

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 17 September 1991

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

Chairman:

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings

Members:

The Hon. P.B. Arnold
 Mr M.R. De Laine
 Mr K.C. Hamilton
 Mr V.S. Heron
 Mr R.B. Such
 The Hon. D.C. Wotton

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: As was the case last year, I intend to adopt a relatively informal procedure. There is no need to stand in order to ask and answer questions.

I suggest that, rather than having a series of questions asked of the Minister, it would be more constructive to ask one question and, if it is necessary to follow through, we can use the supplementary form of questioning, which will not in any way remove the right of individual members of the Committee to ask three questions in a row. Last year I found we were sometimes asking five or six questions, and it affects the role of this Committee. I understand that the Minister and the member for Heysen have reached an agreement as to the timetabling of the areas under the Minister's responsibility.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Yes, we have reached agreement on 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. being the time to consider Aboriginal Affairs questions.

The CHAIRMAN: Also, changes of composition of the Committee will be notified to the Committee as they occur. If the Minister undertakes to supply information at a later date, it must be in a form suitable for insertion in *Hansard* and two copies must be submitted no later than Friday, 4 October. I propose to allow the lead speaker for the Opposition and the Minister, if they so desire, to make an opening statement for about 10 minutes, but no longer than 15 minutes. I remind members of the suspension of Standing Orders that allows for Estimates Committees to ask for an explanation of matters relating to estimates of receipts. Prior to making any statement, I ask the Minister to introduce his advisers.

Witness:

The Hon. M.D. Rann, Minister of Employment and Further Education, Minister of Youth Affairs, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister of Ethnic Affairs.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr David Rathman, Director, State Aboriginal Affairs.
 Mr Graham Knill, Deputy Director, State Aboriginal Affairs.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I make my opening statement because I think there is sometimes confusion in the electorate—and even at times in Parliament—over the nature and responsibilities of State Aboriginal Affairs. Of course, State Aboriginal Affairs is the unit of Government that

services the portfolio responsibilities for Aboriginal advancement in this State. In the policy area, the major functions and achievements are:

- State Aboriginal Affairs operations are organised along similar lines to Cabinet responsibility, that is, human services, justice and economic development.
- The office has and will continue to provide advice to the Government on human service programs to ensure that the needs of Aboriginal people are met in culturally appropriate ways.
- The office has established and serviced the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee, which comprises senior representatives of Government, justice agencies and Aboriginal service groups.
- It provides executive support to the Aboriginal Education and Training Committee in the development of strategic plans to ensure that education and training services for Aboriginals are culturally appropriate and will redress the inequity experienced by Aboriginals in the education systems.
- Also, the office monitors the Government's responses to such significant inquiries as the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.
- The office seeks to involve Aboriginal people in local government activities by conducting information sessions for Aboriginal persons seeking to be candidates for local government elections and in other ways.
- It represents the State Government on the national function reviews being conducted in respect of Commonwealth-State relations for new funding arrangements to be determined at the special Premiers Conference late this year.
- State Aboriginal Affairs chaired the Specific Purpose Payments for Aboriginal Programs at the national level.

Basically, we have an overall policy view in terms of other Ministers' departments. Our advice is sought on a range of policy initiatives when they come before Cabinet, and, of course, State Aboriginal Affairs has a policy role in terms of outside agencies based on our communications with the Commonwealth and other areas.

State Aboriginal Affairs has the central role of monitoring and coordinating all State Government activities in Aboriginal affairs.

- In 1990-91 the office surveyed agency expenditure on Aboriginal specific and mainstream services assisting Aboriginal people. The survey revealed that South Australia contributes \$5 to every \$1 put in by the Commonwealth.
- State Aboriginal Affairs participated in a number of coordinating forums including interdepartmental committees convened to assess the appropriateness of services for Aboriginal youth; interdepartmental committees established to research the needs of Aboriginal youths and families in the northern suburbs; and established an interagency forum of service agencies at Port Augusta.
- The unit provided overviews on departmental responses to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.
- It supported Aboriginal community projects in developing contacts with State Government agencies and overcoming difficulties with their programs.

In relation to the area of legislative administration:

State Aboriginal Affairs is responsible for the administration of the Lands Trust Act, the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act and the Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act. State Aboriginal Affairs prepared the legislative amendments to enable unallotted Crown land including the Oklea sites of significance to be added into the Maralinga Tjarutja Land

Grant. That is currently before Parliament. State Aboriginal Affairs provided executive support to the two Aboriginal lands parliamentary committees. It was represented on the Aboriginal Lands Trust and provided considerable administrative and consultative support to the trust. Mulgunya hostel, South Terrace, was purchased by the Government in January. The title to the hostel is vested with the trust and is leased back to the Aboriginal Sobriety Group for use as a shelter and sobering-up facility for homeless Aboriginal alcoholics. Procedures are in place for the imminent transfer of the Wanilla Forest to the Lands Trust for commercial development by the Port Lincoln Aboriginal Organisation. In addition, I have convened joint meetings with the three land-holding authorities to coordinate planning and determine consistent approaches to Aboriginal land ownership and development.

Apart from those three areas, we are also involved in community support. State Aboriginal Affairs maintains a vital link between Aboriginal communities and the Government, and not just with this Government but with local government and the Commonwealth Government. It seeks to assist individuals and organisations to have access to Government departments and to mediate in the resolution of conflict. I think that it has a very important role in that, whilst State Aboriginal Affairs is not a service delivery agency in the sense that people ring up and say, 'Can you send 10 of your Aboriginal social workers to wherever'—we do not have Aboriginal social workers, we are not that kind of agency—it very much acts as an advocate for Aboriginal people, as a mediator, and is very much involved in providing information to Aboriginal communities to assist them. Of course, it also provides information to students and research workers on all aspects of their studies to promote effective community relations.

In concluding, I pay a tribute to State Aboriginal Affairs. It is a tiny unit in the broad spectrum of Government that is increasingly being called upon by other agencies, statutory authorities, Government Ministers, the Commonwealth and communities to play a more prominent role in trying to achieve greater self-determination and independence for Aboriginal people. The simple fact remains that the first Australians are still the last Australians when it comes to health, education, unemployment and in terms of their representation in the justice system. In a whole range of areas Aboriginal people are the most disadvantaged in this nation. This small unit is doing an outstanding job, which is recognised nationally, in trying to advance the interests of their people.

Minister of Employment and Further Education, Minister of Youth Affairs, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister Assisting the Minister of Ethnic Affairs, Miscellaneous,
\$2 491 000

Works and Services—Office of Aboriginal Affairs, \$380 000

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

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I put my first question on notice, because it requires a fair bit of detail and I do not need the information immediately. Will the Minister provide details of the specific responsibilities of each person working in the Office of Aboriginal Affairs? How many of those people working in the office were not appointed following a position being advertised? In other words, how many positions resulted from the position being advertised? How many women are employed in the office, and I refer

here to page 492 of the Program Estimates which, under '1991-92 Specific Targets/Objectives' states:

Introduce community projects for Aboriginal women in cooperation with human services . . .

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will be very happy to get a report on that. In relation to Aboriginal women, we recently advertised internally, through the Public Service, for a Women's Issues Officer.

I have been concerned for some time that it is vitally important that David Rathman and I have independent advice in relation to the critical role of women in Aboriginal communities and perhaps some of the different issues with which they are confronted. Obviously, the issues of domestic violence, child care and education of children are very important to Aboriginal women and are matters that have been raised with me by Aboriginal women. Of course, a number of Aboriginal women are working in Aboriginal affairs at the moment.

The division of responsibilities is such (and I will certainly get the detailed report for the honourable member) that we have people such as Wilbur Wilson, the esteemed football player, who has been involved in Aboriginal affairs for many years and who spends some time servicing the communities around the State. He is a frequent visitor to those communities. We have people such as Alan O'Connor, who has taken a very keen interest in Aboriginal justice issues and, therefore, has performed a vital role in terms of the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody report and the dry areas legislation and Graham Knill, who is obviously very involved in the responsibilities of the three statutory authorities of the three landholding bodies. David Rathman as Director is often called upon to chair committees of inquiry and other Ministers' areas relating to Aboriginal concerns.

Jenny Kennedy is someone in Aboriginal affairs who is currently very much involved in looking at the welfare role and dealing with community development matters. Liz Tongerie is an Aboriginal woman who is quite well known by many people for her role in Aboriginal affairs over many years. She is currently involved in working through our office with local government. George Tongerie is also working in Aboriginal affairs. He was formerly the head of the Aboriginal and Islander Coordinating Unit of the Department for Community Welfare (FACS, as it is known today) and has also had a number of roles and received awards from the Queen for his service to Aboriginal people. He fought in the Second World War for his country and, just as importantly, for the past 50 years he has been fighting for his people. He is also the Mayor of Oodnadatta and worked in a range of ways, and I think he is doing some outstanding work for Aboriginal people. I have covered about half the office; I can provide the honourable member with more details. Obviously, there is secretarial support, much of which is involved with Aboriginal personnel.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Have you been advised or have you received representation from Aboriginal families who are concerned about the recent spate of car thefts and joy rides in metropolitan and some country areas? If so, what action is the Government taking to support the parents of Aboriginal people involved who are looking for appropriate penalties to be handed down and who have expressed their obvious concern and disappointment over the way that this matter has been handled?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will refer that question to Mr Rathman, who is the Chairman of the Aboriginal Advisory Committee. He has looked at a range of these areas and has recently held a meeting on this problem.

Mr Rathman: The situation in the Salisbury/Elizabeth area has been under investigation for some time now and

a successful program is operating at Elizabeth West involving the police and Family and Community Services, which have been trying to deal with this problem for some months. We recently had a meeting between Government departments and representatives of the Salisbury Aboriginal Community Group. It is intended to hold a workshop at Elizabeth on 27 September, with a view to setting up an interagency forum, which will involve community groups to attack the issue (amongst others) of the question of police chases. It should be made known to members that we are facing a situation in the Salisbury/Elizabeth area that is far deeper than just the question of police chases of offenders.

In comparing the unemployment rate figures just recently with those of five years ago, the current rate is even more dramatic, running at about 42 per cent at Salisbury up to 60 per cent at Munno Para. That rate is unacceptably high. The single parent ratio, even in Aboriginal terms, is far higher than the State average, with about 30 per cent of the families in the area being in the single parent group. We are trying to get a single agency group together to attack the issue, not just purely from the offender element, but to try to do something about the family structure and some of the unemployment issues that need to be addressed.

The officers of the Family and Community Services Department are proceeding to establish an Aboriginal Youth Action Committee which they hope will involve most Aboriginal communities. At present, the department has a number of youth action groups being set up across the State. The Aboriginal education workers have been recruited by the Education Department as part of a State youth strategy, and recently appointed some youth resource centres. So, there is some action with respect to this area to try to develop a strategy which not only targets the offender issue but tries to address the social issues at the same time. We have a view that the underlying social issues would cause extreme difficulty if they were mirrored in the rest of the community.

If there was an unemployment rate of 60 per cent, there would not be a few isolated police chases occurring—there would be something more dramatic than that, and we have seen that in the European context. In the Aboriginal context, certainly we do not condone the question of high speed police chases, but we believe that the matter needs to be addressed further in terms of the underlying issues.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The Attorney-General and the Minister of Emergency Services also have crucial roles. The honourable member would be aware that the Attorney-General recently made a major announcement on this matter.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I would like to return to that subject later. What has happened to the report by former Premier Don Dunstan proposing a separate form of local government for Aboriginal communities, a report described by the Minister as 'a challenge to all of us' when he tabled it in March last year? Has it been gathering dust for the past 17 months or when, if at all, does the Government intend to implement its recommendations? In the media statement that accompanied the release of that report, Mr Dunstan is quoted as saying, 'Special laws are needed to restore some balance of rights and justice to the Aboriginal population.'

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am surprised that the shadow Minister would think that it would be gathering dust, because we have already made a number of announcements relating to that report with respect to putting it into effect. Also, I will be able to make an announcement today, which I am sure will excite the shadow Minister. I refer to two reports—the Ware report, which is the review of the Aboriginal Lands

Trust, and the Dunstan report. Let me go through both reports and explain where we are heading with each.

The Ware report was completed in October 1990 following three years of review of the purpose and function of the Aboriginal Lands Trust. In conjunction with the review of the Aboriginal Lands Trust, carried out under the chairmanship of Bob Ware, the Government also commissioned the Dunstan report on Aboriginal Community Government, which was presented in July 1989 and tabled in Parliament on 28 March 1990. The Government has had discussions with the three land-holding bodies in South Australia—Maralinga Tjarutja Anangu Pitjantjatjara, and the Aboriginal Lands Trust—in relation to the findings of these two major reports.

The Dunstan report and the Ware report recommended major changes to the structure and function of the Aboriginal Lands Trust and the other two landholding bodies in three major areas: improving the access of Aboriginal communities to local government funds and services; mechanisms to achieve a greater economic return from Aboriginal Lands Trust land (and that was one of the central features of the Dunstan report); and procedures for identifying traditional owners.

One of the things that Don Dunstan noted was the need for the Aboriginal Lands Trust communities to have the same access to provisions in the law relating to the banning of alcohol on Aboriginal Lands Trust lands—and the shadow Minister will be aware that the Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Act and the Maralinga Tjarutja Land Rights Act enabled those statutory authorities to outlaw alcohol and to provide a range of measures to try to reduce the problems of alcohol in Aboriginal communities. That same legal provision was not in effect in terms of the Aboriginal Lands Trust, and Don Dunstan was a strong supporter of changes to the legislation.

With the unanimous support of Parliament, we changed the legislation to allow each of the Aboriginal Lands Trust councils with representatives on the Lands Trust to have that right, rather than the Lands Trust generally saying that Koonibba, Yalata or Gerard must be alcohol free. The Yalata community, which has been quite tragically hit by alcohol abuse—and again, this is something that dovetails into the whole Maralinga nuclear testing episode, particularly in terms of the impact on the lives of people at Yalata—voted to declare itself a dry area. I hope that if other communities want to do so, they will take advantage of that legislation.

To allow the Parliament a greater insight into land management and community Government issues concerning Aboriginal Lands Trust land, legislation is currently being considered to establish a parliamentary committee on Aboriginal lands. That committee will have the same powers and functions as the parliamentary committees currently established under the Maralinga Tjarutja and Pitjantjatjara Land Rights Acts. In relation to the economic development of the Aboriginal Lands Trust lands, Don Dunstan went to places such as Point MacLeay, Ralkon, Point Pearce and Gerard, and was, obviously, very disturbed to see that those lands were not being economically developed to their potential.

I am very happy to announce to this Committee that we intend to take the historic step of establishing a business advisory panel to come under the Aboriginal Lands Trust. That panel will include experienced South Australian business people who will be able to advise business and community enterprises on Aboriginal Lands Trust land on management issues in relation to enterprises. I hope that legislation for this purpose will be introduced this session.

The Government is keen not to duplicate the services and responsibilities of the Commonwealth Government through ATSIC and DEET in relation to enterprise development.

The State Government will be working closely with these Commonwealth agencies to increase the return from the lands held under the Aboriginal Lands Trust. Essentially, we will follow Don Dunstan's suggestion and take advantage of a group of outstanding citizens, the names of whom I will announce at a later stage, who have volunteered to help Aboriginal people and who have said that they are prepared to give up three or four weeks of their time for nothing. If an Aboriginal community at Ralton or Gerard comes to the Aboriginal Lands Trust and says, 'We would like some assistance or advice from one of these experts who form the panel,' someone will be sent to assist that community. The board or panel will include the Chairman of the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Someone can be sent to assist the community in: first, developing submissions to the Commonwealth for funding under ATSIC and DEET; secondly, to be able to negotiate with the Commonwealth, with the Aboriginal people; and, thirdly, to develop training plans, as this group will be serviced by officers of DETAFE in the area of Aboriginal community government, and will also be serviced by an executive officer with experience both in Aboriginal issues and in agriculture.

These people will also be involved in assisting in negotiations with banks but, rather than doing things for Aboriginal people, it will be very much a way of assisting Aboriginal people to develop plans, assisting them with those enterprises and being involved in follow-up advice and support. It will not be in any way a lending agency, but will be giving assistance to Aboriginal communities.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: This is not a question to the Committee, but is the Minister prepared to make the statement he has just made available to the Opposition for comment?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Hopefully, it would be a supportive comment, because it is very important.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Is the Minister prepared to provide it?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Yes, the press release is just being typed.

Mr HERON: Page 492 of the Program Estimates refers to the Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Report. I know that there are many concerns about the level of resources provided to the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement. What action has been taken by the Minister to address this issue?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Are you referring specifically to Aboriginal deaths in custody or to the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement?

Mr HERON: Yes, resources provided to the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I share the honourable member's concern in that regard. I believe that for years the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement has been doing a marvellous job in terms of representing Aboriginal people. I was very concerned that, when the report into Aboriginal deaths in custody was released, the Royal Commissioner, Elliott Johnston, basically identified that a lack of resources was provided to the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement over the years and felt that there needed to be more done in this area. A number of recommendations were made in regard to this topic.

I have recently been to Canberra and at a meeting of Aboriginal Affairs Ministers, which included the Federal Minister and the Federal Attorney-General, I raised the issue of funding for the Legal Rights Movement and said

that, if we were seriously going to address many of the issues identified by Elliott Johnston, then I thought that we had to bite the bullet and the Commonwealth had to provide greater funding. The Legal Rights Movement is a Commonwealth funded body and I think that we have to ensure that the Commonwealth does not duck its responsibilities in terms of adequate funding.

It is quite clear to me that the Legal Rights Movement in South Australia is under-resourced and that the organisation is being stretched too far. Aboriginal communities in a number of country areas are not being properly serviced. That is not a fault of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement; rather, it is just a symptom of the lack of funds.

Mr HERON: What has been done to ensure that the Aboriginal visitors scheme remains in operation? As I understand it, the Commonwealth has withdrawn funding to this scheme.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a very important question, because I have to say that I got quite cross at the Federal meeting of Ministers to hear our Federal counterparts preach to us about what we should be doing in partnership with them in terms of implementing the report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. They are telling us that we could not expect the Commonwealth to do it all. I said, 'That is all very well, but what did you do the last time when the Muirhead report came down?'. South Australia spent about \$10 million in implementing the Muirhead recommendations. The Commonwealth's role was to provide about \$350 000 to South Australia. That ratio of about 30 to 1 is not what I call a partnership.

It is interesting to note that that grant, which was made in 1989-90, was then discontinued. The Aboriginal visitors scheme was established as a State Government initiative in response to the interim report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in December 1988. The interim report contained 56 recommendations. Recommendation 22 stated:

In consultation with Aboriginal communities and their organisations cell visitor schemes should be introduced to service police lockups and watch-houses wherever practicable.

As part of the South Australian Government strategy to implement the recommendations of the royal commission, an Aboriginal visitors scheme was established by State Aboriginal Affairs in association with police and Aboriginal agencies.

The primary objective of the Aboriginal visitors scheme is to provide one means of reducing the likelihood of Aboriginal people dying in custody by enabling accredited Aboriginal persons to visit Aborigines detained in police holding cells to provide comfort and support to detainees, to counsel them through the period of stress, and to ensure that the community is satisfied that Aboriginal detainees are dealt with justly and humanely in detention centres.

In 1989-90 a Commonwealth grant of \$350 000 was provided. The Aboriginal visitors scheme, that operates in the metropolitan area, covers six metropolitan police regions. From July 1989 to March 1991 the Aboriginal visitors scheme received 1 029 call-outs in the metropolitan region alone, which is an average of 52 a month.

A subcontract agreement placed the day-to-day operation and management of the scheme in the metropolitan area with the Aboriginal Sobriety Group. This arrangement was consistent with the scheme's objectives of providing an Aboriginal controlled service based on self-help concepts.

In the country areas Aboriginal community organisations have become the host organisations for the scheme. The Aboriginal visitors scheme represents a direct personal intervention program to provide assistance, support and counselling to those Aborigines at risk of self-destructive

behaviour when detained in police cells and lockup facilities. Already in South Australia it has proved to be an effective intervention strategy in line with the findings of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

There have been no Aboriginal deaths in custody in police cells since the scheme was introduced. In August 1990 State Aboriginal Affairs was advised by ATSIC, the Federal body, that no further Commonwealth funds would be provided for Muirhead initiatives, for example, the Aboriginal visitors scheme. Despite requests from ATSIC to reconsider its position, including arguments by me and support by every Minister from every State and Territory from Liberal and Labor Governments at the Aboriginal Affairs Council in Darwin in December 1990 and at subsequent meetings, the Commonwealth has maintained its position of no further funding.

Aboriginal communities and their organisations have requested that State Aboriginal Affairs find a way to continue the scheme throughout South Australia on the basis that the total yearly budget for the Aboriginal visitors scheme is significantly less than the direct and indirect costs associated with the inquiries, investigations and processes undertaken for any individual death in custody.

I am pleased to be able to inform this Committee that the Department of Correctional Services has been able to transfer \$150 000 to support this scheme and that, added to some carry over funds from the Aboriginal Commonwealth grant, will ensure that the scheme continues. I say to Commonwealth officials who tell us what to do to get their own act together first.

Mr HERON: Page 492 of the Program Estimates refers to promoting the cultural development of Aboriginal people in South Australia. I am aware that the Minister is concerned about Aboriginal languages. Will he outline what is happening in South Australia to maintain and develop Aboriginal languages?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The issue of Aboriginal languages is something that I regard as one of our priorities. Members will be aware that the South Australian Government recently announced a major campaign to save several local Aboriginal languages from destruction. We hear a lot about saving various forms of endangered species and we have heard about the need to save things of enormous heritage value. What can be of more importance to our heritage than a distinct Australian language?

When white settlers arrived in Australia, about 270 distinct Aboriginal languages and about 800 dialects were being spoken in Australia. Currently, there are 50 nationwide and nearly all those are in danger of extinction. It is estimated that between 25 to 30 Aboriginal languages were spoken in South Australia prior to European contact. In South Australia Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara is perhaps the only language being acquired to the extent where children and adults converse fluently in that language on a daily basis. Some people are predicting that, by the turn of the century or shortly afterwards, that may be one of only three or four thriving Aboriginal languages left in this country.

The Adnyamathanha (Flinders Ranges) and Arabana (Marree/Lake Eyre) languages are still being spoken by older people but are no longer being acquired by children as a complete language. However, some adult education classes in Ngarrindjeri are run through the Gerry Mason Aboriginal Community centre in Glossop. The language of Narrunga (Yorke Peninsula) and Kurna (Adelaide Plains) have also been documented, but to a lesser extent. Boandik (South-East) and Peramangk (Adelaide Hills) are languages about which little is known, but people still identify strongly with the name.

Language is an enormous source of pride. Australian Aboriginal languages have immeasurable heritage value to all Australians, not just Aboriginal populations. They are inseparable from the identity of those Aboriginal people who speak them or identify with them—whether their language is a strong community language, one left in a threatened state or one that now requires a retrieval or revival project.

I believe that we as a community—and I hope that we will get bipartisan support for this—must do better. It would be a shameful indictment of our society if we allowed our own South Australian languages to die.

The recent report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody made clear recommendations on the need to encourage Aboriginal language development. I am pleased to say that I have convened a task force on Aboriginal languages to look at the best way we can maintain and develop South Australia's unique linguistic heritage.

I have established a task force to examine the feasibility of establishing an Aboriginal languages institute that will network through the South Australian communities. I have also asked for suggestions on ways of involving our universities, TAFE and all schools in a greater effort to develop tertiary level courses for speakers and teachers of languages. I call on the Commonwealth Government, universities, ATSIC and the private sector to support this valuable initiative. As a first step, this task force is convening a workshop next month, involving both language professionals and community people with a passion in maintaining and developing their language. This workshop will look at what is already happening in South Australia, it will draw all the ideas people have on new initiatives needed, and it will finish up with a blueprint on directions that this State must take in order to preserve its languages.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: There is an understandable concern within the Aboriginal community regarding the number of suicides that have occurred. For example, I understand that two suicides have occurred in less than a month in the town of Marree, which has caused concern in that area. A report that was released earlier this year suggested that Aboriginal people in South Australia have a suicide rate six times higher than that of non-Aborigines. How many Aboriginal suicides have occurred in South Australia during the past 12 months, and how does this compare with the previous five years?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will take that question on notice. It is an area in which I share the shadow Minister's concern. Last year a report was conducted about the extent of suicide and attempted suicides by Aboriginal people. I shall endeavour to provide some more information for the shadow Minister.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Last year in the Estimates Committee, I asked the Minister about the availability of mental health services for Aboriginal youth. That question was taken on notice and, as a result, I did receive a reply from the Minister later. In that reply the Minister states:

In the meantime, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service of the South Australian Health Commission has been asked to look at opportunities to redirect resources towards Aboriginal youth and, if possible, to establish at least a nucleus for a specialist team.

Will the Minister provide an update on that program?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We are currently looking at a number of things which impact on that matter. We are looking at our community care strategy, our youth at risk strategy and the national Aboriginal health strategy, which has just been announced. Of course, the Aboriginal Health Council was formed with the dual role of policy adviser to

the Health Commission and as a tripartite forum which will have a strategic planning role in terms of looking at specific Aboriginal and mental health issues. I think David Rathman has been involved recently in talks in this area, so I invite him to comment.

Mr Rathman: There is still a continuing need to examine the question of mental health services to support Aboriginal youth in dealing specifically with deaths in their family and also the question of suicides in the family and amongst their own peer groups. At the moment, a number of initiatives is being put forward to the Commonwealth Government as part of the national health strategy to try to address this matter. In fact, the Aboriginal Health Council is having discussions with its various health services in an attempt to come up with a common strategy to address the question of suicides and mental health problems amongst Aboriginal youth. The national health strategy proposal will be going forward to the Commonwealth within the next two weeks in an endeavour to secure resources for these areas.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We have established an inter-agency group to look at Aboriginal youth and to coordinate a range of responses to problems in the crime area and in a range of other areas. One outcome of this group is the establishment of the jointly-funded Aboriginal youth at risk program, which is run through Salisbury TAFE. We are also looking at a ministerial advisory committee on Aboriginal youth, which will be serviced through State Youth Affairs. Nominations have now been received from people in the community and from expert groups for representation on that committee. There is support for the establishment of similar task groups to focus on addressing Aboriginal youth issues at the regional level, and I think members would be aware of some of the work we are doing in terms of Port Augusta. There is greatly improved communication and cooperation between agencies with responsibility for services for Aboriginal youth and, according to our research, a significant reduction has occurred in the involvement of Aboriginal youths in offending behaviour in the inner city. As David Rathman said, the need for mental health services to support Aboriginal youths coping with deaths and suicide in family and peer groups, high unemployment and a range of other pressures must be addressed. It is an incredibly complex issue.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Currently, what is the percentage of Aboriginal youths in custody? How successful has the Turkndil project been at providing job training and constructing daily activities in community programs? Will the Minister also provide that information?

I have been made aware of concern within Aboriginal communities about HACC programs. As I understand it, the Aborigines wanted these programs run by local organisations, but the Government, having admitted that there were problems, put the programs under the control of an Aboriginal elders committee. The Minister would be aware that he replied to my question on this subject only a month or so ago. Who are the members of the elders committee, and how and to whom are the members held accountable?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We will be happy to provide that information. The Aboriginal Community Options program closed at the end of June 1991, and the Aboriginal Home Care (HACC) program replaced it immediately under the temporary auspices of the Aboriginal Community Recreation Health Services Centre Incorporated. Restructuring and training of the Aboriginal Elders Management Committee Inc. will take place over the next 12 months, with a view to its resuming control of the HACC program and other aged care initiatives. However, I will certainly provide more information on it.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I understand that the HACC program has not provided any report on the investigation into the Brady Street loss of substantial amounts of money and financial records. Will the Minister also provide details on that?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I invite Mr Rathman to comment on that.

Mr Rathman: The Brady Street investigation was carried out by the Department for Family and Community Services HACC group, and I will be happy to seek information for the Opposition on that matter.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We will contact the Minister, Dr Hopgood, and ask for more information.

Mr De LAINE: Page 492 of the Program Estimates under '1990-91 Specific Targets/Objectives' states:

Coordinated the State participation in a Commonwealth-State relations working party.

Mention is often made of the need to reduce duplication between Commonwealth and State Governments. What is being done to overcome this duplication?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It is interesting that the issue of coordination is a hardy perennial in Aboriginal Affairs. I think that all of us who have been members of the Aboriginal parliamentary lands committees have been concerned about duplication, particularly at the Commonwealth level. I remember that some years ago, when I accompanied the Chairman to the Aboriginal lands, I was told by some Aboriginal people that there was a constant stream of Commonwealth officials coming through with technical reports wanting to do surveys, and that this was contributing considerably to confusion. Last month Aboriginal Affairs Ministers, known as the AAAC, met in Alice Springs.

This meeting of Ministers from all round the nation resolved to accept the report of the Commonwealth-State-Territory local government working party entitled 'Achieving Greater Coordination of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs and Services'. That working party, of which Mr Rathman was a member, particularly sought to address: first, a cooperative national approach; secondly, a coherent planning framework; thirdly, a clear definition of the roles of respective Governments; fourthly, a more efficient and effective delivery of services; and, fifthly, greater self-determination and self-management by Aboriginal people.

Ministers agreed unanimously that new arrangements would be put in place for the planning, coordination and delivery of programs and services, and that this report would provide the basis for discussions at the special Premiers Conference in November 1991. I hope and pray that this will be a vital first step in ensuring that the services offered to Aboriginal communities are delivered in an efficient and effective way to assist the people rather than to duplicate services involving officials.

Mr De LAINE: Page 492 of the Program Estimates under '1990-91 Specific Targets/Objectives' states:

Continued participation in an interagency working group, that is, dry areas legislation.

I know that the Minister is very aware of some of the problems that are being experienced at Port Adelaide and the devastating effect of alcohol on the local Aborigines in that area. What strategies are being and are to be implemented on the recommendations of the interagency working group in the matters of alcoholism and dry areas?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think we have already announced that, whilst dry areas can be effective in some ways, they often do not deal with the actual cause of the problems. I think there is a danger in a willy-nilly approach to dry areas: if you establish a dry area, it does not solve the problem

but merely moves it somewhere else, maybe from the central town location into the suburbs or to another community. I think we are saying in terms of dry areas that there is a responsibility from those groups seeking dry areas, that is, local government, to say, 'Dry areas can be an interim step, but what support, services and policies will you introduce in order to ensure that dry areas are not necessary in terms of dealing with the social and community problems?'

Perhaps I can deal with a couple of issues. Port Adelaide, I know, is of central concern to the honourable member. In 1988 a series of meetings took place at the Port Adelaide Aboriginal Community College with Government agencies and the Port Adelaide council to discuss the problems of Aboriginal people drinking alcohol in the Port Mall. I think it would be fair to say that these meetings faded out without really tangible outcomes. The Port Adelaide City Council applied to the Liquor Licensing Court for dry areas, and its application for approval came into effect on 21 December 1989. State Aboriginal Affairs objected to the dry areas legislation as it then was because it was seen to be specifically targeting one group, and it wanted to have a more comprehensive look at the real problems and the causes of those problems.

Since the beginning of the year, the State Aboriginal Affairs, the Department for Family and Community Services and the Port Adelaide City Council have been working on developing an Aboriginal community development project for the Port Adelaide Aboriginal community. That is the kind of approach I think we need to look at—one that is comprehensive, cooperative and coordinated.

On Monday 18 July the Port Adelaide City Council passed a resolution at its council meeting to accept the Aboriginal community development project and the appointment of an Aboriginal community development officer, which is something we had wanted to achieve at Port Adelaide for some time, and we are pleased at this cooperative approach. Officers of the Department for Family and Community Services, Port Adelaide City Council, Premier and Cabinet and State Aboriginal Affairs have been holding discussions about the problems of persons drinking to excess in public. The group is anxious to promote action-based consultation with the Aboriginal community and, as a result, we have been investigating a commercial opportunities proposal put to the Aboriginal community.

Initial interest has been shown by people involved in tourism, and if funding can be established a commercial feasibility study will follow, and the position of Aboriginal community worker to be working in Port Adelaide should be filled by the end of next month.

In terms of dry areas, Yalata is a problem that comes up all the time, and there is community concern at the problems caused by alcohol abuse. Despite the use of regulations that we, as a Parliament, approved, there are still problems. The background to those problems at Yalata is that, following the closure of the Ooldea mission and access to the Maralinga lands because of the atomic test series back in the 1950s, many traditional people were basically brought to Yalata and exposed to a completely different lifestyle, and their culture was under serious stress, threat and breakdown.

Many people have used alcohol to excess, leading to high levels of assault, domestic violence, rape, neglect of children and motor vehicle accidents over the years. Last year, we amended the Aboriginal Lands Trust Act to allow communities to ban or control alcohol on their lands, and Yalata was the first community to apply for and obtain these powers. It has been a mixed success. The community wanted the dry area, but there have been complaints from the Far

West Fire Brigade that Yalata people were purchasing large quantities of alcohol at Nundroo and consuming it along the highway. This has posed a serious road safety threat, and a number of tragic deaths of Yalata residents, which have been linked to alcohol abuse, have occurred on Eyre Highway. The Yalata Community Council has made a request to the Liquor Licensing Commissioner, seeking restrictions on alcohol sales to Yalata residents from the Nundroo hotel. A letter from 42 Aboriginal women from Yalata and Oak Valley, seeking assistance from women in Aboriginal Legal Rights and the police in relation to violent males has been received, as I understand it.

One positive action was the opening in November 1990 of a police station at Yalata and the appointment of two Aboriginal police aides. The Liquor Licensing Commissioner, together with officers from the State Department of Aboriginal Affairs and ATSIC, recently consulted with key agencies, community representatives and licensees in the area. The Yalata council has now proposed that no alcohol be sold to residents of or visitors to Yalata lands by the Nundroo hotel. The Commissioner will need to conduct negotiations with the licensee, who will also raise with the relevant agencies other issues such as speed limits passed road houses. The Aboriginal lands committee, of which the member for Chaffey is a member, may have to look at other amendments to the Act to deal with drinking on areas not covered by the Act, such as the highway, and enable police to confiscate vehicles supplying alcohol and by defining the regulations more tightly.

Mr De LAINE: Further to that question, the Minister has twice referred today to alcohol controls on Aboriginal lands in the Aboriginal communities, and I have observed a very large increase in the number of Aborigines in Port Adelaide, for instance, who have come down from the north. Is there any evidence which might suggest that these alcohol controls in the tribal lands are having an influence in causing large numbers of Aboriginal people to come south to areas such as Port Adelaide, where they can get more access to alcohol?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am not aware of any specific evidence; there may be apocryphal evidence, and some people may be coming from Port Augusta, where there are established liquor outlets. Of course, people come to Port Adelaide or move to other areas for a range of family reasons. It is a very complex issue, and that is why I am very pleased that the Port Adelaide council is about to appoint a community development officer to deal with this issue. David Rathman may be better equipped to answer that question.

Mr Rathman: A number of the groups in Port Adelaide are from the West Coast, but there are groups of people from Western Australia and, from other evidence, also from the Northern Territory. It may or may not be known to members that on a number of occasions many people come down and support families who are here for medical reasons and, to this end, Aboriginal Hostels Limited is about to open a new hostel close to the Queen Elizabeth hospital, which will assist the situation that is now being confronted in the Port Adelaide area. However, a mixed group of people living in the Port Adelaide area come from a range of different places.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: The member for Peake referred to the issue of the Aboriginal visitors scheme, and the conflict between the office in South Australia and the Federal department over funding. I understand that the argument or position which the Federal Government or the Minister put forward is largely that their main problem or claim was inadequate accountability for the money that was

spent in relation to providing equipment, administration and that sort of thing. Is there any validity in that argument put forward by the Government?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That was not the argument that was put to me by the Federal Government. As I understand it, we spent \$10 million on implementing the Muirhead report. Other States are still talking about implementing that report but we got cracking with implementing a whole range of designs and other initiatives. I think the Aboriginal scheme has worked particularly well; people have been trained very well; and I understand that the police are very happy with the scheme. I think that, with the changes from the Federal department to ATSIC, there was a changed view that it was intended only as seed money, just to get the scheme started. That was not conveyed to us when it was set up, particularly when the Commonwealth Government was talking about a partnership in dealing with the royal commission recommendations.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: Following on from that, what impact will the cut in funding by the Federal Government have on the metropolitan alcohol program? Will that also be affected?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The Department of Correctional Services has given us some money to maintain the Aboriginal visitors scheme. In response to the Muirhead report and with State funds, we also set up the mobile assistance patrol, which cost some hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is a fleet of cars and people who are trained under the auspices of the Aboriginal visitors scheme, basically to assist Aboriginal people who are affected by alcohol and take them home, to a hospital, to a detoxification unit or to a shelter. That scheme has been working particularly well in terms of the advice I have been given.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: That will not be affected?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That will not be affected, and we hope that, with the opening of the former Mulganya hospital which has been delayed, to my annoyance, but which is on stream, they will be able to dovetail with each other; I think that is very important.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: How would the Minister describe the working relationship between the State Government and the State office of ATSIC? I ask that question because it has been brought to my attention of late by a number of Aboriginal people who have applied for funding for homes and for benefits, which applications now seem to be having a high rate of rejection or failure. Is it as a result of a Federal cutback, or has something gone wrong? I thought it was a good setup initially, but a number of people seem not to have been getting approvals through.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will probably be somewhat controversial in my comments, so I hope members will forgive me. I am getting tired of being lectured by the Commonwealth about Aboriginal affairs when I think they should get their own house in order first. I am getting tired of being lectured by Marshall Perron from the Northern Territory about how the Northern Territory is the only Government or Parliament that has done anything about land rights. I thought that was grossly insulting to David Tonkin, Don Dunstan and Greg Crafter, after the work they have done. We have said that, if they are really serious about reconciliation, which they have spent millions of dollars promoting, it must involve more than rhetoric.

Reconciliation must be about assisting Aboriginal people to have better outcomes in terms of health, employment and other areas. In terms of ATSIC, whilst it is good to have Aboriginal people making decisions about funding allocations, basically the role of ATSIC has still not been properly explained to people. There is massive confusion

about what ATSIC does and what is its role. People keep telling me stories that when they talk to ATSIC, often their concerns are referred to the Federal Government and, when they talk to the Federal Government, they say it is ATSIC's responsibility. I have raised it at a number of meetings. David Rathman might like to comment further. He has to deal with ATSIC on a daily basis.

Mr Rathman: There is still some confusion about ATSIC's function in Australia, and it concerns a lot of people. In direct respect to the business funding, I understand that ATSIC has put a reform strategy for future management of its business funding scheme. From our information, this has resulted in a freeze on all business funding moneys being made available by the ATSIC board of commissioners. As part of the strategy, ATSIC will undertake an investigation of each of its business loans that it has outstanding at the moment. It is under some pressure from the Commonwealth Finance Department to tidy up some of these business loans.

The other point is that we understand that this financial year, \$13.789 million is available from the Commonwealth for business funding schemes, and all but approximately \$1 million of the available funds is committed. It would appear that the honourable member's information is correct: there is not much available and there is not much flexibility in resourcing from the Commonwealth for business funding this financial year.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: I wonder where that leads us and the Aboriginal people? I have been advised that one of the largest representative groups in Port Augusta has been told recently that no funds are available for project development. If that is the case, the whole thing falls flat on its face.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is correct. I was at one meeting with a group of people where an ATSIC representative got stuck into me about why ATSIC was not providing funds. I said, 'You are on the committee that allocates the funds.' Self-determination and independence does and should mean that, but there is still a settling down process with ATSIC, and both David Rathman and I have raised concerns with the Commonwealth.

Another area of real irritation concerns Aboriginal employment. South Australia has launched its 1 per cent challenge. We have done very well in terms of the Public Service. I have just been advised that there will be a large funding cut from the Federal Government in terms of the Aboriginal employment program. Again, as I said to Minister Tickner, in terms of reconciliation, where is the beef? It will not be saleable reconciliation if it involves cuts in important programs like that.

Mr HAMILTON: I will follow up some of the questions asked in relation to assisting Aboriginal communities. The Minister may have to obtain a report. How many Aboriginal students are there in South Australia? How many of those students complete secondary and tertiary levels of education? What special programs exist to assist Aboriginal students—those having difficulties—both at primary and secondary level? What TAFE programs are available, not only for students but also their parents?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I shall certainly be happy to provide specific details. There have been a number of developments. There has been a fairly large increase in the number of university students who are Aboriginal people. We have the Aboriginal School of Education in TAFE, which is doing a very valuable task around the State. There is also the Aboriginal Community College, based at Port Adelaide and funded under one of my other portfolios. When we introduced legislation to establish the new University of South

Australia, for the first time in Australian history there were specific provisions relating to spreading tertiary education to Aboriginal people and involving Aboriginal people in tertiary studies. I understand that the university is currently considering the establishment of the first faculty in Australia of education in Aboriginal studies, which will be very important. However, I will obtain specific details and make sure they are forwarded to the honourable member.

Mr HAMILTON: The Minister may also provide information to the Committee as to the literacy programs that exist to assist Aboriginal people in South Australia, the extent of those programs and the number of Aboriginal people who are in need of literacy skills. Without a qualitative opportunity, how can people question what is happening in the community and what the Government is doing? My second question relates to Maralinga. What is happening in relation to the clean up of nuclear wastes at Maralinga? I know that the Minister has responded to a number of questions in the House on this matter. It is a very important issue to all South Australians. What responsibility does the British Government have, and what commitment, if any, has it made to clean up its bloody mess—excuse the expression—at Maralinga? It is about time that it accepted its responsibility, not only to the Aboriginal people in this country but to all Australians.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We intend to turn the focus of attention on to the British Government in terms of our campaign. I will go into that in a minute. Let me first provide a bit of background. When the tests occurred during the 1950s in particular, we had the situation where the problems we have at Yalata are very much a case of the tragedy of Maralinga being lived every day, in my view. There was a supposed attempt by the British to clean up the Maralinga mess in 1967, code named 'Operation Brumby'. That was a total phoney of a clean up exercise. In Operation Brumby they used rotary hoes to plough back into the top soil the plutonium and other radioactive wastes. However, it made the clean up problem worse.

Plutonium is the world's most dangerous radioactive substance. It remains radioactive for 250 000 years. Another attempt was made in 1979, when Des Corcoran was Premier, and a VC10 arrived from Britain with people wearing space suits. Radiation gear went up there. It was all supposed to be a secret raid in the desert to remove the plutonium. A small portion of the plutonium was removed in 1979. The British claim that their actions in 1967 and 1979 somehow absolve them from responsibility for clean up and compensation. That is immoral. The British Government must be called to account. Under Margaret Thatcher and John Major, the British Government has an environmental policy called 'polluter pays'. They have been talking about 'polluter pays' at both national and EEC forums.

What about the 'polluter pays' policy being applied to what happened here in South Australia? Last year I flew to Maralinga with the Federal Minister, Robert Tickner, to have meetings with the Aboriginal people, and was very irritated when, the day before we went, the British High Commission in Canberra issued a statement saying, 'We won't pay.' We strongly support Maralinga Tjarutja people in their bid for a clean up and compensation, and not just one without the other, because there needs to be a dinkum attempt to clean up the area and to ensure that Aboriginal people's health is not placed at risk.

There also needs to be compensation for the loss of their lands, not just over the past 30 years but in perpetuity, because we are talking about a contamination that lasts for hundreds of thousands of years. A British Broadcasting Corporation documentary crew, the same crew that worked

with David Attenborough on the excellent *Trials of Life* series, has been in South Australia, and on 19 October, at peak viewing time, the whole question of Maralinga and Britain's role will be aired on national television in Britain. We hope that this will put the blow-torch on the British in terms of accepting their responsibilities. We have heard a lot from British environmental groups, who do not seem particularly interested in what is happening down here, about the contamination of Windscale. I visited Windscale. The name was changed to Sellafield in the hope that people would forget where it was, since it became such a problem, but compared with the contamination at Maralinga what happened at Windscale was just a piddle in the Irish Sea, and I made that point on a BBC program.

In terms of contamination, we must keep up the pressure. I am irritated to learn that the Federal Cabinet has delayed a decision that we expected about three weeks ago. An SBS documentary raised a number of controversial matters about whether reports had been doctored, but I accept the response from the Federal Government that there was no deliberate doctoring of reports except in the area of avoiding the further proliferation of nuclear weapons by publishing information that could lead to people constructing nuclear bombs. However, I should like a decision made.

We had a royal commission conducted by Justice James McClelland in 1984, which reported in 1985, in which he made very clear recommendations as to both clean up and compensation by both the Federal and British Governments. It is now time for the Federal Government to bite the bullet and tell us where it is going. The people at Maralinga have been extraordinarily patient for a generation or more. The Maralinga Tjarutja people, led by Archie Barton, have been extraordinarily responsible and very patient in dealing with this matter. They have my total support in their negotiations, and the total support of the South Australian Government. We are committed to helping them achieve justice.

The Federal Government talks about reconciliation, and here is a real test. These people were nuked, contaminated, their culture and their lands were taken away from them and, if we are dinkum about reconciliation, here is the first test.

Mr HAMILTON: If the 'support' that the British Government gave to the workers at Windscale many years ago is any indication of the support they will give for the clean up at Maralinga, I do not hold a great deal of hope for it. I see that Government condemned in the eyes of the world for its lack of commitment to dealing with the pollution of Australian Aboriginal lands. Are there exchange programs for Aboriginal people in South Australia? How do they operate? Do they operate through Government agencies? What support, if any, is given by service clubs and other organisations in South Australia?

We see many of these exchange programs, and quite properly, given to Australian people, if you like, but although there may have been support, I have never heard of support from service clubs, in particular, to Aboriginal people. What sort of exchange programs are available in the community?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The idea of exchanges internationally is very important. Recently, we paid for an Aboriginal woman representative from South Australia to attend a conference on indigenous women's issues with the Sami people, who used to be known as the Lapland people of Scandinavia. I am also aware that Gordon Coulthard, from the Flinders-Port Augusta area, went to the United States last year to look at programs involving American Indians.

Agnes Rigney, who is an outstanding Australian who runs the Gerry Mason Centre in the Riverland, went to the

United States last year. I am not sure how she was funded, but it was an exchange of a woman who worked in arts and crafts with the US Indians coming to work in the Gerry Mason Centre while Agnes Rigney went to the United States.

These exchange programs are very valuable. Often, people gain insight. A number of things have been going on with the Yukon Indians, for example, in terms of economic development, that have affected my judgment about the way things should proceed here. We can learn from them. It is an excellent idea to involve service clubs, and I will take the matter up with them.

Mr HAMILTON: I should like to compliment the Minister on that, because I have been a guest speaker at a number of service clubs, and I have yet to see one occasion on which an Aborigine in South Australia has been given the opportunity, although that is not to say that that is not the case. I should like to know that support is given by service clubs in this area.

Mr SUCH: We have heard quite a few negatives today: will the Minister give some indication of positive outcomes in respect of Aboriginal people in the areas, for example, of employment, health, education and avoiding becoming involved in the criminal justice system? Do we have any indicators that suggest that progress is being made and that the Aborigines are actually moving forward?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a very constructive question and, certainly, there are. There has been a marked increase in the number of Aboriginal university students and graduates at the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia, in particular. In terms of our employment initiatives, a couple of years ago a program was launched to have 1 per cent Aboriginal employment in Public Service departments, which was to reflect the 1 per cent ratio in the population.

Many people sneered and said that it could not be achieved, but it has been. We have reached the 1 per cent target. We then spread that 1 per cent challenge, as we called it, to statutory authorities and local government. Again, this follows from the shadow Minister's question in relation to the Dunstan report. We spread the challenge to the statutory authorities and local government, and there has been some real progress.

In human services agencies, Aboriginal employment for 1990-91 totalled 249 female employees. That includes the Health Commission, FACS, employment, and the Departments of Technical and Further Education and Education: 249 female permanent and 138 male permanent employees. There were 79 female temporary, and 43 male temporary.

In justice and consumer affairs agencies the figures were 14 permanent females, 19 permanent males and four temporary males. In economic and State development agencies the figures were 16 permanent females, three permanent males, eight temporary females and three temporary males. The total of all agencies was as follows: 308 permanent females, 218 permanent males, 93 temporary females and 71 temporary males.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I wonder whether the Minister would be prepared to table or incorporate that document into *Hansard*.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I table it. As I travel around the State, and I am sure that as a member of the committee the member for Chaffey agrees, I constantly see a number of really good stories arise which I try to promote and often we do not get a good run from the media. Elliott Johnston's report highlights the fact that the media has to do better in Australia in terms of fair treatment of Aboriginal people.

The honourable member raised the question of positive responses in terms of initiatives. The final report of the

Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody came down only a few months ago. Other States are still looking at the Muirhead report of a few years ago. As a Government we have already endorsed more than 95 per cent of the recommendations of that report, and we have already implemented, or are in the process of implementing, more than 60 per cent of the recommendations. I think that there is absolutely no doubt at all these forums I attend that, despite the fact that there are real problems (and no-one would try to dismiss those problems), South Australia is leading the way in terms of trying to deal with them. Further, I think that we are taking the lead in a bipartisan way. I think that the Aboriginal parliamentary committee of which the Chairman and the member for Chaffey are members does an outstanding job. It is interesting to note that interstate Ministers of different political persuasions are currently saying that that initiative is a good way to deal with the problems. We can only be harmed by those who want constantly to try to put down Aboriginal people and I know that that is not the case with members opposite.

Mr SUCH: As a supplementary question, would the Minister consider publishing a composite aggregation of positive outcomes, not as propaganda but, rather, just so that the community can be made aware of the progress that is being made? I think that would go a long way towards helping to combat some of the negatives we hear.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Absolutely, and that is a great idea.

Mr SUCH: My second question relates to the important topic of self-determination for Aboriginal people. Can the Minister indicate any progress in that regard?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In terms of land rights, 1 per cent of South Australia's population comprises Aboriginal people and 23 per cent of our land area is under inalienable Aboriginal ownership. We currently have legislation before the Parliament to put 3 500 square kilometres of land in the Ooldea regions under the ownership of the Maralinga Tjarutja people. I certainly think that that is a sort of foundation stone for self-determination.

Although there have been some outstanding successes, I have been concerned about the lack of success of many Aboriginal business ventures. I do not blame Aboriginal people for that situation. I think there has been a lack of effort in terms of training and advice across the nation and that is why we are in the process of setting up this Aboriginal Business Advisory Panel, not to lend money but to lend advice and a helping handup as opposed to handouts.

Mr SUCH: My third question relates to whether or not the Government has considered producing a document that details the budget impact for all departments in respect of Aboriginal people that would give an aggregate expenditure so that we can monitor more closely what is going on?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: A couple of things are going on in that area. As the honourable member knows, there is a women's budget. I was actually against that suggestion in the area of Aboriginal affairs, because it takes an enormous amount of effort to compile it. I would rather our people were out there working at the coalface, so to speak, but I think we are in the process of doing a major audit as to how much is being spent and done by different agencies.

Mr Rathman: At the moment the audit is in the process of being finalised. I believe that the honourable member's question is being addressed. We are preparing the budget on two fronts. One is in respect of the Government response to the report of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody that is due to be prepared by March 1992. Those details will give us a clear indication of expenditures.

Secondly, we are preparing a report for the Minister and the Government on Aboriginal programs in South Australia and I think that those two initiatives, along with the human services audit which is in the process of being finalised (and a report will go to the October meeting of the human services subcommittee of Cabinet), will address the question asked by the honourable member.

Mr HERON: Page 492 of the Program Estimates lists as a broad objective the promotion of economic development of Aboriginal people in South Australia. What strategies have been or will be put in place to achieve that objective?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think I probably covered this matter in response to a question from the Opposition about the establishment of the Aboriginal Business Panel. In Western Australia, back in 1985 or 1986, an Aboriginal enterprise company was set up specifically by the Government. It was called a company although it acts basically like a statutory authority. It was set up to provide assistance to Aboriginal people in terms of advice. They looked at something that on the surface does not seem important but to Aboriginal people it is vitally important and that is the community store, which is often the centre of Aboriginal communities. Western Australia found that there were persistent failures and bankruptcies in terms of the operation of community stores, so this Aboriginal enterprise company went out there and worked with Aboriginal people to develop things like training in terms of how to handle cash flow, buying and the whole small business concerns. That concept has been an outstanding success and that is something we want to emulate here.

I think that that Aboriginal enterprise company made the initial mistake of trying to act like some kind of a bank and lent money. Their advice to me is that the way we are going in terms of offering advice and training support is probably the best way we can go in relation to ATSI's and DEET's role in providing funding. There is no point in setting up an alternate funding agency. The Commonwealth has clear responsibilities in that area. What we are doing is setting up a body to help Aboriginal people to access those funds and to ensure perhaps a better success rate.

Mr HERON: Under the heading '1990-91 Specific Targets and Objectives' page 492 of the Program Estimates states that a review was conducted of the mobile assistance patrol scheme. What were the findings of that review?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The review found that the mobile assistance patrol has been an outstanding success. As I mentioned before, it grew out of the Aboriginal Sobriety Group, which runs the program. People who are under stress or who are alcohol affected are assisted by the mobile assistance patrol rather than the police to find shelter and are given care. Part of the project was to respond to the recommendations of the Muirhead royal commission which, of course, have been reaffirmed by the Elliott Johnston royal commission, about trying to divert people who are alcohol affected out of the criminal justice system and into a caring situation. David Rathman has more to say about mobile assistance patrols.

Mr Rathman: The review found that the police have been happy with the assistance provided by the mobile assistance group. In fact, the mobile assistance patrol has worked also with commercial groups within the business district. There have been incidents involving banks where it was not necessary to call in the police because people knew about and used the patrol. The only problems that have been identified are those of resourcing the vehicles and general staffing of the mobile assistance patrol, which has been under enormous pressure since it was established. That matter is being

addressed by the Aboriginal Sobriety Group in discussions with the South Australian Health Commission.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: I understand that two overseas trips are being funded by the State and that one such trip will be undertaken by the group Redbuck; that some members of that group are non-Aboriginal people; that funding is being provided for travelling and expenses by the State; and that the group will be overseas for six weeks. What criteria were used to select that group? How much funding was made available? How was the itinerary put together? What benefits or results can the State expect from its funding?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am not involved in the funding of the group Redbuck; I have never heard of it.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: As the Minister would know, no detail has been provided concerning funding in the Estimates.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: State Aboriginal Affairs and my department are not funding the group Redbuck.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: As I understand it, the Centre for Aboriginal Studies and Music, which is funded through the State department, has a responsibility to that group.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: No, the University of Adelaide, which is federally funded and has its own statutory independence, has that responsibility.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Are you suggesting that no State money is being paid to that group?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Certainly none that I administer, but it will be checked out for the honourable member.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Recently, a survey was conducted of Aboriginal households in Adelaide which found high rates of child sexual abuse and rape. The Minister would be aware of that report, which is entitled 'Through Black Eyes'. How was that information obtained? What objective research was carried out to determine the accuracy of that handbook? As the Minister would be aware, the information contained in that handbook is quite staggering. It indicates that about 85 per cent of the child sexual abuse occurred to female children in their home by a member of their extended family and went unreported. Miss O'Donoghue, who was speaking at the launch of 'Through Black Eyes', stated that low health, education and employment levels and a high rate of imprisonment among Aboriginal people were contributing to domestic violence in the Aboriginal community. Will the Minister comment on that?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think that Elliott Johnston's royal commission report, which consists of 5 000 pages and which contains 339 recommendations, is probably the best report on the causes of Aboriginal injustice and disadvantage that has ever been produced. It is an outstanding document, and I regard it as a blueprint for tackling these issues. One point he makes is that there is never any easy, quick fix, but that things must be addressed across a range of fronts and agencies.

Lois O'Donoghue is the Chairperson of ATSI, the Federal agency. From memory, that report was prepared by the Aboriginal Child Care Agency, which is headed by Brian Butler. I am not sure of the methodology used by ACCA in its research, because I do not fund that research. However, I will endeavour to find out how it did it, whether it was by way of survey of households or some other means. As I said, that was not funded by State Aboriginal Affairs.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Can the Minister provide information regarding the progress that has been made towards solving the problems raised with the parliamentary committee apparently year after year by the Mintabie Progress Association, matters such as the extension of the field,

powers, and so on? I understand that it is a matter of concern that has been raised on numerous occasions.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It has been of concern. We are dealing with Aboriginal land; that is the bottom line. That was the deal David Tonkin made with the Aboriginal people, and that was the deal that I know members on both sides of the House want to honour. There were problems in terms of negotiations back in 1988-89. On a parliamentary trip in July, I visited Mintabie to talk with the miners and a change in leadership had occurred amongst the miners. The mining community with whom I met on that occasion had quite a different attitude from that of the previous year. Indeed, members of the community told me that an excellent rapport was growing between the miners and the Aboriginal people, and they thought negotiations were proceeding extremely well. In relation to the extension and other matters, members of the community felt that a different relationship had evolved.

Mr De LAINE: I believe that Aboriginal police aides are extremely beneficial to the police and also to Aboriginal people in enabling better communication between the communities and the police. How successful are Aboriginal police aides? Are there any plans to extend the program to other areas?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I agree with the member for Price that Aboriginal police aides have been one of the great improvements made in the area of Aboriginal justice in recent years. That is a fairly new initiative, one which has not been without difficulty in terms of identifying the right people and in terms of training. Originally, the aides were selected principally to work in communities such as Indulkana and Ernabella, and often they were people who had authority under not only general community law in terms of their authority as police aides but also under Aboriginal law because often they were elders. When I was on the former Minister's committee, at Marla, I met with a group of these people, I was impressed with their calibre. The feedback from the communities and the police generally has been outstanding. The scheme has been extended to include Maralinga, Yalata, Port Augusta and Elizabeth.

I met with the three police aides serving the Elizabeth and Salisbury area and was again enormously impressed with the calibre of the people involved. I think that one of the main thrusts of Elliott Johnston's royal commission was that programs and initiatives affecting Aboriginal people are best run by Aboriginal people, that often an Aboriginal police aide or Aboriginal police officer—and obviously we would be very keen to see more Aboriginal police officers as well—has the rapport, understanding and knowledge to deal with Aboriginal problems as they occur. We have been able to assist, through my portfolios, with our 1 per cent challenge, and we have been using that funding to take on extra Aboriginal police aides.

Mr De LAINE: As a supplementary question, are there any plans or strategies to expand that to actual Aboriginal police officers?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am aware that one of the police aides at Elizabeth who, because she is involved in university study, intends going through to police officer standing. I invite David Rathman, who is the Chairman of the Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee and who is in frequent contact with the Police Commissioner, to comment.

Mr Rathman: The police intend encouraging officers who come under the police aides scheme to advance into police training. In fact, they are making provision for some form of accreditation of their effort which has occurred in the training program that already exists for police aides and in the subsequent duties that they carry out in their role as

police aides in various districts. These people are being encouraged to advance to constable level and to take up training at the academy. There is a move not only to encourage these people to go on to police status as constables but also to externally encourage more Aboriginal people to take the opportunity of becoming police officers in the Police Force parallel to the police aides program.

Mr De LAINE: Page 492 of the Program Estimates under 'Issues/Trends' states:

To assist with the promotion of healthy lifestyles and living environments for Aboriginal people in South Australia.

It is well known that Aboriginal family traditional cultural differences cause problems in local communities, especially in electorates like mine, in relation to housing. Will the Minister explain the strategies and objectives to fully integrate Aboriginal families into the general community? Will these strategies and objectives entail assisting Aboriginal families to operate more smoothly along traditional lines or encouraging families to adopt European family traditions?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That very much depends on the situation and the location. Perhaps I can give the honourable member an answer that will partly cover that. In terms of that healthy lifestyle and dealing with litter and problems like that, a few months ago we launched the *pulya*—which means 'good' in Pitjantjatjara—clean communities competition. Seven communities and seven homelands in the Pitjantjatjara lands—14 in all—have asked to be involved in the campaign, which is to be run in association with KESAB. This basically follows visits that I have made to the lands and to the communities on which I have seen a great deal of litter. It is very hard to encourage young people, particularly young children, to develop healthy lifestyles in that situation.

I understand the difficulties concerned because Aboriginal people in these communities do not have the advantage of regular rubbish collections and all the services and infrastructure that we in the city take for granted. When I launched this scheme, which was a kind of a personal initiative—and I was a bit concerned about how it would be received in Aboriginal communities—I was delighted that virtually every community faxed or sent letters saying that they wanted to be involved. Many communities are already making a real effort to keep their environment clean and tidy. Of course, loose litter and rubbish is always a problem in outback areas, so we are very keen to work with the Aboriginal communities.

Some of the applications that we have received already have been quite outstanding. The submissions suggest tree planting and beautification projects, as well as cleaning up rubbish and tincans around houses, schools, clinics and community centres. Some communities are proposing innovative ideas for dealing with rubbish, including abandoned car bodies. It is quite clear from the submissions that everyone, including schoolchildren, will be involved in each community's clean-up campaign, and we want to integrate it with local community health and hygiene efforts. A trophy and a sporting goods voucher worth \$1 000 will be awarded to the community that is judged to be the most improved, and there are runner-up and consolation prizes. The judging will begin late next month. That is an example of how we are tackling the problem in one area of traditional lifestyle in the Pitjantjatjara lands.

In terms of issues at Port Adelaide, I guess that is something that I hope the new community development officer will work with in the community. A lot of people said to me, before we launched the *pulya* competition, that it would be culturally inappropriate and that it would not be taken up by Aboriginal people, and that one is basically going

down the wrong track in trying somehow to transplant the KESAB tidy towns idea into Aboriginal traditional culture. In answer to that, I say that the answer is in the response: 14 communities were invited and 14 communities responded enthusiastically. If it is successful and works well in the Pitjantjatjara lands we will develop the scheme later to include Lands Trust areas and Maralinga Tjarutja.

The Hon. D.C. WOTTON: Will the Minister provide, on notice, information about the current financial situation of the Pika Wiya Health Service? How much State funding was provided to that service during the past 12 months? When will the report that was prepared for the Chairman of the Health Commission be made public? If it is not to be made public, why not? Why has the drug and alcohol problem again been found to be unsatisfactory at WOMA? What resources were provided to WOMA during the past 12 months? Out of the past 12 months, what percentage of the year has WOMA been operational?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: These questions might be more appropriately addressed to the Minister of Health, as he funds these programs. I will be happy to ask for that information.

Mr SUCH: Some people have suggested that rather than having spent \$40 million on the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, it would have been better to spend that money at the delivery level, helping Aboriginal people. Will the Minister respond to that?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: A lot of the money was spent in dealing with the 99 individual deaths, with very comprehensive reports. I was certainly quite staggered about the amount of money that was spent on the royal commission. However, I think that Elliott Johnston's report is outstanding. It should enable us to better target services and formulate policies across this nation, and it is something we should all use as a blueprint for action. The other States got a real caning from the royal commission, and South Australia did not. As with the reconciliation moneys, I want to see people helped out on the ground. I want to see more kids graduate from high school and more young people graduate from universities, people living longer and healthier lifestyles and opportunities for young people in terms of jobs. They are the fundamentals in Aboriginal Affairs. However, Elliott Johnston did a darn good job.

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

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

Office of Tertiary Education,
\$302 434 000
Works and Services—Office of Tertiary Education,
\$13 000 000

Chairman

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings

Members

The Hon. P.B. Arnold
Mr M.R. De Laine
Mr K.C. Hamilton
Mr V.S. Heron
Mr G.A. Ingerson
Mr R.B. Such

Witness:

The Hon. M.D. Rann, Minister of Employment and Further Education.

Departmental Advisers:

Dr Adam Graycar, Chief Executive Officer, Office of Tertiary Education.

Mr Robert Fletcher, Executive Officer (Resources and Planning), Office of Tertiary Education.

The CHAIRMAN: Members of the Committee will recall that this morning during questioning on Aboriginal Affairs we considered both proposed payments and proposed payments, capital works, together. I intend to allow the same flexibility this session, dealing with tertiary education, but I would like to draw members' attention to Standing Order 273. I would not think for a minute that Standing Order 273 would be invoked in this Committee session, but part 3 of that Standing Order provides that if any objection is taken to a ruling or decision of the Chairman, the Estimates Committee may continue to meet but may not further examine the vote then under consideration. The point I am making is that, while it can be seen as a hypothetical point, if we allow flexibility on questioning on the proposed payments, recurrent expenditure and proposed payments, capital works, and there was dissent to a ruling or decision of the Chairman to any line of questioning, that would immediately close off tertiary education. I think it is a point to be made to the Committee. I do not think we will have any problems with that but, as long as the Committee is aware that if we allow cross-questioning along those lines and that Standing Order is invoked, there will be a problem. I declare the proposed payments open for examination.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I would like to welcome Dr Adam Graycar, who is the Director of the Office of Tertiary Education, and I would like to mention that the Committee should recognise the fact that the University of New South Wales has just awarded Dr Graycar his second doctorate, the D.Litt., which is the highest degree a university can give, for the sum of his works over the past 20 years. It is only the fourth time that such an award has been given. On my left is his deputy, Robert Fletcher, who has played a very important role this year in the university amalgamations.

Rather than give a formal overview of tertiary education, in view of the time allotted and because I know that my learned colleagues would like me to avoid prolixity, I would like to say that in this area of tertiary education we have just been through the most elaborate changes in South Australia's history, in terms of tertiary education.

Last year we saw the merger of the University of Adelaide with Roseworthy Agricultural College and with the Adelaide campus of the former South Australian College of Advanced Education. We saw the merger of Flinders University with the Sturt campus of the former South Australian College of Advanced Education. We saw also the merger of the South Australian Institute of Technology with its three campuses at Whyalla, The Levels in my own electorate, and North Terrace, with three campuses of the former South Australian College, namely, the Underdale, Magill and Salisbury colleges. I think that was a period of massive change, and I want to thank all members of the House for assisting that difficult process. It has enabled us to move towards the year 2000 with a university system that is perhaps more relevant and better placed to take up the advantages of the next few years in terms of broadening access and equity for students. Rather than go through the nitty-gritty of what has been achieved, I think we should be open for questions.

Mr SUCH: The Opposition has been contacted by several constituents who are concerned about changes to the University of South Australia's Bachelor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, at the Whyalla campus of the university.

Their concern revolves around the decision to re-site the whole of the course to Flinders University from next year. However, I am advised that Flinders is operating only the first year of this course at their campus this year, and therefore next year will only accept first and second year undergraduates.

Assuming that all of Whyalla's fourth year students successfully graduate at the end of this year, this will still leave six full-time undergraduates and one part-time third year undergraduate with nowhere to go next year. They will not be able to continue their studies at Whyalla because, as I understand it, that course will no longer be available, and they will not be able to transfer to Flinders University, because that faculty will only accept first and second year undergraduates.

Clearly, these students will be left with very limited options. They can either defer their degree for one year which, besides upsetting their study schedule, puts them in a precarious position with the present high levels of unemployment. Alternatively, they could transfer to another university's engineering course. However, this may result in the student's then having to do additional catch-up work as various facilities' courses are rarely identical. Thirdly, they could simply drop out of the course, which would be a tragedy given that they would have already successfully completed half the course, and written off two years of their lives. What arrangements have been made to accommodate Whyalla's engineering students who will be in their third year of the above degree course in 1992?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am pleased to answer that, but I want to make a couple of things clear from the start. In South Australia, unlike the situation in some totalitarian systems, we do not have control over the universities in terms of what they do. Universities pride themselves on a statutory independence. If it were suggested that either the Liberal Party in South Australia or the Labor Party wanted to be able to tell the universities directly what to do, there would be pandemonium across Australia and, indeed, the free world. We have oversight of the universities in terms of their legislation, but not in terms of their course offerings.

I am aware of the complaints about degree offerings at the university's campus at Whyalla because constituents and Frank Blevins as the member for Whyalla have taken up the matter with me and I have corresponded with the university. I am meeting tomorrow with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Australia, Professor Alan Mead, and with his successor as Vice-Chancellor, whose appointment has recently been announced. Professor Mead has been overseas while I have been raising these matters, because I share the honourable member's concerns about offerings at Whyalla. I will certainly raise this with him directly. I have suggested to Dr June Stephenson, who is the Whyalla Education City representative and who is on the council of the University of South Australia (indeed, I appointed her to that council), that she raise this as an important issue on the council's agenda. I suggest to the honourable member that the Opposition's member of the council also raise the issue.

I should point out that the number of students enrolled at Whyalla has increased by 50 per cent, so getting university status has been a great thing for Whyalla. There are more course offerings there. I hope there will be more; I hope they will take advantage of some of the advanced learning technologies that we are pioneering in TAFE. The university will say there have been insufficient enrolments in engineering and that this is why this area has been scaled down. Without wishing to trample in any way on the university's

independence, we should join together to highlight these concerns.

Dr Graycar: In terms of the detail, when the matters were raised with our office, we sought information from other universities that offer electrical and electronic engineering by distance mode, and one of our officers has collected some material both from Monash University and the University of Southern Queensland. If we meet with the students, we are quite happy to try to negotiate on their behalf some opportunity to complete by distance if that is possible. We do not know whether that is to their liking but, nevertheless, we are happy to make sure that these people do not fall between the two stools, and we will see what we can do. This highlights the importance of credit transfer arrangements. If in fact the work they have done to date can be credited and put into a distance mode, we hope we can get adequate and easy completion of these courses.

Mr SUCH: Referring to page 487 of Program Estimates, last year in the Estimates Committee, when referring to the world university at the MFP in relation to talks with the United Nations University in Tokyo, the Minister said:

... with a view to whether there would be opportunities to establish a research institute in South Australia.

What progress, if any, has been made towards that end of establishing a research institute?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a good question. One of the things I would try to point out concerning the MFP and the role of the MFP's world university—and I think its title has been changed several times because that was just a working title—is that we certainly believe that higher education must be an integral part of the MFP. I do not believe that the MFP could succeed without that integration of higher education. We want to establish a series of world ranking research institutes connected with the MFP, and they are looking at areas such as primary health care, business administration or business studies, high tech electronics information systems, environmental science and so on.

I believe that the MFP university considerations must integrate with what our current universities are offering. I want to see our universities being very much a driving force, in partnership with universities overseas and interstate, if necessary, in ensuring that what we establish as part of the world university in the MFP is very much a distance education centre for South-East Asia and so on. Since the last Estimates Committee, a committee has been set up involving Professor Graycar and the three universities on MFP matters. That committee is chaired by Professor John Bowie, who is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide. It also includes representatives of the three other universities. Professor Graycar, who was involved in a trip to Japan in a recent visit to the United States, might like to elaborate further.

Dr Graycar: We are in the process currently of identifying mission statements for the institutes that are likely to be set up within the MFP academy, as we have started to call it now. The most advantaged is the information technology unit or centre. We are making very good progress on a languages and culture institute. The management institute looks like getting ready to flow early next year.

You asked specifically about the United Nations University. Last week one of its senior officers, Professor John Belcher, was in Adelaide for a couple of days. He had a long meeting with me last Thursday morning. I was unable to continue with him for the rest of the day, and he met with Professor Bowie and the committee of the University of Adelaide. He was following up on a visit I made after the Estimates Committee last year to see the extent to which they might be able to locate a United Nations operation

within the MFP, and we started talking about the way in which we might do a feasibility study. There are two levels at which we might be able to do it. One is to establish a major United Nations international centre. The other is to have an affiliate institution. Both ideas were on the table last week, and he has gone back with some proposals and we will follow up from there. The thing is in progress.

Mr SUCH: Last year at the Estimates Committee the Minister said:

We envisage, for instance, that there would be a group of international fellows, some of whom would be in South Australia on a regular basis, offering courses and master classes in particular with the summer school approach that I mentioned.

Has there been any further progress with respect to that idea of the summer school and master classes?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Certainly in terms of the international fellows and master classes, this would be the basis of the MFP academy or world university approach. In terms of the summer school, I think I was talking about getting semester students from the United States. Both Adelaide University and the Flinders University in particular are currently progressing that considerably. Indeed, I understand that they have formed sister university relationships with universities such as William and Mary, which is on the south coast of Virginia, Cornell University, Ithica, New York, and the University of California at Davis, which has a link with both Adelaide and Flinders Universities.

An arrangement has been entered into between the universities and an organisation known as Butlers in terms of organising semester students to come from the United States to South Australia. We have a real advantage here because, for years, a considerable percentage (it might be up to 10 per cent but do not hold me to it) of American students travel overseas as part of their university studies to do a semester. For years they have gone to places such as London, Paris, Italy, Scotland and Germany, generally during the summer months, but market research shows that many students would rather spend summer with their girlfriend or boyfriend in the United States and perhaps during the winter months come to sunny South Australia.

It was interesting to talk to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide last week, and his officers. One of those officers, Elizabeth Dines, has been concentrating on overseas students and the fact that often they would like to come and perhaps do a semester at a university and also visit Ayers Rock and parts of Queensland and other areas on the way. It is sort of an integrated bit of tourism and university studies, and that can only benefit South Australia also.

Mr HERON: I refer to page 487 of Program Estimates under 'Issues/Trends'. I recall that late last year it was decided that a review into health science education in South Australia was to be conducted. Has that occurred?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I thank the honourable member for his interest in this area. I know that the member for Bragg would have a strong interest in it also, as a leading pharmacist. I know that the area of pharmacy was a subject of strong controversy. When one considers the broad expanse of the university amalgamations 12 months ago, it is interesting that pharmacy was one of the few remaining areas of contention. In the passage of the legislation, after speaking with the Liberals, Democrats and Independents, in order to try to reconcile some of the debate about where pharmacy would be located, I promised the House that we would have an independent health sciences review. That was supported by all Parties and the universities themselves. So, a substantial campaign in the period leading up to the restructuring of higher education was mounted for the transfer of the former South Australian Institute of Technology's Phar-

macy School to the University of Adelaide. Of course, that pharmacy school is now located in the University of South Australia, but there was a demand from some members of the pharmacy profession for it to be moved to the University of Adelaide.

In the absence of acceptance of this proposal by the council of the institute or by its successor, the University of South Australia, either in its own right or as partner to a merger, the Government was not prepared to impose such a transfer on the system.

I did not see it as my role to say to the University of South Australia, 'Bad luck—the pharmacy school that you have had for 40 years will be pinched from you and plonked in the University of Adelaide.' To me, that would be Stalinist intervention and would be quite unwarranted.

Mr INGERSON: It could be a correct one.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It could be, but I think the honourable member would agree with me that that sort of process would be unsustainable. Nevertheless, the matter became an issue when legislation dealing with the restructuring was before Parliament, as I mentioned before. Indeed, we decided to broaden the whole question from looking just at pharmacy in isolation to looking at the health sciences, coordination, rationalisation, course offerings and so forth, so we all agreed to the establishment of an independent inquiry into health sciences education. Emeritus Professor Malcolm White and Dr Jean Blackburn, Chancellor of the University of Canberra, were appointed to undertake this inquiry, with a reporting deadline of 30 September 1991.

The objectives and terms of reference were made available to members of the Opposition and to the people involved, and there was widespread support for them. The committee began its task in February by meeting with university administrators, academic staff, students and industry representatives, and included a visit to Whyalla, where there is a very strong nursing provision with the new nursing school.

A call for written submissions was advertised in April, and personal invitations to respond to that call were issued to over 100 key agencies and persons working in the health sciences. This resulted in over 60 submissions being received. I regret to say that the smooth course of the inquiry was interrupted by Dr Blackburn's needing to convalesce from very major surgery and, as a consequence, the committee has had to forgo planned discussions with interested parties on its draft recommendations, and will be proceeding directly to a final report so that it can achieve its deadline of 30 September.

I have just been advised that the report will be presented next week to the three vice-chancellors, who meet in a group called SAGE, the South Australian chief executives group. They will be meeting next Thursday and will receive the report then. Funds for the inquiry have been provided by the three universities. The Government made its contribution by giving executive officer support with Dr Ivan Dainis and clerical and administrative support through my own officers. Within the resources presently available for health science education in South Australian universities, the review had the following objective and terms of reference, and I must put them so that in future there is some clarity. The review is to examine:

- the extent to which, in South Australia, there is cooperation and coordination across disciplines and universities in teaching and research which contribute to the advancement of knowledge and practice of health sciences and to the preparation of health professionals; and
- any organisational arrangements which could enhance such contributions.

The review will comprise no more than three persons, etc., and the terms of reference are as follows:

In preparing its report the review will examine and evaluate:

- the present nature and extent of cooperation, collaboration and coordination of activities between disciplines and across institutions in promoting common aims for high standards in education, research and the preparation of professionals required for the provision of health services;
- the nature and extent of relationships between disciplines and within and across institutions which are desirable and realistically feasible for better achieving the aims of health sciences;
- factors which significantly assist or hinder development along these lines, including the adequacy of resources and facilities;
- ways in which development may be facilitated, including the possibility of transfer of disciplines between institutions and the establishment of an integrated centre for health sciences.

I am looking forward to that report and am sure that whatever it comes down with will not avoid controversy. Everyone agrees that we have the best people doing the job, and we can look forward to seeing what they come up with.

Mr HERON: What has been the progress in the transfer of nurse education to the higher education sector of South Australia?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Nurse education is an area that, like the university structure in general, has gone through revolutionary changes in the past few years. The State Government decided in 1985, when John Cornwall was Minister of Health, that the pre-registration education of nurses should be transferred from hospitals to the higher education sector. The Office of Tertiary Education is responsible for the payment of grants to higher education institutions for running these courses.

There has been quite a rapid increase in intake. In 1989, the figure was 1 250, in 1990 there was a total of 1 572 nursing and pre-registration nurse education places; and in 1991, 1 924. These figures include 285 places that are fully funded by the Commonwealth. Of the 1991 load, 173 places are fully funded by the State, as the Commonwealth's subsidies provided for only 1 466 places. We have also embarked on a massive capital works program, in which I know the Chairman has a great personal interest. In 1986 the State agreed to fund a capital program to accommodate the additional students who would enter higher educational institutions as a result of the transfer.

By 1990, the program was almost complete, with over \$30 million being spent on building new facilities for nurse education. The only major new project undertaken in 1990-91 was the construction of an extension to the library at the Whyalla site of the University of South Australia, at a cost of \$476 000. In August 1990, the Office of Tertiary Education reported on events to that time in an occasional paper entitled 'The Progress of the Transfer of Nurse Education to the Higher Education Sector in South Australia'. Basically, this transfer has been working fairly well. It is a major change from nurses having their tuition within hospitals to having it in a tertiary-based system.

Mr HERON: What return will the people of South Australia get for the \$225 000 proposed under the international education line?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a subject very dear to my heart. This year there are 1 909 students in South Australian universities whose place of residence is overseas. That accounts for about 4.4 per cent of the total student body. Of those 1 900 students, 1 385 (or 72.6 per cent of the overseas students) are here on a full fee-paying basis.

A couple of days after becoming Minister, I made an announcement in which I said that my ambition was to triple the number of overseas students within three years. People across the professions said that they thought I was overly ambitious and that I would not be able to achieve

that goal. The number of full fee-paying students in higher education institutions already represents a trebling of the number in 1989, and we did that in just over a year. Our three-year target of trebling was achieved in just over one year. I should like to compliment the universities and my officers for their sterling work in this area. I have no problems in paying tribute to my excellent staff who helped me in a historic mission last year to Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. Within the complement of overseas students, 811 are commencing students, of whom 712 (or 87.8 per cent) are on a full fee-paying basis. The major single source of overseas students is Malaysia, with 802 or 41.8 per cent, of whom 571 (or 41 per cent) are on a full fee-paying basis.

I want to pay tribute to Flinders University and to its Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, because in Kuala Lumpur they staged the first overseas graduation ceremony by an Australian university.

Parents of students who had attended Flinders and achieved their degrees, as well as older students, rather than having to pay money to come to South Australia were able to attend a special full graduation ceremony which was attended by the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar, other officials and me. This received massive publicity in Malaysia.

Flinders University has also entered into an arrangement with a college on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur called Sunway College which basically provides matriculation studies to Australian standards and the first year of a Flinders degree is actually undertaken in Kuala Lumpur and the next two years are undertaken at Flinders University. I think it is a brilliant arrangement which has really put Flinders University on the map in Malaysia. I think it would be crass to say that what we are talking about is only cash benefits, because we are not. What we are talking about is an ongoing relationship—cultural, diplomatic, professional, friendship, business links and trade. The simple fact that over 100 000 graduates work in industry, the professions, politics and Government in Malaysia who achieved their degrees in Australia means that we have a special *entree* card to those people.

I note that there are five Ministers in the Singapore Government who earned their degree at the University of Adelaide. Dr Tony Tan, the Minister of Education, is a University of Adelaide graduate. The Deputy Prime Minister is a University of Adelaide graduate. The Deputy Minister of Education is a University of Adelaide graduate. That gives us a special tie which I think is enduring. Of course, Malaysia is not the only area from which we get students. Of all overseas students 42 per cent are from Malaysia, 8.3 per cent are from Indonesia, 9.6 per cent are from Hong Kong, 4.5 per cent are from China, 4.5 per cent are from Europe, 2.3 per cent are from Sri Lanka, and so on. About 4 per cent of students are from the United States and other Americas which I think is an encouraging trend, so we are battling on.

We think that in terms of this year we have some major initiatives. Dr Graycar has been concentrating on Brunei as a source of students. Brunei is one of the wealthiest countries in the world and has been sending its students for many years to the United Kingdom. Last year I met with the Minister of Education and former Chief Minister of Brunei, Dr Pehin Aziz, and also recently with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Brunei.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: Why would the United States send students here?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In relation to students from the United States, it was principally semester students wanting to spend a term here and others involved in special research

projects. Also, in terms of the Middle East, there has been a mission to Turkey, Iran, the United Arab Emirates and Dubai. The emphasis was on courses in agriculture and the technologies at both the university and TAFE level. In Turkey the main expressions of interest related to agriculture, education and for assistance in establishing a new university in Anatolia, which is a new development province in the Euphrates Valley. In Dubai interest was expressed in undergraduate courses in medicine and engineering.

We are very keenly pursuing closer ties with Indonesia. Last year I met with about five of their Ministers and I am very confident that we are going to have special relationships between our universities and Indonesian universities and an increase of students from Indonesia.

Mr SUCH: As the Minister argues that more full fee-paying overseas students create extra places for local students, does he accept the same argument could be used for allowing some places for full fee-paying local students to help create extra places for local students?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is obviously an equity argument. We basically have a strong belief in access and equity. I suppose that my whole fundamental purpose in terms of being Minister of Employment and Further Education, with higher education and TAFE, is to increase access and equity and equality of opportunity. I know that the honourable member would recognise that the new University of South Australia Act, which was supported by all Parties, has the strongest provisions in terms of its very purpose and mission in access and equity and equal opportunity of any university in this nation.

There are difficulties. The universities are principally funded by the Commonwealth and obviously issues are raised there, but we certainly have to strive for access and equity. Many of the full fee-paying students coming from overseas are actually funded by the World Bank and by aid agencies and, indeed, many of the Indonesian students are AIDAB funded or World Bank funded, but it is very important to recognise that we want to pursue the encouragement of overseas students and reassure them they are not taking away positions from Australian students.

Mr SUCH: Returning to the notion of the World University concept and the MFP, last year the Minister said:

We are talking also about a centre for the export of education services by using the distance education mode through correspondence, interactive video and satellite transmission.

Are the Minister and the Government still pursuing that particular aspect and could details be provided in relation to that concept?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We are absolutely committed. It will be the keynote of our education provision. In fact, South Australia is easily the leader in distance education in Australia in terms of interactive video through TAFE. I hope when we get on to the TAFE line to talk more about that.

Mr SUCH: Last year the Minister said that the new community adult education program would have funding of \$180 000 in 1990-91 and would grow to \$355 000 in 1991-92. Has this promise been kept and, if not, why not?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Yes, the promise has been kept; in fact, it has been exceeded considerably. In the August 1990 budget, as a social justice initiative the establishment of a community adult education program was announced with an initial allocation of \$180 000. As indicated at the time, the program has now grown substantially and the 1991-92 allocation is \$365 000. That is only under this particular program. We have actually also increased our community education and literacy provisions under the TAFE line.

This year we are spending about \$1.7 million in the areas of community education and literacy, which is a major increase. The establishment of the community adult education program confirms the Government's commitment to community adult education as an effective means of redressing disadvantage in the community. Community adult education programs are designed for those who are unable or unwilling to attend a college of technical and further education or other Government based institution but are willing to attend courses offered in less formal environments such as neighbourhood houses and community centres. This would also involve the sort of programs that are run through the Workers Educational Association, the Young Women's Christian Association and other citizen groups.

Community based programs complement technical and further education courses and are intended to meet the needs of those who are in some way socially, educationally or economically disadvantaged. Courses seek to raise the individual's self-confidence and basic competencies and so better prepare them for participation in more formal educational programs or in the work force. Typically, these programs are readily accessible, are flexible in timetabling, are responsive to local community needs, are offered in a non-threatening environment and provide creche facilities. They are generally short programs offered on a part-time basis and are relatively inexpensive to run.

We have about four strands. I appointed Pru Manson as the Chairperson of the committee to administer the funds. Rather than establishing myself as some kind of lord high chief administering funds willy-nilly to people, I established a committee of people involved in community adult education, some of whom have previously been quite vocal critics of policy. I have said, 'You are the experts. You are the people out in the field; you tell me whom we should fund.' They have been doing a damn good job.

The four major strands are, first, literacy and numeracy programs, which are basic education programs designed to increase adult literacy and numeracy, English conversation programs for people with a non-English speaking background, and programs in other languages; secondly, educational and vocational re-entry programs, which are courses designed to provide skills to those wishing to re-enter the work force or undertake more formal studies; thirdly, basic adult social education programs, which are courses designed to provide skills, knowledge and confidence needed in detailing with the demands of living in a complex society; and, fourthly, programs for the physically and intellectually disabled, which involve courses designed to assist people in regaining self-confidence and independence to participate in community life. We are proud of what we are doing in this area. I have been sending cheques to members to deliver to those agencies, and I think I have been quite bipartisan in doing so. None of those cheques has bounced; none of those cheques was faked. I am quite happy to sign any cheque the honourable member wants to put my way if it is for a good purpose such as this.

Mr De LAINE: What formula applies to the number of overseas, full fee paying students in order that they do not affect adversely the number of places available for South Australian students?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I have largely covered that area, so I will ask Dr Graycar to talk about some of the areas where there have been problems that have been rectified.

Dr Graycar: The universities are aware that an appropriate balance must be maintained. It is not really for the Government to set any particular formula. Universities have indicated to me as a rule of thumb that they would be unwilling to have more than 10 per cent of their student

body made up of people from overseas. In that way, a satisfactory number of people can gain cultural benefits going both ways. If, on the other hand, universities chase the number of full fee paying students, chase the financial benefits, they may well disrupt some of the educational benefits. In my discussions with the vice-chancellor I have talked about 10 per cent.

Recently, I have also seen some material in which the universities are starting to acculturate the academics to some of the problems of overseas students, to teach in a particular way, to make sure that they blend appropriately into educational offerings. There is a dilemma where some people say, if people come to Australia, they must learn what we offer, the way we do it. Very often, this is out of sync with the culture that they come from. While retaining a modest proportion—with 10 per cent as a ceiling—the universities are looking also towards better student services, better integration and making sure that everybody—the Australian students included—benefit from the process.

Mr De LAINE: Is it possible that the universities could function purely with local students, or is it a fact of life that they need the income from the overseas, full fee paying students in order to operate?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Certainly, universities would be able to operate with local students only. Indeed, in the past, South Australia has had a lower proportion of overseas students than have many other States, which is why I am pleased that we have been able to meet some of our targets. I think most people realise it is good for our own students to mix with international people. I know that, when I was at the University of Auckland (and I am wearing its tie so that I can avoid any bias to any individual institution here), I gained enormously from working with students from Malaysia and Thailand—I particularly remember master students from that area—and from the Pacific islands.

A major part of university education is not just what one learns in the classes but what one learns from one's experience at that university. Recently, I was contacted by one of my Malaysian student friends, whom I had not seen for 16 years, and who had read about the Kuala Lumpur ceremony in which I participated. I think most universities believe it is important that they be part of the international academic circuit and that enormous benefits can be gained both ways.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to page 487 of Program Estimates. Now that the University of South Australia has been established and various other amalgamations have taken place, can the Minister give a progress report on those amalgamations?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In addition to what I have said, I point out that the amalgamations had two desired effects: the abolition of the binary system, which was quite unjust, and the reduction in the number of separate institutions, which was causing a lack of coordination in terms of resources and course provision. The South Australian amalgamations have been in operation since 1 January and all indications are that the process is working exceptionally well. The amalgamations contain benefits for the students, the staff and the institutions. For students, the amalgamations offer a wide range of educational offerings, greater scope for transfer between disciplines (and that is the sort of thing the member for Fisher was talking about before), with a maximum academic credit, and better facilities and services. For staff, the wider range of courses and programs enhances professional contacts, and collaboration will provide broader promotional opportunities. For institutions, the amalgamations provide greater scope to develop an

effective research infrastructure and to develop economies of scale.

It has been only eight months since the amalgamations, and all the achievements have not yet been realised. However, we are generally pleased with the way things are going. In other States, amalgamations have shown considerable signs of tension and there have been indications in other States of dissatisfaction, the most notable of which is the University of New England, which has been through some very tense times recently.

Fortunately, our experience has been a much better one and our university people are getting on with the job and making the amalgamations work. They bring about the benefits I mentioned for students, staff and institutions. The University of South Australia has appointed a new Vice-Chancellor, Professor David Robinson, a distinguished health sociologist from the University of Hull, which is in Yorkshire, and he takes up his position on 1 January. In fact, I am meeting him for the first time tomorrow. The university is on track in preparing proposals for new government and management arrangements, as required, so I am most impressed about the way our newest and largest university has taken the bit between its teeth and examined its operation in an attempt to lay a firm and solid foundation.

I spoke with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide a week ago, and he was very pleased with the way its merger had gone with Roseworthy Agricultural College and the Adelaide college. I understand that the Sturt-Flinders merger has worked very well and, all in all, I think it is a credit to Parliament.

Mr De LAINE: The Program Estimates (page 487) under the heading 'Issues/Trends' states that 'attention needs to be given to improvement in access to and success in universities for disadvantaged groups in society'. Has a fairway scheme or something similar been set up for the new University of South Australia? If not, will such a scheme be established.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will refer that question to my colleague, Dr Graycar. Certainly, we have been strongly supportive on a number of the access and equity provisions being trialled by the university. I know that Dr Graycar has a special interest in this area.

Dr Graycar: The universities themselves determine what sorts of schemes they will operate. I think to date the University of South Australia has been quite overwhelmed with its restructuring and the blending together of the various arrangements and different cultures. However, I should point out that in receiving their funding from the Commonwealth universities are required, within their profiles, to submit an equity plan which focuses on disadvantaged groups, isolated rural groups, Aboriginal people, people from poor backgrounds and people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

The University of South Australia, within its equity plan, has submitted this to the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is having its profiles team visit, I think in the first week of October, and it will go through that. Whether it will actually establish a plan to mirror the fairway plan, I am not sure. We will have to get that information from the university itself. However, all three universities have established equity plans which they have submitted to the Commonwealth.

Mr INGERSON: Earlier, in reply to a question about local fee paying students, the Minister referred to access and equity as being the principal argument. Will the Minister explain why it is not positive discrimination against Australians when we have a program that enables overseas

students, and not nationalised Australians or Australians born in this country, to become full fee paying students?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We have had a massive increase in places in South Australia and across the nation for Australian students. Basically, entry for Australian students is determined on criteria which are set down by the universities in South Australia through SATAC and which is on the basis of marks, exams, and so on. Obviously, access and equity provisions are built in through the fairway scheme, which was mentioned by Mr De Laine, and some programs aimed particularly at encouraging Aboriginal students to take certain courses, and so on. But, that is for the universities to determine.

What they are also trying to do, in order to internationalise education, is work with overseas universities in relation to joint degree programs. I was involved in talks with the University of ITB Bandung in Indonesia, which is the equivalent of the Institute of Technology, about offering joint degree arrangements between that university and the universities here. That is what is happening with the Sunway College proposal in Malaysia. I think that what we are doing is being sensible. We are not making it holus-bolus that people can come in; sensible arrangements are being entered into by the universities. The universities must decide that themselves. It is certainly not for me to say that they have to have 15 per cent or 20 per cent overseas full fee paying students. I have said to them that, if they are keen to encourage more overseas students because of the benefits to the State, South Australians, the institutions and the student body, I am keen to help.

Dr Graycar: The issue that is being debated here is whether people who do not get into the considerably enlarged quotas can buy a place in a university if they have the cash. The situation is that access and equity can be broadened not by making it available for those who are wealthy enough to buy a place but, rather, by looking at the system as a whole and broadening access for everybody. I think it is a fairly controversial and ideological position about whether those who do not get into the quota but who are rich enough to buy a place can buy that place. At this stage the Government has not supported the proposal that the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee put up for discussion.

Mr INGERSON: Last year in the Estimates Committee, in response to a question about responsibility for unfunded superannuation and long service liabilities, Mr Fletcher, on behalf of the Minister, said:

The present position is that the Commonwealth Government has agreed to fund the institutions to the full extent of any emerging liabilities for members of the State Superannuation Fund. To the extent that those costs exceed 14 per cent of the salaries of members of the fund at any time, the State's general revenue grants will be reduced by the Commonwealth by the appropriate amount.

The Auditor-General's Report of this year states:

No agreement exists with the Commonwealth regarding the continuing responsibility for those liabilities.

How does the Minister reconcile both those statements? Has the State's general revenue grant been reduced in 1991-92 as a result of this arrangement? If so, by how much?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We still stand by the statement made last year, but I invite Robert Fletcher to comment further.

Mr Fletcher: The 14 per cent relates to all contributions to any superannuation scheme. We must realise that now there will be no new university entrants to the State's superannuation scheme; they will all go back into the national superannuation scheme. The 14 per cent relates to contributions on behalf of members of any superannuation scheme, not just the State scheme. The statement I made last year

was and still is, to the best of my understanding, correct. I do not know the amount that has been deducted from other revenues to the State. We will have to ascertain that, if the honourable member wants it, because that is dealt with by Treasury.

Mr INGERSON: Is the Minister personally committed to the future existence of the South Australian Institute of Languages? Is he considering changes to the institute's future operation?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: This is an area about which I am passionate. All members will recall—in fact, will treasure—the occasion last year when I launched the language challenge, which involved the South Australian Institute of Languages and other groups. We certainly regard language education as very important. That is why we are going to lead the nation in the area of Aboriginal languages, and that is why we want languages to be an integral part of the MFP.

The Tertiary Education Act of 1986 requires that in June 1991 the Minister of Employment and Further Education will arrange for a report to be prepared on the performance by the South Australian Institute of Languages of its functions under the Act, and that report must be presented to both Houses of Parliament. That review committee has been appointed, and its membership is as follows: Professor Graycar as Chairperson; Ms Susan Fullagar, Project Manager of and representing the National Languages Institute of Australia (and that has a tremendous reputation across Australia); Ms Jill Burton, Senior Lecturer in the Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages at the University of South Australia, who was chosen by the three vice-chancellors; and Professor Michael Clyne, who is nationally eminent in the Department of Linguistics at Monash University.

It is expected that that review committee will report at the end of this month, at roughly the same time as I get the report on health sciences. Its terms of reference are: first, to report on the extent to which the South Australian Institute of Languages has been able to fulfil its functions under the Tertiary Education Act 1986 and to advise on any matters that may have hindered the institute in the performance of its functions; secondly, to examine the present functions and powers of the institute, to identify its future role and direction, and in doing so have regard to its composition and methods of operation and the relationship between the institute and the Centre for Language Teaching and Research; and, thirdly, to advise on future funding arrangements for the institute. So, we are basically just taking into account the legislative provision that it must be reviewed within five years. I have yet to see the review, but we are expecting it shortly.

Mr INGERSON: As a supplementary question, in setting guidelines for that report, has the Minister considered how the Institute of Languages and the Centre of Language Teaching and Research will work together without duplication and waste of resources?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That, of course, is the third term of reference. I invited representatives of both institutions to attend a meeting of SAGE, that is, the vice-chancellor, together with the chief executive of DETAFE earlier this year, because I had been aware of rumours and stories that the two institutions, both of which are committed to this area, had not been getting on. I wanted them to appear before the vice-chancellors and the head of DETAFE, with me present, to see whether we could sort out any of the problems. Certainly, the second term of reference of the review committee deals with that in terms of cooperation and methods and that relationship. It is vitally important

that all of us spend our time doing the job and not bickering with each other—even in this Parliament.

Mr HAMILTON: The Minister referred to the question of literacy and the allocation of funds, for which I commend him and the Government. Can the Minister advise the committee of the level of illiteracy here in South Australia? What research has been carried out and by whom? Also, what needs of which groups in the community is the Government addressing? I ask these questions because whilst I applaud the Government for allocating money in this area—and I know that money was allocated through the Minister in my electorate—I took note of the number of people who were availing themselves of that program and it seemed to me that it involved a predominance of people other than those born in Australia. Is that borne out by the figures made available to the Minister and, if not, what is the situation?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: My understanding is that about 15 per cent of Australians have literacy problems. Of course, literacy is the foundation of skills development and education development in Australia. The very fact that someone cannot read or write English poses them with extraordinary barriers just in dealing with daily life, dealing with forms to be filled in and dealing with things such as making telephone calls, and so on. Fifteen per cent of Australians are basically being held back by literacy problems, and that is why through DETAFE and OTE \$1.7 million will be spent on community adult education and literacy this year. That is a major increase.

One of the areas we are particularly looking at is workplace education and, in this area, South Australia is the clear national leader. We are working through factories, because we found that, with the award restructuring process, it is all very well talking about whole new ways of doing things at the workplace and about skills formation. However, if there is that barrier of literacy, it is a major impediment not only to becoming the clever country but also to becoming the skilled country. So, we are making a major initiative in the areas of literacy. Obviously, it is an area that affects both non-English speaking background Australians and Australian born Australians.

I went out to Glandore the other day, in the member for Walsh's electorate, to visit the Glandore Community Centre. It had recently received a grant through the Community Adult Education program. To hear the stories of people there who had been transformed by short courses in literacy should give encouragement to any member of Parliament to get behind these programs. The fellow was not there, but I was told the story of a 72 year old man who was born in Australia and who could not read or write. It had just transformed his life. It is something of which he has felt ashamed and been burdened with for years, but he did not have those opportunities. I met a man in his 40s who had been a truck driver and who told me that, because of things happening in his family, health problems and so on, he had not had access to proper schooling in terms of literacy. He had just done this course and got a job. He was an unemployed truck driver and was now in a sales position that required him to have levels of literacy. He was just thrilled to bits; it had changed his life. I also met a charming woman from Malaysia who had been in Australia for some years but who was having problems with literacy. On a whole range of fronts those literacy programs can really help change people's lives for the better and help change Australia.

Mr HAMILTON: As a supplementary question, I noted what the Minister said in relation to workplace programs but, other than those, what mechanisms are used to try to assist these people who are not coming forward? I imagine

that there would be many difficulties in that regard. I was particularly touched by the Jana Wendt program that dealt with literacy the other night, where a woman had indicated that what motivated her was one of her children coming home and asking her to read from the primary school reader, when the mother had lashed out in anger because she could not read. I suspect that there is quite a bit of that in the community. That exercised my mind as to how we could get through to people other than those, but particularly women at home looking after children.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a very good question, and the answer is that it is extremely difficult. That is why, in parallel to the efforts that we are making through TAFE colleges, we are trying to run programs through community centres, migrant resource centres and neighbourhood houses where there are access points and people can actually have that contact with those on the ground within the community. Of course, we have found the workplace to be an excellent place to meet and find people and encourage them into the system. It is difficult, but that is why we think the softer face of community houses and neighbourhood centres is the way to go, because they often have a strong migrant component as well.

Mr HAMILTON: I still believe that more should be done to track down particularly those women who are isolated. I do not know the answer; I can take that up with the Minister later. In reference to page 484 of the Program Estimates, can the Minister say how Australia has fared in attracting Commonwealth recurrent capital funding for higher education, and what is the situation regarding the ability of South Australian institutions to attract research funding?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: This is where I get a bit controversial, because I think we have been duded by the Commonwealth in terms of funding and on a whole range of fronts.

Members interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It is crass federalism in reverse. South Australia was allocated 200 additional intake places for 1991. For 1992 and 1993 the allocations were 150 places and 105 extra places respectively. This represents 4 per cent of the extra intakes allocated nationally over the 1991-93 triennium, which is less than half the places that the State would have been allocated if it had received a share according to its share of the population in 1990, which was 8.4 per cent. So, we think that we have been duded in the offer that has been made. We are not the only State that has been duded. The Commonwealth is using criteria that we reject. Of similar concern is the share of capital resources that this State has received in recent years. Over the period 1989 to 1994 the State will have received 5.1 per cent of the Australian total of \$1 134 million in higher education major building grants.

This issue is tied to the allocation of new places and is also being pursued through the joint planning committee. These paltry allocations to the State in recent years are simply not acceptable; nor have they been adequately explained by the Commonwealth. It is certainly difficult to understand what has happened in recent times to mean that South Australia's treatment should have been changed in this way. The matter requires a concerted effort across the State, and I intend to raise the matter with the South Australian group of chief executives in tertiary institutions (SAGE) with a view to the vice-chancellors joining me in a major campaign to change the minds of these Federal bureaucrats, because that is about whom we are talking. We have not accepted the Commonwealth's offer, and I stress that right now. We have stood up to them and we will continue to stand up to them. I look forward to yet another

knuckle with our Federal parliamentary and other colleagues in the future.

There are also questions about where we are doing well, and this is interesting. Compared with the rest of Australia, we are doing well when we are out in the open market competing, because of our excellence. Members should consider that South Australian institutions which compete for funds on their merits do extremely well. Remembering that we have 8.4 per cent of the population, we have won 11.4 per cent of funding for special research centres and key centres for teaching and research, which is 35.7 per cent above our population share. We have won 10 per cent of research fellowships, which is 19 per cent above our population share. We have won 10.5 per cent of research infrastructure grants, or 25 per cent above our population share. We have won 11.8 per cent of Australian research council grants, or 40.5 per cent above our population share.

Further, in the allocation of cooperative research centres, earlier this year Adelaide University won three out of the 15, or 20 per cent of the successful cooperative research centres, in areas such as the Centre for Soil and Land Management, the Australian Petroleum Research Centre, and the Centre for Tissue Growth and Repair. How can it be that institutions of the quality evidenced by these figures are treated so poorly by Commonwealth bureaucrats exercising their so-called judgment on the allocation of additional places for South Australia? We do not intend to take this lying down. Professor Graycar might be able to elaborate further about some of the recent meetings he has had on this issue.

Dr Graycar: We are still in discussion. When we deal with the Commonwealth, we have been dealing essentially on a bilateral basis and we are not aware of what is happening elsewhere. Following some recent arrangements, the States are meeting as a whole to deal with the Commonwealth. Following what the Minister has said, the matter is under active consideration and we do have evidence of excellence. We have evidence of considerable strength here, and we want to make sure that we get our share.

Mr HAMILTON: With respect to adult education I noted an increase from \$589 000 to \$729 000. Can the Minister explain that considerable increase?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We have absorbed the officers' basic adult social education program—the base scheme—and that has inflated the numbers.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: Can the Minister give an estimate of the unmet demand for entry into university by South Australian students? In my experience around the countryside, many students had actually qualified at matriculation level to enter university but, because their results were not in the top bracket, they missed out. However, in many instances, from a practical point of view, the people contributing greatly to the well-being of the State, with respect to industry and commerce, were actually students who had to struggle to get through university but, because of their built-in talent and practical ability, they were extremely successful out in the business world and have contributed greatly to the benefit of South Australia. Because their marks are only just sufficient, often such people are lost to the State.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a very good question, and it is important in terms of access and equity. Total enrolments in South Australian universities grew by 8.4 per cent from 39 922 in 1990 to 43 291 this year. That is a very sizable increase in the number of students enrolled. In contrast, enrolments of commencing students grew by 2.4 per cent during that time. Growth in student load was 8.9

per cent from 31 479 equivalent full-time student units in 1990 to 34 287 equivalent full-time student units in 1991.

Unmet demand for undergraduate places in South Australian universities continues to be a matter of concern, with the number of applicants who were eligible for places but who did not receive an offer increasing in 1991. The measurement of unmet demand is complex, but it is estimated that it increased from between 1 200 and 1 900 in 1990 to between 900 and 2 800 in 1991. These figures represent 9.3 per cent to 14.8 per cent and 14.6 per cent to 21.5 per cent respectively of the number of undergraduate commencing students in each of those years.

Some very silly things were said in the press earlier this year, such that X number of students failed to get into university. That is because they failed the basic sort of entrance test. There has often been some confusion over the concept of unmet demand. Some sources cite the difference between the number of applicants and the number of places offered as the level of unmet demand. This significantly overstates the problem, since a number of applicants are not eligible for admission in any case. There is also the situation where someone might apply to three universities, miss out on two but get into one. Is that unmet demand? The honourable member is rightly concerned. Those figures are the best estimate we can give. Whilst there has been a rise in the number of enrolments, which is very gratifying, there has always been a rise in the legitimate unmet demand.

I pay tribute to the Office of Tertiary Education. Let us look at those numbers—\$313 million and 12 people. It is almost worthy of applause!

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

Employment and Technical and Further Education,
\$191 395 000
Works and Services—Department of Employment and
Technical and Further Education, \$18 796 000

Chairman:

The Hon. T.H. Hemmings

Members:

The Hon. P.B. Arnold
Mr M.R. De Laine
Mr K.C. Hamilton
Mr V.S. Heron
Mr G.A. Ingerson
Mr R.B. Such

Witness:

The Hon. M.D. Rann, Minister of Employment and Further Education.

Departmental Advisers:

Ms Kaye Schofield, Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Employment and Technical and Further Education.

Mr Darryl Carter, Director, Administration and Finance Division.

Ms Bronwyn Webster, Director, Youth Affairs Division.

Mr Charles Connolly, Director, Employment and Training Division.

Mr Peter King, Director, Labour Market Analysis Branch.

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

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will make a brief opening state-

ment. This is a major part of my portfolio. The proposed budget for the Department of Employment and TAFE for 1991-92 is \$240.1 million for recurrent purposes and \$18.8 million for capital purposes. The State will provide 83 per cent of recurrent funds and 27 per cent of capital funds. Through its college network operating from some 70 campuses across the State, the Department of Employment and TAFE services about 10 per cent of the adult population of South Australia each year. The department provides a broad range of vocational, foundation and community adult education programs, which generated about 13 million student hours in 1990.

In addition to TAFE activities, the department is responsible for the Employment and Training Division, the Youth Affairs Division and the Aboriginal Employment Development Branch. Each of these units is actively involved in policy, strategies and programs to expand employment opportunities for the South Australian work force and, in particular, for youth and groups disadvantaged in the workplace. The programs and services provided by the department are particularly important in the current economic circumstances facing the State, and the Government has adopted a budget strategy for DETAFE that reflects necessary budgetary constraint whilst recognising the high priority for employment and TAFE programs and services.

The TAFE sector continues to face increasing demands from the general community plus specific demand growth from the industry award restructuring process. A budget strategy has been developed to respond to this demand through a balance of Government funding and user contributions. The budget strategy is based on the following key components:

- (1) real growth in both State and Commonwealth funding (despite the constraints, there is growth in funding for DETAFE);
- (2) an increase in the administration fee from 25 cents/hour to 40 cents/hour from the beginning of 1992; and
- (3) productivity improvement and program rationalisation measures. These measures and funding strategies will provide funding for the following initiatives: commissioning of new outstanding facilities at Tea Tree Gully, Ceduna and Kingston; construction of a new campus at Coober Pedy; construction of a child-care centre at Regency College; the design and documentation of major redevelopments at Port Adelaide and Salisbury; extension of the video conferencing network, TAFE channel, to create a nine site video conferencing network; and maintenance of effort for specific social justice initiatives.

The major employment and training strategy incorporated in the 1991-92 budget is Kickstart, which was launched on 12 August 1991. Kickstart takes a regional approach to the State Government's employment and training programs so that regions, with differing needs, opportunities and problems, can work with Governments to generate local jobs and training opportunities. As part of the strategy both prevocational training in TAFE colleges and the Youth Conservation Corps have been significantly expanded.

The Youth Conservation Corps combines conservation projects with formal study at TAFE for the young unemployed. An additional \$225 000 will be provided from the State budget, making a total allocation of \$300 000 in 1991-92. Four projects are currently being undertaken, with six in the planning stage for the first half of next year. The Commonwealth provides a formal training allowance for eligible participants under the Jobtrain scheme.

In quite difficult budgetary circumstances in 1991-92, the State Government's budget strategy will enable DETAFE to increase its programs and services in key priority areas and

to maintain its role as a major contributor to the continued development of the State's skill base and the education and training of South Australians.

Mr SUCH: We have been contacted today by a TAFE lecturer and the number of students concerned at rumours that the Government is considering closing the Croydon Park College of TAFE. Is the Government considering any proposal to close that or any other college or part thereof?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: If the person who contacted the honourable member had been smart enough to contact the Minister, the Minister would have told them 'No'.

Mr SUCH: As a supplementary question, does that answer apply to other TAFE colleges and sections thereof?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am not aware of any closure of a college except Kensington, which I announced exactly 13 months ago and which is in the process of a phased withdrawal. At the same time the Tea Tree Gully centre will be opened.

Mr SUCH: CROTECH was the name of a business enterprise established by the Croydon Park TAFE college and its task was to prepare and race the shrike car in the Australian Drivers Championship series. The Minister has been a very strong personal supporter of the project and has been closely involved over the past two years. For example, there has been a number of photo opportunities for the Minister sitting in the driver's seat and playing racing cars. In the *News* of 12 September 1990 there was a photograph of the Minister in the shrike car and a story by Robbie Brechin headed 'Rann is delighted about the overall performance of the shrike car put together by the Croydon Park TAFE college'. Minister Rann said:

I am very excited about the shrike formula project. Its success demonstrates the wealth of talent in TAFE and that we can compete with the best.

Last year the Minister indicated that the project had been funded by a \$250 000 loan from SAFA and \$50 000 from Consolidated Account. Can the Minister confirm that the project has now been wound up and that creditors have been appointed to assist in the task of selling off remaining assets? What has been the total cost of the project and what amount of money might be recovered? When was the Minister first advised that the project was in financial trouble and when was he first advised that the project should be wound up? Will the Minister confirm that in mid 1990 he approved a revised business plan and costings for this project after concerns had been raised about the financial performance of the project?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think that the shrike project, which was initiated long before I was Minister, is something that does give a real example of what TAFE can do. Someone said that Croydon college would be closed, which I find mind boggling. As members would be aware, this new facility which has just been opened at Croydon (and there are more to come) makes it one of the best colleges in Australia. However, at that stage each college had its own business enterprises throughout the State.

I showed some concern, as did the Auditor-General, about those business enterprises. I thought that they needed to be more accountable and, through Tom Malcolm of Victoria, we actually initiated a major review of business enterprises. The shrike project saw students in automotive engineering being involved not in stripping down old Holdens or Corinas but, rather, being involved in the latest technology—computer engineering and the latest in design. I think that the shrike project gained exposure right across the nation. One had only to tune in each Sunday to *Wide World of Sport* on Channel 9 to see the massive exposure—the sort of exposure that money cannot buy—in terms of what TAFE could do. The motoring writers of the *Advertiser*, the

News, Channel 7, Channel 9 and Channel 10 all got behind this project, because it showed what we could do in terms of excellence.

Last year the shrike, which was driven by Mark Poole, looked like it was going to win the Australian championships. It took on the Nissan teams, which were backed by \$5 million or whatever. A small group of students from a TAFE college, instead of going home after stripping down an old bomb, actually spent until 3 in the morning and their weekends working on this project. It is not surprising that the apprentices who came out of this project have been snapped up instantly, as I have been advised, because they are the best, they are committed and they are keen.

The shrike racing venture of CROTECH and Croydon College of TAFE provided a visible and high profile focus for the School of Automotive Engineering and it has established the school as a centre of innovation and technical excellence. Opportunities have been provided for students to develop skills and attitudes to the high level necessary to compete in motor racing. Students and staff of the project have been successful in resolving developmental difficulties inherent in the application of new technologies and have produced a world-class competitive project.

Last year the shrike racing car finished second in the 1990 Australian Drivers Championship. It came second rather than first because I think something broke just as it was about to win the Australian Grand Prix series. Everyone said that it would win the championship. It brought considerable acclaim to CROTECH, to Croydon Park College of TAFE, the Department of Employment and TAFE, and TAFE in general. Students and staff have received outstanding developmental opportunities, awards for technical excellence have been received, and two cars have been sold to the Eastern Creek Raceway in Sydney.

Some business ventures fail and some are great winners, as we all know. My view was, and I think it is a responsible view, that I was not prepared to authorise massive funding for that project (because it was supposed to be a business venture) if they had trouble getting sponsors. This year the economy is in recession and, with the prevailing economic climate and the resulting unlikelihood of orders for new cars or sponsorship for a driver to enter into an agreement to race a car subsequent to the end of the financial year, the CROTECH board of management recommended that the venture be closed and that its assets be liquidated. It will therefore look at selling the assets in order to recoup losses.

Obviously, this is a disappointment to people throughout TAFE and it is also a disappointment particularly to all those who contributed to the success of the project, but I think it was the responsible course of action in the circumstances. The original prototype shrike, which is owned by the college, will be donated to the Birdwood Mill car museum white Shrike 002, the vehicle that promoted Mark Poole to second position last year, will be displayed this year at the Formula One Grand Prix.

Wayne Gardner came over to drive the vehicle. The person who authorised the purchase of two shrikes earlier this year had fairly good standing in motor racing. His name is Sir Jack Brabham. I am sure he would agree, as would everyone, that, instead of being forced into a situation where there were no sponsors, we had to take the hard decision recommended by the board of CROTECH, despite the enormous benefits to students and to the TAFE system in terms of marketing—it was extraordinary.

When I went to pubs and clubs and mentioned that I was the Minister of TAFE, I was asked, 'Aren't they involved in the motor racing thing?'. It was an example of what

TAFE can do. I am disappointed that the project has been wound down as opposed to wound up completely, because people will still be involved in the exercise but they will not be racing it.

Ms Schofield: The new directions will be related to the provision of training rather than the provision of a racing function.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: My point is that TAFE is in the business of training and those people, apprentices and students who worked on the project would have gained enormous experience. We are not in the business of racing. If the sponsors pulled out of the racing because of the economic climate, then we are not going to fill the gap, because that is not the role of TAFE. I thought I would be applauded by the Opposition in that regard.

Mr SUCH: Can the Minister indicate the total cost of the project and will any of that money be recouped?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I invite Mr Carter to answer. They have recorded a loss, but it will be recouped because of assets sold.

Mr Carter: The final position on the finances will not be determined until the sale of the assets. We are not entering into a fire sale, so that will be done over a period. It is estimated that on completion of the sale of those assets the net loss to the venture will be less than \$100 000.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Although I think we got a lot more than \$100 000 in terms of promotion for TAFE.

Mr SUCH: In relation to apprentice employment and training initiatives, which is referred to on page 162 of the Estimates of Payments, can the Minister explain why funding for this line has decreased from \$1 251 607 in 1990-91 to an estimated \$205 000 in 1991-92?

Mr Carter: I apologise to members who may be confused with the figures for some of the programs, particularly those that relate to employment and training and youth affairs. Those divisions joined the department in 1989-90, and some changes have occurred to the programs. As a result of those changes, the figures are not directly comparable from year to year. If the honourable member requires, I can provide a consolidated statement that provides an apple to apple comparison.

Mr HERON: The Program Estimates (page 476) refer to completing construction of the Tea Tree Gully TAFE. Will the Minister provide an update and also explain whether the college will have any special functions different from those of other colleges?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Stage 1 of the \$35 million Tea Tree Gully project is ahead of schedule. As a result the college will be able to make the transition from the old site to the new site at the beginning of October. Stage 2 (electronics, computer aided design, computer integrated manufacturing, design arts, clothing and textiles, International Fellowship project) is also on schedule and will be ready for the influx of new students in January 1992. The college will be open for enrolments as from October. It is expected that the college will operate at 70 per cent of its capacity in 1992 working up to full capacity by 1994. The new facility will provide important educational and training opportunities, particularly for school leavers, of what is now the second largest and most rapidly growing city in South Australia.

The joint \$6 million Tea Tree Gully City/TAFE library commenced operation in August and is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year. Although not yet complete the college is already attracting much favourable attention. I understand that my friend and colleague, the Minister in New South Wales (Virginia Chadwick) is here to visit the Tea Tree Gully TAFE. It is very much the TAFE of the

twenty-first century. The Western Australian Minister also has expressed interest in this TAFE, and I think it will certainly be the exemplar TAFE in Australia.

The college is one of only two South Australian educational institutions to have been granted 'special school status' by Apple Computers Australia—the other being the Technology School of the Future, which I encourage everyone to visit because it was conceived in genius. Effectively, this means that the college will obtain some \$100 000 worth of computing equipment, together with technical support from Apple Computers in the coming year. The college has been chosen as the location for the International Fellowship Centre, and I am pleased to announce that today. It is a five year, multimillion dollar project. The first group of 20 fellows will arrive from Indonesia in January.

The college's Learning Materials Development Unit is currently involved in two national material development projects. Senior staff from the college are being used as consultants for new TAFE projects in Perth, Western Australia and Dandenong, Victoria. The college is also engaged in exploratory discussions with senior managers of the MFP in relation to the establishment of a distributed education centre. The location within the college of a regional branch of the Industrial and Commercial Training Commission will help to provide the linkages with industry which, in turn, will foster the move towards more on-the-job training. Such a shift will have considerable productivity implications for TAFE.

By taking full advantage of the opportunities afforded by the award restructuring process, the college has implemented a system of self-managing work teams which, in turn, has resulted in significant increases in staff satisfaction and, therefore, productivity. In summary, it is fair to say that, with its new range of programs, its open-learning methodologies, its innovative delivery systems, its adoption of competency based training and its development of quality learning materials the college is well placed to produce the sorts of graduates required by industry as it faces the challenge of microeconomic reform.

I encourage all members of this Committee to visit both the TAFE college and the library. It is an extraordinarily attractive building, and it will be a major asset for South Australia. I am sure that everyone is looking forward to its opening next year.

Mr HERON: On page 478 of the Program Estimates, I note that State Youth Affairs is charged with developing and trialling innovative programs with identified target groups or specific issues. Of course, one of the youth issues that has gained quite a lot of media attraction lately is that of graffiti. I was impressed with the work that has been done at Gosnells in Western Australia. Does the Minister see any role for that type of program as part of a comprehensive graffiti action strategy in South Australia?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Some months ago, I was charged by the Premier with the responsibility of devising a strategy to help combat graffiti. I say 'help combat' because nowhere in the world has there been a strategy that has totally eliminated graffiti. I was asked by the member for Albert Park to visit Gosnells in Western Australia when I was there on an Aboriginal Affairs mission. I was very impressed with what I saw. Back in 1987, that council became alarmed about the escalating costs associated with cleaning up graffiti vandalism. In response, the council decided to work with local schools and young people to channel graffiti vandals into more constructive activities. The Gosnells project is now attracting national attention because it has been successful in reducing the city's graffiti clean up costs, reducing unsightly vandalism on public and private property and, by

involving young people in devising and running a constructive program.

Since the Gosnells program began, a 50 per cent drop has occurred in the cost of cleaning up graffiti vandalism. The council has saved considerable sums in terms of insurance and security—it had to hire guards to protect its buildings. Essentially, the project offers young spray writers an opportunity to express themselves on designated legal areas rather than illegally damaging other people's property. The council called on young people involved in illegal graffiti to discuss whether they would be prepared to work on supervised legal sites rather than damage other people's property. No-one expected any of those kids to turn up, but they did. In fact, a whole group of them turned up at a park on a Saturday afternoon to meet with the mayor and admitted that they were the ones who had been scrawling on the walls.

They said that they would like to be involved in some programs. So they set up some programs under supervision. The council got the kids to find more kids. I visited one of those sites, as did the member for Albert Park and other members, probably from both sides of politics, and it was interesting to find young people working on murals. Interestingly when they hear of their peers doing illegal work they do them in because they are so worried about losing this project, which is actually getting them out of illegal, unsightly vandalism into productive pursuits.

It is interesting to see that some of these kids who were once out there tagging buildings have had paintings that have won awards, have sold paintings and have exhibited them in national exhibitions. So, whilst the council has not eliminated graffiti, it is delighted that it has managed a 50 per cent drop in graffiti, and it has stressed to the young people that it will not tolerate this illegal activity. As I say, the young people come down very hard on any of their fellows who are involved in this illegal activity. Their message to their peers is, 'You will jeopardise our program if you keep up this nonsense.'

I was impressed to see the young people who have been encouraged into more productive pursuits. I make one thing clear: I regard graffiti vandalism of the type that I see in my area in Salisbury, in the Chairman's area and in the western suburbs as unsightly, mindless defacing which is costing us millions of dollars each year. This appalling waste of taxpayers' money to clean up and combat graffiti has to be addressed with both short and long-term solutions.

We have to look at hard-edged penalties. I announced some new penalties, and was criticised by the Australian Democrats for being some kind of draconian monster. That does not worry me. If those people get their information from the brie and chablis set of the inner city, that is fine. However, I think that the members in this House are out there in touch with the people on the ground, and the people I meet are getting sick and tired of having their buildings, houses and public utilities daubed. We have looked at these increased penalties, from a maximum of three months imprisonment or a \$1 000 fine to six months imprisonment or \$2 000 fine. A new offence of unlawful possession of a graffiti instrument will also be created. There will be an announcement of a comprehensive strategy.

The second part—the preventive phase—is certainly very imminent. I am very pleased at the responsible attitude taken by councils, which are also involved in a lot of programs, and we look forward to working with them as some sort of consultant and helping hand. I think that these programs—the hard line and preventive and supportive line—should be encouraged, because it is that kind of strategy that will work. If we just take the hard line it will not

work; if we just take diversionary practices it will not work. It has to be a two-pronged strategy.

Mr HERON: Page 478 of the Program Estimates under 'Broad Objective(s)/Goal(s)' states:

To improve the level of coordination between Government departments and in the youth affairs field.

Will the Minister outline how this will be better achieved through a relocation of State Youth Affairs?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I have been concerned about this for some time. First, we have to look at how Youth Affairs came about. Basically, Youth Affairs is itself an amalgamation of the Youth Bureau, which had a policy role, and the Youth Initiatives Unit, which used to be part of the Department of Employment and Training. Currently they are in two different buildings: one in North Adelaide and one in Hindmarsh Square. It is very important that the people work together on the important issues confronting young people.

So, we are looking at a consolidation because Youth Affairs itself, which is and will continue to be a separate ministry—and Bronwyn Webster, the Director of State Youth Affairs reports to me separately, individually and regularly—is an administrative part of the Department of Employment and Technical and Further Education. I regarded that its location in two areas of the city as unacceptable, particularly in two areas that were also separated from DETAFE.

As a result of the desire of the former Chief Executive Officer, Peter Kirby, to locate DETAFE together in a central office, the Hindmarsh Square and Norwich Centre offices of State Youth Affairs will soon be moving to the State Education Centre at 31 Flinders Street, Adelaide. I think there will be a party at the end of this week to celebrate the move. The Programs Branch of State Youth Affairs will be located on the ground floor of that Education Department building, utilising shop front style premises, making access easier for young people, while the Director, Policy Branch, and State Youth Strategy will be housed on the 12th floor.

The benefits achieved through the uniting of the two lie in increased efficiency and communication. Clients will have greater access to State Youth Affairs services because of that ground floor base next to the TAFE Information Centre. Further benefits will be achieved through the collocation with other DETAFE divisions such as finance, human services, planning and systems, and access to the Minister's office will obviously be much easier. Whilst it is a physical move, I think it is a physical move that makes a lot of common sense.

Mr INGERSON: In a previous reply the Minister said that the net cost of the shrike project was some \$100 000 in broad figures. As the Minister would be aware, there are two components to that answer: one is the actual loss in relation to the project and the other is the future guesstimate in relation to the potential sale of assets. What might those two figures be, and how did the Minister arrive at \$100 000?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I did not actually arrive at the figure, but I will pass it on so that Mr Carter can have a look at it. We have put business enterprises under SATEC to get greater accountability and coordination. Some of those business enterprises made profits and some made losses. I understand that the eventual outcome is expected to be a loss of that order mentioned by Mr Carter, but I will pass it back to him to give a better answer.

Mr Carter: The \$100 000 I mentioned, was the wind-up figure after all assets and liabilities had been taken into account and did not reflect the trading results for the financial year just completed. Those results are reflected in a separate profit and loss statement, and I am not sure that I can provide those figures. I will get a report on them.

Mr INGERSON: As a supplementary question, will the Minister obtain a report on the profit and loss and the potential sale of those assets?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Absolutely.

Mr INGERSON: When was the Minister first advised that the project was in financial trouble and that it should be wound up?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The advice on winding up the project has been quite recent. I was advised that the project had problems in terms of sponsorship in 1990, but at that stage I was also advised that to wind it up then, in a period when there was sponsorship and the potential to sell the cars, would have cost a lot more. So, we went ahead until we were able to sell the cars. We have sold two of them already to Jack Brabham.

Mr INGERSON: Will the Minister confirm that in mid 1990 he approved a revised business plan and costings for this project?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am sure that in 1990 I approved a continuation of the shrike process and other business enterprises in order to avoid a much more substantial loss. The day I became Minister, or within a couple of days after, I was told that if we wound up the venture then we would lose a lot more money because of the potential for sales. So, I know that I took a hard headed decision on that and said, 'Okay, let's see how we can minimise the losses.' That is what we did.

Mr INGERSON: Supplementary to that, did that include a specific business plan of which costings and everything else was included?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I ask Mr Carter to answer that.

Mr Carter: Certainly the project board had prepared business plans. I am not sure of the extent to which they have been across the Minister's desk.

Mr INGERSON: As a supplementary question, can those business plans be provided to the Committee?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I do not have them here, but we can get a report on the planning for that.

Mr INGERSON: Will the Minister detail the procedures that were followed in the appointment of the new Chief Executive Officer and outline what role, if any, he took in that appointment?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: A very strong role, because we have one of the best chief executives in the nation in Peter Kirby, and I wanted to ensure that the successor to Peter Kirby was of an equal calibre. What then had to be done, rather than my just going to Cabinet with a name (which I would have been absolutely entitled to do under the Act, so there is no blame there), was to ask the head of the DPIR, Andrew Strickland, to convene a selection process (apart from the advertising process which again was not necessary), to advertise nationally. This was done, and a committee was set up that included himself as Chair; a senior chief executive from outside the Public Service, Mr Bastian from Sola, who would be well-known to the honourable member; the head of the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology, Mr Peter Crawford; and also a staff representative with a union background. So, we had someone from outside business, a staff representative with a union background and a college director.

Because of the very important role of country TAFE colleges in the system (TAFE is very important to country areas, as the member for Chaffey would be aware), the college director selected was Ms Maureen Morton, who was the Director of the Goyder College, the old Port Pirie TAFE. So a five-person committee interviewed a selection of applicants internally and externally and people from other States, other departments and within the department. The advice

I received was that the recommendation was unanimous. Rather than doing what I could have done, which was to take to Cabinet a recommendation for an appointment, I chose to advertise nationally. I chose people from outside and inside, from other departments and from the private sector, and they came up with a very good choice.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to page 479 of the Program Estimates in relation to further developments and skill formation strategies, with particular emphasis on the setting of skill standards. We read in here repeatedly that Australian tradespeople's standards must reach and maintain a high standard. Do you have any information that compares our standards with those overseas?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I guess there is one area, and that is the skill olympics. The 31st Youth Skill Olympics were held in Amsterdam during last July. It is a shame that honourable members could not attend. Our Australian team of 30 youths under the age of 22 years, were placed eighth overall, in respect to the 26 countries which competed. Australia won six medals; one gold, two silver, three bronze. Two of the bronze medals were won by South Australians. There were some excellent individual performances with a further 15 team members being in the top 50 per cent of their category and thus receiving diplomas.

In terms of total medals and diplomas gained, only three countries Taiwan, Korea and Germany, finished ahead of Australia. With eight team members, South Australia provided a quarter of the Australian team, which I think is outstanding. We have 8 per cent of the population and we made up 25 per cent of the Australian team. To qualify to be a member of the Australian Olympic team a competitor has to win a regional competition then the national finals. The Work Skill Australia Foundation's Regional and National competitions have substantially lifted the skills of our work force, and the results show we are able to compete very effectively with our overseas counterparts. We see pursuit of the objectives of Work Skill assuming even greater relevance in the period ahead of us.

Mr De LAINE: I refer now to page 472 of the Program Estimates. I note the establishment of a workplace education service in literacy, language and communication. As we know, many people have difficulty with language and literacy in the workplace, and I have heard that this could be costing the nation several billion dollars a year in lost production. How will the workplace education service address this problem?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am pleased to have this question, because it flows on from what we were talking about under the OTE line in relation to the community adult education program. The Workplace Education Service of the Department of Technical and Further Education is Australia's first integrated language, literacy and communication program for workers in public and private industries. The program assists public and private sector employers and employees to be more efficient, effective, productive and safe through improved communication skills and systems. Workplace Education Scheme provides: consultancy and advisory services to determine the language, literacy and communication needs of a specific work force, and involves tailor-made communication courses in: literacy and numeracy; English as a second language; technical and professional English; report writing; workplace maths; critical thinking and problem solving; independent learning; specific communication training package for managers, supervisors and trainers; an educational counselling and referral service to other educational organisations; and a publications advisory and editing service.

Just to give some of the details I could not give off the cuff previously, I state that in South Australia an estimated 80 000 workers have problems with English and literacy. The Workplace Education Service was developed to ensure that workers would have equal access to career paths without the impediments of poor levels of literacy, numeracy or other communication skills. The Workplace Education Scheme recognises the workplace as a major focus of language and literacy program delivery and the linking of language and literacy skills with productivity and the award restructuring process.

The Workplace Education Service combines on-site courses for workers from English and non-English speaking backgrounds alike. This approach is unique to South Australia and has stimulated interest from interstate in our programs. The success of this integrated approach puts South Australia ahead in literacy workplace education. Worker response to the integrated approach has nationally been extremely positive. Whilst basic skills programs are given priority, more advanced courses for professional or technical staff are also conducted.

All classes conducted by the Workplace Education Service are linked to current and future job needs. Last year there were seven private sector workplaces offering 40 courses and six public sector workplaces offering 25 courses, including sites at Mount Gambier and Peterborough, serviced by South-East College and Goyder College respectively. Proposals for courses from the Riverland have been received and will be implemented in the next 12 months. The program is growing rapidly with significant staff development activity taking place within TAFE to service the programs. There have been productive discussions with the food and beverage and local government's ITCs regarding courses for the coming year (especially with smaller businesses).

Although I have to say that the larger employers are still the main participants in workplace education, strategies for reaching small businesses, regional and rural industries and outworkers have been explored and will be progressively implemented in the next 12 months. Based across the State-wide TAFE system through a network of focus colleges, the Workplace Education Service has the potential to make access to lifelong learning a reality for thousands of disadvantaged South Australian workers. This year \$200 000 of State funds and \$158 000 of Commonwealth funds will allow literacy, English as a second language, and communication skills to be delivered in our factories and work sites.

I hope that unions and industry will throw their weight behind this initiative, which promises to expand rapidly in the next year. Certainly, they have given initial support, and I am very appreciative of that. These initiatives are in addition to adult literacy programs and literacy components of other courses run throughout TAFE and through the Office of Tertiary Education.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to the promotion of business development in TAFE, mentioned on page 477 of the Program Estimates. Will the Minister outline how DETAFE's international projects are progressing?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Yes. This will be of particular interest to members of both sides who have an interest in business enterprises. I am pleased to announce today that South Australia is to play a major role in a five-year \$15 million Indonesian education and training program. This second Indonesian-Australian polytechnic project will involve South Australian TAFE educational expertise. The project is a major extension of the Indonesian-Australian polytechnic project. SAGRIC and DETAFE have assisted with the development of Indonesia's polytechnic education

system and has established commerce programs in nine polytechnics in Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Bali. This project was completed earlier this year at a cost of \$20.5 million over a period of 6.5 years.

The second Indonesian-Australian polytechnic project will assist planning and management of Indonesia's polytechnic system, focusing on commerce programs. It will complement inputs from the Government of Indonesia, the World Bank and other donors. It will commence in January 1992, when I will be holidaying with my wife in Indonesia—at my own expense. The project will further develop systems in curriculum revision to maintain relevance to Indonesian industry. It will also improve teaching methods and develop polytechnic libraries, increase capabilities in the production of teaching and learning resources, and establish management information and planning systems.

The commerce programs established under the Indonesian-Australian commerce polytechnic project have been very effective; 1 700 students have graduated and are in high demand by industry. The program has enhanced the capabilities of Indonesian middle managers and teachers, including 300 people who have undertaken training in the Indonesian Student Polytechnic Unit at Adelaide College of TAFE.

The second Indonesian-Australian polytechnic project will help ensure that graduates acquire the skills necessary to meet the requirements of the Indonesian economy. This project will also help the State and Australia develop its educational and commercial links with Indonesia. The department engages in international projects through its commercial enterprises, SATECH. A number of former business enterprises of individual colleges have been wound up following my initiative last year. SATECH is now taking this principal role. The formal joint venture between SATECH and SAGRIC International has been an outstanding success. It is a very exciting \$15 million project, and once again South Australian TAFE wins the deal.

Mr INGERSON: In answering an earlier question in relation to CROTECH, the Minister said that two of the shrike cars had been sold to the Brabham company. Can the Minister advise the sale price that was achieved and what assets are in fact left?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We will provide that information in the report.

Mr INGERSON: My supplementary question relates to the answer given by Mr Carter in relation to the \$100 000 estimated loss. I accept that we will have the profit and loss and other information supplied to us. With respect to the estimate of \$100 000, could Mr Carter supply today the estimate of the loss and of the future sale of the asset which enabled him to reach that figure?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We are happy to obtain a report for the honourable member.

Mr INGERSON: In supplying the original answer to the Committee, those pieces of information must have been available to reach that estimate. Could that information be provided to the Committee?

Mr Carter: I have had discussions with the college Director, who is on the CROTECH board, about the estimates in relation to their finances and what they believe they will be able to achieve. I do not have the details of that at the moment.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: I refer to Aboriginal education on page 472 in the Program Estimates. What was the proposed budget for the School of Aboriginal Education in 1990-91 and what was the actual level of expenditure? If there was a blowout in the expenditure, what were the main reasons for the blowout and was the school told that over

expenditure in 1990-91 would have to be recovered from the 1991-92 budget?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think there has been some confusion here. There is not a blowout—it is additional Commonwealth moneys. We do not knock back these Commonwealth funds when we can grab them. I will ask Mr Carter to respond further.

Mr Carter: I can provide the honourable member with the details of the expenditure. The figures in relation to the Aboriginal program show a growth. That growth relates mainly to increased Commonwealth funds. It is not a blowout of the budget. It just reflects the additional funds provided during the year.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: Are all the appointments of staff in the School of Aboriginal Education made on the basis of merit? If not, why not? If relatives of senior officers in the school have been employed, were their appointments made on the basis of merit or by appointment procedures which did not include the senior officers concerned?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Could the honourable member supply details of any examples on which I could obtain a report? I am not aware of any irregularities.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: We have been advised that this practice has occurred. We want to know if it is a fact. We have been given this information.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will certainly ask for an inquiry into that matter. If the honourable member can manage to find any further information, it will certainly help.

Mr HAMILTON: I listened with a great deal of interest this morning to SAN to a question about the desecration of the city's war memorial, which I believe everyone present would condemn. However, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide was suggesting in the interview that the desecration was linked to youth unemployment. To say the least, I found that suggestion outrageous. The gall of people to attack the youth of this State, without evidence, and compound their problems even further! That was really beyond the pale. I am really angry about it. Even if a couple of youths were responsible for this act, all youths were being branded with the rotten apple syndrome. I thought it was reprehensible. Youth in the community do have problems, but this attack was just one of the worst episodes I have encountered in a long time.

The interviewer, on the one hand, was encouraging the Lord Mayor to lead a protest march through the streets of Adelaide and, on the other, was attacking young unemployed people. I hope that the Lord Mayor and the interviewer will reconsider their attack on young unemployed people in this State.

According to page 478 of the Program Estimates, State Youth Affairs has a broad objective to raise community awareness about the needs and issues of young people. One of the major issues facing young people today is that of access to jobs. What is the State Government doing to address the problem of youth unemployment, which currently in South Australia stands at 27.8 per cent?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: On the first question, I did not hear the radio program but have heard reports that young unemployed people have been accused—without any evidence—of being responsible for damage to the war memorial. I do not know whether the Lord Mayor has any information about the identity, age, occupation or lack of occupation of the people involved but, if he has, he should immediately inform the police. If he has not, it seems extraordinary to say that one sector of the population is responsible. In fact, all our evidence about graffiti is that people from a variety of backgrounds are involved, and most of them are schoolchildren, not the unemployed.

Mr HAMILTON: Including people from well-to-do backgrounds.

Mr INGERSON: All backgrounds.

The CHAIRMAN: I remind members of the Committee that all questions and answers come through the Chair. We have a long drag ahead of us, and I should like to think that we leave this place at 10 o'clock as friends. If you want it otherwise, I can arrange it.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The honourable member is correct: youth unemployment in South Australia, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures for August stands at 27.8 per cent, which is far too high. The youth unemployment rate continues to be unacceptably high, and we need national resolve to ensure that jobs are created that can employ our young people. However, I point out that we are not the State with the highest full-time unemployment rate for 15 to 19 year olds, which used to be the case when the former Liberal Government was in power.

Tasmania last month recorded 30.7 per cent and Victoria, 30.4 per cent, with the Australian average at 28 per cent. I recognise that this is little comfort for anyone unemployed. Let me put firmly on the record that the fact that we are below the national average gives me no comfort at all. I might also point out that it is important to understand what the teenage unemployment figure means, because it is not a percentage of all young people aged 15 to 19.

Last week in State Parliament there were some fairly mindless interjections from the member for Adelaide (who, unfortunately, is not here today), who kept chanting the figure '30 per cent' in relation to the number of young people unemployed. A number of speakers over the past couple of weeks have said that it is 30 per cent of young people who are unemployed, but that is just not the case.

Mr INGERSON interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The member for Bragg, who should know better if he expects to reach the top shelf, knows that a percentage of all young people 15 to 19 is what we are talking about, not 16 to 25, for goodness sake. Certainly, it is not a percentage of all young people aged 15 to 19. It is a percentage of the full-time youth labour force, that is, 15 to 19 year olds who are employed full time or who are actively looking for full-time work. The youth labour force does not include our tens of thousands of young students, except for those who are both students and looking for full-time work.

Mr INGERSON interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I do not believe that university students are those who have given up: I think that they are the ones with a future. If we use the July 1991 figures, it is not one in four of our 15 to 19 year olds who are looking for full-time work; it is more like one in 12. I saw a program on a commercial television station—and I presume that the journalist was not well briefed—that stated that it was one in four of young people. Again, it is one in four or 27 per cent of young people in the labour force looking for work, not of the 16 to 25 year olds.

Most young people of that age are in school, at TAFE or at university. Even so, the figure is still too high. I therefore take this opportunity to provide a briefing on programs aimed at helping unemployed young people. In times of increased competition for jobs, those with less experience and lower levels of education will be disadvantaged. Conversely, there is a positive relationship between higher levels of education and training and improved labour market outcomes.

The retention rate of secondary school students to year 12 has increased in South Australia from around 50 per cent in 1984 to 71.1 per cent in 1990. That should be

applauded by all members of this Committee. The South Australian Government is concerned that young people should not be disadvantaged in the labour market because of a lack of experience, and it is vitally important for the future of our young people that South Australia maintain its training momentum to ensure that our young people can take the jobs that will be available when the economy rebounds.

During previous recessions in this country, we have turned off the tap in terms of training so that, when the economy recovers, everyone is screaming out to import skilled labour. That makes no sense. If we are mature as a nation, we must maintain that commitment to training in good times and in bad. I know that the member for Bragg will applaud the fact that our retention rate in school has increased massively over recent years, because the young people who gain qualifications and skills, who go to universities or to TAFE, have a much better chance in South Australia, nationally and internationally of getting jobs. Over all, 12 000 people are currently involved in apprenticeship training in South Australia, and a further 1 100 in traineeships. Nine per cent of 15 to 19 year olds and 10 per cent of 20 to 24 year olds are in higher education.

In May, I announced a \$4.5 million Federal Government boost to pre-vocational training courses in the South Australian TAFE colleges. The additional money covers 63 new pre-vocational programs involving 32 courses, and more than 1 000 additional students throughout the State. That is on top of 1 200 pre-vocational places already funded by the State Government, so we have nearly doubled the number of pre-vocational places in the past couple of months.

Last month I also announced an expansion of the South Australian Youth Conservation Corps. The scheme harnesses the enthusiasm of our most disadvantaged, long-term unemployed young people for conservation issues and the outdoors, providing them with practical skills and accredited TAFE training. The State Government's youth strategy is, effectively, coordinating services for young people in five regions in South Australia. The State youth strategy operates from six locations: Adelaide, southern, northern, western, metropolitan Whyalla and Port Pirie.

Officers provide direct assistance to disadvantaged young people to obtain education and training and to groups to provide training and programs that enhance employment skills. Examples of the latter have been literacy projects, skills development courses, landscaping, mechanics, graphic arts, personal development and programs for specific groups, including Aboriginal young people.

The State youth strategy is a critical link in ensuring that disadvantaged young people have access to employment, education and training opportunities. We as a State must be ready to respond when the economy picks up, and so, even in these difficult times, employers should not discard this skills base but, rather, maintain a commitment to training through apprenticeship trainees and graduate employees, in particular.

Mr HAMILTON: What level of services is provided to the young people in the rural sector, particularly in addressing the problems of employment, education and training needs of these young people?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The needs of rural young people are of particular concern to the Government as are the problems confronting young people generally. Problems relating to access to education, access to employment and training, secure, affordable housing and health and recreation are exacerbated for young people in rural and remote areas. The South Australian State youth strategy is targeting two such areas—Whyalla and Port Pirie—as well as main-

taining an overview of the rest of the State. In addition, I know that all members would be pleased to hear that officers from State Youth Affairs and the Department of Agriculture are shortly to meet to discuss the development of a rural youth policy towards the coordinated provision of services and more equitable distribution of resources.

In addition, grants totalling over \$170 000 were provided directly to rural youth people from Mount Gambier to Mimili. Projects ranged from an Aboriginal fun day at Whyalla resulting in the spontaneous formation of a committee of Aboriginal people to consider the education, employment and training needs of their people, youth services mapping at Whyalla; a course in hairdressing for Aboriginal girls at Ceduna; conservation corps projects at the Riverland College of TAFE (Berri campus); project work based at Wilabalangaloo, a National Trust property near Berri and there are a number of other projects out of Goyder College of TAFE and elsewhere.

Mr HAMILTON: Again on employment, on page 480 a specific target is stated to be to review employment programs currently being delivered. One program which appears to be popular amongst my constituents is Home Assist. This has social welfare objectives but I also understand it is focused on employment. Can the Minister provide details of that program and comment on the success of this initiative?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think Home Assist is one of my favourite programs. Most people still do not really understand what it does, but I can tell this Committee that 12 600 needy households were helped by Home Assist in the past financial year, so it is very much a quiet achiever and that is the way I like to be. Home Assist funds local government authorities to employ unemployed people who provide assistance to low income households, the frail aged, younger people with disabilities and carers, by carrying out minor repairs and maintenance, including safety and security measures. A range of support services is also provided to people who are eligible for the services. As I say, 12 600 households were helped in 1990-91.

Two clear sets of key Government objectives are met by the one source of funds—labour market objectives by giving unemployed people real jobs in training to make them more competitive in the labour market and by social welfare objectives using these previously unemployed people to help frail and dependent households to remain safely and to maintain self-sufficiency in their own homes. Whilst the police are out there striving hard to make it safe for people when they go out, we are striving hard to make it safe for those people when they stay in.

In addition, 128 people have been employed to date in the 1990-91 funding period and that comprised 88 males and 40 females. Home Assist funding employs for one year long-term unemployed people who hold positions as coordinators, security assessors, community aides, handy persons, or home aides, and they receive continuous on-the-job training to deliver home maintenance, social support and security service to needy clients and to prepare them for return to wider employment opportunities at the end of their year.

In the metropolitan area 102 people were involved, while in the country 26 were involved, giving a total of 128 people. The State Government provides a little over \$1 million for this project whilst the Commonwealth contributes just over \$500 000, so it is a total of \$1.6 million. I commend this service to members and, if they have elderly constituents who are frail and frightened at home, those people can contact us and we will let them know whether Home Assist can help. It is administered very much through local gov-

ernment and we have a good partnership with local government in this area.

Mr SUCH: In relation to page 162 of the Estimates of Payments, in program 9, employment development and skill formation, what expenditure lines other than this line with \$5 577 000 are included in the Government's costing of its Kickstart program? For example, is the line in program 8 'Apprentice employment and training initiatives' of \$205 000 also included in Kickstart and what other lines are included?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Before I invite Mr Connelly, who is basically in charge of Kickstart, to comment, let me provide a brief overview about what Kickstart is all about, because again there has been some confusion. Kickstart is a regional employment and training strategy. People from the regions came to see us and asked, 'Why do we have to do everything to be submission based from Adelaide? Why, if we want to set up a Work Link project, do we have to put it through Adelaide because there are people here on the ground who have that local knowledge and initiative?'

I went to New South Wales, which has a Liberal Government, and looked at what it was doing. I obtained some information from New Zealand. I also spoke to an expert from Western Australia. As a result, I thought it would be beneficial to see if we could harness the enthusiasm and talents at the local level to directly administer employment and training.

In 1990 I signed an agreement with the Commonwealth and with local government in the northern suburbs to allow the Northern Adelaide Development Board, which basically is the commercial, employment and development arms of the Munno Para, Gawler and Salisbury councils, to deliver directly, under strict guidelines, services from employment and training, so we provided the allocation of funds that would normally go to the northern suburbs to that body to administer themselves. It was a process of devolution. That initiative has been quite successful. It will be evaluated over three years to see whether we will then proceed to other areas. I also wanted to harness the talents in regional areas such as Whyalla, Port Augusta, Port Pirie, the Lower Eyre Peninsula, the Riverland and other areas to bring these regions on stream and to set up regional employment boards or bodies which would include representatives of TAFE, local government, business and unions and say, 'Okay, you set up a regional employment board and we will help you, in terms of a regional assistance scheme from employment and training, to go and help devise strategies that link into things that you want to do locally rather than Adelaide telling you what to do.' So, we have divided the setup into 12 areas roughly in line with the DEET areas.

We intend to bring on progressively each of those areas, including the Riverland and South-East. The first areas designated are the western suburbs of the metropolitan area, the Lower Eyre Peninsula because of the problems encountered there, Whyalla and Port Augusta. The next areas will be the southern districts of Adelaide, which will come on track next year, and Port Pirie. We will progressively set up regional employment boards.

Mr INGERSON interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The honourable member says there are not too many Liberal electorates in the southern districts. That might come as news to the member for Fisher, the member for Flinders and the member for Eyre in terms of the Lower Eyre Peninsula but let us not get political. Part of the Kickstart project is to set up these regional employment boards to deliver and be responsive.

The New South Wales experience has shown that in the past, when the Newcastle program was delivered from Sydney, people said, 'That's good, there are some good local

employment programs.' When they run it and administer it themselves with local business, union, TAFE and council support, there is much greater sense of ownership. What is happening is that they draw in greater contributions. BHP in Newcastle gave the project an accountant to run a project for a couple of years.

Other industries provide support in various ways. We intend to work in a partnership. Also, Kickstart involves almost a doubling—and I say 'almost' because I would hate to mislead anyone—of prevocational training places, and various other matters are part of that. In terms of the member's specific query, because I do not wish to prevaricate, I will ask Mr Connelly to comment.

Mr Connelly: In relation to the first question asked by the member for Fisher, on which he was promised further information, many changes have occurred which makes it somewhat difficult to follow. In relation to those two programs, I draw members' attention to the lines called Group Training Schemes and Training Centres, which involve up to about \$1 million. I am looking at the actual expenditure for 1991. In relation to program nine, the areas labelled currently Work Ready, Work Link, Local Employment Assistance, Local Employment Development Program, Self Employment Support and Special projects, in essence, have been put into one line, which accounts for the \$5.577 million. That is a reflection on the point the Minister has made. Our previous practice was to have a program with fairly finite and complex guidelines, which were submission driven. We have basically broken those open to give the regional boards more flexibility to design programs to fit the needs in their region. It is essentially a not dissimilar sum of money, but there is some increase for this coming year. The components that have been taken across into the Kickstart program were previously called Work Ready, Work Link, the Local Employment Assistance Program, the Local Employment Development Program and Self Employed Support.

Mr SUCH: Page 162 of the Estimates of Payments refers to the fact that a considerable amount of money has been allocated for programs specifically to assist women. What procedures does the department employ to monitor the effectiveness of such programs?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: These are a number of programs. For instance, there is the Tradeswomen on the Move program, which is a small but important program in which women, particularly in the trades, go to schools and talk to classes, particularly those containing girls, to give examples of the jobs that are open to them. The sad fact is that in Australia at the moment—and in many other countries—women still work at women's work. When one looks at the bunching of employment categories, one sees that there still tends to be a strong course for young women to avoid areas such as engineering, that when they are choosing subjects at school there is still a tendency to say that they should not do maths and that they should go on to do the social sciences. However, by dropping out of maths, young girls are cutting off vast numbers of jobs that now require some degree of maths. The Tradeswomen on the Move program is aimed at encouraging girls to look at the trades areas—the non-traditional women's areas—as possible jobs. We also have an engineering project that is working with the universities and with TAFE to encourage girls at school to consider engineering as an option. The number of students going on to study engineering at university has increased.

We also have a project in which I am very interested, called 'The Maths Multiply as Your Choices Campaign', which is aimed at girls in schools. I launched that program at the end of last year. A showbag-like kit is given out which

deals with the sorts of careers that girls can take and look forward to if they include maths as part of their choices when they go on to further study and matriculation. These are all small projects. We can only keep trying to ensure that they are effective. Certainly, the interest is strong and we are getting a strong demand from schools for these projects.

Recently, a women's employment officer was appointed to the Department of Employment and Training to work on developing a women's employment strategy to look at where we are at, where we are going and what has been achieved. A women's employment strategy committee will be established to help draw in people from outside the department, from private industry, unions and so on to help push this matter along. It is an area of which I am strongly supportive, and in 1992 I would like to devote a considerable amount of energy to this area.

State Youth Affairs is involved also in a number of projects in terms of assisting women. No fewer than 25 projects were reported as receiving budget allocations, ranging from service delivery, education and provision of information. Some of those projects were joint initiatives with other areas of the department, within the State youth strategy or various community groups. Obviously, those projects reflect social justice strategy policies.

Ms Schofield: Programs for women are subjected to the same evaluative tools as any other programs within the department: no more, no less. That means we assess them against their objectives, and we review them annually in the context of budget decisions. For example, a project such as electrical careers for girls is designed to provide information relating to career options to young women in high schools. One of the tests of whether or not that is successful is whether more young women enrol. Those are the sorts of criteria we use to judge this and any other program we run within the department.

Mr SUCH: Is there any statistical data to suggest that these programs have been successful? Have any increases occurred in the number of programs in relation to the number of women and girls enrolling?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Certainly, earlier this year the University of Adelaide, and the University of South Australia, reported an increase in engineering student admissions. That is obviously welcome, but we have to keep up the battle.

Mr Connelly: In the past, we have tried to follow these things through thoroughly, but that is prohibitively expensive. It is not available to us. One can get indications from Government apprenticeships, which excludes hairdressing because it does not apply in the Government area. Three years ago, the level of female apprenticeships in Government was less than 9 per cent. The most recent figures indicate it was 13 per cent. That is still a low figure, but progress is being made. One of the programs we ran in the past year was with the help of Email. We rely very much on support from the private sector, which has generally been forthcoming because it realises the importance of this area. We took young women in for one week full-time work experience in the workshops at Email.

The result was that two of those young women went into apprenticeships. We run a program whereby we offer an incentive of \$2 000 over two years if an employer will take on an existing non-technical woman employee and provide her with accredited technical training. We were able to have up to \$25 000 for that last year, and all of that was taken up by employers wanting to take advantage of the scheme. Those are the sorts of touchdowns that we get in most of

our programs, and it clearly demonstrates the effect that they are having.

Mr SUCH: What is the department doing in relation to males, particularly disadvantaged males?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think we answered this question last year. In terms of disadvantaged males, obviously Aboriginal males are an area in which we have a very strong commitment, as is also the case with Aboriginal females. We basically try to target programs aimed at the most disadvantaged sectors of the community. That is why we set up the 1 per cent challenge in terms of Aboriginal employment, and that is why we are putting considerable effort into literacy—targeting people from non-English speaking backgrounds and so forth. So, we are looking at both disadvantaged males and females.

Group training schemes provide enormous assistance throughout the State in rural areas and in the city. Apprenticeships have been encouraged because of State and Commonwealth financial support in setting up those group training schemes, particularly for disadvantaged groups. There were 819 male apprentices, 104 female apprentices, 34 male trainees and 58 female trainees, making a total of 1 015. Well over 800 of that 1 015 are possibly disadvantaged males. Certainly a number of them are directed particularly at disadvantaged people, including Aboriginal people. While I have a very strong commitment to the women's employment strategy, I have a commitment to all disadvantaged people.

Mr HERON: I am aware that a recent national report into post-compulsory education and training has some potentially far-reaching implications for TAFE. I know that the area of training and education of our 15 to 19 year olds is of great concern to the Minister. How will the Finn review affect TAFE in the future?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The Finn report proposes an education and training guarantee under which almost all young people would be encouraged to finish year 12 schooling and/or a TAFE equivalent producing a national training board level 1 competency standard, which approximates current traineeships. As well, almost all young people would be encouraged to proceed to higher education or to vocational training to level 2 standard. Finally, many more young people would be encouraged to undertake substantial post-school vocational training to level 3, which is the trade level, or higher TAFE or university levels.

I should point out that the Finn report covers the school area as well as TAFE areas. Certainly Greg Crafter and I are currently looking at the implications of the Finn report for South Australia. However, it has to be said that the broad thrust of Finn is very encouraging: I think it is an outstanding report which I think will help to generate considerably more opportunities for young people as we move towards the year 2000.

Finn proposes also that courses to year 12 in schools become much more vocationally oriented and industrially relevant and that TAFE courses, especially if large numbers of young, full-time students are involved, incorporate significant areas of general education.

In South Australia, year 12 retention rates are already very high, and are a great credit to the Minister of Education, I might say, and the South Australian certificate of education has been developed to allow students to study vocationally relevant subjects in schools and to receive credit which may be transferred into TAFE courses. It is therefore reasonable to expect the trend to year 12 retention to continue to grow and for TAFE to be predominantly concerned with post-school vocational education. The present proportional distribution of 15 to 19 year olds among

the three post-compulsory systems should remain much the same or the school share might grow somewhat.

On the other hand, enrolments of 15 to 19 year olds, and the age groups immediately beyond, in TAFE have been relatively static throughout the late 1980s while higher education enrolments have grown rapidly. The Commonwealth Government has expressed an interest in channelling a good deal of future growth into TAFE, and South Australia would support that although we obviously have to work out the financial implications of it.

The activities of 15 to 19 year olds in South Australia during 1990 were as follows: schools had 48 124 or 43.2 per cent; TAFE had 16 288 or 14.4 per cent; higher education had 13 496 or 12 per cent; and 32 130 or 30.4 per cent were not in education.

The average number of hours in TAFE of 15 to 19 year olds is currently only 250, which is typical of part-time students. Finn has used current course lengths in all his calculations, but South Australia believes it is improbable that a large scale expansion of teenage enrolments in TAFE would be part time—the employment opportunities are simply not available, South Australian DETAFE has suggested a mixed enrolment model which would generate 600 hours per student, thus increasing by a substantial factor the already large costs envisioned by Finn.

Finn calculates an additional annual recurrent cost of his proposals as they affect TAFE of \$592 million across the country, and it could well be more than that. In addition, there would be substantial capital costs spread over a 10 year period and major curriculum, staff development and other educational infrastructure costs.

The Federal Government has calculated the costs of growth in TAFE by the year 2001 to be \$810 million nationally annually. South Australian DETAFE agrees that this is the minimum likely figure if targets are achieved. Obviously, this translates to a major financial impact in terms of South Australia. So, whilst South Australia supports the thrust of the Finn report but awaits suggestions from the Commonwealth about how such massive cost increases will be funded, we also wish to discuss details of desired educational programs with the Commonwealth and other States. This is necessary not only for cost calculations but also to determine whether programs of educational worth related to identified labour market needs can be achieved and thus enrolment targets met.

So, overall Finn is the way to go in a broad way, but we have to work out who is funding what and where—the overlaps and the boundaries. Over the years the Commonwealth has progressively been reducing its recurrent funding to DETAFE, and there has been a bit of a correction of that balance this year. I was very concerned last year, and made it very clear to the committee, that we are not going to be forced to carry the baby and that it must be a partnership with the Commonwealth.

Mr HERON: Page 471 of the Program Estimates states that one of the targets this year is to further develop video conferencing networks, including incorporating industry centres. What further development is envisaged in this area?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: TAFE channel is an area very dear to my heart. I invite any member of this committee to ring me personally, and I will arrange for them to visit the electronic studios either at Adelaide or Regency colleges and be given a bit of a whirl on TAFE channel, because I think it is an outstanding system. Whilst I think video conferencing is now seen as a permanent addition to DETAFE's infrastructure, the department continues to take a research and development approach to the field. We are at the cutting edge of new technologies in learning systems and in edu-

cation in terms of the use of technology rather than bricks and mortar to deliver education and further education. Next year we will be seeing the introduction of smarter equipment, new uses of the facilities and more sites added to the network.

Let me trace back a bit, because I know that members of the Opposition particularly are interested in the impact in rural areas. In 1990 we launched the first pilot phase of the video conferencing system, and that was to link the Adelaide College of TAFE through to Gawler, Nuriootpa and Clare. We wanted to see how it would work. It was funded by the Commonwealth; we managed to convince the Commonwealth that this should be a national pilot. The response from the students and staff was outstanding, and the response from those rural communities was outstanding because it meant much greater access to further education in places like Clare.

I understand that an extra 30 courses are now available at Clare and that TAFE channel is used about 50 hours per week. Last year expert lecturers in the city were beamed up to these different sites. It is very much a two, three or four-way process, because the lecturer can see the students at the different locations and talk with them, and they can see the lecturer and talk with him or her and also see the other class members.

So, there are enormous implications for the provision of further education in country areas. Last month, the Premier and I launched TAFE channel, which links Regency college with Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla into the grid. I can make some major announcements today. We intend to extend that to Port Lincoln in the new year. We also intend to extend it to Coober Pedy, which is 937 kilometres from Adelaide, by October next year, as part of the construction of the new campus at Coober Pedy.

A submission is currently before the Commonwealth for funding a joint venture between DETAFE and General Motors-Holden's Australia to link the General Motors-Holden's training centre and the Elizabeth college into the network. We are not just talking about TAFE channel linking the TAFE colleges, important as that is; we are talking about its going out to factories and workplaces.

A feasibility study is also under way to investigate the possibility of a link to Qantas in Sydney for the provision of courses direct from Regency college. A trialling of this link is being planned for late October 1991. We have won a major deal with Qantas to be the curriculum supervising agent for virtually all of Qantas's training for stewards, stewardesses, chefs, ground staff and engineering staff.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. Rann: As the honourable member knows, I have a very strong commitment to the Riverland, having opened a new TAFE college—one of the best in the country—up there last year. We will be making announcements systematically as we extend the network.

The S.A. Gas Company has provided funds for a forthcoming experimental course in gasfitting. The course will be conducted between Adelaide and the Barossa Valley and will combine video conferencing and computer managed learning—another first for South Australian DETAFE. Numerous industry groups are currently being introduced to the system, with a view to offering more industry-specific courses on the network.

I am also encouraging the universities to use the network and the technology to extend university education to country areas. DETAFE is planning to install new equipment in its system later this year, and this will mean that live television will be transmitted, using the equivalent of only

two telephone lines. Originally, we were talking about 2 000 telephone lines, then 200 and then down to 30.

I know that some of my colleagues in other States embarked on the process of using satellites to deliver education between colleges and in rural areas. On my rough guesstimate, that costs \$1 700 an hour and is likely to increase, while we are talking about \$9 an hour and it will go down, by using this new form of innovative technology. We hope to get it down to two telephone lines next year.

The new equipment will provide a similar quality image to our present network, which operates at the equivalent of seven lines. This change in transmission service will result in a reduction in costs to about one-third of the current transmission costs. I think this is outstanding. We actually sent Brian Stanford, the Director of Adelaide College of TAFE, overseas last year to look at new learning technologies. He went to Britain, the United States, Canada and Europe and looked at what they were doing. He came back and said that basically we are ahead of the pack. No other country in the world is doing the sorts of things we are doing with TAFE channel. I am not surprised to hear that people from other States are very keen to see what we are doing.

Recent enhancements of the network are the wiring up of the main lecture theatre at Adelaide college, and a link at Regency college from the video-conferencing room to the Advanced Technology Education Centre. Tomorrow, 18 September, the DETAFE is sending its main video conferencing technician to the USA for three weeks to investigate the very latest breakthroughs in video-conferencing technology. We are very delighted about that, because we must keep up with the latest technology.

DETAFA's successes in this field of video-conferencing have led to the setting up of a consultancy service for other organisations. The keenest interest has been shown by the universities, the hospital sector. SATECH, which is the business arm of DETAFE and in which I know the Opposition is interested, is handling these numerous consultancy requests. Many South Australian Government departments are expressing interest in using any spare capacity in the TAFE network for the delivery of their own staff development courses.

So, we are delighted with what is happening. I understand that one of our officers is today accepting on our behalf a national award for TAFE channel. It is the Federal Government's Technology Productivity Award for Education and Training and has been won by South Australian DETAFE for its role in TAFE channel. I am sure that is something that all members would like to applaud.

Mr HERON: I refer to page 480, which refers to the development of skill training centres. I understand that these are one way in which industry carries out its responsibilities to provide training. How many skill training centres exist and what is the industry contribution to them?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Thank you for that question. Currently, 11 skill centres have been established and a number are in the pipeline. Let me explain. People ask why we have skill centres when we have TAFE colleges. That is basically a misunderstanding of what skill centres do. As a result of the award restructuring processes now occurring, there is a clear recognition by industry that it is responsible for meeting its own work force training costs. The increased role and contribution of industry in training has necessitated DETAFE developing a more innovative and flexible approach to the delivery of training and the management of training facilities. A major response in this regard has been the establishment of the skill centres.

This program is developed under cooperative arrangements between DETAFE and the relevant industrial parties and avoids a duplication of effort by ensuring that the State's resources are effectively utilised in conjunction with industry support. All approved centres have a tripartite board of management and receive establishment grants from the State and Commonwealth Governments. Eleven centres have been established to date, in the following industries: road transport (we have two of those, one in the city and one in the South-East at Mount Gambier, which I visited last year); retail; automotive; textile clothing and furniture; metal engineering; horticulture; plastics and rubber; hospitality; electrical/electronics; timber and furniture and Northern Adelaide Regional Skills Training Centre.

Over the past three years, the State Government has provided nearly \$600 000 in establishment grants and, in addition, the Commonwealth has provided a total of \$2.6 million in establishment grants in respect of these centres. In addition, the Commonwealth is providing fully equipped workshops and instructors at the Defence Science and Technology Organisation at Salisbury, as part of its contribution to the Northern Adelaide Skills Centre, which has an estimated value of \$1.5 million.

Industry contributions to the establishment of the centres are in excess of \$3.275 million, so this is an example of classic tripartism. We have industry kicking in more than \$3.2 million, and Commonwealth and State Governments all working together. Current indications are that 4 000 to 5 000 people are undertaking training through these centres annually. The benefit to the State's training effort is obvious, and this program will continue to be further developed.

A number of other projects are currently being considered for further development. Although they are confidential, I can announce that they are in the areas of advanced technology resource centre, food and beverage, and a multi industry centre with vehicular operations. The timber and furniture skills centre is the exemplar of what we can achieve in South Australia. By the combined efforts of industry, TAFE and the employment and training division, \$1.2 million of the very latest European high-tech equipment in the furniture area has been secured on long-term loan, and that will be an outstanding centre. I will invite everyone here to the opening.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: I have been fascinated to listen to the response by the Minister in relation to some of the questions asked by the member for Peake, particularly in relation to the expansion of all the good things happening in certain parts of the metropolitan area as well as Port Pirie and Whyalla, for example. Does the department have a formula or is there a figure per thousand of population of actual teaching positions or staff across the State, or does it vary dramatically from the metropolitan area to certain country areas? In other words, where there is a population centre of 35 000 people, is the number of teaching positions in that centre equivalent to the same ratio as, say, in Adelaide, Port Pirie or Whyalla?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I can obtain a report on that or perhaps invite one of the officers to answer. With respect to services to country regions, TAFE has a really good role in this area. That is why we are doing TAFE channel to go out to the regions, and providing Kickstart to the Lower Eyre Peninsula. Basically we are recognising in what we are encouraging the universities to do that there are access and equity problems in rural areas. Before I answer that directly, it would be interesting to know some of the services we currently provide to country regions. I do not think much has been said about them, and we are not often asked questions about them.

The improvement in TAFE college facilities in the country has been significant in recent years and will continue. Colleges have been developed at Berri, Nuriootpa, Port Lincoln—these are all brand new colleges—Ceduna and Kadina with planned development of the Coober Pedy campus commencing this year. The interactive video conferencing facilities has been specially targeted to country colleges with Clare, Nuriootpa, Gawler, Goyder, Whyalla and Port Augusta already connected and in use. This network will be progressively developed across the State and in February 1992 will be extended to Eyre Peninsula College at Port Lincoln.

DETAFAE is undertaking a number of strategies to ensure the development and implementation of alternative approaches in the delivery of TAFE courses in the country, particularly learning centre networks, throughout the catchment area of rural colleges with telecommunications facilities, the DUCT system, computing, audio visual equipment, learning packages and staff by tutor/learning centre managers. Examples of new innovations are the conducting of a significant number of courses by tele-conferencing. This allows students access from remote branches or in their own home at places like Billa Kalina, Panourra, Moolawatanna and Leigh Creek Station. Portable computers are able to be borrowed by students to enable them to complete word processing, computing subjects and financial management subjects on their own properties.

The South-East college network, basically situated at Mount Gambier, Millicent, Naracoorte and Keith, with annexes at places such as Robe and other centres, probably has the largest provision of TAFE courses in terms of variety of any TAFE certainly in South Australia, if not the whole country.

Additional courses and additional places for existing courses are being provided, together with an enhanced prevocational program. Examples of courses are: Certificate in Farm Practice; Certificate in Rural Office Practice; Certificate in Rural Mechanical Maintenance; Certificate in Introductory Vocational Education; and prevocational courses in amenity horticulture; conservation; farm skills; and viticulture. Indeed, we might invite the honourable member to be a part-time lecturer at some stage in his career. There are further prevocational courses in Certificate in Rural Management; Associate Diploma in Management (Rural Specialisation); Certificate in Weed Control; national farm chemical users course; and introduction to production horticulture for women.

A key element in DETAFE's response to the rural crisis has been the drawing together of support for initiatives from community groups (such as Tumby Bay Support and Action Group), internal department sources, being Youth Affairs, Employment and Training and Curriculum Services Divisions and external support from the Department of Agriculture. We are actually doing a lot in rural areas. We have opened a swag of very flash TAFE colleges with the latest equipment and new courses as well. We are not saying that we are doing everything, but we are trying hard. I would invite the Chief Executive Officer to respond.

Ms Schofield: The answer to your question is 'No'; there is no ratio of number of lecturers to population.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: Why?

Ms Schofield: Because, unlike probably the school sector—and I am not aware of how that is organised in South Australia—where one can predict from a straight population factor the levels of demand and areas of demand, DETAFE works differently. A number of factors influence the number of lecturers that we would have in any particular location. First would be the type of program. Some programs with a

lower student/teacher ratio would require a higher number of lecturers because of that type of teaching. For example, one might need a higher number of lecturers in a trade course than in an accounting course where the lecturer/student ratio is higher.

Secondly, there is the question of dispersal of industry and the dispersal of demand. A range of factors would influence the number of lecturers. We do not use this as a measure in our department, but it would be a question of whether the number of lecturers is a satisfactory measure of contribution to the community. There may be other methods—for example, the number of teaching hours. Perhaps I would add briefly that we have asked the Directors of all country colleges in DETAFE to put together a draft rural strategy to permit us to review our whole effort in the rural areas and see where, if any, adjustments might be necessary.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In terms of that, I would very much welcome the honourable member's contribution, perhaps through Arini Jones, the Director of the Riverland college—one of the best Directors in the system. Perhaps he could make comments to feed into this rural strategy. As I have gone around the 70 college campuses, I have noticed an incredibly strong rapport between college councils in the country in particular and their communities and industry. I have been quite amazed. One has only to go to the Goyder college to see, for instance, how vibrant that college is because of the people from Kadina and Peterborough who come to the campus. The same applies to the South-East. You could not get a more dynamic college council than that in the South-East. The college council network is absolutely key to the effectiveness of TAFE in this State. We are continually being struck by excellence. Whilst there are 70 colleges, I regard the TAFE system in South Australia as a thousand points of light.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: The reason I asked the question is that I know part of the answer, anyway. I am well aware that the number of teaching positions per thousand of population in the Riverland is miles below anywhere else in South Australia.

Why has the Riverland been singled out? Over the years, the college has been crying out for additional positions, and that just has not happened. How do you decide that one particular community needs the services far more than another? Unofficially, officers of the Commonwealth Employment Service have readily admitted that the true unemployment level in the Riverland is well in excess of 20 per cent. If that is the case, there must be an equal if not higher demand in the Riverland for the TAFE services, and a demand for teachers and teaching positions equal to that of any other place in the State. I will be very interested to look at the statistics, when they become available, including the figure for the level of teaching positions in the metropolitan area.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am happy to look into that and to talk further to the honourable member, as well as talking to Arini Jones, but I would like the honourable member to dovetail into the rural strategy, because that is why we set up that strategy—to look at the whole issue.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: I am not looking for any advantage for the Riverland over the rest of the State. All I have ever wanted was to see that it gets a reasonable go. As long as that happens, I will be happy. At the moment, when you do your sums you find that the Riverland is sadly missing out.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will look into it.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: At page 65 of the Auditor-General's Report it is noted that the department told the

Auditor-General in 1989-90 that the financial operations of business enterprise would be processed through the departmental special deposits account. A follow-up audit that the Auditor-General conducted over 12 months later, in June 1991, showed that only two business enterprises were managing financial operations through the department's special deposits account. Is there a reason for that?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Basically, I must explain what has been happening with business enterprises in the past 18 months or longer. When I first became Minister at the end of 1989, I had a number of discussions with Peter Kirby, the former Chief Executive Officer, about my concerns over business enterprises. That is not to say that I am opposed to them: I have just told the Committee about a \$15 million contract in Indonesia and about how we have beaten all comers to win a Qantas contract. There is a whole series of positive stories, but there are also those that have been less positive, so we want to look at them.

During the early part of 1990, the department commissioned Tom Malcolm of the State Training Board of Victoria to review business enterprise operations throughout DETAFE. The report confirmed that the department had achieved some successes in its commercial ventures, but that a number of enterprises had fallen short of their potential because of weaknesses in marketing, some poor accounting practices in some enterprises, and a lack of clarity between the department's individual business enterprise, SATECH, which is the overall body, and individual college enterprises.

By the way, college enterprises are very important. If the training we provide is to be relevant to business, it is very important that these lecturers have some knowledge of what business is all about. The very relevance of TAFE depends on, first, interface with industry and, secondly, the fact that lecturers are up to the latest in terms of what is happening in business.

In November 1990, Cabinet approved the restructure of business enterprises, appointed a new board of management for SATECH and clearly defined its role and functional responsibilities. An enhanced collaboration between a reduced number of enterprises now allows the department to focus its competitive behaviour outside the system. I did not want a situation in which business enterprises were competing against each other, so we closed a number of the smaller business enterprises in the colleges and put them directly under the auspices of SATECH.

Since the restructure, there has been a consolidation of activity, resulting in the rationalisation of resources and the greater coordination of our marketing effort, in particular. These changes now allow the department to utilise its resources more efficiently, and to capitalise on available commercial opportunities more effectively. To underpin the new structure, a costing and pricing policy was developed, and appropriate accounting and financial management systems were implemented from 1 July 1991. In view of the Commonwealth Government's training guarantee legislation and the thrust of award restructuring, the department's commercial activities concentrated on servicing changing management aspects for these pressing industry training issues.

The main services and products offered by the department consisted of strategic planning, task and skills analysis, analysing training needs and developing training plans, matching skills statements to training modules, developing client-specific curricula, trainer training programs, interpersonal skill development programs, competency statement development and assessment training. Basically, what we

have done is to get our hands on the business enterprises, and we are now putting them on a sounder footing.

Mr Carter: We had to develop a specific accounting system for business enterprises prior to the department doing that. Each enterprise had its own accounting system that was operating through bank accounts, which was the subject of the Auditor-General's criticism. Some time was taken to develop an appropriate accounting system. That was completed, and all the accounts are now through the special deposit account and, as the Minister indicated, that occurred from 1 July.

Mr De LAINE: The Youth Conservation Corps has a specific target of the long-term unemployed. Will you detail any new developments within this program?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I mentioned before that the TAFE channel was one of my favourite initiatives, and the Youth Conservation Corps is something of which we are all particularly proud. It was launched earlier this year by David Suzuki, the environmentalist, who came to South Australia specifically to launch the project. I know that all members are interested in this area, so I will read what he said. David Suzuki stated:

The Conservation Youth Corps, I hope, is a beginning of a new relationship, a new contract with nature. It has been developed, I believe, because politicians are beginning to see that the environmental concerns of the general public are not a fad that will pass away. They are real and they are profound.

The challenge then is for you, members of this first group [the young people involved], to make sure that it is a good idea that works. The challenge is for the Government to make the commitment, to see that the support is there to ensure that the project does not fail, because you must understand that there are many people who will stand by waiting for it to fail in order to respond cynically, I told you so.

It's too good an idea to fail. The Government, I'm sure, will make the commitment in money and person power and enthusiasm to ensure the Youth Corps work. And it's up to you then, participants, as students and teachers to have the responsibility to prove that you deserve this chance. It cuts both ways, you see; you must demand the best and give your all.

That support from David Suzuki has been echoed by prominent environmentalists from around the world. It is interesting to see that Tasmanian environmentalist Dr Bob Brown, the 'green' MP, said:

The establishment of a Youth Conservation Corps in South Australia is a great idea. The scheme will enhance young people's horizons and give them a well-rounded education on the environment. By teaching our young people about the environment, this planet has a chance.

Similar messages of support came from the British environmentalist David Bellamy and from the American environmentalist Paul Ehrlich. We are pleased that this Youth Conservation Corps is attracting support. I know that there is interest in other States and that my friend and colleague Bob Carr, the Leader of the Opposition in New South Wales, announced a similar program in his policies before the recent New South Wales election.

The South Australian Youth Conservation Corps started earlier this year. Each project involves about 15 young people on a 20-week project, of which half the time is spent in formal study at TAFE. Therein lies the difference between our scheme and that of anyone else. I will not refer to Peter Lewis's scheme; we have had that debate and this is not the forum for politics.

People keep asking me, 'Where did you get the idea from?'. It comes from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, March 1933. The first initiative of the New Deal in response to the Great Depression was the conservation corps that he set up at that time which was on a slightly bigger scale. By the time of Pearl Harbor, nine million Americans had been involved in the US conservation corps. It was a civilian conservation corps involved in massive tree planting and

revegetation across the United States working in national parks and so on.

In 1984 with my wife I visited the United States and we spent some time with Diane Feinstein, who was the former Mayor of San Francisco. Diane told me about the Californian conservation corps, and I was very interested in how that worked. It was somewhat of a successor to Franklin Roosevelt's scheme. It was resurrected in 1976 by Governor Jerry Brown and had been receiving considerable support in California. The New Zealand Government was provided with this information, and the New Zealand Minister established the New Zealand Youth Conservation Corps which involved a series of young people, including young offenders and disadvantaged groups with a strong Maori influence, in a range of conservation projects around New Zealand.

The day that I became Minister of Youth Affairs and Minister of Employment and Training, the New Zealand Minister, then Minister of Education, formerly Minister of Employment and also formerly Minister of Environment, rang me and said, 'Don't forget that conservation corps idea.' We looked at the New Zealand and the Californian papers. I thought there was something wrong. It was a great scheme and everybody thought it was fantastic, but I thought we could do better. These people went on the projects for six months. They had a great time working in national parks, developing skills, morale and confidence and they made a real contribution to the community, but there was something missing and that was the training element.

The reason our project is different is that 50 per cent of the time that young people spend in the conservation corps is actually spent in TAFE studies. I have met with all the participants in the first two pilot projects. When I talked to them, I said, 'You were identified through the CES, because you registered but you wanted to be a gardener or landscape gardener. Why didn't you consider TAFE, because we have the National Centre for Horticulture down at Brookway Park?'. When I said that, the response from some people was, 'TAFE is like a university; TAFE is like going back to school.' These kids had left school at 15. They had been unemployed for some years and had lost confidence and direction, but they all had a commitment to the environment and conservation and they all wanted to make a difference in terms of their contribution.

We used the conservation corps as a soft introduction to TAFE. During the time they spend at Para Wirra National Park and the Canunda National Park, they actually work directly with TAFE lecturers out in the park. Their enthusiasm is developed and they learn seed propagation and horticultural methods but then go on to learn woodworking skills, to build boardwalks and so on. They also go on to learn literacy skills, numeracy skills, computer skills and a whole range of other skills through TAFE. When I met with these kids at the end of the project and asked them what was the best part of the scheme, many of them said, 'Our involvement in TAFE.' A number of them are going on to do more studies in TAFE.

In 1991-92 up to 10 projects involving about 150 young people will be conducted at a variety of rural and urban locations in South Australia. An example of the four projects currently running is the Riverland College of TAFE (Berri campus), and this would be of interest to the member for Chaffey. Project work will be based at Willabalangaloo, a National Trust property. Sections of the property are suffering severe erosion problems. The participants will be involved in constructing a boardwalk over a public access path to reduce the impact of visitors as well as undertaking revegetation work to protect the areas against further erosion. Training will involve core subjects as well as the

development of skills in basic construction and horticulture. I am very pleased that the Riverland college has taken up this project.

When I visited Willabalangaloo, I had a dreadful experience before the actual project started. We hopped over the fence to have a look and I noticed that the kangaroos in the park seemed to be somewhat less than perpendicular. We found out that about 14 were dead. I had this terrible fear that perhaps there had been some vandalism. In fact, it turned out to be a dog attack, but I am told that project is working very well.

At the Goyder College of TAFE (Port Pirie campus), land management will be the focus of project work and will incorporate pest plant and animal control, and construction skills through the building of hides for the observation of native animals. Horticultural skills will provide the basis for plant propagation as part of revegetation work. The projects will be at the Winninowie and Clements Gap Conservation Parks.

The Adelaide College of TAFE, School of Aboriginal Education project will be targeted to Aboriginal young people and will be based on developing skills for the wood trades, and the project will be undertaken at the Morialta Recreation Park.

At the Croydon College of TAFE participants will undertake an energy and waste audit of workplaces in Adelaide. It is not just about working in national parks with trees. Conservation is also about energy conservation and I have recently received a letter from David Suzuki, who keeps in constant touch with us, and in fact he is delighted to have received letters from participants of the scheme. He is coming back here next year to look at what is happening, but I am sure he is very interested in this energy audit. The trainees will visit workplaces and investigate where wastage of energy and other materials occurs and subsequently produce a poster to educate other workers. Training will include subjects related to the printing and graphic arts provided through Croydon College of TAFE, which I pledge and guarantee will not be closed, particularly when we are about to open the new printing section that will be the best in the nation.

I am sure John Dawkins will be squabbling with me about who will open the place. The conservation corps is proceeding apace. We are getting plenty of letters of support from colleges and from people in the community asking whether they can be involved and whether they can have a conservation corps project. I know there is interest in the Port Lincoln area, and I know there is renewed interest in the South-East following the success of the Canunda project. I will be briefing Sir David Attenborough in a week's time, when he visits South Australia, on this project.

Mr De LAINE: I note from the Program Estimates (page 411) that staffing of the State Youth Affairs branch is to be reduced by five. Will the Minister explain the reduction?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The staff level of State Youth Affairs has been reduced by five. One position has been added for the Youth Conservation Corps, with a net effect of four full-time equivalent reductions. State Youth Affairs has undergone a major reorganisation as a result of the amalgamation of the Youth Bureau and the Youth Initiative Unit within DETAFE. This resulted in a number of positions not being filled, although they existed on paper. As part of the normal budget process, these vacant positions have been examined in the light of a general re-examination of priorities. A decision has been taken by me that these vacant positions will not be filled. No incumbents are in these positions, so no-one is being retrenched or laid off, or anything so draconian. In fact, additional resources are

available to State Youth Affairs for the Youth Conservation Corps in line with Government priorities. No overall reduction will occur in resources to young people in the field.

Mr De LAINE: The Capital Works Program (page 31) refers to the Regency Park child-care facility, which is due for completion in April next year. Will the Minister provide details of that facility?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I have a strong commitment to child care, as does DETAFE. Indeed, child care is absolutely crucial in terms of access and equity regarding the provision of DETAFE services. We are trying to reach people in the community, many of whom are isolated or solo parents in their home; therefore, a child-care provision is absolutely crucial.

We have a commitment to provide child care support to every college. That is a very difficult and expensive operation. The growth in the provision of child care through TAFE colleges has continued and has increased in capacity. Child care is being provided through licensed centres within colleges, unlicensed creche-type facilities or priority of access to existing commercial centres. The licensing of TAFE child-care centres has progressed steadily. New facilities are being built to licensing standards and regulations, while a number of centres have been upgraded to meet these requirements. These include centres at Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Port Augusta and Elizabeth. New centres at various stages of development include Mount Barker, Kingston, Tea Tree Gully and Regency. The Regency college facility is a new initiative, one that is badly needed.

I will list some of the city and country facilities. There are licensed centres at Mount Barker, which has the capacity for 20 children and will open later this year or early 1992; Port Lincoln, which has a capacity for 20 children and is currently operational; Panorama, which has a capacity of 45 children and is operational; Port Augusta, which has a capacity of 25 children and is already operational; Regency, which has a capacity of 45 children and will open in 1992; Tea Tree Gully, which has a capacity of 42 children and will open either later this year or early next year; Whyalla, which has a capacity of 25 children and is operational; Elizabeth, which has a capacity of 35 children and is operational (it should be licensed later this year); and Kingston, which has a capacity of 45 children and will open in late 1991 or early 1992.

Some unlicensed centres providing creche-type facilities include the Adult Migrant Educational Service at the Renaissance Centre, which has a capacity of 30 children and is operational; Croydon Park, which has a capacity of 25 children and is operational (I promise that will not be closed, either); Gilles Plains, which has a capacity of 25 children and is operational; Barker college (Aldgate campus), which has a capacity of 25 children and is operational; Kensington, which has been sold, has a capacity of 30 children but will be closing down in November 1991; the Light college at Nuriootpa, which has a capacity of 15 children and is operational; Port Adelaide, which has a capacity of 20 children and is operational (that is at the Grange campus); and the South-East college, Mount Gambier, which has a capacity of 15 children and is operational. We still have a long way to go, and we are doing the best we can. The one outstanding omission from that is the Adelaide college which poses a real problem, as does Regency. We are addressing Regency and, hopefully, at a later stage we will be addressing the provision of child care at the Adelaide college.

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

Additional Departmental Adviser:

Mr P. Mills, Senior Project Officer, Labour Market Analysis Branch.

Mr SUCH: Recently the Education Department announced plans to relocate head office staff to schools and so on. Does DETAFE have a similar plan?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Yes. We have actually been involved in that process for some time. We have been steadily reducing the head office proportion of our work force over the years. There are currently 229.9 full-time equivalent staff in central office compared with 235 this time last year exclusive of the Employment and Training Division and Youth Affairs Division. The recurrent budget for central office is \$11.8 million, and this represents approximately 7 per cent of the DETAFE recurrent budget. In 1981-82, during the previous Government, the central office proportion of total recurrent resources was in excess of that, at around 8 per cent. In its report 'Education and Change in South Australia 1982' the Keeves committee indicated that the level of central office staff (and this was during the previous Government) was slightly less than occurred in other States. By 1986 the central office proportion of total recurrent resources increased to about 9 per cent.

In 1987-88 my predecessor as Minister of Employment and Further Education commissioned a review of administrative and support functions in TAFE by a joint committee of the Department of TAFE and the Public Service Association of South Australia. The committee reported in June 1988 and its recommendations were a major influence on the new central office organisation which was introduced in 1988-89. During 1990-91, shortly after I became Minister, the Programs Division was disbanded with resources being reallocated to the colleges and some other divisions. So, it is part of that general thrust that we have been pushing of devolution to the colleges. This will realise long-term savings, particularly now that the GME Act voluntary separation package has been made available. It is anticipated that, after repayment of the cost of the packages, about 1¼ years, an amount in the order of \$500 000 will be saved from central office salaries.

Further, central office budgets have been reduced by 2 per cent in 1991-92 excluding Employment and Training, Youth Affairs Division and the Aboriginal Employment and Development Branch. With reductions that have been achieved since 1987-88, accumulated recurrent savings in excess of \$1.9 million will be achieved in 1991-92. I invite the Chief Executive Office to elaborate if she wishes to.

Ms Schofield: There has been a significant devolution of the curriculum function. What we are now doing is contracting college staff to undertake a range of curriculum development activities that were formerly undertaken centrally. I think that has been a major shift in addition to what has been done over the past two years. I would like to particularly stress what has happened with program management in the department. Initially, we had an Operations Division which was disbanded and replaced by a smaller Programs Division, and then that, too, was disbanded. So, program management is now undertaken across South Australia by college-based staff in general as part of their normal duties.

So, it means not only a productivity saving in that staff in the field are managing programs but also that the quality of program management is closer to the customer, if you like, by being done by field-based staff. DETAFE is under enormous pressure at the moment, because of the national training reform agenda and because of the activities of the AEC MOVEET group, leading up to the special Premiers

Conference in November. This is probably the most fundamental change in vocational education training that has occurred, at least in the 23 years that I have been in this business. That has put enormous strains on the centre in areas such as accreditation, registration of providers, recognition of prior learning and credit transfer.

I am extraordinarily proud of the fact that that huge national workload, as part of the New Federalism, is being done generally from within a central office that is less than it has been in the past eight to 10 years in terms of size. But, I would not want to underestimate the pressure that the national training reform agenda has placed on the State DETAFE and our wish to participate in that but to make sure that South Australia is an equal partner and is able to contribute to shaping the national agenda.

Mr SUCH: Will the Minister comment on claims by teaching staff that non-teaching staff numbers have been increased in the past few years in proportion to those for teaching staff?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: As I understand it, that certainly is not the case. As I said, we have been reducing staff in central office. If the people whom the honourable member talks to would care to call me we can give them the details. I will refer that question, first, to the Chief Executive Officer and then to Mr Carter.

Ms Schofield: What we have done in the process of award restructuring, both in terms of restructuring the staff who work under the TAFE Act and the GME Act, is look at who is best to do particular jobs. I think it is not prudent to have lecturers on reasonable salaries undertaking administrative and clerical tasks that could be better undertaken by staff who are not perhaps remunerated quite so well. I think it is incumbent on us to make sure that lecturing staff lecture and that administrative work is undertaken by administrative staff. I think that that is a sensible use of resources and part of the structural efficiency principle.

Overall, while I do not have the figures and I cannot say 'Yes' or 'No' specifically to the question, there has been an imbalance, in my personal view, between lecturing staff and administrative staff, the restructuring to create advanced skills lecturers where people lecture and to create educational managers where people manage education. To restructure the GME Act so that those staff do administrative jobs, I think, is one of the significant pegs in our productivity strategy.

Mr Carter: I have some figures on actual staffing under the TAFE Act and the GME Act for 1990-91 and the proposed growth in 1991-92. As at 30 June 1991 the actual staffing under the GME Act was 914.2 full-time equivalents, and the proposed growth during 1991-92 will take that figure to 946. Under the TAFE Act the full-time equivalents were 1 694.2, and the proposed growth for 1991-92 will take that figure to 1 766.1. The growth in absolute terms is certainly larger under the TAFE Act than the GME Act. I do not have the figures for the years prior to that.

In terms of the reasons for the growth, the major component is the commissioning of the Tea Tree Gully college, which is made up of both lecturing staff and the necessary support staff that is required for such a large college together with additional Commonwealth funds—as was indicated earlier, pre-vocational and other funds—and most of those funds are directed towards the TAFE Act area.

Mr SUCH: Going back to the Kickstart program under the line relating to employment development and skill formation, on page 162 of Estimates of Payments, could the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of payments made in 1990-91 for the various programs under that line and, in particular, explain the reasons for the increased expenditure

on special projects, the lack of expenditure in youth employment scheme initiatives and the increase of \$1 million on salaries and administrative expenses?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In terms of the money spent, we have only just announced the launching of Kickstart, and these regional employment policies are only in the process of being set up.

Mr Connelly: We pointed out earlier that there have been significant changes in those two programs in terms of staff, and there have been reductions in the first and increases in the second. If one compares the salaries, one will see a significant reduction in salaries, and that is partially matched by an increase in the second program.

Mr HAMILTON: Turning again to the question of employment, I refer to page 480 of the Program Estimates, where I note that the employment and training function of DETAFE includes looking at long and shorter-term implications for employment and training in South Australia resulting from the economic downturn. Has the Minister been involved in any programs to help boost employment levels in South Australia's manufacturing and retailing sectors?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I would like to thank the honourable member for that question. I am very pleased to be able to announce today that an innovative campaign to encourage South Australians to create jobs and help Kickstart employment growth by buying locally made products will be launched later this month. Indeed, I understand that the shadow employment Minister, the Hon. Rob Lucas, will be invited to participate in the launching of this program. The campaign, to be known as 'Give a mate a job', will be run with the support of the SA Great campaign, the South Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the South Australian media.

In conjunction with those two organisations, television, newspaper and radio advertisements will be made to encourage people to buy local products and to support companies that display the SA Great or South Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry signs. It is part of the State Government's Kickstart jobs training strategy. We are also encouraging stores to highlight locally made products. There will be an intensive media campaign in the first two weeks of October with follow-up promotions to Christmas and even the New Year. Many organisations have already indicated that they will be backing this initiative, and I congratulate them for getting behind South Australia. It is the kind of positive campaign we need. For too long people have been trying to run up the white flag on South Australia's future, and I think this is a very positive, innovative campaign, with the private sector and the State Government working in partnership.

The national recession obviously requires national resolve. As I go around communities, people ask me what they can do. They ask what each of us can do as an individual to help create, generate and save local jobs. Obviously, the answer is that we need to drum home the message that every time we choose a local product we are giving a mate a job. Much of the appeal of imported products rests on snobbery and not on value for money. Buying local products obviously means saving jobs. Every time we choose an imported item over a good local product, we are kissing local jobs goodbye.

We see this in every sphere. The member for Chaffey comes from the Riverland. Does it make any sense when we go out to Rundle Mall and into the stores to see them heavily promoting imported oranges? I find it extraordinary that oranges come from California and even Florida, yet we have a surplus of oranges in the Riverland. The River-

land oranges are tastier, juicier, fresher and cheaper, so why do our stores heavily promote the imported variety? They say that it is because the skin—the bit we do not eat—is more of an orange colour. Does that make any sense? Does that demonstrate any maturity as a nation? We must drum home the message that patriotism in this country does not begin and end with sport.

Another regional example is in the South-East of our State, where we have some of the best cheeses in the world. Yahl cheese is outstanding. My previous country (or one of them; as members know, I carry a range of passports) has basically dumped cheese on the Australian market. We go around supermarkets and see heavily promoted New Zealand cheeses. Where are the South Australian cheeses? They are down the back, for the same price. I wonder why that could be. Could it be that the mark-up is bigger for the New Zealand cheeses? We must all get behind the local products, whether they are manufactured goods or food products.

The interesting thing is that the consumers' magazine, *Choice*, did a survey of foodstuffs a few years ago and found that in general Australian foodstuffs are a better buy. Again, it rests on snobbery. Does it make any sense that in trendy pubs in this city people are buying imported beers, when we produce beers that win international competitions? We can go to New York, Boston and South Carolina and see Coopers beer heavily promoted, but people are buying this Mexican junk here. It really does not make much sense at all. We are pleased that industry is getting behind this campaign; it is very much a partnership. I asked to see a representative of SA Great some months ago and said, 'Let's see if we can look at a joint campaign.' I think the point of what we are saying is that we are not encouraging people to buy inferior products or products that are much dearer, because that does not help industry. We are saying that, where a product is of equal value and worth in terms of quality, and competitive in terms of price, it makes sense to buy the local product. South Australian manufacturers produce first class cars, clothes, furniture, sporting goods and household appliances.

The sentiments behind the 'Give a mate a job' campaign arose out of the 'Australian made' campaign, which aims to make more Australians more aware of their skills and to encourage the council to strive for its full potential. We all remember the 'True blue' campaign, the theme of which was sung by John Williamson and which encouraged that sense of patriotism and indicated the link between what we do as individuals and promoting jobs and promoting our country. A few years ago someone gave me some figures which showed that if everyone in Australia switched \$2 per week from imported to local products, it would wipe \$1 000 million off our balance of payments problems.

It makes good sense in terms of jobs, balance of payments and inflation. I think that it is a commonsense campaign. In many ways we are suffering from a cultural cringe—that if it comes from overseas it somehow must be better. That is bunkum. I heard the member for Chaffey mentioning imported canned food, and I share his concerns in this area. I have seen Canadian asparagus in the stores. Does it make any sense at all to import asparagus from Canada? It does not make any sense to me. We are suffering from this cringe that somehow there is snob value in making sure one has French cheese, Mexican beer or whatever.

If Australia wants to forge ahead and pull itself up by its bootstraps, we want to look more closely at what we do and be proud of our achievements. I am certainly pleased to have made a financial contribution through the Kickstart program to this important initiative. I will make sure that

all members of this Committee are invited to the launch, which will be somewhat spectacular.

Mr HAMILTON: Turning now to the skilled work force, clearly governments are making significant efforts to address the need of the country for a more highly skilled work force. What contribution is industry making towards these developments?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In terms of the level of industry support, industry has generally come to appreciate the critical importance of investing in training and accepting, particularly through the award restructuring processes, the training reform agenda. It is significant that this agenda has been in great part set by governments, both State and Federal, in the recognition that productivity gains, increases in export competitiveness and import replacement achievements are crucial. Increased cooperation between Government and industry is one of the hallmarks of this process, and this is clearly demonstrated in South Australia through the development of skill centres, which I mentioned earlier, regional employment and training boards under the Kickstart program, the work of industry training councils and through other forums, such as the manufacturing advisory council, of which I am a member.

One thing is not often appreciated. As I travel around and visit the TAFE colleges in the State. I notice a great deal of equipment that has been donated by industry. Some industries support TAFE more strongly than others. The printing industry is outstanding. It has really kicked in to South Australian TAFE. The furnishing industry, through the new skills centre, has really kicked in. General Motors-Holden's, in the Elizabeth TAFE, has made a major contribution in terms of Commodore engines and other gear for students to work on. The same is true of the timber industry in the South-East and around the State. There is a really strong commitment from industry in this area.

Mr HAMILTON: It would seem to me that there are numerous Federal and State unemployment programs that have been advertised, touted and mentioned in State and Federal Parliament. It seems to me there is no clear understanding perhaps amongst some of the unemployed as to the large number of programs available in the community. As I indicated to the Minister earlier today, it would seem to me to be a good idea that there be a consolidation by way of a brochure to incorporate all these programs so that, when a person comes into the office of a member of Parliament, or is looking for work, he can see at a glance the numerous programs that are available. I suspect that it may be of assistance to industry also. I ask the Minister to take that on board, because it seems to me that much use could be made of advertising the large number of programs available in the community.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a very good idea. There is real confusion about the Newstarts, Jobstarts, Worklinks, Workreadies and various other programs. That is one of the reasons we brought ours together under the Kickstart umbrella a regional focus so that people can go to a group and say, 'This is what we are on about.' Therefore, there is a whole range of schemes under the one umbrella. That is certainly true in the northern Adelaide development board area. There are also Federal bodies. In the youth area, we have set up some youth resource centres, particularly to provide information on the employment front. An unemployed person at Port Adelaide could go to the Youth Resource Centre, collocated with the Youth Access Centre, with Federal and State in the same building, so there are no alibis in terms of coordination and what is available because it is all there in terms of what they need.

I take on board what the honourable member has said. It is certainly something we will look at. There is a constant need to provide information and market what we do. Quite often people say they have never heard of the Conservation Corps or other things because, quite often, the media is not interested in running the positive stories. They will run the negatives. It is the same with business enterprises. Earlier this year there was a major announcement concerning \$30 million worth of overseas projects won by TAFE, and it might have received one paragraph in the newspaper. So, we have to keep battling to get across the message of what we are doing so the public and the kids know what programs are available.

Mr HAMILTON: The Government is committing substantial funds and support into local communities to address unemployment. Is there any evidence that the communities themselves are responding and making contributions of their own?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In terms of community contribution, that is one reason the Kickstart program is so important. As I mentioned before, the Kickstart program is designed to harness community ownership and support.

Community organisations, local governing authorities and individuals have all benefited from the programs offered through the Employment and Training Division, DETAFE. South Australia has been at the forefront of developing labour market programs and many of these now operate at the national level. Where previously programs have derived from a largely submission-driven base, it has now been recognised that local government and local communities can play an increasingly important role in developing project responses which meet the broader needs of their local area. The increased interest and cooperation of community organisations, local governing authorities, and private industry in developing their own regions is represented in the number of organisations which have been established to address regional social and economic issues. Some examples are the Tumby Bay Community Action; the Port Augusta Training Committee; and the Port Pirie Development Committee.

I have heard much about this new Tumby Bay Community Action organisation. I am keen to talk with its members because it is a spontaneous, locally-driven initiative rather than set up as a result of a Government suggestion. As well, a considerable number of local government authorities play an active role. I have already mentioned the northern Adelaide development board which covers the Salisbury, Elizabeth, Munno Para and Gawler councils. These are all very much involved in this area.

The increased emphasis placed on regionally-based economic development has resulted in the development and launching of the Kickstart strategy announced already. Under the strategy the State Government will seek to establish regional employment and training coordinating bodies in local areas which will determine for Government the activities that should be undertaken to achieve the labour market objectives of employment development; enterprise development; maintenance of training effort; and employment retention. Kickstart recognises the importance local communities, industry and local governing authorities can play in the development of their regions.

I know there has been a thrust from the regions to the effect of, 'What about us? What about getting behind us?' and I am certainly pleased that, in our small way, through Kickstart, we are able to work in partnership with them, and the response so far has been terrific.

Mr SUCH: Last year the Minister indicated that the unmet demand for courses and subjects in TAFE was 10 486.

Of that number, 4 544 people were also on a waiting list for TAFE subjects and courses. What are the comparable figures for 1991 and what is the difference between unmet demand and the number on waiting lists?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I shall be very happy to provide the honourable member with those details. I know there were predictions, for instance, that many people would be turned off the system this year because of the introduction last year of the 25 cents per hour administration fee. There were dire predictions that this would mean that people would turn away from the system. However, that was not the case. In terms of the areas highlighted by the honourable member, I will provide that information.

Mr SUCH: The *Advertiser* of 14 September this year quoted Justice Millhouse as expressing concern over security at a TAFE college, following the rape of a woman there in 1990. Justice Millhouse said that the man had gone into the TAFE building at about 8 a.m. and raped the woman in the toilet, and the *Advertiser* reported:

'Goodness knows how he got into the building,' Mr Justice Millhouse commented, adding he hoped security had been improved since the incident.

Has the department considered the judge's comments and has security at that college and other campuses been improved?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: This is a very tragic matter, but I should point out that action was taken long before the judge made his comment. I could have provided the judge or his associate with information that, on the very day after I heard about the rape last year, I spoke to the then Chief Executive of my department and security was tightened by the college. I have here a memo to me as the Minister of Employment and Further Education, dated 2 August 1990, which states:

... security has been tightened and the following action taken: there is now controlled entry into the college prior to normal opening at 8 a.m.; doors are secured and entry can only be made at a limited number of points controlled by staff; mobile telephones linked to SACON's security service have been provided; there is a security guard in the college from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.; and the college is examining the feasibility of installing electronic controls.

With regard to TAFE colleges generally, security is very difficult; as with a university, as it is very much an open place. Adelaide college has about 30 000 students going through it, and would be one of the largest colleges in Australia. It is certainly bigger than any university in terms of the number of students. In 1988, the department prepared a report entitled 'Security Review—TAFE Colleges', which identified areas of concern relating to security, and a working party was established to implement the security strategies identified.

Colleges have been made aware of the risks associated with the handling of large amounts of cash. Armaguard has been awarded a contract for the regular collection and banking of moneys from TAFE colleges, which eliminates the need for staff carrying large amounts of money to banks. Most colleges are now equipped with a two-key safe, which forms a secure repository for large amounts of cash taken during enrolment or particular functions. The safe is installed in a highly visible area, in accordance with expert advice.

The larger colleges have obtained radio communication devices for caretaker/security patrols. A large percentage of the colleges have security fire alarm systems, and 30 campuses are monitored by State Security, housed in Victoria Square. All new facilities are fitted with high security keying systems as a matter of policy, and college directors are encouraged not to give master keys or keys to external doors to staff members, other than to caretakers/security officers (where applicable).

College directors are being encouraged to replace old keying systems with new high security keying systems as a priority under their minor works schemes. Some colleges are being fitted with electronic locks, card or pad operated, to ascertain if this system is economically justifiable. Several colleges are replacing permanent caretakers with security officers who perform rostered patrols. The asset register for equipment is constantly updated and all equipment is identified and, wherever possible, serial numbers recorded.

On the specific question of the rape, action had been taken 13 months before Justice Millhouse made those comments. I can now provide the honourable member with the answer to the previous question about unmet demand.

Mr Carter: For 1990-91 the unmet demand for course placements was 6 218 students, with a further 2 895 on subject placements. We have a table that breaks that down into males, females, part time and full time.

Mr SUCH: What is the reason for the very large increase in materials fees collected from students by colleges, an increase from \$2.6 million in 1990 to \$9 million in 1991, and what is the estimate for 1992?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Last year, we increased materials fees for apprentices, which was announced in the budget last year, from \$25 to \$75, but that was only a token amount in terms of the materials covered. They are massively subsidised by the State Government. Because the materials in a number of courses are extraordinarily expensive, we have tried to ensure that we can cover ourselves yet continue to provide the necessary courses. In some areas of design, arts, printing and a whole range of areas, the materials fees are astonishingly high, and we are trying to recoup some of the cost.

Mr Carter: The major reason for the variation in the Auditor-General's Report is that as at 30 June 1990 the bulk of the materials fees collected by colleges was maintained in local college accounts. During 1990-91, all those accounts were transferred to deposit accounts through the mainstream, and they are represented in the \$9 million figure.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It is not as draconian as it looks. It is just a central collection.

Mr HERON: Is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition correct in saying that the Kensington college has been sold and that its sale price did not reflect the cost of renovation and upgrading?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am not quite sure what is happening here. The Deputy Leader has a fixation about this project. He has said again, even after having been corrected, that we have sold the college, the implication being that we were fleeced and that we sold it for a song. Let me quote from *Hansard* of 13 August, when he said:

We note the awful bungling associated with the upgrading of the Kensington College of TAFE. \$1 million was spent on that upgrading, and those premises were subsequently sold. I can guarantee that the sale price in no way did justice to the \$1 million that has been spent.

He has repeated that, but, of course, the college has not yet been sold. Last year, during the budget, we announced that we would close Kensington Park campus, maintaining the Brookway campus. I understand that the site is worth more than \$3.5 million and may even be worth around \$4.5 million. We have already received a number of offers, as there has been considerable interest in the property for redevelopment for residential and other purposes. There is interest from Pembroke School, and the special projects unit developers and Treasury have all expressed an interest. The property has not yet been put on the market, although that is in the process.

I am particularly mean-spirited, and I want to get the best value for money from that property, because I have a guarantee that I can plough the money back into DETAFE. That is what I want to do, so I want to get every dollar that I can. I was brought up in the East End of London, and as a kid I used to travel around Petticoat Lane, and it was a case of 'never mind the quality, feel the width', and I will be 'feeling the width' of the dollar notes that are handed over for this property.

Mr HERON: Mention was made previously of a possible community service program run on similar lines to the Youth Conservation Corps. Can the Minister provide more details on that?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It is still in the development phase but, because the conservation corps has been such a success in its pilot and subsequent schemes and we want it to expand and to go national, it occurred to me that we should try to harness the enthusiasm of youth for assisting their fellow South Australians.

Often young people are crying out to be recognised, crying out to give service and crying out to perform something that leads to greater things. There is an enormous number of young volunteers in South Australia and that is why last year I got very cross with one newspaper that slammed youth workers, because only one in 12 youth workers receives a dime. The rest of them, either 12 out of 13 or 11 out of 12, are volunteers.

I went out in Hindley Street one night to meet with these youth workers. Some people had worked eight hours plus, some were students and one woman worked at the Festival Theatre; yet, they were out there on a number of nights a week to the wee small hours helping people who were addicts, street kids and young Aboriginal kids in distress. I think these people deserve recognition.

Because of the success of the conservation corps, I thought that we could harness this enthusiasm of young South Australians to help their fellow citizens and that we could have a similar program, a kind of peace corps at home. We are looking at a community service program to be up and running some time in 1992.

I recently had a meeting with the new Anglican Archbishop, Ian George, with whom I was enormously impressed, and I certainly very much appreciate his comments in his diocesan speech in which he praised the conservation corps. I think someone said that he praised the Kickstart scheme. I discussed with him the fact that we want to develop a community service program and he was very excited about it. We would like to have some of the churches involved but, again, it will not be just kids working in various agencies through the churches, charities and community sector—there has to be a training element so that there is something at the end.

Again, we want a 50 per cent TAFE component and that is an area where we can play a very valuable role, because TAFE is involved in a number of very innovative community service initiatives through Gilles Plains TAFE and also through the Croydon TAFE. I went down to open the new community services facility at Croydon. Someone told me that it has closed, but I have ordered that it open first thing tomorrow morning, because we want to ensure that the community service program is up and running tomorrow. We have kids involved in those programs where they can gain modules, gain courses, programs and credits that lead them into more formal courses in the community service area. It is still in the melting pot.

I want to talk with my Youth Affairs and DETAFE advisers because I am not the sort of Minister who announces things off the top of my head. We will certainly have more

talks with the charitable and community service sector to see how we can develop something worth while.

I often remark about what that quality of youth is. With the community service and the conservation corps we are also trying to inspire the rest of the community. I quote Robert Kennedy, who said:

The youthfulness I speak of is not a time of life but a state of mind, a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a predominance of courage over timidity, of the appetite for adventure over the love of ease . . . [one] that does not accept the failures of today as a reason for the cruelties of tomorrow. We should let young people know that they can make a difference.

Those words were uttered by Robert Kennedy in 1968 in relation to youth at the Weber State College at Utah.

Mr HERON: In relation to page 467 of the Estimates of Payments and, in particular, the estimates for industrial commercial training, could the Minister advise on the roles and functions of the Industrial and Commercial Training Commission?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Yes and, in doing so, I want to say I think that the commission is one of the outstanding success stories in South Australia. It is basically the exemplar example of tripartite cooperation in action. Recently I met with Graham Mill, who is the Chairman of the commission, and he detailed some of the things that they are doing.

The Industrial and Commercial Training Commission is a statutory authority which administers the legislation governing vocational training in South Australia under the provisions of the Industrial and Commercial Training Act of 1981. That Act was passed during the time of the previous Government when the member for Chaffey was a senior Minister. The commission, which is a tripartite body, consists of a full-time chairman, together with eight part-time members representing employers, employees and the Department of Employment, Technical and Further Education.

Broadly, the commission's function is to evaluate training already being provided, determine training programs for trades and other vocations, develop training schemes and courses of pre-vocational training, examine the training needs of special groups, coordinate training resources, organise and supervise contracts of training and provide advice to the Minister of Employment and Further Education on training matters.

The commission receives advice on the training needs of each sector of industry and commerce from councils constituted again on a tripartite basis. So, below the commission there is a plethora of tripartite bodies each reflecting different aspects of industry in this State. So, when I go to Cabinet with a change in vocation, I know that I can say with confidence that it has the support of industry, because it goes through a series of tripartite bodies until being approved by this peak tripartite body.

Training supervisors acting on behalf of the commission are available to assist and advise on all aspects of training programs, including apprenticeships, traineeships and courses of pre-vocational training. In performing these functions, the commission has been pro-active in the national arena of competency based training, award restructuring, and other areas of vocational training. In September 1990, after significant consultation with all sectors of industry in this State, the commission adopted an implementation plan for the introduction of a competency training system.

The commission has representation on the national competency based training working party, which was established under the Vocational Education, Employment and Training Advisory Committee (VEETAC). VEETAC is the officers committee across the nation which reports to MOVEET,

which is the Ministers of Vocational Education, Employment and Training. I was the new kid on the block and I thought it was 'Move It' and I thought I was a 'Move It' Minister.

During 1991 the commission has determined new vocations which have been the result of award restructuring in the metals industry and it is anticipated there will be a need to determine further new vocations as various awards are restructured. Commission members and staff are also participating in various functions of the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia and that is a very valuable role.

As I say, there is not a better example in this State of tripartism in practice. The Commonwealth also has an adviser who is invited to participate at each meeting of the commission so that we all know which way we are going. Since I have been Minister (and I am sure my predecessors were in a similar situation) not one person from employer groups or unions has ever come to me and said, 'The commission does not work. The commission is not any good.' The fact that we do not get those sorts of comments is a reflection on the calibre of Graham Mill, the Chairman, and the calibre of the people who are members of that commission.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: I think the member for Albert Park really touched on what we are all about and what the department is meant to be all about in relation to retraining, jobs, buying Australian and so forth. However, I think the Minister missed the target to some degree. I believe we should continue down this path because he can play an important role in this. Many of the products coming into this country are coming in at a price which would suggest that, if they are not being dumped, they are being subsidised.

In Australia we have an anti dumping procedure under which it takes an organisation between nine and 12 months to protest to the Australian Customs Service about products coming into the country. The Minister touched on citrus fruit. We all know of the glaring example of Brazilian juice concentrate coming into this country at a figure at times equivalent to \$60 a tonne for fresh fruit. It costs the Australian grower \$45 a tonne just to harvest the fruit, without the capital investment involved in its production.

About three months ago I appeared before the Senate committee of inquiry into dumping and anti-dumping measures. We must convince the Federal Government to introduce a fast track anti-dumping mechanism which will come to grips with this problem. Shipping a product from South America to Australia takes only a couple of weeks. It takes us nine months to build a case—a very expensive case (with money that the local industry does not have)—to try to prove that the country of origin is dumping. A number of people suggested to the Senate committee of inquiry that a fast track anti-dumping mechanism ought to be put in place whereby the Minister responsible for Customs can apply a countervailing duty if he or she believes that the product is being dumped or subsidised by the country of origin.

It was also recommended that there be a reverse onus of proof so that the country of origin must prove that it is not dumping the material, instead of Australia trying to extract information from that country. Of course, the country of origin makes it so difficult that it is almost impossible to get that information. If there were a reverse onus of proof, and the country of origin could show that it were not dumping, the countervailing duty would be refunded to it. So, it would not be disadvantaged in that way.

There is no way on earth that this country will ever be able to employ its people effectively when our industries

are put in that situation. As the Minister says, we produce some of the best products in the world, but consumers can go into the local supermarket and buy canned fruit from China for 60 per cent of the cost of the Australian product. We know that it is being dumped. At the moment, we can buy Chinese garlic in Australia for \$1 a kilogram, yet we know that it costs \$5 per kilogram to produce here. Given that the cost involved in getting it from China is at least \$1 per kilogram, that product must start off in China at zero. It is an absolutely impossible situation.

I look forward to a fast track anti-dumping mechanism with a reverse onus of proof and a refundable countervailing duty in the event of a country's being able to prove that it is not dumping. I do not think that is unfair. The Minister would then be able to refund that portion of the countervailing duty he believes is the level of subsidy that has been applied. Of course, we know that is happening in the EC and in North America with heavy subsidies and so on. There is no way of convincing the Australian consumer to buy locally when that sort of practice is happening.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The honourable member has made some valuable points. I know that the Premier, in relation to the Garnaut report and other submissions, has addressed this whole issue of the wholesale dismantling of the tariff system at a rate beyond which Australian industry can cope. It is a question of our convincing our Federal colleagues, because the *Bulletin* said that the McLachlan strategy involves a zero tariff option which would 'nuke' the Australian car industry. I have always believed that people at the State level are much more in touch with regional economies and local concerns and that the ether that exists in Canberra sometimes leads one to ignore the realities. I would like to see a copy of the honourable member's submission to the Senate inquiry and to ensure that the Premier receives a copy of it.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: In relation to the attitude of the Federal Opposition, the member for Barker supports a fast track anti-dumping mechanism, and I hope that can be pursued. Many of the ills currently upon us could largely be solved through that mechanism because it picks up the problems of subsidies and dumping in which the United States and the EC are involved at the moment.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am sure that the Premier has addressed the whole question of anti-dumping strategies at a number of forums. I have heard him speak about it. It is a matter in which bipartisan support is warranted.

The Hon. P.B. ARNOLD: It seems futile that unemployed people in the Riverland are doing a course through TAFE with little opportunity of getting back into employment in that region. In many instances, they have to leave because of the nature of the industries in which they were involved. Another example is the brandy industry. The Riverland used to produce 80 per cent of Australia's total brandy production until successive Federal Governments—both Whitlam and Fraser—virtually annihilated the brandy industry. Employment in that industry vanished overnight. The Berri Renmano distillery, which is the biggest distillery in the southern hemisphere, went for four years after the last imposition of excise on that industry without making a drop of brandy. That leaves the growers—the shareholders—with absolutely nowhere to sell their fruit. Consequently, they cannot employ anyone.

If one looks at the level of that excise, one sees that the grower is lucky to get \$200 a tonne for the grapes that make brandy. Out of that tonne of grapes, the Federal Government extracts \$2 400 and, at the same time, the grower goes broke. There is no employment for anyone else in the industry. The whole exercise is absolutely futile. Unless we

can get these messages through to the Federal arena, much of what this department is trying to achieve is futile. Even if people are trained, there are no employment opportunities, and products are flooding in from overseas.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Point taken.

Mr De LAINE: I refer to page 474 of the Program Estimates dealing with planning and coordination. Is the Government able to predict what the labour market conditions are likely to be for the rest of this financial year?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It is certainly a very difficult task to predict accurately what the labour market conditions are likely to be for South Australia for the rest of the financial year. This is partly because labour market forecasting is in itself difficult and also because we are largely at the mercy of national and international conditions and policies. I certainly will not try to predict an unemployment rate, although I know that many others have tried. The Leader of the Opposition earlier this year was talking about a real rate of 15.3 per cent, and when we checked the figures we saw that he had got Tasmania's figures by mistake—but we all have our problems.

It is the variables of growth or loss of job changes in the participation rate and changes in Federal Government monetary and economic policy that make up an equation which is complex and somewhat unpredictable. However, I can make some general comments about the future state of the labour market in South Australia. South Australia held up well in comparison with trends in other States for most of 1990-91, when most economic indicators are examined. In other words, South Australia entered this recession after the nation as a whole, and it is reasonable to predict that there will be a lag in the recovery phase. This may mean that the South Australian labour market under performs in comparison with the national labour market for the rest of this financial year.

Of course, that was spelt out very clearly by the Premier in the budget papers that he released on budget day. It certainly concerns me that most expectations are for a subdued or low-bounce recovery nationally. If this occurs, we may as a nation be facing high levels of unemployment for some time. One of the problems, too, is that employment is what is referred to as a lagging indicator. The unemployed quite frankly in my view simply cannot afford to wait for the recovery to trickle down. I certainly welcome moves at the national level from the ACTU and the Federal Labor Caucus to re-stimulate debate about the need to kickstart job growth.

The employment trend was still downwards, but there are new signs that there could be a crucial turning point in the national economy. Therefore, I think it is critical that business confidence be encouraged and that the Federal Government needs to help ensure that this happens. In June this year I issued a detailed 12-point plan for action on the jobs front. Some of our proposals, including changes to Austudy, were picked up in the recent Federal budget, but not enough were. In terms of a concerted, comprehensive employment strategy, the budget was I think fairly half-hearted, and it is now time for the Federal Government to pull its finger out in terms of addressing both our 12-point plan and also that of the ACTU.

There has been a bit of confusion by commentators, I think, as to which 12-point plan we are talking about. We sent our plan to Federal Ministers, the ACTU, other State Ministers, the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry, welfare groups and the unions and it had massive support from local organisations. I was very disappointed, when I called for a national employment summit, to hear the ACTU and national employers saying, 'There is no point in having

a talkfest because we all know what has to be done,' and, when they were separately interviewed on *AM* about what needed to be done, both gave diametrically opposite answers which, I think, shows the level of thinking back in May and June. Thankfully, I think the message is now getting across: that it is now time for national resolve and commitment to ensure that the unemployed and the most vulnerable in our community do not continue to bear the brunt of this recession.

Our 12-point plan covered the following points: first, to bring forward the commencement of infrastructure projects of national strategic importance and encourage private investment in these projects by removing impediments and providing tax incentives. Secondly, back in June we called for a further wage-tax trade-off. Third was a reduction in interest rates, and that has happened. Fourthly, I refer to an increase in and re-ordering of payments of subsidies to employers to retrain staff and take on new staff. Fifth was the splitting up of reforms to education and training systems, including a better targeting of Austudy to assist the most disadvantaged in the community, and we have had some impact there.

The sixth point was to increase the number of higher education places. The seventh point was a review of taxation policies and practices nationally which hinder employment development and/or skill investment into non-productive areas. Eighthly, implement immediately the proposed national small business strategy; and, ninthly, increase funding to the Office of Labour Market Adjustment (OLMA). The tenth point was to develop and implement national conservation and national community service core programs based on our programs here in South Australia. The eleventh point was to stimulate private housing construction activity as a vehicle to generate additional employment and housing opportunities for low income earners. The twelfth point was to hold, as a matter of urgency, a national employment summit.

I attended the national economic summit in 1983 as an adviser to the Premier. There was an enormous amount of cynicism before that meeting. People said, 'What is the point of this? It will just be a talkfest and all the usual cynical rot that people go on about.' But, when they actually got into that room in the old Federal Parliament building employers, unions, State and Federal Governments rolled up their sleeves. People who had been enemies for years and who had harangued each other for years rolled up their sleeves and left their ideological baggage and parochial sectional concerns at the doorstep and said, 'Okay, we have an important subject in relation to this 1982-83 recession. Let us put our heads together and agree on 50 points of action.' And, that is what happened. It was a week long, and I think it was a truly historic occasion to see these people who had not even talked to each other actually sitting around and reaching agreement. I think that strategy worked because we achieved a faster economic growth in the Western World and the fastest unemployment growth in the Western World as a result of that summit.

We got pooh-poohed nationally about the idea. I was disappointed to see the State Opposition oppose this at the time. I do not want to see any further decline in employment without the Federal Government, political Parties, industry and unions casting aside the black hand of parochialism and sectional interest and actually getting on with the job with putting our heads together and getting some of these kids back to work. That will take not just Governments but the entire community and a national commitment.

Mr De LAINE: The next question relates to page 30 of the capital works program and is an item dear to my heart—the Port Adelaide campus redevelopment, at an estimated total cost of \$17.22 million, with \$1.1 million earmarked for this financial year. I realise that this redevelopment has not yet been referred to the Public Works Standing Committee, but pending its approval it is due for commencement in June next year and completion in September 1994. With those constraints, will the Minister give details of the work to be done this financial year, an overview of the total project and the types of courses to be offered at this new campus?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The last thing I would want to do, as a former Acting Chairman and a long-standing Deputy Chairman of what I regard as the most prestigious Committee of this Parliament, is pre-empt the Public Works Standing Committee. It is a shame that it is about to be abolished. I would not want to pre-empt Cabinet and Caucuses either. However, I will try to extend my views on this matter in a non-committal but supportive way.

A new college is currently being planned for the Port Adelaide region. If it gets approval it will consolidate the programs being offered at the existing three campuses and will provide a focus for a Statewide maritime program, which I think we need and which other States have. It will provide increased training opportunities for young people, especially in community service, business and computer studies. I understand that the plans will be presented to the Port Adelaide centre joint committee on 21 September 1991 and that, following the submission, consultation will intensify. I have had a brief look at the plans. Again, the proposal is extraordinarily imaginative and fits with Port Adelaide's being the centre for the MFP. This will be one out of the box if it gets approved by the Public Works Standing Committee and State Cabinet.

Funds were included in the 1991-92 Commonwealth budget, which will enable construction to commence early in 1992, if approved, with a planned completion date at the end of 1993. The project can proceed if the Public Works Standing Committee has reported favourably and the resource agreement 1992 between the State Government and the Commonwealth Government is signed. So, there are a number of 'ifs'. I have to admit to this House, because it is after dinner and the television cameras have all disappeared, that, when I first became a Minister, I asked the Chief Executive, after I talked to him about the shrike project, what was the story about Port Adelaide TAFE. He showed me the initial plans. I love the Port, as the honourable member knows, and I have a great affection for that area. I looked at the map and I nearly fell over, because they were on Rann Street, Port Adelaide. I thought the member for Bragg and everyone would give me absolute billy-oh for the rest of my life and that I may have even been mentioned in Heather Stephens's column under the heading, 'Minister names TAFE after himself' or 'The Ceuscucu approach to TAFE: the Rann College down at Port Adelaide'. Thank God, with no intervention (because I am a non-interventionist Minister), the proposed site—it has moved onto another bank of the river—is much better equipped. So, it will not be in Rann Street.

The member for Semaphore also has a keen interest in this area, because he is on the TAFE council in that area, but he is on the other side of the river and I certainly hope one day to be able to walk tall in Port Adelaide when it has a flash, brand new, maritime college. Basically, we need one in South Australia; otherwise we will lose training projects to the west, which is the centre at the moment. Whilst we are doing very important work for the submarine project

through Panorama, obviously we cannot cover all those skill areas. That is why I want to ensure that we have a national maritime college with international standing in Port Adelaide.

Mr De LAINE: My third question relates to the Commonwealth contribution to DETAFE. We have been given quite a lot of information here today on what the State Government is doing to help the unemployed. Are you satisfied with the level of Commonwealth Government commitment?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I am quite happy to get stuck into anyone if it helps get the best outcomes for people. The Commonwealth policy and program provision has been both responsive and relevant in a broad range of fields such as competency-based training, industrial relations, award restructuring, the development of infrastructure and other areas of workplace reform and labour market activity. However, in my view, there have been some significant gaps, and I have addressed and am continuing to address these with my Commonwealth counterpart, John Dawkins and through the VEETAC and MOVEET forums. In particular, I have been seeking additional Commonwealth support for entry-level training development and provision, especially in the apprenticeship field, with regard to the expansion of special wage subsidy assistance and off-the-job training subsidies. This is particularly critical at this time as a means of maintaining our skills training efforts to ensure that future skills shortages are avoided. Obviously, we are looking for a big measure of Commonwealth support in the area of the Finn review. It must put its money where its mouth is.

Mr SUCH: I refer to the College Arms Hotel and the Auditor-General's Report at pages 70 and 71, What financial support has been provided to the College Arms Hotel in the last financial year in response to the 'minimal improvement to the financial position since June 1990' which was identified in the Auditor-General's Report for 1991? What is the value of the cumulative support given to the College Arms Training Company Pty Ltd since the Government bought the hotel for \$700 000 in 1986 and spent a further \$552 000 renovating it? Is it the Government's intention to continue financial support of this venture, given that the initial submission to establish the hotel indicated that the return from commercial operations would more than cover all operating expenses? What will be the criteria used in determining whether to terminate that support?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In relation to the College Arms, which is both a skills centre and is also directly under the auspices of the Adelaide College of TAFE, we have at the Regency college an outstanding tourism and hospitality resource. That applies also to the Adelaide college. In terms of tourism and hospitality, Adelaide and Regency colleges together have a national reputation. It is vitally important that students who want to be involved in that area get some direct on-the-job real experience, and that is one of the advantages of the College Arms.

All pubs around town have experienced considerable difficulties in recent times. There was an article in the paper the other day about the Green Dragon, and members opposite possibly have had more dealings with that than I over the years. It has closed its doors.

Around town, a number of pubs are experiencing a downturn in terms of sales. That is probably the case with the College Arms, but we must remember that running the College Arms is not just like running a pub, because the College Arms is also a training facility. It is a skills centre. Therefore, it has a much higher volume of staff employed

and much greater length of time is taken because of the supervision of preparation and so on. It is actually a campus facility as opposed to being only a pub.

If it were just a matter of running a pub, with people such as Bill Spurr down there there would not be a problem. What failed to be recognised originally was how much that training component is worth. The College Arms was set up with about \$30 000 or \$35 000 from each of the sectors: from the industry, from the unions and from the Adelaide College. What has happened is that we have recognised the training component. I spoke to the previous Auditor-General a year ago about problems with the College Arms and I know that he was pleased with the direction we were taking.

Mr Carter: In response to the Auditor-General's concerns last year and the combination of the training and the trading facilities, a report was prepared for Cabinet, and Cabinet approved a training subsidy, recognising the training component of the hotel, of up to \$80 000 to be provided annually. The audited figures for the hotel as at 30 June 1991 have just come to hand, and show a net loss of \$76 345.

That is before the subsidy is taken into account so, in the quite difficult times for the hospitality industry in the city over the past 12 months, that represents a fairly reasonable result. However, in looking to future viability, the board of the hotel has commissioned a business plan that looks at those results and the projections for the future. That business plan will be presented to the board at its next meeting.

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It is \$76 000 down without taking into account the \$80 000 allocation for its training role which, in my view, is pre-eminent; that is what it is there for. I hope that the College Arms can gain some publicity in terms of promoting some of our 'buy Australian' programs, because I think that those students do an outstanding job. The shadow Minister of Aboriginal Affairs attended a function there with me last year, with the archbishops, at the launch of the 1 per cent challenge, the Aboriginal employment strategy, and the food prepared by the students was absolutely outstanding.

The people we turn out through Regency, through the Adelaide College and through the College Arms are really the pick of the bunch, and I am not surprised that they are getting such recognition interstate and overseas. I do not say 'overseas' lightly: when I was overseas last year, I met the head of one of the biggest hotels in Singapore, and he was asking me about Regency College. The same occurred in a number of locations, to the effect that Regency and Adelaide colleges have an international reputation.

Mr SUCH: My next question relates to computing and page 64 of the Auditor-General's Report. First, what is the current estimate of the cost to implement the department's administrative computing strategic plan? Secondly, the Auditor-General was critical that a pilot project for a proposed major system blew out in cost from \$254 000 to \$839 000. What was this pilot project and what were the reasons for the pilot? Thirdly, the Auditor-General notes departmental advice that endorsement of the administrative computing strategic plan would be sought in August 1991. Was that endorsement sought and was it given?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I make no pretence of being an expert in computers, but I will endeavour to struggle to answer that question. In terms of the pilot management and course information systems, this project was undertaken to confirm the suitability of the strategies being recommended in the strategic plan and, given the new software and hardware direction, to enable the associated costs to be firmed up.

The pilot student management system first became operational at Croydon Park College of TAFE—that is the one that will be opened tomorrow under Executive order—in 1990 to handle 1991 enrolments. The project was completed successfully in March 1991, some nine months later than originally estimated and at just over three times the original cost estimates. In part, this cost and time overrun resulted from decisions to extend and expand the project during its development. The justification for these decisions is reflected in the fact that most other States and Territories have expressed considerable interest in acquiring the high quality, high utility systems that have resulted from the pilot.

The overruns have also resulted from what were recognised as being, at best, tentative initial estimates—tentative because the department's systems development staff were relatively inexperienced in estimating the cost and time components involved in building an application from scratch with a completely new development software.

The experience gained from the project allows more realistic estimates to be presented in the plan and for future systems project work to proceed on the student management and course information systems to prepare them for implementation in other colleges. Actual implementation is scheduled for October 1991 in part and October 1991 in total, subject obviously to the usual approval processes.

In terms of the other area which the honourable member mentioned, the TAFE strategic plan for the provision of administrative information systems is currently with the office of Cabinet and the Government Management Board for appraisal prior to seeking Cabinet approval. If and when Cabinet has approved the plan, work will continue with the establishment of the computer and data communications network between all colleges and central office divisions. To date, this network has been established only to the level necessary to support those projects within the plan and a separate endorsement, namely, the contract of training information system and the pilot student management and course information systems.

That is the most I can give the honourable member off the cuff. I am quite prepared, if the honourable member wants further information, to talk to him or perhaps he can talk to Mr Carter, or we can work something out. I will just refer the Committee to Mr Carter, who may be able to elaborate a little further.

Mr Carter: The other part of the honourable member's question related to dollars. There is a provision of \$2.4 million in this year's budget to implement those developments, particularly the student information and course information system, at a greater number of campuses—that is another 11 sites—during 1991-92 and at this stage we would be looking at a similar amount next year for the completion of that implementation at other college sites together with the next stages of the administrative plan, which is the human resources information system.

Mr SUCH: Once again at page 64 of the Auditor-General's Report, in respect of the Asset Register the Auditor-General states:

An audit review of the Fixed Asset System revealed:
management policies and procedures were incomplete;
controls to ensure all assets were recorded were not in place;
information recorded was incomplete or inaccurate. . .
for each asset, the valuation basis required by the Treasurer's Instruction was not included.

Does the Minister accept that the department's record in this area is unacceptable? What action will be taken to correct the situation outlined by the Auditor-General?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Very firm action will be taken. I went to DETAFE some months ago and saw a machine that was churning out this information. Basically, I could tell

just from looking at a sheet of paper from the machine how much a piece of equipment cost from the South-East college or from the Berri college, when it was acquired, what it was for and so on. As a New Zealander, not being used to high technology, I was impressed. Mr Carter can probably elaborate more on what we will do to grapple with this important problem, because the action has been firm but fair.

Mr Carter: I can assure the honourable member that all the deficiencies outlined in the audit report by the Auditor-General's people are being addressed. The Treasurer's Instruction requires all agencies to provide information on assets as part of their annual accounting statements. Last year, we converted from a major computer system, which was operated through the computing centre, to a new PC-operated system. We transferred the information from the old system to the new system. In doing so, we transferred all the old history, and the Auditor-General had a look at the new system before we had a chance to clean it out in accordance with the requirements of the Treasurer's Instruction.

The major concerns identified by the Auditor-General were, first, that a number of significant items of equipment were not recorded on the system. The major action taken with respect to that deficiency was that the old system relied on a paper flow from colleges with respect to equipment being provided on the site. We have now interfaced the purchase of new equipment so that, as soon as an item of equipment is purchased, it will go immediately on to the system.

Secondly, the Auditor-General expressed some concern about the quantity of equipment that we were recording because, when we first entered our equipment, we put just about everything on to the computers. That has been refined progressively so that we will be recording only items of the value of \$1 000 or greater. The value of equipment was the major item that the auditor was concerned about, and that was based on an audit we did some three or four years ago when we put up the original system. Currently, we are in the process of doing an audit of all equipment in each educational program. As part of that audit, we are revaluing each item of equipment. Upon completion of those measures, we will have addressed most of the concerns expressed by the Auditor-General.

Mr HAMILTON: I notice that from time to time the issue of access to further education in rural areas becomes an issue in the media. Can the Minister outline how TAFE is servicing the needs of our rural people, particularly the younger sector and, for that matter, adults?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Under the Kickstart scheme, which was announced by the Premier on 12 August this year, rural areas will have the funds and opportunity to develop and implement training, employment and enterprise development programs for their own regions as they come on stream. The figure of \$16.5 million is allocated across the State for Kickstart, and eventually we want to see local communities making decisions or providing advice on needed programs.

Officers of the Employment and Training Division are available to provide assistance to local communities in working out the most appropriate programs, and assistance teams are allocated to all regions in the State. Regional employment and training bodies are in the process of being formed in the Eyre Peninsula, in Whyalla and Port Augusta as well as in the western metropolitan region.

In 1992 similar bodies will be established in Port Pirie and in two other yet to be named country regions. The department and I are most eager that the problems of rural communities are brought to these employment and training

bodies so that those communities can develop programs to assist them in surviving the harsh reality that is forced on them by the recession and various structural problems. People have said to me, 'You have launched Kickstart. What has happened to date?' Perhaps I can give a couple of examples in terms of Whyalla and Port Augusta.

Responses by the community-industry players have generally been positive, and in the case of Port Augusta it is envisaged that the establishment of a regional employment and training body could be finalised within six weeks. In the case of Whyalla this may be a little longer, depending particularly on the resources provided by the WIDE organisation and other key players such as the Whyalla city council. In Port Augusta there is a comprehensive series of consultations with key community-industry players which is currently proceeding. An existing incorporated body known as the Port Augusta Committee of Training (PACT) has been identified and, with slight modification, it is seen to be most suitable to form a nucleus for the proposed regional employment and training body.

We want to build on existing structures rather than translate some idea from the city to the country. We want to build on local routes. This will be subject, of course, to what eventuates from the consultations in relation to forming a suitable formal relationship with the Port Augusta and Flinders Ranges Development Committee, which is also keen to be involved in the Kickstart initiative. In Whyalla, a comprehensive series of consultations with key community-industry players is currently proceeding. The Whyalla Industrial Development Executive, which I mentioned before and which is known as WIDE, has shown some interest in becoming an 'auspicing' or 'umbrella' body for the proposed regional employment and training body. However, some negotiations need to occur in relation to clearly defining WIDE's role and responsibilities in such an arrangement.

I guess that prevocational funding allocations are obviously a key part of Kickstart, and we are keen that there be considerable rural involvement in that area. New employment opportunities officers, colloquially known as NEOs, and their role in relation to the provision of dedicated support for the regional employment and training body, have to be renegotiated. So, we are going to be out there talking to people.

In terms of future action, we have to finalise these consultations in regional areas. We have to continue the negotiations, look at developing a constitution for each body, negotiate an agreement in writing which will include the provision of financial and staff resources, have outcome statements, project administration procedures, financial procedures, and a compilation of regional employment and training strategic plans.

If the member for Albert Park had given me more notice of this question, I might have got more detail for him about the Eyre team. In relation to the Eyre region, visits occurred during August and September with a strong supportive response being received from most areas. The Lower Eyre Enterprise Committee (LEEC) is keen to be the sponsor body for Kickstart. The Tumby Bay community has developed a detailed self-help plan to assist their community and is receptive to using LEEC as a regional body. Ceduna, Streaky Bay, Wudinna, Kimba, Cowell, Cleve, Lock and Darke Peak are being visited this week.

In relation to issues, the region is geographically large. Resourcing may be required to assist more isolated communities in relation to travel so that they can actively participate. LEEC is awaiting a response from the regional body to determine the resources for the economic development officer. NEO funding is currently used by LEEC

and a refocusing of this to achieve Kickstart aims is required. So, already within a month or so we are out there talking to the players and setting up structures and, by doing this rather than transplanting some kind of employment and training starship enterprise in the regions, we are actually out there trying to encourage things to grow organically.

Mr HAMILTON: Page 476 of the Program Estimates refers to a review of employment policy and procedures for part-time instructors. Would the Minister elaborate on that very important assistance?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Before I go into any detail, I should explain that in terms of its lecturing staff TAFE has several thousand—2 000 or 3 000—permanent staff, but there is also a number of part-time staff—4 000 to 5 000 a year. Some of them might just work for a short time for a specific course, but we are trying to harness part-time lecturers with special expertise and bring them in for special processes. Our part-time instructor staff are a critically important part of DETAFE.

We are having a review of conditions of employment for our PTIs. There are terms of reference to identify the patterns of usage for part-time instructors across all colleges and programs areas, namely: examine the patterns of usage in relation to the department's need for efficiency, effectiveness and equity in its operations; develop guidelines for the employment of PTI staff, which will assist in the achievement of efficiency, effectiveness and equity; and develop a system of review, which will enable a regular evaluation and usefulness of the guidelines. I guess the likely outcomes are that major changes will be recommended. The recommendations will focus on enhancements of the existing system, I would imagine, and then on a new system which should be considered for introduction as soon as practicable. I will ask the Chief Executive Officer if she would like to comment further.

Ms Schofield: The part-time instructor is an important part of our total system of delivery and, as part of the award restructuring exercise, not only are we looking at the tasks and responsibilities of full-time lecturing staff, but we are also including in that process of structural efficiency and reform a review of the content of work of part-time instructors. We are looking to have the recommendations in place probably for semester 2, 1992; that would be our timeframe, but it would depend on discussions with SAIT, and various negotiations that would need to occur. Generally, we would be looking to increase the use of our PTIs, if possible, in order to enhance our flexibility.

Mr HAMILTON: On page 476 I note an intention to implement recommendations of a cleaning review. Do I take that as cleaning of offices? What does that really mean? Under 1991-92 strategies, what is hoped to be achieved by this cleaning review?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: This is actually an important issue because, obviously, with 70 campuses around the State, we cover many areas such as printing and Regency college, with enormous amounts of food being processed. Obviously, therefore, cleaning is essential in terms of both hygiene and maintaining standards for students and staff. Two cleaning reviews were carried out during 1990-91. A review of cleaning arrangements in colleges of TAFE was undertaken as a result of union intervention when changing the operations within a section of Regency college was being considered.

A report was finalised in June 1991 and forwarded to me as Minister. A review into the internal financial management of cleaning functions within DETAFE colleges was carried out to address the issues raised by an audit review by the Auditor-General's Department in the first half of

1990. That was completed and forwarded to the Auditor-General. We are basically trying to ensure greater efficiency.

There is a recommendation of a target of a 25 per cent reduction in cleaning costs over a two to three year period realising a figure of final saving of \$1.1 million. So, the human resources committee has established a TAFE cleaning coordination group and we are currently looking at how to achieve better efficiencies in our cleaning operations.

Mr SUCH: In relation to the Finn report, there is a recommendation that TAFE through its courses should be assessing a series of competencies which are required by employers. What is the Minister's attitude towards this specific recommendation of the Finn report?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I think the honourable member would be aware that South Australia is the leader in the area of competency based training, without any doubt at all. The issue of the Finn report is such that we are currently talking with the Education Department so we can develop a coordinated State response to the Finn report. The Commonwealth will convene a meeting in October, I think, at which each of the States will give a preliminary response on Finn. At the moment our position is one of broad support but it is basically an extraordinarily revolutionary report in terms of a massive expansion in TAFE training, offering a guarantee to school leavers up to the age of 19.

It poses enormous financial demands on the nation, and we have to work out a better system of funding. There are about seven different funding strategies currently on the drawing boards which each State is looking at, and we are obviously trying to nut out a response at the moment. In terms of the specific question, I will invite the Chief Executive Officer to make a few comments.

Ms Schofield: I do not have that specific recommendation in front of me, but I will refer to a couple of general principles. South Australia is already committed to competency based learning and testing, as distinct from time serving. This has a range of advantages. As the Minister said earlier, the ICTC in this State has pioneered much of the competency based testing work, and that has been supported by the national training board. Specifically, the Education Department and DETAFE will cooperate in the part of the report that identifies key competencies. The report sets out a range of key competencies that all young people should acquire, including mathematics, cultural understanding, communication and interpersonal skills, and the Director-General of Education, Minister Crafter, Minister Rann and I met last week. There is agreement for a cross-sectoral cooperation on the key competencies component of the report.

There is the endorsement of the ICTC to the competency thrust of the report, and we are planning a series of consultations within the next three weeks with industry groups to gauge their views. Our position in DETAFE would be that, whilst we may have a bureaucratic view, we would want also to discuss that with industry before we establish a final recommendation to go forward to Cabinet.

Mr SUCH: In light of the recently announced decision on concessions for tertiary students, why is \$5.059 million budgeted for 1991-92 compared with \$4.874 million in 1990-91?

Mr Carter: The figure was provided to the department by Treasury, and I understand that it was provided to Treasury by the STA. The STA's figure is based on its calculation of patronage rates for 1991-92, and the explanation for the figure is as follows. The STA's having projected an increase in patronage rates in 1991-92 but prior to any decision to change concessions would have led to a

figure of something in excess of \$6 million being the concession figure for 1991-92.

As a result of the change to the concession arrangements, which will be implemented in 1992, thus giving only a half year effect in 1991-92, that projection based on the increased patronage rates of over \$6 million is reduced to the \$5.059 million figure indicated in the statement.

Mr SUCH: Will the Minister give a breakdown of how the \$623 000 was spent in his office in 1990-91?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: It was very well spent, actually. It is extraordinarily efficient, and an outstanding example to the nation in terms of office management. I was very pleased to have Brett Morris, who for many years worked in the Premier's Department for successive Premiers Don Dunstan, David Tonkin, Des Corcoran and John Bannon. One of my first acts as Minister was to pinch him from the Premier's office, and he is my senior administration officer.

Obviously, as with any other Minister, I have a press secretary, an executive assistant, secretarial support and liaison officers from the departments. That covers the area of my operations. If the honourable member wants a more detailed report, it will waste a lot of money and officers' time in being prepared, but if he wants something to take to his colleagues interstate or even overseas on his study tour as an example of what can be achieved, I shall be happy to provide it.

Mr HERON: What is the Government doing to address the barriers that women face in finding meaningful employment?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Previously, I mentioned the women's employment strategy we are in the process of developing. Recently, we appointed a women's officer in the Division of Employment and Training. She came to talk with me about a week or so ago about where we were heading, and she is aware of my very strong commitment in this area.

The South Australian Government established a women's employment strategy back in 1988 to review and advise on major issues relating to women's employment and to coordinate efforts across all sectors which aimed to improve the breadth, level and conditions of women's participation in the work force. This followed South Australia's endorsement of the Australian women's employment strategy, which has eight national goals: to improve women's access to and participation in employment, education and training; to improve working conditions and arrangements for workers with family responsibilities; to improve employment and training opportunities for women as part of industry planning and restructuring; to reduce gender segregation in education, occupations and industries; to improve women's access to and participation in forums for consultation and decision-making in employment, education and training; to improve women's occupational health and safety; to promote pay equity; and to develop appropriate awards and conditions for especially disadvantaged women.

I certainly endorse all those eight national goals. In South Australia the strategy has undertaken projects to highlight women's interest in award restructuring; to focus attention on the needs of workers with family responsibilities, including the development of work based child care; to address women's employment issues in award-free areas of employment; and to encourage more diversity in the range of jobs in which women are employed.

Following the review of the first two years in this State, the South Australian Government has decided to strengthen the efforts of the women's employment strategy by establishing a ministerial advisory committee to direct its oper-

ations with a dedicated secretariat—dedicated in more ways than one, I hope, and I am sure.

A total of \$109 200 has been allocated from a number of agencies to support the activities of the committee this financial year comprising my own department, \$76 000; the Department of Labour, \$32 000; and the Premier's Department, \$1 200. The broadly based committee, which will conduct its first meeting in the next few weeks—and I will soon be able to announce a chairperson for that committee—will include representatives from private industry, the trade union movement, the Working Women's Centre, Education, Employment and Training, and Children's Services, so it is something I want to be one of our key-note areas in 1992. I will be happy to speak more about this at next year's Estimates Committee.

Mr HERON: Page 472 of the Program Estimates, under the heading of 'Issues and Trends', states that the Commonwealth guidelines shift the focus of funding to new arrivals, which has implications for planning for the needs of the longer term migrant community. What are the implications of that shift?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: In that area, again it is one in terms of the tremendous activity that is going on in relation to workplace education, adult migrant education, literacy projects, and a community adult education project. Through my colleague, the Hon. Lynn Arnold, we are also involved in assisting the recognition of qualifications gained overseas, so I guess on a range of fronts we are trying to ensure a more equitable outcome for migrants.

This area of recognition of qualifications is something that impacted on my own family. My father, who was an electrician, went to New Zealand on the basis of being assured by New Zealand House that his qualifications would be recognised in New Zealand. Having all the city and guild certificates and being a manager in that area, when he arrived in New Zealand he had to accept the position of electrician's labourer for a year while he sat the examinations. The New Zealand Government's argument was that different conditions prevailed in New Zealand but, unfortunately, when he sat the examinations (which he passed with flying colours) all the questions came from old city and guild examinations.

That sort of practice resulted in a level of bitterness in both Australia and New Zealand where migrant people were misled. All members have come across people in our electorate offices who have enormous skills which they brought from overseas and which have not been recognised. There are terrible examples of people who were forced into doing other jobs. The most bizarre example was when I worked as an employment officer very briefly in the New Zealand Labour Exchange and a fellow came to see me wanting a job as a clerk. He was the former head of the US Ranger Space Program and he had certificates signed by American Presidents and Vice-Presidents. I thought he was having me on. We have a real problem and a wasted resource. If we are going to be the clever country, we have to get behind the sort of work that the Hon. Lynn Arnold's people and others are doing.

The Commonwealth has made a policy decision primarily to fund ESL courses for new arrivals in Australia rather than the previously broader category of people from non-English speaking backgrounds, irrespective of their time in Australia since arrival. Given that the Commonwealth provides the majority of resources for ESL and TAFE, major shifts in policy have now been imposed on the TAFE system. The implication is that, unless a person is a new arrival, little support will be given to them to learn English,

Groups who will be significantly disadvantaged are non-English speaking background women who remain outside of the labour market or who operate only in a select section of it and non-English speaking background people generally who work in the low skill area, which previously did not require a competency in English. Consequently, if TAFE is to respond to the broader non-English speaking background community, a shift in planning emphasis and planning arrangements will need to be worked out. Obviously, more work needs to be done.

Mr INGERSON: In relation to staff figures (Program Estimates, page 464), for each of the average full-time equivalent figures for 1990-91 proposed, 1990-91 actual and 1991-92 proposed, will the Minister provide a breakdown of staff as provided in the Financial Statement (page 151) in the categories 'GME Act', 'Weekly Paid', 'Other' and 'Other Major Act'?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I will incorporate in *Hansard* a purely statistical table to assist the honourable member.

The CHAIRMAN: That is acceptable.

DETAFE STAFFING ANALYSIS

Item	AFTE					TARGET				
	GME Act	TAFE Act	W/Paid	Other	Total	GME Act	TAFE Act	W/Paid	Other	Total
1989-90 Actual	823.5	1 603.1	425.3	47.1	2 899.0	865.5	1 657.8	442.0	70.6	3 035.9
FYE 1989-90 INITIATIVES										
Apprentice growth		15.0			15.0					0.0
Prevocational courses		8.3			8.3					0.0
Commissioning		1.0			1.0					0.0
Precommissioning TTG		2.7			2.7					0.0
C/W prevocational		(9.9)			(9.9)					0.0
Temp. trng supervisor	(0.7)				(0.7)					0.0
1990-91 INITIATIVES										
Admin. computing	5.0				5.0	5.0				5.0
Conservation trng prog.	2.0				2.0	4.0				4.0
Apprentice growth		8.0			8.0		16.0			16.0
Commissioning TTG	1.0	5.3	1.0		7.3	2.0	18.5	3.0		23.5
Commissioning Millicent	1.0	6.9	1.9		9.8	1.0	9.0	2.0		12.0
Commissioning Barossa	0.7	4.3	1.0		6.0	1.0	4.0	1.0		6.0
Commissioning Barker	1.0				1.0	1.0				1.0
PROPOSED 1990-91	833.5	1 644.7	429.2	47.1	2 954.5	879.5	1 705.3	448.0	70.6	3 103.4
C/W program growth	6.4	15.2	1.4	(2.5)	20.5	6.1	13.4	1.0	(0.3)	20.2
Deposit a/c growth	7.6	18.0	(0.4)	(2.3)	22.9					
Ind. award restructuring	6.0	14.0			20.0	6.0	8.0			14.0
Apprentice growth above		(8.0)			(8.0)		(16.0)			(16.0)
Adjustment to target					0.0	22.6	(16.5)	(29.4)	(6.8)	(30.1)
College reallocations	38.4	(12.0)	(3.0)	8.4	31.8					
Actual 1990-91	891.9	1 671.9	427.2	50.7	3 041.7	914.2	1 694.2	419.6	63.5	3 091.5
FYE 1990-91 INITIATIVES										
Conservation trng prog.	2.0				2.0					0.0
Commissioning TTG	4.0	8.2	4.0		16.2					0.0
Commissioning Millicent		2.2			2.2					0.0
Ind. award restructuring		(14.0)			(14.0)		(8.0)			(8.0)
1991-92 INITIATIVES										
Commissioning TTG	12.3	25.5	12.2		50.0	20.5	29.0	20.5		70.0
Commissioning Barker	4.7	3.3			8.0	4.7	3.3			8.0
Commissioning other	1.4	8.4	1.2		11.0	1.4	8.4	1.2		11.0
C/W programs	5.5	54.8	4.3		64.6	5.5	54.2	4.3		64.0
Apprentice downturn		(15.0)			(15.0)		(15.0)			(15.0)
PROPOSED 1991-92	921.8	1 745.3	448.9	50.7	3 166.7	946.3	1 766.1	445.6	63.5	3 221.5

Mr INGERSON: Will the Minister explain why the figures on page 464 of the Program Estimates of 3 091.5 full-time equivalents as at 30 June 1991 differ from the figure of 3 106.5 for the same date provided on page 151 of the Financial Statement?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is a very important question; it is a question that I have asked myself many times.

Mr Carter: With respect to the higher figure, Treasury has amalgamated a couple of agencies; it is a summary report. In our figures, Treasury has included the State Aboriginal Affairs. That is the difference. So, if those figures are subtracted, we will end up with the same figure as that in the Program Estimates.

Mr SUCH: In relation to youth unemployment (Program Estimates, page 480), the most recent edition of the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA) publication quotes Mr Kym Davies as follows:

YACSA today criticised the State budget handed down by Premier Bannon for containing no significant employment initiatives for young people.

How does the Minister justify the decision to abolish the 300 jobs provided under the public sector youth recruitment program when the Minister claims to be concerned about youth unemployment?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: I do not have to claim to be concerned about youth unemployment, because I am. In the spirit of bipartisanship that this committee has recognised, I have announced our \$16 million Kickstart training scheme, which is putting our money where our mouth is. I have also announced the youth conservation corps which was praised so eloquently by the Archbishop this week as well as by international figures; the community service program; and a doubling of prevocational training by an extra \$4.5 million. We are putting our money where our mouth is. We are working with the Commonwealth to deliver better programs for young people. So, I do not have to make any

claims. In a very difficult environment, we are trying to assist young people in terms of employment and training.

Mr HAMILTON interjecting:

The Hon. M.D. Rann: That is right. The 9 000 jobs that the Leader of the Opposition wants to cut would make a real hole in that area. We are currently looking at the whole area of youth recruitment. Obviously it is an area of great interest to young people. I hope that Mr Davies was misquoted, because I meet with YACSA fairly often. Indeed, my office funds YACSA to a considerable degree. Mr Davies would be aware, from the meetings that he has had with me, of the range of programs in the youth employment area that we are supporting. I also understood that YACSA was a very strong supporter of our submissions to the Federal Government about the employment summit and the 12-point plan. So, I am sure that it was a typing error. I will certainly raise with him what he means by that. In terms of the youth recruitment program, it is something that we are currently looking at.

Mr SUCH: Page 161 of the Estimates of Payments relates to youth services. Will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of all grants provided in 1990-91 under that line? Also, will he explain why administration expenses blew out from \$288 000 to \$435 000?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: Savings were carried forward from 1989-90 and reallocated to the 1990-91 financial resource base for the following reasons. State Youth Affairs was unable to fill vacant staffing positions, and hence there were salary savings. The State youth strategy started late and funds were unable to be properly expended. Because of an accounting error at the time of the transfer of funds for the Office of Employment and Training into the DETAFE State Youth Affairs system, a total of \$267 550 was reallocated to State Youth Affairs and, after careful allocation was distributed as follows: an additional \$30 000 grant to the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia; an additional \$15 000 grant to the Youth Sector Training Council was allocated for the Youth Conservation Project; \$75 000 was allocated for the Youth Conservation Project; \$30 000 was allocated to set up the cost of five regional strategy offices; \$40 000 was allocated for the purpose of computer hardware and software for both central offices and all strategy regional offices of State Youth Affairs; and \$77 550 was allocated

for youth initiatives project funds. We can provide further information if that is what the member wants.

I must say that this whole day has put me under enormous stress. I guess we are all governed by the movies we watch and it is obvious by the way that the Opposition members have been conducting themselves that they have been watching *Judgment at Nuremberg* while I have been watching *Rocky IV*!

Mr SUCH: What was the reason for the increase from \$21.8 million to \$29.5 million in 'inter-agency support services not paid for in 1991' referred to at page 470 of the Program Estimates?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: The answer is quite clear and I will ask Mr Carter to respond.

Mr Carter: That line deals with the capital works program provided through SACON; hence 'inter-agency support services not paid for'. It relates to the capital works program. In 1990-91, the projects at Tea Tree Gully and Barker were actually ahead of schedule; they were both Commonwealth funded and the Commonwealth funds were provided along with the advance in the project schedule.

Mr SUCH: The last question relates to vocational education, referred to on pages 465 and 471 of the Program Estimates. What was the total income obtained during the last fiscal year for Regency Park TAFE's training programs for Qantas cabin staff, and was the college able to use this income for its own purposes? Last year the Minister claimed that the hotel school generated more than 30 per cent of its running costs from non-taxpayer sources. What were the running costs for the hotel school during 1990-91 and what was the breakdown of how those costs were sourced?

The Hon. M.D. Rann: We can get a report on that.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Committee I thank the Minister's advisers for appearing before the Committee. I also thank the Minister for his short, sharp concise answers, as usual. I would remind the Minister that he has a responsibility to deliver those answers he has promised to the Committee in a form suitable for insertion in *Hansard* before 4 October. There being no further questions, I declare the examination of the votes completed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday 18 September at 11 a.m.