tourism developments, thereby substantially increasing our visitation.

**Mr De LAINE:** Page 359 of the Program Estimates, under the heading 'Advice and support to tourism and development', refers to an investment publication *Invest in Success* which was launched recently. What is the purpose of that publication and how did Tourism South Australia decide on the tourism investment opportunities to be detailed in that publication?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The *Invest in Success* publication is part of the new development strategy that we are now pursuing for Tourism South Australia and as I indicated earlier, the approach in this area will now change in that, instead of responding or being reactive to ideas that come forward from potential developers as we have tended to do in the past, we want to turn it around and to become much more pro-active and to work much more vigorously on identifying the tourism product which needs to be developed in this State and which is in keeping with the new strategy that we have determined and with the image of South Australia that we believe is the most appropriate one for the State. So, we will be attempting to fill some of the gaps that currently exist in the tourism product in South Australia, so that we can generate increased visitation into the State and provide tourism developments which are likely to attract those people amongst the touring public who are the higher yield visitors. Our objective is not simply to bring huge numbers of people into this State but to bring into the State those groups of people who are likely to spend most money. That is our economic objective, and some of the tourism development ideas on which we will work will attempt to fill some of those gaps in the tourism product that currently exists in this State.

The document which was released a couple of months ago has now had reasonably wide circulation amongst people in the industry including financial institutions and potential investors. It is already very well regarded with respect to the philosophy that is being pursued, and the document has deliberately been produced with a loose leaf attachment in order to allow for new opportunities that may be identified to be included in the range of investment opportunities which we have to offer and with which we can approach potential investors.

Officers of the Planning and Development Division have already begun work on documenting the feasibility and concept of several of the major opportunities that have already been identified. That is a very important develop-

ment, because in the past, although we have had some notion of the sort of developments that we wanted to see in some parts of the State, they have been just that—ideas. Unless we are able to present something which is a little more detailed and which gives a potential investor some notion of cost and some indication of the feasibility of a project, potential markets and other things everything that can be presented in a cohesive way, people are less likely to take up the opportunity than they will be if a lot of that information is already made available to them. So some of that work is now being done on some of the opportunities that have already been identified, and we hope therefore to attract investment dollars to tourism projects as a result of that new approach.

**Mr De LAINE:** Does the Government intend to make a submission to the Industries Assistance Commission inquiring into travel and tourism?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** We do intend to make a submission. It is very significant that the Federal Government has initiated this investigation by the Industries Assistance Commission into the tourism industry and it is probably one of the most significant indications that has been given so far of the Commonwealth Government's commitment to tourism, and the acknowledgment that the Commonwealth Government gives to the tourism industry is a very serious and important part of the national economy. For that reason we will be putting a submission to the commission.

Tourism South Australia will be coordinating the State Government effort in that respect, and will commission the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies to assist us in putting together some background research and undertaking some consultation. Once that has been done, we will present our submission to the commission members, and I understand that the commission has been asked to provide its report to the Federal Treasurer once it has received appropriate information from various people around Australia.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** I refer to your answer to my last question about the breakdown of international marketing funds. I understood you to say that, because there was no direct link with Japan, Tourism South Australia placed less emphasis on the Japanese market because of the manifest difficulties in attracting visitors from that market without direct flights. However, in the breakdown that you gave to the Committee, the funds spent in Japan were significantly greater than those spent in any other markets. Would the Minister explain to the Committee—and we realise that Japanese visitors spend more per capita than any other visitors—how much we are getting for what we spend in the Japanese market, *vis-a-vis* what we are getting from what we spend in the other markets in terms of visitor numbers and total economic benefit.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The figures for Japanese expenditure last year are somewhat distorted in a sense because they involve a one-off expenditure. The Tourism South Australia budget contributed to some of the expenses of South Australia's participation at the Okayama expo earlier this year, to the tune, of I believe, around \$100 000. That was part of an overall State Government effort to have a presence at Okayama as part of an expo which was designed to celebrate the opening of the new Seto-Ohashi bridge in the Okayama prefecture. South Australia was the only State in Australia that was invited to participate in that expo and, as the honourable member will probably recall, a group of South Australians visited Japan at that time to take part in those celebrations.

The Premier led that South Australian delegation, some of whom were representatives of business in South Australia and who went on with the Premier to various other parts of Japan to take part in investment seminars and other meetings in order to attract business people to come to, or to invest in, South Australia. The relationship with the Okayama prefecture that South Australia has developed during the past four years or so has been a very valuable one, in that as part of the functions that the Premier undertook during his visit there with the then Minister of Marine and Harbors, was the signing of an agreement with the authorities at the port of Mizushima, which is in that prefecture to make arrangements for shipping to take place between Mizushima and Port Adelaide on a regular basis. This means that Japanese ships which previously did not come into Port Adelaide will now call here regularly and they will in fact by-pass other ports in Australia in order to do that. The relationship which has developed has been, and will be, financially significant in a whole range of areas, not the least of which, hopefully, will be cultural exchange or tourism, for which this agency is responsible.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** Perhaps the Minister has inadvertently reinforced a view which I believe the industry has and that is that the marketing funds of Tourism South Australia are being used to further the Government's economic objectives in fields other than tourism and that \$100 000 was spent, in effect, to reinforce the State's capacity to attract shipping to South Australia. I believe that is something beyond the tourism field. Page 353 of the Program Estimates refers to marketing. How much was paid to Honeywill Reid for providing marketing consultancy advice to the authority last year? How many hours of consultancy work were provided? Did the appointment of those consultants result in any of the anticipated staff savings and what overall savings or other benefits resulted from the appointment?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Tourism South Australia employed marketing consultants (Honeywill Reid Communications) for a 12 month period which began about last September or October and which concludes at the end of this month. By and large, the relationship has been valuable. The consultants came to Tourism South Australia at a time when the restructuring and reorganisation was in progress. At that time considerable change was taking place in the marketing division of Tourism South Australia. Some senior appointments had not been made in the marketing area, and that could have delayed the implementation of our marketing strategy, so it was very helpful to have access to external marketing advice during that period. That arrangement has been pursued during this previous year.

In the meantime, our General Manager (Marketing), David Riley, joined our staff and other appointments were made in the marketing area. Those personnel undertake tasks and supervise the work of the various people with whom we deal in the preparation of advertising and other promotional material. For that reason, we have decided that, beyond the end of this month, the arrangement which has applied during the past 12 months will no longer be necessary. In fact, with the expertise now available within the organisation, we should be able to employ, as required, those people whom we need to undertake creative design, advertising work, production printing and other activities in which the organisation needs to engage from time to time.

During the course of the 12-month period under review, about \$120 000 was paid to Honeywill Reid. That amount included a retainer of about \$50 000, which entitled the organisation to 600 hours of work from the consultant. The extra amounts of money paid to Honeywill Reid related to



various additional tasks in the supervision of marketing activity and consultancy work together with the supervision of subcontractors and other creative work which was undertaken by that organisation on behalf of Tourism South Australia. Although I am not absolutely certain about this figure, I understand that, during the previous financial year, Honeywill Reid worked about 980 hours on behalf of the organisation and for which the payments that I have just referred to were made. During the restructuring period in which Honeywill Reid worked with us, I understand that Tourism South Australia effected staff savings amounting to the equivalent of approximately three full-time staff.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** In many respects the Minister's reply tallies with her expectations this time last year, although it seems that the expenditure is greater than she anticipated, but that the staff savings doubled, because last year she estimated that there would be a staff saving equivalent to 1.5 full-time employees. I asked the Minister whether the overall savings or other benefits in fact accrued.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** My figure relating to staff savings is only an estimate. It is very difficult to work out, with any degree of accuracy, what might have been achieved as a result of the appointment of the marketing consultants, because the calculation is affected not only by the number of people who were employed in the area at the time but also by the reorganisation that was being undertaken and the appointments that had to be made during the course of the year as part of the restructuring and timing of the appointments of particular individuals. Whilst I believe that the equivalent of three positions is about the figure, that may not be quite right, but nevertheless staff savings were effected.

Last year, I think I recall indicating that we anticipated staff savings of about 1.5; savings of between 1.5 and 3 have resulted, but it is difficult to be absolutely accurate about it. Certainly the work of Honeywill Reid during that time enabled us to bridge that period of reorganisation in a very effective way, and that company was engaged in a very wide range of marketing and promotional work for the agency in the past 12 months.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** Referring to page 41 of the Estimates of Receipts, what is the reason for the shortfall in receipts from commissions from the estimate of \$810 000 in 1987-88 to \$705 000 actual, and why is the current year's estimate still lower than that projected total for 1987-88? What is the relationship between these figures on page 41 of the Estimates of Receipts and the figures on page 361 of the Program Estimates which identifies a sum of \$447 000 as the commission earnings in 1987-88?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** It appears that we do not have with us a couple of documents, so I suggest we defer the reply until after the dinner break.

**Mr TYLER:** The South Australian Tourism Plan 1987-89 has been in effect for about 18 months. What progress has been made in implementing the strategies? In particular, I refer the Minister to Strategy 12 of the South Australian Tourism Plan, that is, to encourage South Australians to become more effective ambassadors for their State. Action 40 under this strategy is to pursue the introduction of a tourism component in school curricula. Can the Minister explain the overall strategies and where we are with implementation, and refer to the two points I have raised?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As I am sure the honourable member is aware, the State tourism plan is a joint Government/industry plan. The three-year strategy document began in 1987 and is due to be completed during 1989. Considerable progress has been made on the implementation of this strategy. In the areas referred to by the honourable

member, already significant action has been taken. Regarding the school curricula, a tourism resource kit has been developed for use by secondary school teachers in schools. That has been jointly developed by Government agencies, including TSA, Education and TAFE, in conjunction with representatives of the tourism industry. I launched that kit in May this year at a seminar attended by 50 teachers. I believe that other seminars will take place in order to give teachers a better understanding of the kit and how it might be used.

The people who produced the tourism resource kit did not intend that tourism become a specific topic taught in all schools but that rather material contained in the resource kit will be available for teachers to use in various other courses including geography, economics, home economics or whatever. So, first, the importance of the tourism industry and what it can do for the State can be brought to the attention of teachers and, secondly, young people can be educated about tourism to develop a greater awareness about the things that we have to offer in the tourism area. It will also help young people to identify potential career paths and other opportunities in the tourism industry in the future. That kit is now available in the schools and I hope it will be widely used.

Further, I hope that the forthcoming advertising campaign to be conducted in South Australia will have the additional benefit of raising the awareness of people in this State about some of our tourist attractions so that they can not only enjoy them personally but be able to use that information to become better ambassadors for the State. On numerous occasions (and I am sure we have all experienced this) we hear of friends or people whom we know who, when entertaining people from other parts of Australia or overseas, lament after a few days that they do not know what other activity to suggest or where they can go. That is usually not because people have run out of places to visit but because they are simply not aware of the range of attractions that have been developed in recent times. It is very important that South Australians be made aware of those things so that they can not only enjoy them but also recommend them with confidence to people who visit the State.

**Mr TYLER:** I took the opportunity to visit Brisbane during the parliamentary break to look at our display at World Expo. I found the display to be modest but very effective and I was rather surprised that the Opposition attacked our display with such vigour. I also place on the record that I was extremely impressed with the professionalism of the staff on our stand. They were great ambassadors for this State. I did not go in there as a member of Parliament—I was unannounced. I found them to be courteous and knowledgeable. I would appreciate the Managing Director passing on those comments to the staff. They have done an exceptional job, under much stress and duress from comments made by members of the Opposition about our display. Will the Minister comment on some of the criticisms and say whether she believes our stand has been value for money for the State, particularly in tourism terms?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I entirely share the honourable member's view of the criticisms that have been made of the stand at Expo, particularly the approach being taken by members of the Opposition. It has been quite irresponsible, and no doubt exists that much of the criticism that has subsequently followed from individual members of the South Australian community was very much generated by what they read in newspapers as a result of the negative approach taken by members of the Opposition to our efforts at Expo.

*Members interjecting:*



**The CHAIRMAN:** Order!

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The original criticisms about Expo came from journalists and members of the Opposition. It was not until reports from people of that kind started to appear in the Adelaide media that individual South Australians who visited Expo also started to take a more critical view of our presence at Expo than I believe they otherwise would have done.

The Government adopted a value for money approach in participating at Expo. To adopt that reasonably low budget approach was the correct decision to take. We will come in on budget with our facility at Expo. The budget set for the stand was \$450 000, which is very much value for money. The comments we received from people in other parts of Australia and from international visitors have all been positive and I join with the honourable member in praising the work of the staff at Expo because it has been exemplary. They have been extremely enthusiastic about their task of selling South Australia, but have been very much damaged in terms of morale through the criticism of the Opposition and others. They told me when I was there that they could always see a South Australian coming because they were the ones who walked through the door with their hands on their hips, looked around the stand disparagingly and then proceeded to ask questions about some town in the backblocks of South Australia that nobody would consider to be a tourist attraction, simply to test the skills of the staff present. That is no way for any staff to be treated and I deplore that situation because those people have done an excellent job.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I ask the Minister to complete her remarks after dinner.

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

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Before the break I was talking about South Australia's participation at the Queensland Expo and I agreed with many of the comments made by the member for Fisher about criticisms of that participation and our stand. I believe those criticisms were unwarranted and very damaging, not only to the morale of staff employed to work on our behalf but also to the State as a whole. Many of the comments made were reported in the South Australian media and picked up in newspapers in other parts of Australia. That had a negative impact on people's perception of this State and detracted from many of the things that we are attempting to do interstate to boost the image of South Australia. I feel that members of the Opposition were instrumental in bringing about that result which was not in the least bit helpful to our State.

The decision taken by the Government to choose a low cost option for participation at Expo with a tourism focus was a successful one and well and truly justified. The most recent reports from Expo indicate that 800 000 people have visited the South Australian stand and that we have averaged in excess of 200 travel inquiries per week. A large number of people have indicated that they intend to holiday in South Australia based on the information received. We have also sold about 150 Grand Prix tickets during the time that our exhibition has been present in Brisbane and many bookings have been made for Adelaide day tours, accommodation packages—such as Kangaroo Island holiday packages, which have been very popular; a lot of interest has been shown in Kangaroo Island—and coach travel.

So, the tourism focus has been significant and successful and many comments received from visitors to our stand have related to the personal approach applied to visitors to Expo. People have expressed pleasure in being able to talk

to people instead of being talked at by computers and videos, as is experienced in other pavilions and stands at Expo. People have also expressed pleasure at being able to receive information on aspects of this State in which they are most interested.

By this time, many of the other States, which spent well in excess of the amount allocated by the South Australian Government in the preparation of their stands, will now be regretting their decisions because the experience of almost every part of Australia during the past few months has been a downturn in visitation. The gains that some States felt would come from an international expo have not eventuated. Other parts of Queensland are reporting a downturn in visitation this year because international visitors have tended to go to Brisbane, visit Expo and perhaps parts of the Gold Coast and leave without seeing other parts of Queensland, certainly without visiting other parts of Australia.

That national experience reflects the experience of provinces in Canada following the Vancouver Expo. Other provinces in Canada did not enjoy an increase in visitation in 1986 as many had expected and this led to the Vice-President of the Bureau of International Expositions admitting publicly that the money spent by the 53 nations which participated in the Vancouver Expo had been a waste because they did not get the return on their investments they anticipated. That was the experience of other provinces in Canada and has, by and large, been the experience, of other States of Australia. Therefore, the focus that we took in giving information to people about South Australia from a tourism perspective, which has paid some immediate dividends—and hopefully will continue to be successful in raising awareness of South Australia for future travellers—and which was provided at a fairly low budget, was a wise decision.

**Mr TYLER:** The Minister has clearly demonstrated that the South Australian Government was astute in its approach to the Queensland Expo and I concur with her comments about Canada. I visited the World Expo at Vancouver and then travelled to a number of provinces where I got the same story as outlined by the Minister. Recently, in the Northern Territory I spoke to a couple of tourist operators who told me exactly the same thing, that they were in a decline in tourism visitation this year as a result of Expo. So, there is certainly no spin-off to the Northern Territory, and I understand that many tourist operators in South Australia say the same thing, particularly in relation to the Flinders Ranges.

I now refer to the Festival Development Fund. As everybody knows, South Australia is known as the Festival State. What is Tourism South Australia doing to support community based festivals across the State? In the southern region we have a very successful almond blossom festival.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** South Australia is known as the Festival State and a number of our festivals have achieved not only national but international recognition and significance. There is no doubt that a well organised festival based on a special or unique activity will attract visitation to a location that otherwise might not be attracted. Not only is it important for the overall image of the State and for the encouragement of an increase in visitation for us to develop and support our festivals, but it is also important for the regions of South Australia to develop any festival opportunities that might exist in those locations in order to attract people to their parts of the State at certain times of the year in order to enjoy those special activities.

The further development of festivals is one of the objectives laid down in the most recent tourism plan. Tourism

South Australia's responsibility in this area has now been implemented. We have appointed a special events coordinator, who will be responsible for working quite closely with committees and other groups who have some interest in the development of festivals around the State to improve the festivals that they currently administer with a view to increasing visitation thereto.

The Festivals Development Fund has been established to assist in that process. That fund is jointly funded and administered by Tourism South Australia and the SGIC. A group of three people receive submissions from the organisers of numerous festivals who believe that they should be eligible for funding and decisions are made as to where the funding support should go. In 1987-88, \$32 000 was provided to support the development of seven festivals. The trustees have considered applications for 1988-89, and recently announced the six festivals that would receive development funding in the next 12 months. This year \$31 000 will be allocated to those six organisations.

**Mr LEWIS:** I think that the remarks made by the member for Fisher were uncalled for. They were simply—

*Mr Tyler interjecting:*

**Mr LEWIS:** Look, if you want to brown-nose your way through the Party organisation that you belong to in the fashion that you did by indulging in that sort of abuse you can do so.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I asked the member for Murray-Mallee to preface his remarks with a question and then link his remarks to that question.

**Mr LEWIS:** Mr Chairman, does that mean that I do not have the same liberty that the member for Fisher took in making comments about the South Australian stand at Expo in Brisbane as recently as the last question?

*Mr Tyler interjecting:*

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I will be answering that question. I allow reasonable explanation to all members of this Committee, and the honourable member is well aware of the point that I am making.

**Mr LEWIS:** How does the Minister explain that less than 12 months ago she and the Premier were denying that the Government would be participating in the Expo? The Minister was absolutely silent about a decision to involve the State's tourism commission in the Brisbane Expo, and could give no details at this same forum, less than a year ago, about that exercise. It distresses me that, as a consequence of that decision, taken in a Johnny come lately fashion by the Government, cobbled together at the last minute when they recognised that they would be embarrassed, they now abuse the Opposition for comments which were not initiated by the Opposition about the inadequacy of the South Australian stand as it—

*Mr Tyler interjecting:*

**Mr LEWIS:** I did not speak when the member for Fisher was speaking.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Order! I ask members to come to order. I will ensure from the Chair that members are not talked down. I ask all other members to be silent and listen to the member for Murray-Mallee as he has listened to them for the past 15 minutes.

**Mr LEWIS:** So, we found that, since the opening of Expo to the present, a number of sensible and necessary changes have been made to the substance and approach of the Government towards the South Australian presence. That is to be commended. If you do not get it exactly right the first time, the sensible thing to do is fix it and bring it into line. The fact that we were able to do that with such limited expenditure is to be commended too, as long as that, of itself, did not detract from the capacity of the exhibition to

attract people to South Australia. If it does not detract from that and is cost effective, that is a good thing.

No-one in the Opposition has ever said that it was not. The Opposition merely said that the exhibition was being criticised by people who saw the exhibition—not only South Australians but people from elsewhere. The first comments made publicly were not made by Opposition members. It is regrettable that those comments were made and that so many people felt that way and that it was necessary to hold the Government to account for the public's perception that the exhibition was inadequate.

I remind the Minister that another place, Roxby Downs, in the North of the State now, on many days, attracts more than 50 visitors and certainly well over 100 every week, week in week out. However, that, too, was referred to by the Premier as a 'mirage in the desert', although, he happily takes credit for it—not just the general revenue that it will generate through royalties, and so on, but also for the tourism benefits that it brings to the State by providing additional improvements to the infrastructure of roads and the like, which will make it easier and safer for people to travel into the Far North of South Australia. Against that background, how did the Government come to the eleventh hour conclusion that it would participate after deciding earlier that it would not do so?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I would like to disabuse the honourable member of some misconceptions that he seems to have with regard to this matter. First, I was not questioned during the Estimates Committee last year about the Government's participation at Expo. Therefore, I did not say, as he just indicated, that we would or would not, or could or could not participate in Expo. It was not a topic for discussion. In fact, at that stage, the situation was that no decision had been made whether or not we should, as a Government, participate at Expo in Brisbane.

However, whenever the Premier was asked about the matter he made it perfectly clear that the State Government was, in fact, reluctant to be involved in the Brisbane Expo. There were two reasons for the Government's reluctance to be involved. First, we were aware of the experiences in relation to the Expo in Vancouver. I referred to that situation in my reply to the previous question. The provinces in Canada that did not enjoy the hosting of the Expo had found that visitors that they had anticipated would flow to other parts of the country did not eventuate. In fact, they poured millions of dollars down the drain in mounting large and sophisticated exhibitions at that Expo, and it did not pay off. We were aware of that and that it was one of the reasons why we were very reluctant to be involved in the Expo.

Secondly, we were reluctant to become involved when we were first approached by the Expo organisers because the figure that was quoted to us for our involvement was extremely large. When they first began discussing this issue with us, a figure of about \$6 million was being quoted as the basic amount that South Australia would need to spend to have a presence at Expo. Reflecting on that proposal and comparing that with what we knew of the experience of other countries when expos had been hosted, it led us to believe that it would not be a satisfactory investment for this State Government. For that reason we indicated to the organisers that we did not believe that the State Government would get value for money on the basis that was being suggested. Those first discussions took place some two years or more before the Expo. In the intervening time various other approaches were made to us and on every occasion, as we came closer and closer to Expo, the figure being quoted by Expo organisers was gradually reduced.

Ultimately, it became a more attractive proposition for the State Government when we were able to negotiate an arrangement with Expo organisers to allow us to be represented at Expo along with other States for what we considered to be a reasonable cost to South Australian taxpayers. That is the sequence of events. Whilst it may appear to the honourable member that the decision was taken late in the day, I believe that the decision was taken at an appropriate time, that it was a prudent decision and that it meant that South Australia could receive value for money.

The honourable member suggested that there had been substantial changes to our exhibit during the past few months. He applauded those changes and suggested that they might have come about as a result of criticisms that had been levelled at the Government by members of the South Australian community, whoever they might have been. That is not correct, either. The exhibit at Expo at the moment is largely as it was planned to be. Some exhibits which formed part of our display did not arrive on the scene in time for the opening but, in the subsequent two or three weeks, some of those exhibits and pieces of the display were brought together and formed part of the ultimate display.

There have been no substantial changes to the exhibit, beyond the original plans that had been determined for it. Some of the problems we had in obtaining equipment related to the scarcity of the equipment for which we were looking. Grand Prix racing cars and roulette wheels are not freely available, and these were among the pieces of equipment which we wanted to be part of our display and which arrived a little later than opening day. Nevertheless, they were in place in a very short time and have been very popular features of our participation in Expo.

Mr LEWIS: Whatever the reasons for the changes, they were made after the outset and, clearly, indicated that inadequate thought or time had been taken in the preparation. I do not wish to pursue that matter further.

I now want to turn to the remarks made by the Minister in answering questions about international flights into Adelaide. How did the Minister determine which airlines to speak to about the possibility of their being involved in providing a direct service into and out of Adelaide? What factors were involved?

The Hon. Barbara Wiese: A number of issues were taken into consideration by the Government in determining which airlines to approach. One of those factors is intelligence gleaned from our overseas representatives as to the opportunities for attracting visitors from various parts of the world. In addition, the interest shown by particular airlines themselves is an important factor. Some airlines have approached the South Australian Government at one time or another with a view to gaining our support for representations that they want to make to Qantas or the Federal Government in order to gain access to Australia via Adelaide. On occasions when such representations have been made we responded by providing whatever support and assistance we were able to provide in order to help them undertake the appropriate negotiations with Australian airline authorities.

Another issue that is taken into consideration when looking at these matters is that of flight patterns and the hubbing arrangements that exist internationally for particular airlines. For example, the decision taken recently by Thai Airways to come into Adelaide is, we believe, a very significant decision for us, not only because it gives us access to Thailand as a potential tourism market but also because Thai Airways hubs from Bangkok. That means that through Bangkok a whole range of other destinations is opened up to South Australia as potential tourism markets.

So, a range of factors are taken into consideration, and whenever we have an opportunity to follow up or support a particular airline, or to pursue an airline where we think there is a possibility of tourism being boosted by taking such action, that is the action we take.

Mr LEWIS: Supplementary to that, I want the Minister to understand that it is an initiative which I support and applaud, and of which I initially made mention during my first Address in Reply speech in the House of Assembly. I referred to the necessity for an international airport and the opportunity for people to come to South Australia to see our unique attractions. That must occur if we are to enjoy the benefits which could come from developing a substantial tourist industry. I know that at that time the member for Coles, who was the then Minister for Tourism, was equally enthusiastic about that point, and always has been. However, we have been pretty slow in getting there and I believe that we have missed an opportunity.

It is appalling that the Hawke Government did not let us in South Australia know or at least let the Minister know, that there was to be a loosening up and an increase in the number of international operators that would be allowed into Australia to penetrate further into the continent than simply the eastern seaboard, Perth or Darwin, in other words to Alice Springs or to Adelaide. We should have been in there boots and all at that time making sure that our case was being put.

I am disturbed that the Minister overlooked the two most important things associated with direct flights into and out of Adelaide; they are factors that determine which airlines we encourage. My question is: why was not routine operational reliability and routine operational safety taken into consideration, given the location of our airport and the desirability of ensuring that absolutely nothing went wrong and that people who came to Australia through Adelaide travelled on airlines which had reputations world wide for high standards of operational safety and high standards of operational reliability?

I relate my own experience as an indication of the importance I place on this. I will never again fly with some airlines, such as Continental Airlines and other airlines that ply the internal airways of the USA as well as the international routes to and from the North Pacific. They simply are not up to the mark by comparison with what we have come to expect in Australia. To have airlines with much poorer than average operational safety records and much poorer than average program reliability records come into and go out of Adelaide is detrimental, I believe. It would be better for our image as a destination if the point of entry through Adelaide was always associated, by those people who came into and out of Australia, with a happy journey whenever they spoke about it to their friends elsewhere. It would encourage expansion and I believe that the Government ought to have encouraged not only those airlines which were not flying into other centres but also those airlines, such as American Airlines, instead of, say, Continental Airlines, which have high standards and better than average reputations at least in relation to routine operational safety and reliability.

Why then did the Minister and the Government not take that into consideration? Why did the Government not take into consideration in the approaches that it was making to various airlines and the encouragement it was giving to those airlines to fly direct into and out of Adelaide the two factors of routine operational safety and routine operational reliability which involves sticking to a schedule, being on time, and ensuring that the internal trappings of the aircraft do not fall down onto passengers, that nothing rattles on

take-off, that cups of tea do not fall in one's lap or that the tray does not fall off the back of the seat in front, and so on? That is the Continental experience.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I am very sorry to learn that the honourable member's experience with Continental Airlines has been that way. That has not been my experience when flying Continental Airline and I feel that members of Tourism South Australia who have flown with Continental Airlines would probably also want to argue with the honourable member as to the safety and reliability of that airline. I would particularly want to argue with him on that score, because Continental Airlines happens to be one of the airlines with which we have been having quite extensive discussions in recent times. I presume that, when the honourable member was referring to decisions taken by the Federal Government to open up or to make entry to Australia for international airlines more flexible, he was referring particularly to the agreements that have recently been reached with the United States on this question.

Those agreements will now enable greater access to Australia via a larger number of gateways than has applied before. Indeed, I feel that, despite what the honourable member says, we have in fact been up front; we have been in there fighting and making sure that the airlines that are to come into Australia are well aware of South Australia, the things that we have to offer, and the reasons why Adelaide should be their next choice as a gateway. There are, as I understand it, only two United States airlines that have the right to enter Australia; they are United Airlines and Continental Airlines. American Airlines does not have the right to come into Australia so there is certainly no point in our talking with that company at this time.

**Mr LEWIS:** They fly into and out of Melbourne and Sydney. I flew with them.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As I understand it, only those two airlines have the right to operate in Australia, and for that reason we have been concentrating our attention on those two airlines. We have concentrated primarily on Continental Airlines, because in our assessment that is the airline company that has shown the greatest interest in South Australia as a potential future gateway. I did not refer in my earlier remarks to the question of safety and reliability when I was addressing some of the issues that are taken into account when decisions are being made as to how we would pursue a direct flight strategy, but in the strategic plan that we have developed that is one of the questions that is addressed, and for that reason we would not be in the least bit interested in having discussions with some international airlines operating in various parts of the world (and I will not name any of them) and certainly have not approached them because we do not consider that their record of safety or reliability is sufficient for us to go out of our way to have discussions with them. It is a matter that we take into account along with a number of other issues and, as far as the American situation is concerned, it is Continental Airlines with which we have been having our most recent discussions and that company has been interested to talk with us. In fact we recently undertook a joint feasibility study with officers of Continental Airlines as to the suitability of Adelaide as a future gateway destination, and from all available information we believe that Continental Airlines is a safe and reasonably reliable airline.

**Mr LEWIS:** What has been the total cost of refurbishing the Travel Centre, including not only the actual cost of renovations but also rental of alternative premises and the cost of relocation?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The cost of renovating the Travel Centre was \$470 000. The job undertaken by SACON

to refurbish completely the ground and mezzanine floors of the building was very well executed. SACON completed the refurbishment within the estimated timetable, for which we were extremely grateful. We were particularly keen to return to our own premises well in time for the period during which visitation to the State is likely to increase, particularly for the Grand Prix. We are within the established timetable.

The reorganisation of space in the Travel Centre will mean that the staff will be in a much better position to provide more efficient and effective service to members of the public. A separate area has now been provided where people who are interested in simply picking up a brochure or browsing for holiday ideas are able to do so without impeding the flow of traffic of people who wish to consult one of our Travel Centre staff. The current layout of the counters, which enables 10 consultants to attend to inquiries at any one time, means that the flow of traffic can now be handled much more efficiently than was previously the case. In that respect, we have taken a significant step. The building had not been renovated since 1974 when it was first opened, so it was money well spent.

I cannot provide a figure for renting the alternative accommodation during the months that the Travel Centre was being renovated, because rental arrangements are undertaken by SACON, which deals with those accounts but, if the honourable member would like that information, I will obtain it from my colleague, the Minister of Housing and Construction, and provide it to him. I will also provide the cost of the relocation.

**Mr RANN:** There has been considerable discussion in the local press about the progress of the Mount Lofty Hotel and the cable car project. What is the situation regarding this development and what tourism benefits might accrue from it?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The consortium which proposed this development and which is headed by Touche Ross and Co. has now produced a draft environmental impact statement, which was released some time ago for public comment. Comment has now been received and the consortium is addressing some of the issues that were raised as a result of that consultation.

Tourism South Australia believes that the proposal is consistent with the aims of the State's tourism plan in that it encourages more value added development in the State; in other words, it encourages greater tourism expenditure. The proposed components of that development, including the cable car, fall into that category. The cable car component would most certainly encourage a greater level of visitation (and, therefore, a greater level of expenditure by those people who may wish to use the facility) than would otherwise be the case. In tourism terms, it is a very desirable proposal which would help to provide a new tourism focus for Adelaide and for the Adelaide Hills area.

It is very important that South Australian tourism developments that are encouraged in the future have that value added focus as one of the prime objectives, because our job is not only to increase the number of visitors into the State but also to attract the largest number of visitors to the State who will spend the largest amounts of money.

**Mr RANN:** As the Grand Prix is only two months away, has there been any progress in overcoming the shortage of hotel accommodation that has been evident in previous Grand Prix?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** As the honourable member may be aware from newspaper reports during the past 12 months, in relation to the previous Grand Prix and, to some extent, the forthcoming Grand Prix, concern was expressed about the lack of accommodation for those people who

were, and are, associated with staging the event. Those problems have now been overcome and individual hotel and motel operators in and around the City of Adelaide have now been able to come to an arrangement with the organisers of the Grand Prix and to make available accommodation sufficient for those people who are integrally involved with the staging of the event.

It is pleasing to note that the available accommodation in the city and its environs is growing. This means that, in future years, pressure on accommodation will be eased to some extent. It is anticipated that 500 additional hotel and motel rooms will be completed in Adelaide in time for the forthcoming Grand Prix that would not have been available for the previous event. That has largely been brought about by the opening of the new Hyatt Hotel, which has 369 rooms.

That is very significant, but another four hotels and motel establishments will add to the available room capacity for this coming Grand Prix. A further 875 rooms are either in the advanced planning stage or are actually under construction, and most of those are expected to be open in time for next year's Grand Prix. In addition, a further 652 rooms are in the preliminary planning stages and could very well come on stream by the early 1990s. All of the proposed accommodation that I have referred to falls into the 3½ to 5 star category which is very appropriate for Grand Prix requirements. With that expansion in available accommodation, I believe that some of the pressures we feel in Adelaide at Grand Prix time will be eased significantly.

**Mr RANN:** On page 358 of the Program Estimates under 'Marketing the State as a Tourist Destination', reference is made to a familiarisation program. What are the details of Tourism South Australia's program in this regard and what will be its effect? Further, what industry support is there for such a program?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Tourism South Australia recognises the importance of encouraging the members of the travel industry and also the media, whether it be travel writers or media generally, to pay some attention to tourism issues, and to come to South Australia to experience first hand the attractions that we have to offer. Members of the industry recognise this as well and always cooperate fully at times when Tourism South Australia is attempting to organise familiarisations for some of these journalists and other people involved with the travel industry. They cooperate very positively by providing, for example, free or discounted accommodation and other forms of support. This year we have established a budget of \$150 000 for this activity, allowing our managers from interstate and also our overseas officers to initiate some of these familiarisations from their own markets. We estimate that this allocation will be worth about \$400 000 in services provided in the way I have just outlined by representatives of the industry.

Some special groups will be targeted. In particular, we will be looking at gaining support from both airlines to bring people into the State and also we will be requesting support from the Australian Tourism Commission. The South Australian tourism industry has been very supportive in the past of programs of this kind, and during the past financial year contributed about \$150 000 towards that activity. During last year we made arrangements for visits of about 130 journalists and 374 trade representatives, and we expect a similar number of people to visit the State on these familiarisation tours during the course of this coming year. In addition, during the past year we had 79 people representing 15 separate companies visit the State from various film or television industry organisations to shoot some footage for various travel documentaries or other

programs. So, the program that we have pursued has been very successful.

We have managed to gain quite significant media coverage from the activities of these familiarisations and in future we want to keep a much closer watch on the results that flow from such visits, because we are not interested in attracting journalists and others who are simply junketeers. We are only interested in having the people coming into South Australia who are very serious about the job they are doing and will in fact go back and write something useful or make a program or do whatever it is that will be of significant benefit to the State.

**Mr OSWALD:** On page 353 of the Program Estimates, under 'Liaison with travel trade', I notice a decrease in expenditure from \$415 000 proposed in 1987-88 to \$261 000 proposed for 1988-89. What is the background to that reduction? Further, what are the anticipated benefits of developing a package tour warranting an increase from \$45 000 to \$119 000? How will the money be spent when approximately the same number of staff applies?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** In relation to liaison with the travel trade, as part of the reorganisation of Tourism South Australia which has taken place in the past 12 months, this is one of the areas that has been affected with respect to staffing arrangements. We now have only one officer working in this area to organise the familiarisation visits. The difference in the figures is largely related to the salaries component which had previously been proposed for 1987-88 and which through the reorganisation now no longer appears under that line.

With respect to the moneys being spent on the familiarisations and other promotional activities, the allocations are quite comparable with those amounts of money allocated the year before. In fact, there has not been a reduction in the level of that activity.

**Mr OSWALD:** In relation to 'Liaison with travel trade', the allocation has been reduced from \$415 000 to \$261 000. The proposed staff appears to be the same. I could not quite pick up the point the Minister made that it is now down to one. The staff number seems constant. If it was a reduction in staff by one, the difference is more than the salary component involved. Liaison with industry is so important that I would not like to see a cut-back—if anything there should be more liaison.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** There has not been a cut-back in the allocations for the activities for trade familiarisation, either for interstate or overseas people and other promotional efforts. I will take the question on notice to explain the full redistribution of the funding in that area. If one looks at actual expenditure for 1987-88 against proposed expenditure for 1988-89, one can see a consistency in the amounts of money being spent for that activity. As to the change which occurred in 1987-88 with the discrepancy or drop in the amount of money actually spent during that year and the figure proposed to be spent, in addition to the staffing issue to which I have just referred it would appear that some other reorganisation has taken place. My officers are not able to advise me on it at the moment, so I will bring back a reply.

**Mr OSWALD:** Two or three months ago I introduced a deputation of the President of the Glenelg Retail Association and the Chairman of the Glenelg council's tourism subcommittee to the Minister. They were requesting a coastal subregion for metropolitan Adelaide. The Minister was going to consider it, but I have not heard anything since. What was the result of interdepartmental discussions on the value as the department sees it of a coastal subregion within metropolitan Adelaide?



**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Following the meeting I had with the honourable member and representatives of the tourism industry in Glenelg, the matter was to be considered further by those individuals. The matter was to be taken up with other representatives of industry along that coastal strip within the metropolitan area. As far as I am aware, no further action has been taken on the matter. Certainly the representatives of the industry in Glenelg have not come back to my officers in Tourism South Australia with any proposals or intentions to pursue the matter discussed at our meeting, and I can only assume that they have decided that perhaps it is not such a good idea after all or that the time is not right to pursue the idea.

**Mr OSWALD:** The feeling I gathered was that they were looking for support at ministerial level as well as obtaining support along the coast, hence my question to ascertain whether the department is prepared to give moral support to the proposal. It would wither on the vine if it did not receive such support. The background to the deputation was to seek support at Government level for a subregion as that would have a snowballing effect. If the department would not support it, it would be difficult to get off the ground.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I do not agree with that view. If representatives of the industry in a region believe merit exists in promoting a region or subregion and have the energy and resources to do it, whether or not Tourism South Australia supports the activity or otherwise will have little impact on the success they may or may not have in pursuing that endeavour. As far as I am aware, officers of Tourism South Australia do not have any objection to tourism people along that coastal strip coming together with the idea of promoting the coastal attractions of the metropolitan area.

I understand that there was such a grouping of operators and others interested from that area but that that organisation has since disbanded through lack of interest on the part of the operators. Whether or not this group can rekindle interest and regenerate a new subgroup to devote specific attention to the coastal strip is a matter for them.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** I refer to page 353 of the Program Estimates relating to marketing. Did the Government attract \$1.3 million in cooperative advertising and commission as the Minister anticipated last year, and if not, why not; what sum is anticipated in cooperative advertising this year; how much did the Government allocate to cooperative advertising last year; and, how much will be allocated this year?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The \$1.3 million that I indicated was our target for cooperative advertising last year unfortunately was not achieved. It was, in retrospect, rather an ambitious figure. I have been reminded of the question that I replied to last year. In referring to the \$1.3 million in cooperative advertising that we anticipated could be achieved, I was referring also to commissions.

I do not have the total of the commissions plus the cooperative advertising figure for last year, but that can be obtained; I will take the question on notice. During the course of the last financial year, with respect to the cooperative advertising component, we were able to attract money from operators on Kangaroo Island towards the advertising campaign that was undertaken earlier this year to raise awareness of Kangaroo Island as a tourism destination.

The agreement reached with operators on the island was for those operators, through the Kangaroo Island Tourist Association, to contribute \$30 000 to the campaign. In addition, other cooperative activities were undertaken with respect to interstate travel fares, consumer promotions, and the preparation of package tour brochures for wholesale and retail use and for familiarisation. The cost of those activities

amounted to \$53 000. I do not think that I can separate from the available information the figure for the commission component, but I will try to provide the honourable member with that information later.

As a result of the decisions taken during the course of the year with respect to the level of advertising, the figure for cooperative contributions by members of the industry could have been expected to be significantly lower than was the case in previous years. It is difficult to put a figure on exactly what is expected from the industry during the coming year because the majority of projects that will be initiated by Tourism South Australia are ventures which leave very little scope for financial involvement by representatives of the industry, in that a large proportion of our marketing budget this year will go towards television and other forms of advertising as part of our major campaign. That activity does not in this case lend itself to participation by representatives of the industry.

One of the problems in South Australia in the area of cooperative advertising—although I would like to see a lot more of it—is that by and large our industry is made up of relatively small operations. Most tourist operators work on very small advertising and marketing budgets and, in many cases, are not able to undertake the sort of advertising that they would like for their own operations, let alone contribute to any campaigns or other activities that might be initiated by Tourism South Australia.

So, it is a consistent problem for the department, and we cannot expect to have the same levels of financial support that are expected in other States of Australia where much larger tourism developments have taken place. Over time, as various operations get under way, that situation will hopefully change. With the establishment of organisations such as the Hilton, the Hyatt, the Adelaide Casino and other larger tourism oriented organisations in this State, there has been a significant change in attitude and capacity for contribution in the cooperative area.

In addition to the amounts of money that were contributed towards centrally organised projects, a contribution was made to promotions that were organised for regional tourist associations at various times during the year. These included promotions in Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Ballarat and other parts of the country where regional operators came together and worked cooperatively with Tourism South Australia in promoting various aspects of the State. Information about those amounts of money can also be provided to the honourable member later.

**Mr De LAINE:** Can the Minister provide details of the \$1.1 million Kangaroo Island facility program referred to on page 359 of the Program Estimates?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** That program commenced about 18 months ago following a visit that I made to Kangaroo Island to look at areas identified by the two councils on Kangaroo Island as being significant in tourism terms and needing upgrading of some kind or another as part of an infrastructure development program. In many cases these projects were beyond the capacity of the two councils to fulfil because the cost was too great and the councils are relatively small. As a result—and in view of the importance of Kangaroo Island as a tourism destination and the need for action to be taken relatively quickly because of the amount of traffic generated by freer access to the island when the *Philanderer* ferry came on stream—it was my view and that of officers of Tourism South Australia that we should develop a program to enable various facilities on the island to be upgraded over a five year period. About \$1 million was allocated to that program. In most instances Tourism South Australia will fully fund those projects,



although there will be some instances where a sharing of costs will occur.

Therefore, a number of projects have already been undertaken during the past two financial years. I believe that the expenditure so far is about \$300 000. The councils draw on additional funding as they prepare the individual projects. However, we still have quite a considerable amount of work to do. During the coming financial year something in excess of \$230 000 has been allocated for projects to be undertaken.

I refer to a question by the member for Coles in relation to commissions. The figure of \$447 000 on page 361 refers to commission earnings from sales to the public via our Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney travel centres which is returned to and retained by the agency for use in marketing activities. The figure on page 41 refers to total commission earnings. That includes Government business bookings commissions which are not retained by the agency but which go back to the Treasury for other Government purposes.

The decrease in commission earnings is due to a downturn that took place in Government travel bookings during the previous financial year and a downturn in private business bookings that are made through the travel centre. That decrease would be brought about by the tighter financial controls that have been exerted in various Government agencies over the past 12 months. There may also be a figure which represents a slight downturn in public bookings through the travel centre as a result of the decrease in rate of visitations as a result of Expo. However, that figure would be difficult to identify or separate.

**Mr De LAINE:** Has the unjustified adverse publicity directed at the *Island Seaway* had any detrimental effect on Kangaroo Island tourism this year?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** First, it has been rather destructive of the efforts of people on Kangaroo Island and of the efforts of Tourism South Australia in our promotional activities for Kangaroo Island that during the past few months the only context, outside our own publicity campaigns, in which Kangaroo Island seems to be mentioned in the local media is in relation to criticisms that have been directed towards the *Island Seaway*. That cannot be very helpful in developing positive attitudes on the part of people in Adelaide towards Kangaroo Island as a destination. That is of some concern to me.

However, with respect to the *Island Seaway* itself, as a tourism vessel, it probably has not had a significant impact in terms of visitation to the island by way of that vessel. The Adelaide Travel Centre reported that it has had very few inquiries and bookings for travel to Kangaroo Island via the *Island Seaway*, because people appear to have identified that ship as a transport vessel rather than a tourism ferry. In fact, most of the inquiries that are received about Kangaroo Island as a destination come from people who are interested in getting there in the shortest possible time. They are much more interested in making inquiries about air bookings and travel on the *Philanderer* in order to gain access to Kangaroo Island.

The Adelaide Travel Centre has also indicated that prior to the commissioning of the *Island Seaway*, when the old *Troubridge* was in operation, it noticed a considerable downturn in commission on bookings on the *Troubridge* when the *Philanderer* was brought into operation.

In fact, after that event there were probably no more than 20 bookings a year for travel to Kangaroo Island on the *Troubridge*. A vehicle which is reasonably slow probably will not attract the sort of attention from tourists which a faster vehicle will. I believe that the sorts of problems which have been discussed in the media in relation to the *Island*

*Seaway*, whether right or wrong, have created a public perception about the vehicle, but I do not think it has had any impact on its use as a tourist vehicle.

**Mr De LAINE:** The South Australian Maritime Museum at Port Adelaide, because of its tourist drawing ability, is a very important part of the State's tourism repertoire. Well over 100 000 people visited the museum in its first year of operation; can the Minister tell us whether it has continued to draw as many visitors, or more visitors, in its second year?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I do not have the visitation figures for the second year of operation of the Maritime Museum, but it has gone from strength to strength. It is now a very popular tourist attraction and many families in Adelaide, as well as visitors to Adelaide from other parts of Australia and the world, are visiting the Maritime Museum and are very impressed with what they see. It has been very successful.

I am sure that the member for Price, who represents the Port Adelaide area, will be well aware of the increased visitation that the Maritime Museum and other developments in the Port Adelaide area have brought to the City of Port Adelaide and the various other operators within the town. I imagine that there would be considerable additional expenditure now residing in the cash registers of various operations in and around the Maritime Museum which previously would not have enjoyed such patronage, and the people who administer the museum have been very successful in promoting not only the museum but the entire area of Port Adelaide. As further developments come on stream with the railway museum and various things which will complement the Maritime Museum, we will see the Port Adelaide precinct gaining in importance as a tourist attraction.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** I refer to page 353 of the Program Estimates. Will the Minister outline the current arrangements for representation in interstate and overseas locations, excluding Melbourne and Sydney (which are well known to us all); will she indicate the 1987-88 cost of each; and will she indicate as far as possible the cost benefit of each and the priority the Government places on each overseas destination as a target market?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I am not sure that I have all the information that the honourable member has requested. It is very difficult to respond to multiple questions that require figures and information that in many cases is very complex, but I will do the best I can and, if I cannot provide all the information that the honourable member requires, perhaps a supplementary question can be answered. But as far as our international markets are concerned, Tourism South Australia is represented in Japan; the United States (that is, in Los Angeles); Singapore, where our officer is responsible for other parts of South-East Asia from that base; and London. The tourism officer who is employed in the Agent-General's office in London to work on tourism issues also takes care of our interests in Europe. We also have representation in New Zealand. Prior to the last Estimates Committees I think we had representation in Western Australia through a private sector organisation. In addition, in this past financial year we employed an officer to work in Brisbane on behalf of Tourism South Australia. Although that officer is not there to respond to requests and queries from members of the public at this stage, she has been very active in past months in making valuable contacts with people in the travel trade and also working with our representatives at Expo in making contacts which will be of considerable value to us in determining our future representation in Queensland.

In Japan our agent is Elders, representing the interests of Tourism South Australia in Toyko. Our representative is Mr Toyo Tanaka who has been working for Tourism South Australia through Elders for four years. In the United States we have our own officer, an expatriot Australian, who has lived and worked in Los Angeles for some time and who joined Tourism South Australia in May 1987. In Singapore, we also have our own officer, who first went to Singapore as a secondee working in the Australian Tourism Commission office; when the ATC ceased the secondee program, we decided to keep our officer there and he is now working full time on work for Tourism South Australia in those South-East Asian markets. I said previously that we have a tourism officer working in the Agent-General's office in London, and in New Zealand we are represented by one of our officers, who is located in Auckland. I have provided figures relating to the cost of activities in those markets during the past year.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** That was marketing. I referred to the difference between marketing and the actual establishment of representation.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The figures which I gave earlier related to the all-up costs, or the administrative costs and the activities budgets for those offices.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** I put on notice my request for information that differentiates between the cost of representation (namely, the salary, or the commission or fee for an agent) and the marketing effort, which is quite a different component.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I do not have a breakdown of figures for the two components relating to the previous year's figures, but I have given the overall figures. I will obtain the relevant figures at a later date. I will also provide the comparable figures for this coming year.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** I again refer to page 353 of the Program Estimates. How much of the marketing funds allocated to intrastate tourism will be directed to the regions and in what form will those funds be made available?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The expenditure for intrastate promotion that will be directed to the regions this year is \$70 000 and, in relation to other expenditure, money will be devoted to various other advertising activities to promote the State in a more general way, and I anticipate regions will also gain some exposure and spin-off.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** In what form will that be made available? Will it be a direct grant for expenditure, or will it be in the form of actual promotional pamphlets as determined by the agency?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** We intend to allocate this money to five major promotions in which the regional organisations will participate.

**Mr Fisher:** In the past, \$6 500 was provided for each region. Following discussions with regional chairpersons, it was decided that the proficiency and efficiency of the whole State should be promoted and this year, in cooperation with the regions in five distinct areas, we will promote the State. Those areas are the Adelaide and Melbourne Caravan Camping Shows, \$20 000; Western Australian promotion, \$10 000; the Aussie News Fair, which does not come under this budget, \$8 000; and \$20 000 will be used for a major intrastate campaign. Another \$20 000 will also be used for promotions interstate as a State promotion activity by utilising two major road shows, one of which takes off in October and the other will be in April next year.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** From my calculations, that makes \$78 000 for the regions.

**Mr Fisher:** The \$8 000 will come from the region promotions line. There is also another \$30 000 in my expenditure line for region promotions which will be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis with regional moneys. We hope that there will be cooperative advertising money of up to \$200 000.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** Thank you. I am getting good information from the officers. What recommendations of the regional tourism review have been implemented; what recommendations have not been implemented; and why have those recommendations not been implemented?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** All of the recommendations of the review into regional tourism have been implemented by Tourism South Australia. The last recommendation to be implemented related to the appointment of regional promotion officers. The latest appointment took place relatively recently. The new structure is now well and truly in place. As I understand it, the regional associations are very happy with the new organisation and the new officers, both regional managers and promotional officers, are now getting on with the job of working with the local organisations in putting together their promotional programs for the forthcoming year.

**Mr TYLER:** At page 358, the Program Estimates state:

Tourism is a vital contributor to the economy and one of South Australia's biggest employers. But South Australia must not be complacent about tourism. The tourism market is fiercely competitive and becoming more so each year as all States fight to win a greater share of the income and jobs that tourism creates. In 1986-87, South Australia's share of intrastate visitor nights was 7.4 per cent, interstate visitor nights 8.8 per cent and international visitor nights 7 per cent.

What is the extent of the role played by tourism in the economy and what are the approximate job numbers involved in the hospitality industry? Further, if we link that with a quite massive increase in the marketing budget of about \$1.9 million (which I understand is about a 46 per cent increase), does the Government believe it is getting good return from the dollar that it is investing into the tourism industry?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** Just correcting the figures that the honourable member has stated, we actually have a \$1.6 million increase in this year's budget, representing a 49 to 50 per cent increase in the marketing area.

**Mr TYLER:** I was comparing the \$4.058 million actual 1987-88 line with the \$5.914 million proposed 1988-89, which is about \$1.9 million. I take the point that the proposed line for last year was \$4.208 million.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I will not argue about the figures, but the fact that the Government has now allocated a significant increase to the tourism budget this year is an indication that it takes tourism very seriously and believes that it can play a significant role in boosting the State's economy. In fact, it has been estimated that the tourism industry is now worth something like \$1 billion to the South Australian economy, taking into account intrastate tourism activity as well as the visitation of people from other parts of Australia and overseas. Well over 30 000 people are now employed in South Australia in either a full-time or part-time capacity in the tourism and hospitality occupations. It plays a significant role in the State's economy in terms of dollar revenue and in providing jobs for South Australians.

One of the significant factors that is often overlooked with the employment aspect is that often successful tourism operations in country areas can mean the difference between young people having to leave town to find work once they have left school or staying in their local community with their families by finding employment in some of the tourism operations. It is an important industry; the Government

recognises that; and it has demonstrated this by the significant increase in this year's tourism budget.

It has been estimated that for approximately every \$1 million spent on tourism promotion or marketing we can expect something like \$20 million return to the economy in one form or another. If those estimates are anywhere near accurate, it can be seen that the additional resources which the Government puts into tourism promotion, coupled with promotional work that is undertaken by people in the industry, can in future have a significant impact on the State's economy. I trust that the additional resources that we will be putting into tourism advertising in the coming 12 months will bring significant financial returns to the State economy and strengthen my case over the next 12 months when putting further submissions to the Government in arguing a case for even greater increases in our marketing and promotion efforts.

**Mr TYLER:** The marketing budget is substantially higher than last year, and that is a move that I welcome. The Minister should be congratulated for the way that she handles her portfolio and for getting that increase. I think I am correct in saying that it is the biggest increase, since the first Bannon budget, in marketing, which involved about a 90 per cent increase for that year. The Minister stated that the industry is worth in excess of \$1 billion to the economy of South Australia. How often does the department or Treasury review that figure and analyse what the industry is contributing to the economy?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** We rely very much on information from the Bureau of Industry Economics in determining the various factors that need to be taken into account in assessing the value of tourism to the State's economy. The bureau has been able to undertake only periodic reviews of industry figures and there are sometimes years between those reviews. For an industry such as tourism, which is growing at the current rate with the rapid change that is emerging in this area and with the enormous unprecedented growth in international tourism that is taking place in South Australia, that is not good enough.

The newly established Bureau of Tourism Research, which is located in Canberra and which started operations during the past year, is now planning to take over the function that was previously performed by the Bureau of Industry Economics, and it will undertake annual surveys. So, in future we will have much more accurate measurements of the value of tourism and the emerging trends. In fact, I believe that the Bureau of Tourism Research will play an important role, not only in assessing what we have achieved in the tourism industry in the past but also in providing from its research projects valuable up-to-date information on trends in tourism which will enable us more effectively to plan future activities.

**Mr TYLER:** I note from page 360 of the Program Estimates that a range of cooperative marketing activities were undertaken in 1987-88. What marketing activities were undertaken by Tourism South Australia in the last financial year and what resources were allocated by the industry to match Government input?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** That question was asked by the member for Coles. I have already given information on the general marketing activities that were undertaken from Tourism South Australia's central point of view. In addition, the regional organisations worked closely with Tourism South Australia on various cooperative marketing efforts, and I am happy to run through some of the figures in that area. For example, \$8 000 was allocated to support operators in regions who attended and promoted their wares at the Aussie News Fair in February this year. Regional tourist

associations and operators cooperatively funded many of those activities to the tune of about \$10 000. Combined with the Aussie News Fair promotion, the agency with the houseboat operators cooperatively promoted the houseboat industry on the River Murray; \$6 000 was devoted to that.

The State's regions were cooperatively promoted at both the Adelaide and Melbourne caravan and camping shows during the year. The Caravan Parks Association of South Australia and the caravan park and houseboat operators of the State also actively participated and contributed \$5 000. The regional tourist associations contributed about \$6 000 to that effort, and our Melbourne office contributed \$8 000. Financial support was provided to the Eyre and Flinders outback regions to attend the 1988 Western Australian travel holiday and show. They considered that promotion to be exceptionally successful and it is anticipated that they will want to attend the 1989 promotion. The cost to TSA was \$6 000 and the tourist association input was \$4 000.

There was also a promotion in the Bourke Street Mall in Melbourne in 1987 which was so successful that the regional tourism people decided that they would like to undertake a similar exercise in Adelaide. In fact, that took place over five days in November last year and was, indeed, very successful. The regional tourist associations contributed \$2 500 to that activity and Tourism South Australia contributed \$5 000. In addition, a joint South-East and Murray River promotion was cooperatively funded by the agency and regional tourist associations and was held in the Western Victorian city of Ballarat. The regional tourist associations and TSA contributed \$1 000. The Talkabout Seminar was conducted in the Flinders Ranges. RACV and NRMA operators attended that seminar and received information on the various aspects of the regions. TSA and the regions contributed \$3 000 for that promotion.

In addition, TSA also allocated \$6 500 to each region for combined marketing activity, as outlined by Mike Fisher in reply to an earlier question. Therefore, considerable cooperative advertising has been undertaken with the regions on a number of promotions which they collectively felt were very useful and many of which will be repeated this year.

**Mr TYLER:** I am aware that State tourism awards serve a very useful purpose as a means of raising industry standards. They are eagerly awaited by people involved in the industry. What is the future of State tourism awards?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** This year's tourism awards presentation was by far the most successful in South Australia. The standard of nominees and entrants has improved significantly every year. The standard of entries and of the operations being nominated has improved, and the standard of the awards presentation itself is improving. This year it was held at the Hyatt Regency, being the first major function held in the ballroom of that hotel, and I am sure that everyone who had the opportunity to attend would agree that it was a spectacular evening and very successful both in raising media awareness of the tourism industry and in providing a focus for the industry and an opportunity for its members to come together, mix socially and share information on and pride in the industry of which they are part.

The fact that we have these annual tourism awards means that during the course of the year attention can be drawn to the industry in a way which might not otherwise happen, and each of the regions undertakes its own separate awards presentation prior to the State presentation, which means that in every region attention is drawn to the various tourism operations. Tourism operators have an opportunity to measure their own performance and standards against winners each year, and considerable competition has been generated between tourism operators who all wish to be involved

in the awards nowadays and who are very keen to raise their own standards in order to satisfy the criteria applied at judging time.

With the reorganisation of categories during this past 12 months, our categories of awards now match the national categories, and many South Australian award winners have gone into the national tourism award situation and have been successful. During the past 12 months two South Australian winners participated in the national awards, there were several judges' commendations, and many South Australian operations were amongst the finalists in particular categories.

Although our industry is based largely on fairly small operations, it is made up of operations which are nationally very competitive, and all of these activities help to keep State tourism in the limelight throughout the year, culminating in the awards presentations at the end of every year.

In future, the tourism awards will grow and will continue to be very successful. In the past two years we have been very lucky to have the sponsorship of the State Bank, and during this past year the State Bank contribution was increased. I understand that for the next year there will be a further increase in sponsorship from that bank, and that activity has helped enormously to lift the standard of the tourism awards presentations. I believe that there is nowhere to go but up.

**Mr TYLER:** As a supplementary question, it would be extremely useful if the Minister could provide details now of the various winners in the respective categories or, supply details later.

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I can remember some of the winners off the top of my head.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** On a point of order, the member for Fisher has already asked two supplementary questions. The information he is now seeking has been on the public record for some weeks in a variety of capacities. There is less than five minutes to go and much questioning still to be done. There is no line covering this schedule, in accordance with the Standing Orders, for the question the honourable member has just asked.

**The CHAIRMAN:** Will the honourable member please put the question again.

**Mr TYLER:** I asked for the various categories of award winners of the State tourism awards, and I did say that it might be a question on notice.

**The CHAIRMAN:** This will involve a quite complex ruling and looking at the time it is not going to help anybody. Is the Minister prepared to accept the question (and I will not rule whether it is relevant or not) as being given on notice and provide an answer later?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I would not be able to give the answer to all of the appropriate category winners at this time, anyway, so I shall be happy to take the question on notice and provide an answer for the honourable member later.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** What was the cost of changing the name of the Department of Tourism to Tourism South Australia?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** I do not have the figure in front of me but the only cost that was involved, as I recall, in the change of name to Tourism South Australia was the cost involved in changing the letterhead and other stationery.

**The Hon. J.L. CASHMORE:** What was the cost and what was the outcome in terms of increased visitor numbers in the regions of the Town and Country Pub type promotion to which the Minister referred in last year's Budget Estimates Committee?

**The Hon. Barbara Wiese:** The Town and Country Pub campaign to which I referred during the last estimates, did not occur. The reason was that we were working with the Australian Hotels Association on the preparation of that campaign and some problems emerged during the course of those negotiations as to how the campaign should be developed, and ultimately it was agreed that the campaign should not proceed at that time. Instead, of course, some of the resources that otherwise would have gone towards that campaign were devoted to the campaign that was designed to promote Kangaroo Island.

**The CHAIRMAN:** I declare the examination of the votes completed.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 9.58 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Thursday 22 September at 11 a.m.