

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 20 September 1994

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B**Acting Chairman:**

Mr M.K. Brindal

Members:

Mr K.A. Andrew
 Mr E.S. Ashenden
 Mrs R.K. Geraghty
 The Hon. M.D. Rann
 Mrs L. Rosenberg
 Ms L. Stevens

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

Department for Employment, Training and Further
 Education, \$145 551 000

Witness:

The Hon. R.B. Such, Minister for Employment, Training
 and Further Education.

Advisers:

Mr A. Strickland, Chief Executive Officer, DETAFE.
 Mr D. Carter, Director, Corporate Services.
 Mr D. Selby, Acting Financial Management Accountant.
 Ms C. Tuncks, Acting Manager, Employment Policy and
 Programs Unit.
 Mr R. Symonds, Acting Manager, Youth SA.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: I declare the proposed program open for examination. Does the Minister wish to make an opening statement?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Before making my statement, I congratulate the new Leader of the Opposition on his elevation.

One of the strong commitments made by this Government to youth in the last election was to establish a Ministry for Youth Affairs, and that has happened. It is important that it has happened because young people, to a large extent in our society, have been marginalised. The Government and I, in particular, are committed to young people. I am passionate about young people having adequate representation in our community and that they are recognised as being important. We know their future is important but too often people focus on young people as having only a worth in the future.

I take the strong view that young people are just as important at the ages of 12 or 18 as they are at 40, 50, 60 or 70. Sadly, in our community in recent times, the cliché 'generation gap' has become more evident than ever before. We see many examples where young people are unfairly blamed for activities and, in many ways, they have become the scapegoats of society. It is a situation that I do not accept and that I intend to change. Our young people, with very few exceptions, are excellent, and we should be proud of them.

It is my strong commitment to bring back those young people who have gone off the rails or who may go off the rails, to ensure that they make something worthwhile out of their lives, and that they have opportunities for training, employment and for a fulfilled life. That is part of the driving force in the focus on youth. The Government changed the department's name from State Youth Affairs to Youth SA to make it more user friendly. The term 'State Youth Affairs' was outmoded; Youth SA is a more applicable term to which young people can more readily respond. As I mentioned, I am very much committed to ensuring that we have opportunities for our youth in training and employment, and generally that they have a worthwhile living standard, as well as opportunities in life.

One of the sad things in recent times has been the unacceptably high level of youth unemployment in South Australia; it is still far too high. It is something which is not acceptable and which the Government is seeking to address. The Government has recently announced a major boost in traineeships within the State public sector, and it is also working hard to do positive things in relation to apprenticeships. I intend to make an announcement about that in the not too distant future.

We are keen that those numbers be increased even further because, as the economy recovers, there will be greater opportunities for people who have skills. Young people who do not have skills will miss out. We can see that in the areas of information technology, electronics, and the wine industry significant opportunities are available for additional employment and, as a consequence, there is a need for training. In addition, the automotive industry is functioning at a very high level and we are strongly committed to that. Training and opportunities are essential for young people to enable them to access those industries.

We are supporting a whole range of programs that are directed at positive outcomes for young people. We are working on a youth Parliament in conjunction with the YMCA. We are intending on Proclamation Day this year to acknowledge the positive achievements of young people because for too long young people have not been acknowledged for their contributions, and we intend to do that in conjunction with SA Great. We are also working towards a Youth Expo next year where young people, as individuals or as members of groups, can showcase to the community the positives things they do. Once again, that is to focus on the important contributions of young people rather than continually portray the negatives, as so often appears in the media.

We are working on many other things. One of my great concerns is the number of young people, particularly 'working class' young people, who are missing out on training and employment opportunities. It is an issue on which the Federal Minister, Simon Crean, and I are currently working. The Federal Minister has been supportive; I believe he will support early intervention programs for young people who run the risk of not having training opportunities and employment. I will be keen to pilot those programs in the northern, southern and western suburbs.

That would be not only to give those young people an opportunity to focus on training but also to look at a whole range of life skills and literacy—a holistic approach. I am confident that the Federal Government will support that package. We need to do a lot more in terms of relationships between young people in the community. We are doing that through a scheme to encourage more positive reporting of

youth activities via the media, and details of that scheme are being finalised now.

We are currently working to establish closer and more positive links between youth and police, and discussions with police will focus on the way in which police are trained and their understanding of young people. It will also cover the way in which young people respond to police, because it is a two-way process. Some young people have a negative attitude towards police. We believe we can work together through Youth SA and the South Australian Police Department to develop a more positive relationship between youth and the police. We have in South Australia in the example of the Hindley Street police group one of the most innovative and progressive elements of any Police Force anywhere, and we want to build on what it has developed and work in conjunction with the wider Police Force to ensure that we remove some of the current misunderstanding that exists between youth and the police.

I am very concerned about the amount of violence that is portrayed through the media, videos, films and other formats, because I believe that that constant diet of violence, which is far more harmful than any depiction of nudity or any sexuality, has a consequence in terms of behaviour in the community. This applies not to all young people, obviously, but if you feed people a diet of violence all the time it is not surprising if they replicate that behaviour. It is a State and Commonwealth issue, and the sooner we as a community tackle that issue head on and reduce the amount of violence that is portrayed the better, and our young people will be the beneficiaries, along with the wider community.

We have focused on a lot of things. We have a dedicated team in Youth SA. We have some very exciting programs, and we are very much committed to link programs, for example, through KickStart and LEAP, as brokers. I have had the privilege of meeting a lot of young people who have been involved in those schemes, and to see the turn-around in their attitudes and outlook on life is quite amazing.

We have been supportive of Operation Flinders and we are supporting the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. We are nominating and supporting young people who cannot afford to participate in such programs. Through the youth strategy we have a very committed team of people, and we are currently looking at ways in which we can make that delivery of assistance to youth even better than it has been. They are just some of the things we have focused on. I am very passionate about young people; I believe they need a fair go. All of our programs are committed to highlighting not only the rights of youth but also their responsibilities. We see it as a two-way thing. It is my strong desire to see young people get a fair go, to be acknowledged in the community as making a contribution and to be valued as young people.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Would the Minister remind his officers that this is a standing committee of the Parliament and that therefore electronic devices are prohibited in the Chamber. I do not think they should check them in at the door, but they might switch them off.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: My opening statement will cover all areas of the day. I think it is essential that South Australia maintain a vocational education and training system which ensures that the State's skills requirements are met and are consistent with industry and occupational growth. We certainly must embrace the national challenge to make Australia a prosperous, outward looking, competitive and socially just society whilst at the same time recognising the State's special needs arising from our regional economy and

social structure. During the past four years South Australia has been a leading participant in creating a national agenda for reform in vocational education and training.

That has included the establishment of the national framework for the recognition of training—which I was particularly involved with as Minister—which enables training in both the private sector and industry to receive the same recognition as is available to the TAFE system, our excellent TAFE system, again an area where South Australia leads the nation, and of course also our participation as a member State of the Australian National Training Authority, with the associated creation of the Vocational, Education and Training Authority for South Australia.

I just want to put on record that there was a push by the Commonwealth to create a Commonwealth-State system as opposed to a national TAFE system. I felt very strongly as Minister, and I believe I had the support of members on all sides of Parliament, that it was vitally important that we retained in South Australia, that the smaller States retained, an input into TAFE, that we welcomed extra Federal funding but that would be in a partnership where the States, the Federal Government and the Territories should form together to have a national training system that looked at national training standards but also would be responsible to regional needs. It seemed to me crazy at the time—and it made me very unpopular with John Dawkins—for us to be handing our responsibility for TAFE to some division of a Commonwealth Government department. We have seen how the CES does things.

I did not want to see our training system being put as a division of DEET. So we fought very hard in a bipartisan way, and I acknowledge the support of Shane Stone, who was the Liberal Minister in the Northern Territory responsible for the area, of Kay Hallahan, in particular, the Minister for Education and Training in Western Australia, and of Wayne Goss because of his own personal interest in Queensland, because together and regardless of political boundaries we had the belief that we needed a national training system that was responsive to regional needs. So I am glad that despite incurring the wrath of John Dawkins we were able to be successful in mobilising the States to set up a national as opposed to a Commonwealth system.

The major factor in all these decisions by the previous Government was a desire to ensure that the States' TAFE and training systems became even more responsive to the requirements of industry and commerce as well as students. The previous Government recognised the need for community based provision of vocational education and also community adult education to build study pathways and linkages to the benefit of the broader community. As these changes are implemented, there are many other challenges and opportunities.

No challenge is more important than breaking the back of unemployment. It is essential that the programs directed to assist the unemployed continue to receive the top priority. Certainly the Opposition will be supporting the Government in any endeavour to that end. There are many opportunities, including the export of educational services and programs for overseas students to study in South Australia, and similarly these must be given priority and will be given Opposition support.

I think all of us are aware that it is often an over-used cliché that our youth are our future. Our youth, I believe, are much more than that. They are very much part of our present. To describe them only in terms of the future is the first step

towards discounting or, indeed, ignoring the significant and positive contribution young people make in our daily lives. It is also to ignore the huge barriers young people face, barriers to employment, barriers to education, barriers to good health care, barriers to housing and barriers to being accepted as full and equal participants in society. To describe youth only as our future is to put off until tomorrow what needs to be done today. We need to listen more to our young people. I was struck by two quotes from young people in the recent Australian Youth Foundation report called 'A lost generation', and let me quote:

If they would talk and listen to us, to try to understand us a bit more, like you guys are doing, we could make it work in the future. . . It is not our society, it's theirs. It's made for people who make heaps of money. I have been on the dole for 12 months and this is the first time anyone has asked us what we think.

I believe that even the throw-away-the-key fanatics, particularly among our lawmakers, would modify their views considerably if they were to listen more rather than just to judge without listening. That is why it is vital that the Government maximises the resources devoted to youth matters. There must be a Government agency ensuring the strongest possible advocacy for our young people with other Government agencies and in the community. I want to pay tribute to officers in the Ministry for Youth Affairs: I felt that the ones I worked with were people of imagination and commitment.

I was pleased with some of the progress on a number of issues when I was Minister, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, a scheme that was set up to try to mobilise young people in a range of environmental and conservation schemes around South Australia but, at the same time, to use that interest of young people in environmental concerns to re-engage them in the training process. Fifty per cent of the time young people spent in the Youth Conservation Corps was spent in TAFE, and it was very interesting, talking to long-term unemployed at the end of that experience, to hear so many young people telling me that it was the TAFE experience, even more than working in national parks, they felt enriched by, and they decided to go on and study more in TAFE.

I was pleased that, with the support of people like David Suzuki (who supported us personally in a whole range of ways), David Bellamy from England, Paul Ehrlich from the United States and Bob Brown (the Tasmanian Green member of Parliament), we were able to set up a momentum that led to other States establishing Youth Conservation Corps and to encourage the Federal Government to establish the LEAP scheme. We must realise that youth is not just a time of age: it is also a temper of the will; a quality of the imagination; a time when people put forward courage over indecision; when people are not too proud to win or to make mistakes and not too proud to confront injustice.

So, I look forward to working cooperatively with the Minister and with the Government in working with our young people themselves—not to say that we have the answers, but to work with them and to listen to them so that together we can look forward to some solutions. The previous Government implemented a number of strategies designed to create new employment and training opportunities for long-term unemployed young people, and these included the Kickstart scheme that I started, the Public Sector Employment Strategy, the Youth Conservation Corps, the Australian Vocational Certificate Training Scheme, pre-vocational courses and the State Youth Strategy. Will the Minister indicate whether the

Government will continue all these programs and will funding allocations be maintained or increased from last year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Those are excellent programs, and Kickstart has been very successful. In fact, at the moment we are encouraging the Commonwealth to sponsor a how-to-do-it Kickstart manual for the other States, and I believe it will do that. It is my commitment not only to maintain but to expand it. We have had some great success via Kickstart in a range of areas, basically because it is a non-bureaucratic, localised program. To give you an example, in the Riverland, where they needed people to maintain quality control for the export of citrus, which is an expanding area, Kickstart took on 40 people to be trained. One person left, I think through illness, and 39 of the 40 have employment as a result of that program.

In the Mid North, heavy vehicle licence training has been provided and has been so successful that, when I went to one of the graduations, there was virtually no-one there because they were all out working. That is the best sort of employment graduation ceremony you can go to because everyone is so busy working that they cannot attend. There is a program with Aboriginal people at Point Pearce in the production of oysters. We are currently negotiating with people in the wine industry because, as we know, that industry is expanding. They need not train the trainers but they need people to train the vines. One company alone recently indicated that its needs 60 to 80 people immediately, and a further 90 next year. That is just one big company in the South-East. I am strongly committed to not only maintaining KickStart, but to expanding it. We see other States copying that model because currently they do not have an equivalent. KickStart will certainly go on from strength to strength.

In terms of LEAP, as the honourable member knows, we are the brokers. We are waiting this week to hear whether, on a greatly expanded program, the Commonwealth will support us. I am confident that it will. We have no intention of reducing that scheme. In fact, we want it even bigger and better.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, because as you know, we are the brokers for LEAP. The Commonwealth's white paper indicates that the Commonwealth is keen that LEAP take on more long term unemployed. What we are asking the Commonwealth to do is, given the challenge of having people who have been unemployed for a longer period of time, provide some additional resources because we need those resources to do the job properly. I am confident that the Commonwealth will agree to that. We expect to have that detail literally any day now.

I recently visited many of the young people involved in LEAP schemes such as the Bool Lagoon project at Mount Gambier; the restoration of the old stables project; and an oral history project down there where they interviewed identities from around the town. When I met those young people personally many of them said, 'Look, we were ratbags and rascals at school.' Now some of them are saying, 'Look, I want to go on and do a degree program; I want to go into TAFE.' It has turned their lives around. It is always a great experience to meet those young people. I am strongly committed to expanding LEAP, not reducing it. The conservation core, which is part of that, will continue and continue to grow.

In regard to the Australian Vocational Certificate Training Scheme there is still an evaluation of the pilot programs taking place. We are involved in some of those. In the training area one of the aspects that we have to really—when I say ‘we’ I mean Australia—push more vigorously is the secondary school industry linkages. I believe that is the weak spot at the moment. We are strongly committed to AVCTS. I have regular and fruitful discussions with Rob Lucas as Minister for Education, and we are doing all we can to expand and develop that program. We are also confident that we can, through the new Australian Student Traineeship Foundation, provide the first pilot program in Australia for that. It is a \$38 million project to promote closer links between vocational training and schools. There are a lot of other new additional programs that we have instituted. I refer to GreeningSA for which we recently received Commonwealth support. That will be through group training schemes to also work on environmental projects specifically in the urban area. Literally only last week the Commonwealth agreed that it would support the program. I also mention the employment broker scheme, which will convert part-time into full-time work using employment agencies.

We have phase one under way, and with respect to phase two I have agreed that one of Adelaide’s leading employment management agencies, Select Staff, will have a major contract to implement that over a one year period, which will take on something like 48 unemployed people or people who currently have limited work, and provide the benefits of a full-time job through a managed arrangement.

In addition, through the election commitment, we are providing a bonus to employers who take on people through the group training scheme. There are further incentives for companies involved in exports or who take on unemployed people, particularly youth.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: What is your response in relation to the youth strategy?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That is jointly funded by DETAFE and the Department of Education and Children’s Services. There is an agreement that those positions be maintained until the end of this year. Some of them are funded directly by the Commonwealth for Aboriginal personnel. It is my strong commitment that we maintain that program. We are having an independent review undertaken at the moment because we believe that the name should be reconsidered and that the focus of the program should at least be evaluated to make sure it is of maximum benefit to youth. The Department of Education and Children’s Services is keen that the positions it funds have a direct benefit to education and training outcomes. Both organisations are committed until the end of this year in terms of the current situation. Depending on the outcome of that review, we will then determine what additional resources may come from TAFE and how the linkages, if any, between us and DECS will be maintained.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In terms of the youth affairs office and also the shop front, last year’s Liberal policy listed the establishment of an Office of Youth Affairs and a Youth Affairs Shopfront as priorities. You have explained some part of that. Will the Minister tell us what changes have been made, also the cost of implementing the changes, and the number of staff in Youth SA and how this compares with last year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In terms of the information centre, the ideal would be to integrate Commonwealth and State information regarding education, training, health and everything else. That is rather ambitious. What we are likely

to have is something more modest. As you may know, currently there is a review of intercity delivery of programs to youth by some 30 plus agencies. That review is not quite finished but we are hopeful that it will be complete soon. We are keen to have literally a one stop shop for youth. The current location of Youth SA is not appropriate. There is no longer a major bus stop facility nearby. We do not get many young people coming off the street literally to access that centre.

We intend to have something closer to the Rundle Street-Hindley Street area where ideally young people can get access to information about training, education, employment and so on. We have not actually obtained a centre as yet, but we are hopeful that in the very near future we will have such a facility. Ideally, it would make sense to have a centre combined with the Commonwealth Government, but you would know from your experience as Minister that it is not always easy to get everybody dancing together, let alone on the same spot.

In addition to what will be a static information centre, we are also looking to develop a mobile facility, a Youth SA vehicle that can go to pop concerts, where youth gather, to give information and generally provide a more readily accessible avenue for them to get current information. That would be in a stylised type vehicle. It could go to Rundle Mall, pop concerts, Proclamation Day concerts, high schools, wherever. I think it would be something like a TAFE Black Thunder. We have to get away from the idea of young people necessarily coming to me. One of the approaches I take—and it is not while dressed in a suit—is to ride the trains and buses and talk to young people and find out firsthand from them some of their concerns and issues. Hence my raising last week of the issue of young people under the influence of alcohol, because if you ride the public transport system you will soon become aware that many of our young people are intoxicated. It is not simply a question of young people coming to us, because many of the non-mainstream young people will not come into a centre that looks heavily bureaucratic. That was another reason for going from State youth affairs to Youth SA, and for us to go out to them. I have already done that in terms of talking with youth groups and individually with young people wherever they may congregate.

You also asked about the number of employees in Youth SA. In the financial year 1993-94, there were 32.9. Currently there are 30.9. In the policy area it has reduced from eight to six, but we are currently looking at staffing in that area because, as the Acting Manager would tell you, I have put a lot of demands on them, so we are currently looking at increasing the staff there so they can carry out the policy directions that are coming from me and the Government. As to funding, the funding has increased from \$2.4 million in the last financial year to \$3.1 million.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The Liberal Party is on record as favouring the lowering of the age of the treating of adult crime from 18 to 17 years of age. Now the Government has been elected and is in power, is that still the preferred position of the Government? Is the Minister still in favour at this time of work gangs or boot camps for young offenders? I am aware of a press report that when in Opposition the Minister said that prison work gangs should be reintroduced and that offenders should be fitted with security bracelets and under supervision carry out various environmental conservation tasks. Now that you are in Government, is the decision to proceed with boot camps now supported and what is the

Government's current position in relation to work gangs for young offenders?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There is no current policy that the age be lowered to 17. It has been an issue canvassed by individual members in the past, but young people appreciate, as should members, that it is linked in very much with the voting age proposition. Some young people have been canvassing with me to lower the voting age to 17 or 16, and that raises the question whether or not someone is treated as an adult in respect of criminal offences. There are some pluses and negatives. There is no current Government policy that indicates that the age of responsibility in terms of criminal activities be lowered to 17. I believe in the community there is considerable support for that notion. We have to balance the punishment aspect with the matter of avoiding getting a negative record as a youth and basically giving young people a second chance.

In respect of boot camps, it is not Government policy to have boot camps. In fact, I have made it quite clear on several occasions that we do not support boot camps. Marching endlessly around in ever-diminishing circles never seems to me to be an intelligent approach.

The Government has put considerable money and resources into Operation Flinders and I believe that is the more appropriate way to go. The Government's approach certainly is that it is unlikely that we will restore people who have been brutalised or who have been hurt by hurting them further. That is not to say that the program should not be rigorous; Operation Flinders is very rigorous and very demanding. However, marching around in a military-type parade ground situation does not, in the Government's view, provide the processes that will bring about a change in someone's behaviour.

So, the Government has not only put money into Operation Flinders, but it is also continuing in that commitment and is providing assistance in terms of accounting systems and business plan advice. The Police Force provides significant resources, as does FACS; and the Attorney-General's Department is very supportive. In short, the boot camp concept has been given the boot, literally, and I do not believe it is the appropriate way to go.

Also, the honourable member asked a question about work gangs, and that concept related to adult offenders and was an issue that was raised with the former member for Mawson (Hon. Susan Lenehan), who was very supportive of it, as was the member for Whyalla, when he had ministerial responsibility. The idea was that, instead of locking people up, people could work in national parks getting rid of olive trees, and so on, and that it would be beneficial not only to them but also to the community. That program was never intended for people who were likely to pose a risk to the community, and the less obtrusive way of maintaining security for low risk people was what is already currently available, that is, a security bracelet. That matter is now within the province of the Minister for Correctional Services, and it was never suggested directly as a youth initiative.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In relation to the treatment of young people who have been connected with crime, does the Minister then still favour corporal punishment, or has he changed his views since he became Minister? I have a copy of the *Advertiser* that says:

The Opposition's Industrial Affairs spokesman, Mr Graham Ingerson, and Employment spokesman, Mr Bob Such, favoured corporal punishment. . .

The Hon. R.B. Such: Under our current law that is an option certainly for parents; there is a mistaken belief in the community that that is illegal. It is certainly not illegal, although I do not believe it is the first approach that should be taken. Nevertheless, the law has not changed in respect of parents undertaking corporal punishment. In terms of repeat violent offenders, it was canvassed as a possible option for courts, but I do not suggest, and never have suggested, it as a first or likely option.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Do you still support the birch approach for repeat offenders?

The Hon. R.B. Such: You are putting a tone and an exaggerated interpretation on it.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Do you support corporal punishment for offenders?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I have indicated, I do not believe that the way to rehabilitate people who have been hurt is to hurt them further. However, at the time I canvassed that option for those offenders who have committed repeat violent crimes, particularly nasty crimes—and I know first hand what some offenders have done to people. However, I believed at that time that it was an option that could be considered, but it is not Government policy. In respect of the law, nothing has changed for parents or others who wish to exercise that right. I am not advocating that they do exercise that right: I am just saying that it was an option that was there.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to page 558 of Financial Information Paper No. 1 and the Government's commitment to plan, coordinate and evaluate the delivery of State-wide program initiatives, in particular the Land Care, Environment and Action (LEAP) Program. The Minister alluded to some examples of the LEAP Program earlier this morning, and I was pleased to monitor a program operating at Banrock Station in my electorate earlier this year. How many participants of the LEAP Program have gained employment or training as a result of their environment? What is the Minister's expectations and projections for its future outcomes?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The target group for LEAP has been altered this year, as I indicated earlier. The Federal Government wants a greater focus on those who have been unemployed for an extended period of time—for example, for more than 12 months, 18 months and even longer. Even so, as an agency we have tendered for 570 places, which is a very large number of young people that we wish to get into those environmental and land care programs. Seventy per cent of the target would be job compact young people, who have been unemployed for more than 18 months and about whom the white paper addresses. We have made a request for additional resources to deal with the extra time and effort needed to help restore those young people to an employable situation. From our experience, which is now extensive in regard to LEAP, something like 40 per cent to 60 per cent of those who commence LEAP programs gain employment or take up further training. Considering that we are dealing with young people who have been out of the system and out of the work ethic for a long time, that sort of result is good, but we will be trying to do even better.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to page 558 of Financial Information Paper No. 1. Will the Minister please provide an update of the Government's commitment to the Youth Employment and Enterprise Project?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes; we have been very supportive of that project. It is linked in very much with a program supported by the Adelaide City Council which is called the

Jobs for Youth Campaign and which has managed to provide employment for 1 400 young people since January of this year; that is a very significant achievement. It is seeking to provide further employment or to obtain employment for another 1 000 young people in the next three months. The focus is not only to obtain employment for young people *per se*, as wage or salary earners, but also to encourage them to look at being employed via their own business enterprise. That project is being developed at the moment; Youth SA has put in \$10 000 towards that process, and the idea is to help young people set up their own businesses, whether it is running a milk bar or whatever, because we know from experience overseas and elsewhere that that can be very successful. So, it is another example of local government and the State Government working together, with the support of the Commonwealth, to improve employment for youth.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to page 558 of Financial Information Paper No. 1 and the Government's commitment to facilitate the inaugural Youth Expo in May 1995. Can the Minister provide an update on the Government's commitment to this project?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, the Youth Expo is a very exciting concept, and whenever I meet with young people I find that they are very enthusiastic about it. Recently, through the employment of a consultant, we have developed the package, if you like, that will be reflected in the Youth Expo. The Youth Expo will enable young people who have a hobby, which may involve working with computers, music and so on, to show them off at a location, which is likely to be the Wayville Show Grounds. If young people are involved in organisations such as the Country Fire Service, St John Ambulance, Surf Life Saving, Girl Guides, or Scouts they can display their talents on a group basis.

The idea is to create a more positive presentation of what young people are doing. We anticipate that the expo will be held in conjunction with the Work Skills Expo at Wayville in May of next year. The business community has also indicated that it might also be involved in terms of showcasing some of its talents, and so on. As members would appreciate, we currently have a Work Skills Expo where people in trades, and so on, can showcase their talents. We are broadening the concept to allow people from varying backgrounds to demonstrate to the community what they can do and so that the community can come along and look at the smorgasbord of youth talent that exists in South Australia.

Ms STEVENS: My question relates to youth homelessness and page 558 of the Program Estimates, in particular the Paralowie House complex, which has in recent times provided an invaluable accommodation service for homeless youth in the northern suburbs. As well as the central building it consists of a number of units that are ideally designed for helping homeless youth make the transition back to mainstream society. Since the complex has been deserted it has become badly vandalised. Can the Minister inform the Committee what future he sees for the Paralowie House complex?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We all know that youth homelessness is a major issue. The community is often surprised at the term and the suggested numbers involved because they do not see many young people sleeping under the stars. It is a fact of life that many young people leave home, in some cases because of abuse but often because they do not accept the rules at home. The focus of this Government will be on trying to ensure that young people and families get along together, so that we do not have an automatic decision to leave home;

so that the family, with support, works through the issues; and so that, if there is a problem over rules at home and getting in by a certain time, those issues can be worked out rather than our having young people on the streets.

We should be wary of accepting automatically the notion that young people must be homeless because they disagree with mum or dad, or both. But, as I said, there can be cases of sexual abuse and other physical abuse where young people, for their own safety, need to leave home.

To answer the honourable member's specific question, Paralowie House was, as he would probably know, operated by Umbrella Housing and provided both short and long-term accommodation for homeless young people. The main building was a youth shelter and was complemented by nine independent units.

Following the restructuring of the Supported Accommodation Assistance program (SAAP), Umbrella Housing was unsuccessful in winning the inner-northern youth accommodation service. That contract went to the Ingle Farm Salvation Army, which now operates the service in the northern metropolitan area. There has been no reduction in resources or services to homeless young people in the northern region: it has simply been a restructuring as a result of the Salvation Army, rather than the previous operators, winning the contract. Paralowie House and the units therein are surplus to the needs of the Salvation Army, and the Housing Trust has control over Paralowie House and the units.

The trust has not yet decided what will happen to that property but is keen to hear from community groups or others who could make good use of it. There is an invitation from the Housing Trust for people to submit productive ideas so that the property can be used. As I say, there is no reduction in support for youth homelessness: it was a restructuring in terms of who was running the service rather than any decline in funding.

Ms STEVENS: I have a supplementary question. In view of your comments, Minister, about the number of homeless youth, is there any way that Paralowie House can be retained for the accommodation of homeless youth?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That is an option, and the Housing Trust would be open to suggestions. The actual question of provision of funding for youth homelessness, much of which ultimately derives from the Commonwealth, anyway, is part of that broader question. But if there was a demonstrated need for additional accommodation, certainly I would be happy to take up that issue with my ministerial colleagues.

Ms STEVENS: I have a third supplementary question. Would the Minister's department have a role in any of those negotiations about the level of youth homelessness and whether there was a need?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes. Youth SA in most instances is not the front-line provider, but it has been given responsibility by Cabinet to coordinate, as far as possible, the provision of services for youth. Whilst it does not provide front-line delivery, it tries to ensure that delivery is adequate and that there is no overlap or wastage of resources. Youth SA deals and meets with organisations representing homeless youth, as well as works with the Youth Affairs Council. It can take a role as a catalyst, if you like, for change.

Ms STEVENS: My next question relates to security on trains, page 558 of the Program Estimates. Safe travelling on trains, particularly for women and young people, is of great concern to the Opposition. Is the Minister still concerned, as he was in Opposition, about the carrying of weapons by those responsible for the security of people travelling on trains

because of the potential for tragedy that could occur if an officer was forced to use a hand gun aboard a TransAdelaide vehicle?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I raised that issue in an Estimates Committee some time back in order really to elicit information as to whether those officers carried firearms, and not in any way to endorse or criticise the carrying of them. I believed it to be the case that those officers were armed. It is not my direct responsibility in terms of whether or not those officers carry firearms. I do not know whether or not they do. I know that the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Emergency Services are very much committed to having safe public transport, and that they are committed to bringing back adequate personnel on trains so that people can travel in safety and feel comfortable.

In regard to youth on trains, as I say, I travel on trains quite often, and most young people are well-behaved, but there is still an element of young people misbehaving, particularly when you have a train without any additional personnel other than the driver, who cannot leave the cabin. It is not surprising that some young people get up to antisocial and undesirable antics. One thing I am keen to reinforce is the notion that young people own those things. Young people own TransAdelaide trains and they own the buses because, as taxpayers, we all own them. The State Transport Authority was about the worst name a transport system could be called because it immediately distanced itself from young people.

A State Transport Authority is the very thing young people rebel against. The change to TransAdelaide has been positive. We have many examples of undesirable behaviour but we are trying to deal with it. It has to be a combination of carrot and stick: punishment for those who do not do the right thing but increasing focus on the positives, and an understanding, as I said before, that young people are owners of these facilities. I believe—and I had preliminary discussions some time ago with some of the agencies—that it makes sense to develop, through the school system with the support of the Department for Education and Children's Services, this notion that the community owns these assets and therefore it does not make sense to damage them.

The Minister for Education and Children's Services and I make no apology, through our education training system, for promoting the idea of respect for people and property. There should be no apology about that; that should be strongly reinforced. The irony about the transport system is that youth are one of the great users of the system but, like anyone else, they will use it only if they feel safe, and that is why I commend my colleagues' initiatives.

The big stick in itself will not work; we need a combination of programs that focus on the positive things, and that is where Youth SA comes in, in terms of acknowledging the good things that young people do. There has been a problem; I believe it is being addressed. As a result of some unfortunate incidents on public transport recently we have had our youth strategy people working in the south and elsewhere to get to the root cause of the problems and find out how we can address the issues concerning the people involved, whether it is problems at home, boredom, activities for youth—all of those sorts of things. We already have our people working to address the issues that give rise to that anti-social behaviour. We are not naive enough to believe that we can cure it all overnight. Some young people need assistance, some are disturbed and some have come from hurtful situations. The simple fact of life is that if you have been hurt by the system or by your upbringing you will tend to hurt back. Some

people can resist that temptation, but many cannot. We find that many of those who engage in anti-social behaviour are not in teams and do not participate positively in society, so we have to try to tackle those issues. That is what I was talking about initially: young people at risk. Many of these young people have problems with literacy, they are not comfortable at school and are not happy there, and their behaviour will be negative, particularly when it is associated with alcohol or drugs.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: In the spirit of keeping this on track, I ask members to be aware that we are examining the appropriation payments for the Department of Employment, Training and Further Education. I draw members' attention to the fact that we are not here to question the personal opinions of the Minister or matters outside his portfolio area. I remind members of that and ask them to be very specific. I also remind the Minister that he is required to reply to this Committee only in respect of payments and not other matters which he may have canvassed in different forums.

Ms STEVENS: I refer to Austudy, on the same page; my question bears a direct relationship to the vocational education and training programs we offer young people. The arrangements surrounding Austudy, particularly those regarding the move from JobSearch to Austudy, have caused massive problems for many young people in South Australia. During the previous Government's time, the equivalent of Youth SA was at times involved in providing direct support for young people in this predicament. On many occasions representations were made to Canberra to try to fix this up. Are the Austudy arrangements still causing problems for many young people at risk in South Australia; if so, what representations has the Minister made to Canberra; and does the Minister wish to enlist the support of the Opposition, which we would be happy to offer in that process?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There are several dimensions to Austudy, particularly in country areas where people may be asset rich but income poor, and where they own a farm but there is not too much coming off it. That is particularly apparent and will become increasingly apparent if we do not get rains in the next few days. I have already taken up the situation with the Federal Minister, highlighting that problem with Austudy, and there is also the related question that parents may be rich but it does not necessarily mean that they share their wealth with their offspring. In fact, in some cases they are rich because they do not share it much at all. There are many young people who are struggling as students even though on paper or in reality their parents are quite wealthy.

In terms of that bridging problem, the youth strategy assists students who find themselves in that predicament. If in coming out of unemployment to go into training young people find that they have no money to buy their daily bread, it is not a big incentive for training. We have picked up the issue through the youth strategy. It is not really our direct responsibility; it is a Commonwealth responsibility, as applies to Abstudy. If we are trying to get Aboriginal people into training and they go from some income to no income while they are waiting to get Austudy, it will not be a big incentive. In both cases it is not our primary responsibility, but we do assist, because we believe that if we want to assist people to get into training we have to go that extra mile, and that is what we do. Representation to the Commonwealth has been perennial. We are happy to keep pushing it, and if you can assist through your connections we would welcome that.

Membership:

Mr Leggett substituted for Mr Andrew.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer to page 558 of the financial information papers and the Government's initiative to develop and implement a youth-friendly charter across all Government departments and agencies. When will the youth charter be released?

The Hon. R.B. Such: One of our initiatives was to develop a youth friendly charter; in the end it will probably be called a youth charter. The idea is to require all Government departments and agencies to indicate what services they provide for young people, how they deliver them and, most importantly, how they can better meet the needs of young people. It is not about young people marching in holding up a banner saying, 'We want our rights', because it is also about responsibilities. We have contacted every Government department and agency and asked them for that information about how they relate to young people, what services they provide and, most importantly, how they can better cater for the needs of young people. As we all know, young people under the age of 18 have no direct political say. Their needs and wishes can be, and I believe they have been, overlooked. Many Government departments are very aware of youth and try to meet their needs but, sadly, others have not always been so enlightened. We are trying to create a situation where young people feel comfortable dealing with Government departments and agencies and do not get a message that young people are unwelcome or that they can be ignored. It is a two-way thing: we want young people not only to be aware of their rights and treated with dignity and respect but also to recognise that they have responsibilities in terms of their behaviour. The first draft of that charter has been completed. It will be finetuned, because it is quite a large task, but it should be ready later this year. I believe it will be an Australian first in terms of what Government departments and agencies can and will do in respect of youth. It highlights the points that I made at the start: that young people are important as young people and that, if we want them to live up to expectations in terms of the way they behave and operate, as a community and through our agencies we should make sure that we treat them with dignity and that they get access to the services they need.

The very experience of going through this process has helped focus Government departments and agencies on the needs of youth, and in that respect it has been beneficial already. Later this year that document will be released and is likely to be simplified to several key points so that, when someone comes into a Government department or agency, they will know that there are certain expectations of the service and consideration they are likely to get and likewise some expectations about their own behaviour and the way they respond. It is also related to some other initiatives where we want to focus, for example, on private sector employers who employ young people. We are looking at ways in which we can acknowledge to the community that company X is an employer of youth and, furthermore, that shopping centres and areas where young people gather can be known as youth friendly zones. The focus will be not so much on signage but more on attitudes and responses so that, if young people come into the mall and Hindley Street, there will be an expectation that they will be treated with courtesy and respect, but in return there will also be an expectation that their behaviour is appropriate, they consider others and so on.

So it is not only a Government departmental and agency focus but also part of a range of processes to ensure that young people get a fair go, that they acknowledge that they have responsibilities as well as rights and that they are not overlooked simply because those under the age of 18, of course, do not have a vote and in most cases do not have access to much in the way of political power.

Mrs ROSENBERG: During your introduction, Minister, and also as part of answers to some questions, you have talked about how some young people feel alienated in their community. I had the pleasure of being involved in one of the Youth Parliaments that was held here, which I am sure you initiated, and therefore as a question I refer to page 558 of the Financial Information Paper and ask, perhaps in terms of Youth Parliaments, what this is doing to include young people in the decision making process?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is a multi-targeted approach and not only involves things like a Youth Parliament and a Youth Expo but we are also very much into supporting programs such as parenting programs and programs which enable parents to understand teenagers and vice versa. The Youth Parliament will be operational next year. It is subject to some finetuning that we are involved in at the moment with the Speaker and with the President of the Legislative Council. In conjunction in the YMCA we will be providing a training program for youth to actually conduct a real-life Parliament. The focus will be on training, and in other places where this has been undertaken initiatives raised by youth have gone on to become law of the land, not as a result of the Youth Parliament which in itself does not have that authority but the issues and proposed legislation have been picked up by the Parliament itself. We are providing something like \$13 000 to assist in the running of that. It will involve a camp, and it will involve actual debate and procedures of Parliament, which we hope and intend to be as close as possible to the real Parliament type activity.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Hopefully, improved!

The Hon. R.B. Such: I believe that there is a real possibility that the quality of debate may even exceed what some of us are used to. There is one concession to the young people that we do not afford ourselves on a permanent basis, and that is that they will all have a conscience vote. They will be in teams as members of Parliament but at the end of the day they will have a conscience vote, in order to vote the way they feel on a particular issue. I have written to all members of Parliament asking if they will help sponsor a young person, not so much to get money but to get a commitment and involvement by local members, so that through their media they can have an involvement with a young person who will be attending the Parliament.

It is a training exercise not only in the processes of Parliament but in the techniques of public speaking, of researching and of preparing a Bill. I reiterate that as far as possible every aspect will replicate what is done in the full Parliament; so it will be done according to Standing Orders, it will have a presiding officer in the Chair and *Hansard*. We are trying to finalise the costings of that, but to the extent that we can resolve the financial aspect we will have a dinky-di Parliament run by young people and fully staffed. As to the extent to which we have a guard of honour and a substitute Governor, those finer details we are currently negotiating. However, it will be under way next year and I believe it will become a very successful annual activity which will give young people the opportunity to see and to experience a real world Parliament, and hopefully it may encourage some of

them to take the bold step of considering a career in Parliament. But the main purpose is to create a greater understanding of Parliament and in that respect in terms of education I think it will be very useful.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I would like to ask a question about the Aboriginal at risk program. In doing so I refer the Minister to page 561 of the Financial Information Paper and to the initiative to provide Kickstart employment programs for Aboriginal youth at risk. Can the Minister provide some details of the purpose of this and the status of the Aboriginal youth at risk program?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Within DETAFE we have responsibility for Aboriginal training programs. The Minister, Michael Armitage, has responsibility for general Aboriginal affairs matters, but we have specific responsibility for training and employment activities as they relate to Aboriginal people. One of our very successful programs that has not had the publicity it deserves has been one run by the Aboriginal Employment Development Branch, headed by Les Nayda, and they have been very successful in taking Aboriginal youth at risk into the Outback. It is almost an Aboriginal Operation Flinders, if you like. They are taken into the Outback under Aboriginal supervision, with trained people, to do things such as rebuild the dingo fence. They have recently been working to fence national parks, and I am very hopeful that, in relation to the recently announced decision to protect the Coongie Lakes and Mound Springs area, Aboriginal youth will be involved in the fencing program there.

They go out bush, I guess similar to Operation Flinders in that respect. They work during the day, which is different from Operation Flinders in that that is essentially experiential, with hiking and so on. In the Aboriginal program they actually work on constructing fences and the like in a program which is accredited training. It has been most successful. In fact, some of the police say that the impact on some of the youth has been dramatic. It seems ironical when talking about Aboriginal youth, but many of these young people have not experienced camping under the stars, working in teams and being managed by Aboriginal people. So there is no opportunity for them to say, 'Let's blame the white man (or woman),' if the going gets tough. That is one of the successes of it. The reason for its success is that the Aboriginal people who run it call their youth to account.

It is a success story that has not been recognised in the community, but it should be. One of the interesting things that arises in terms of traditional Aboriginal people—and most of these youth obviously are not; they are urban Aboriginal youth—is that traditional Aboriginal people through their initiation had a very strict approach to teenagers and the way they disciplined them and encouraged self-discipline. Sadly, that has gone from the urban Aboriginal scene just as much as it does not exist in the European teenager area. We have turned around what Aboriginal people used to do. They were very less restrictive in terms of their babies and the very young children—not putting them at risk—but when they got to the teen years that is when they really put the discipline on in terms of survival skills, self-restraint and self-discipline.

We in our society have got it the wrong way round. We are obsessed with every movement of a baby—and I am not saying that we should neglect them in any way—when they cough or sneeze or whatever, but when they come to the teen years we say, 'Here are the keys to the car, the alcohol is down the road.' We do the opposite and I think we have it the

wrong way round. The point is that this program will continue. I think it is a great program and I believe it has been successful in keeping some of these at risk Aboriginal youth out of custody and out of the prison system. Sadly, many of our prisoners are of Aboriginal background. We must do more of these alternative programs to get young people, Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal, out under the stars thinking about life, thinking about values, where they are heading, and realising that there is more to life than getting into strife. Just as with Operation Flinders, this program is successful and I think deserves the continuing support of the community. It certainly has my support and that of my department.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Prior to the last election you gave what amounted to an endorsement of a youth statement presented by the then Education Minister (Hon. Susan Lenehan). The statement committed the Government to implementing an employment and training strategy to tackle youth employment. In what way does the Government's current strategy differ from that put forward by the Labor Government?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I guess the quick answer is that we are doing things better. For example, we have recently announced 700 additional trainees in the Public Service to build on the 801 we have taken on since December. That compares with something like 400 in the previous full financial year under the previous Government. We are doing much more in terms of traineeships and would like to do more again, so we are negotiating to see whether the Commonwealth will assist us, because ironically, despite the white paper, it has actually made it harder for us to take on trainees than previously, although that might surprise members. In terms of incentives for group training schemes, South Australia has probably been the most successful State in regard to group training schemes.

If you take the scheme operating on Eyre Peninsula and the north-west, approximately 80 young people are in apprenticeships and group training there who otherwise would not have the opportunity because they come from small country places like Kimba, Cleve and so on, where businesses cannot afford a full-time employee as an apprentice or trainee. So, through the apprentice or trainee being contracted, in effect, to the group training scheme, those opportunities are there. Since December the numbers in those group training schemes have increased significantly. As I pointed out, the number of trainees in the Public Service has increased significantly and I hope that within the next month or so I will be able to give some further good news in respect of apprenticeships within the State public sector.

The Urban Greening Scheme is about to take off and I have mentioned the Employment Broker Scheme. In short, we have done much better in much less time.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I hate to harp on this, but going back to just prior to the last election you are on record as saying that almost two in five young South Australians want work but cannot get it. This gave an impression of tens of thousands of young people being out of work. However, at the time there were, in fact (unfortunately), 9 900 15 to 19-year-olds seeking full-time work. Did the Minister understand how the youth labour force figures were calculated or were the people of South Australia being misled at that time, and can the Minister explain to the committee how these figures are calculated?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We know that the calculation and the numbers involved must have changed, because we now have a much higher retention rate in all levels of secondary

school. The logic is that the numbers, the base of those seeking employment, will have changed from the mid 1980s. The unemployment rate for young people is still too high in South Australia. For 15 to 19-year-olds it is something like 36.1 per cent, which is far too high. That is why we are trying to do something about it through those initiatives I just mentioned, plus creating employment through attracting companies such as Motorola, Australis, EDS and so on.

We do not pretend that the figure for youth unemployment is acceptable, even though the numbers involved are fewer than in the mid to late 1980s. In my view, one person unemployed who is able and willing to work is one unemployed person too many. I am not content with that percentage, even though in absolute numbers it is smaller than it was in, say, the mid to late 1980s. We are focusing on that, and the efforts of my department are very much directed at ensuring that those young people are not unemployed or remain unemployed. I have sons, one of whom is currently unemployed and one of whom was unemployed until a week ago, so I know first-hand what it is like for young people to be unemployed. I do not need any urging from anyone to focus on the issues.

Young people out of work for any length of time get out of the work ethic, the work habit, and tend to become somewhat disoriented and lose confidence. Therefore, I am very keen that we keep focused tightly on employment opportunities, particularly for youth.

Mrs GERAGHTY: As a supplementary question, I did ask whether the Minister could describe how the figures are calculated.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Employment figures that are commonly used in the media are sourced by the ABS and, in effect, are an estimate. They differ from those issued by the Department of Social Security, for example, which are actually 'bums on seats', if you like, because they are people in actual receipt of an allowance. One of the problems for South Australia is that you can have statistical variation because of the numbers involved, so there is a possibility from month to month that the figures will jump around. They represent an estimate by the ABS. I am not saying that they are way out, but we must remember that it is a statistical sample and, therefore, there is not the same degree of accuracy that we have when we do an absolute count of people receiving social security benefits.

Mrs GERAGHTY: What success do you believe the Government will have in bringing down youth unemployment figures over the next 12 months?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I believe there will be significant changes in the right direction, for the reasons that I have alluded to. South Australia was the last into the recession and will be the last out. Our economy is picking up, but it has not been helped by the Federal Government's putting on the interest rate brakes, which it has done because the economy of some of the States, particularly Queensland and Western Australia, has been hotting up, in economic terms. The Federal Government put the interest rates brakes on as a mild dampener. Unfortunately, we are not yet as far out of the recession as some of those other States, so that interest rate adjustment is unhelpful to us.

Nevertheless, we are receiving very positive indications—and not only indications but also commitments for investment in South Australia. They include those that I have already mentioned in the electronics industry and the wine industry, and hospitality is growing. We are refocusing tourism to obtain some genuine marketing here and overseas under the

Hon. Graham Ingerson's direction, so I am optimistic that there is a greater future and more hope now for young people than has existed for a long time.

We do not want to be complacent about it. The message now to employers is to make sure that they have enough skilled people on board or in training because otherwise they will get caught with their pants down as the economy picks up. You cannot suddenly train people. Those who think they can poach off others may be in for a rude shock. The smart companies, whether in the wine, electronics or whatever industry, are realising that they need to get people in training. That is why our statistics on training and apprenticeships are showing a significant boost because the smart companies realise that as the recovery gathers momentum they will need skilled people on board. I am optimistic that young people are facing a better future and will face a better future. We still have a long way to go.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I take it the Government is monitoring the situation to make sure that levels of youth employment are upwardly maintained.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Certainly, the Government monitors those levels all the time. The Commonwealth collects most of the statistics, but we know from our youth strategy officers through TAFE (we have an employment section) that we have a fairly good feel of what is happening out there in the community and amongst people. I know from first hand experience with one of my own lads starting work this week what the situation is like out there: it is on the improve. You cannot generalise on the basis of an individual case, but all the indications are of improvement. The Government watches these things very closely and obviously young people talk first hand to myself and to my officers. We have KickStart people in all regions. We get information from regional economic development boards. We have plenty of information. What we are focusing on is solutions. We do not need Sherlock Holmes to find the unemployed. We know they are there and we are trying to do something about addressing their needs by providing meaningful jobs.

Mr ASHENDEN: I refer to page 557 of the Financial Information Paper as it relates to international education. The department has detailed many initiatives and objectives in relation to its export education program. Could the Minister provide an overview of its current international education projects and the expected benefits to flow from them?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This comes more within the general TAFE area, but we have a very extensive international program and we have strong links with many countries including Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. We are developing links with China and Vietnam. Essentially, we are keen to be involved internationally wherever there is a net benefit to us, although we do not take the crass view of looking at people overseas as simply a source of dollars. Fundamentally, these programs have to pay their way and there must be some outcome for us. We have consultancies and what might be called 'mentor programs' with the equivalent of TAFE institutions in Indonesia and elsewhere: polytechnics as they call them. In Adelaide we recently gained two major contracts to provide expertise and consultancies to two polytechnics in Indonesia. We have students from Brunei and from other countries. We also provide expertise to Thailand and I refer to the Rajamangala Institute.

With our recognised leadership in training it is not surprising that people come here to access our skills and knowledge. TAFE in South Australia has been one of our best kept secrets. It is my intention that it no longer be a secret.

One of the sad things is that the people of South Australia do not realise what a gem they have here in terms of TAFE. It is people overseas who know how good TAFE is. I find it somewhat ironic that, when I meet people from China, Nepal or wherever, they say how excellent our TAFE is, yet sadly our own South Australians do not realise how good it is. That is not to say that we will be complacent, because we want it to be even better. As I pointed out, we have a lot of links with overseas countries. We value not only the money but the trade links, the friendship links and the cultural exchanges. Our success is partly due to the fact that we do not patronise these people; we treat them as equals. We learn from them as well as having them learn from us. We do not take a sort of imperialist, colonialist view. That has been acknowledged by people such as the Thais who say that we treat them as equal. It is a very significant part of TAFE, but it has to be stressed that once again there must be a net benefit to us and it cannot be at the expense of our local students. We are not in the business of providing programs to other people in preference to South Australian students. Our first responsibility is to them but, if through proper marketing and arrangements there is a net benefit from international programs, we will certainly continue them.

In respect of youth specifically, we are currently doing a lot of work to facilitate some Japanese youth coming here on exchange. I will be able to say more about that later but it is part of a sister relationship that we have with the people of Okayama. They will be out here from 20 to 31 October. It will be the fifth visit by these students from Okayama. There will be 10 young men, 10 young women, plus three officials from the equivalent of our Parliament. They will spend three days in Adelaide with host families and three days in the Clare Valley meeting other students both at school and university. It is really a good will visit rather than the TAFE type dollar earning visit. It flows from a reinforcement of that invitation by the Premier when he was in Japan recently. Youth SA is coordinating that visit and, looking at the itinerary, I would not mind spending a few days in the Clare Valley myself.

Mr ASHENDEN: I thank the Minister for expanding into that with his last answer because one of the schools in my electorate (Golden Grove High School) has a youth exchange program with Japan which works extremely well. I refer to page 558 of the Financial Information Paper. What arrangements have been made with regard to the future funding of the State youth strategy?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As the honourable member may recall, I touched on this earlier with a question from the Leader of the Opposition. We are looking, via a consultancy, at the youth strategy to make sure that, given it has been in operation for several years, it is tightly focused and is meeting the needs of youth. The arrangements up until now have involved financial commitment by the Department for Education and Children's Services. Following that review, which will be available towards the end of the year, we will be in a good position to finalise the financial arrangements. I can see a role, whether it is called youth strategy or something else, for that type of organisation and I am keen for that type of organisation to continue. What it needs to do is focus on training and employment issues and activities for youth, and to make sure that out in the regions youth can access those opportunities. Once again, they are front-line people in the main. I am keen that that continues. I also hope that the Commonwealth Government will support some of the

initiatives that are conducted via the State youth strategy, and that is another avenue I am currently exploring.

Mr ASHENDEN: Again I refer to page 558 of the Financial Information paper. Will the Minister provide an update on the status of the Youth in Motor Sports program?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We have in South Australia three very successful youth activities focused on motor cars. As we know, young people—particularly males but also many females—seem to be attracted to motor cars; they are what we might call 'petrol heads'. I am not quite sure what the fascination is, because I prefer people to things. We have Street Legal in the western suburbs, Classic Holden appropriately in the north, and Youth in Motor Sport in the south. Those programs, which are not identical but have some similarities, encourage those young people who are obviously keen on motor cars to put their energies into either preparing vehicles for racing or similar activities such as Youth in Motor Sport, repairing vehicles and, in some cases, being able to own a vehicle.

The programs use the motor vehicle, in a sense, as a bit of a carrot, and say, 'If you want to fix a motor car, you need to be able to read the manual, and if you want to read the manual you have to be literate.' It is done obviously in a more subtle way than that. Those programs, such as Youth in Motor Sport, have been very effective, and the Government is keen that they continue. Through the Attorney-General's Department, FACS and our department, we are currently looking at ways in which we can coordinate those programs and make sure that they are even more effective than they have been to date.

The Youth in Motor Sport program is based on Honeypot Road, Noarlunga and, like many good things, it has come from the enthusiasm and initiative of people who are community minded. That concept of young people working on cars can be expanded. One of the difficulties in many areas is not having a workshop. You do not need flash facilities. You basically need a shed, a heap of tools and some committed people who will work with young people. I see opportunities to expand those sorts of programs because, as I said at the start, young people for better or worse seem to be attracted to motor cars.

Some of the young people, particularly in Street Legal, have been involved in offending. Some are more accurately called 'at risk'. However, they have been very successful, and we know the problems that young people get into with motor vehicles. Often a minority do silly things. This way they can satisfy their need to be involved in tinkering with cars, driving and racing them, and the community benefits. We are keen to continue to support programs such as Youth in Motor Sport and see Classic Holden and Street Legal continue.

Mrs GERAGHTY: You mentioned the Street Legal program and said you are looking forward to expanding those programs. Are you aware that Street Legal is seriously short of funds and is able to continue at the moment only through very frugal budgeting?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am aware of its financial situation. The Attorney-General's Department, FACS and DETAFE (particularly the youth area) are looking at coming up with a long-term proposal to ensure that those programs deliver with effective outcomes, are tightly managed, and so on. I hope that within a matter of weeks we can announce the details of that. The Government is very much aware of the positives arising from those programs since people interstate ask for information about them because they want to copy them. At the moment we are almost to the point where we can

put their financial status on a more sound footing because we do not want to see those programs diminish in any way. We want to see them expand.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Many youth groups have been calling on the setting up of a youth unemployment task force. Is the Minister considering such a move, and will he consider the holding of a South Australian youth summit involving all relevant sectors of the community, including politicians, church groups and other welfare agencies, and most importantly young people themselves? Such a summit would follow on the highly successful national summit that was held three years ago and would discuss many of the important issues facing youth, primarily employment, education and health.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am not against it in principle but, as I indicated in a previous answer, we know what the problem is and we know where the needs are. I do not think we will achieve a lot by having another meeting. I think the community is getting a little tired of talkfests, commissions and inquiries. We want some action to solve these problems. I would sooner spend money helping people get training and employment, rather than sit around talking about the problem. That is not to be critical of those who suggest that idea, because their intentions are good and honourable. However, we know enough to direct our money and resources into areas of need. I always maintain an open door policy, so if anyone has some bright ideas about how better to assist youth they can easily access me or the office. I do not see any merit in getting everybody together to talk about an issue about which the parameters and suffering are well known.

In our society, I think we have turned almost into a ritual of endless discussion, evaluation and observing. I think the community wants action and less talk. I am not against it in principle, but I am not convinced that it is necessary. If I have got a dollar, I would sooner spend it on an outcome through Kickstart or one of our other programs rather than get people together.

Mrs GERAGHTY: That is always in consultation with the youth themselves?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We consult with youth direct all the time and we meet with groups such as the Youth Affairs Council. I am meeting later this week with Employ Australia, the Rotary initiative, and I meet with the project that was initiated through the local Adelaide City Council. We are well aware of the problem, and we want solutions, action and dollars to solve it. I am not convinced that it is necessary to have yet another meeting. I think that in some ways meetings have become a disease in our society.

Mrs GERAGHTY: What programs will be undertaken during 1994-95 to address the serious problems associated with youth homelessness?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The focus should be on avoiding youth homelessness wherever possible. Apart from a situation where someone is facing immediate or obvious risk, I am not convinced that in the past enough effort has been made to keep families together. We all know that the teenage years are difficult for both the teenager and the parents, and I do not think the first avenue should be running away from home or going out on the streets. It is no fun living on the streets; young people who have been living on the streets will tell you that it is not a very exciting or safe place to be.

The Government's effort will be directed at trying to keep families together wherever that is possible, as long as there is no obvious risk to an individual. It is time that families tried to work through the issues rather than necessarily taking what may be the easiest way out. There are many genuine

cases of youths needing accommodation; sometimes they really need a time-out place where they can let things cool down a bit and think about where they are heading and what is happening in their family.

In my own electorate, a situation arose where the parents requested that their son enter and leave the house via the door. I did not think that was an unreasonable request considering that the son was entering the house via the window. This matter occurred when the previous Government was in power, and that young lad went to the appropriate agency, got emergency housing lined up and was going to shack up with his girlfriend until we threatened legal action and put a stop to it. His parents said that if he did not like living with them he could live with his grandmother or his aunt; he did not have to go into Government supported accommodation.

I am not saying that is a typical case. We need to focus on those who are genuinely in need and those who have genuinely been abused, rather than pretend that the first approach should be leaving home and not trying to go sort out the problems. Life is always going to be tricky, whether you are young or old; it is a question of trying to work through the issues and problems.

Much of the funding for youth homelessness comes from the Commonwealth, and we are committed to ensuring that young people, particularly those who are at risk or who are out of home because of abuse, and so on, are adequately looked after, and that also would be the commitment of the Minister for Family and Community Services (Hon. David Wotton).

Mrs GERAGHTY: Have programs been devised? If so, what programs will be undertaken, and is there a strategy in place in relation to such programs?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Programs have been devised. No decision has been made to cut back support in relation to Paralowie. If the honourable member wants to know minute detail about the program and which areas are getting what, we can certainly provide that. This matter also involves other Ministers, so we have to consult with them, but we can certainly give you details as to what is spent on youth homelessness and what are the plans.

Mrs GERAGHTY: So, Government programs are set in place to cope with this situation?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes.

Mr Symonds: The principal agency responsible for the issue of youth homelessness is the Department for Family and Community Services, which works with the Federal Department of Health and Housing to provide the SAT program, under which there are number of initiatives. I will get the details of those initiatives for you because that is the responsibility of the Minister for Family and Community Services. Also, the Minister for Housing provides a number of services to homeless young people or young people at risk, including rental assistance through the Housing Trust. Again, I can get the details of that from the Ministry of Housing.

Principally, the tenancy scheme run by the Housing Trust assists somewhere around 600 or 700 people in independent living, and some 40 per cent of applications for public housing come from people under the age of 25. So, obviously there is a very large need for public housing for young people, and those people form a very large client group for the Housing Trust. I can provide the honourable member with the specific details at a later stage.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The attitudes expressed in the community are very important, and we find that, when there

is a suggestion of housing being provided for homeless youth, there is often opposition, particularly from older members of the community. We have noticed that, in the northern, western and southern suburbs, any suggestion of accommodation for youth often tends to create an unjustified fear. When I launched the Ozanam Housing Project at Port Adelaide, I heard local business people saying, 'We do not want homeless youth here because we will have crime; our businesses will be broken into, and so on.' So my approach to those individuals was to suggest that they get involved in the management committee of that group.

An underlying hostility exists towards young people being housed in the community. They are seen as centres of crime and all sorts of things, and that comes back to the point that I emphasised in my opening statement: we have to break down those barriers and get young and old to understand that we are part of the same community and that being young, in itself, is not a crime and does not pose any necessary threat. There is a lot of misunderstanding and ignorance that abounds in the community about youth housing, and I know of at least three examples where local people, largely out of misunderstanding and misplaced fear, have fought and, in some cases, successfully stopped youth housing projects. I think that that fear can be reduced and eliminated if the people understand that these people are not criminals; they are people who do not have a place to live and many of them have been subjected to abuse; and the last thing they want is rejection: they want a place where they can live in reasonable comfort with some security where they can get on with their lives.

Funding and programs are important, but none of those things will work unless the community is more tolerant towards young people and those who are homeless. So, we have a long way to go, because there is quite a bit of fear and misplaced hostility towards any suggestion of housing homeless people: it is the old 'not in my backyard' syndrome, and that needs to be addressed as a very important aspect of youth homelessness.

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

Membership:

Mr Buckby substituted for Ms Rosenberg.
Mr Brokenshire substituted for Mr Ashenden.
Mr Andrew substituted for Mr Leggett.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to page 552 of the Financial Report. Could the Minister explain the role his department has played in developing the Borders Wiya project involving South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, and what are his comments on the provisions of vocational education in this region in view of the three new facilities to be built and his recent trip to these communities?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will first make a few brief remarks about TAFE. I am very proud of the TAFE system in South Australia. We have an excellent TAFE organisation. We can always do better. I am the first to admit that, but it is regarded overseas and in Australia as one of the best, if not the best, in Australia. We want to make sure that TAFE maintains that reputation for excellence. TAFE caters for in excess of 80 000 students, with some 300 different programs. Not many people realise—and I am not trying to disparage the universities in any way—that the Adelaide Institute of TAFE has approximately 23 000 students, essentially located at Light

Square but with a couple of other smaller annexes, which compares, for example, to Flinders University with 8 000 students.

The people of South Australia do not realise how large and significant TAFE is nor do they appreciate or understand the quality and range of offerings provided within TAFE. Recently TAFE has been through a process of restructuring. It has also been affected by the TSP process but not, I believe, in any way which is negative. TAFE will grow. It is in a growth phase because training is important. Training is vital if South Australia is to be competitive internationally. We must have trained people to meet the needs of our expanding industries.

TAFE in no way will be subject to a decline: it will grow and expand in a whole range of areas, but there will be opportunities for private providers to be involved as well. It is not only Commonwealth policy but also State Government policy that the training sector be flexible and competitive, and that people have opportunities for training; that we meet the needs of industries in terms of training needs and also the needs of individuals; and that we break down some of the artificial barriers that have existed between universities, TAFE and the school sector because the community justifiably demands greater flexibility and delivery, more cooperation and sharing of resources, and that is exactly what is happening here in South Australia.

I commend our universities for their constructive approach. We have now, between TAFE and the universities, a growing recognition of each other's programs and awards. We have greater sharing of resources, which is manifest in a whole range of programs and activities, and I commend the universities for that. TAFE is developing closer links with the school sector, and that is vital so that the school sector is linked very much to vocational education. For too long we have had an imbalance in our system, pretending that everyone who attends university wants to be a lawyer or a brain surgeon. That is not the case. It is not necessary; it is not desirable.

We need a more balanced system recognising the importance of technical and trades people. We must move away from the silly mentality that has existed in Australia for too long, that people who use their hands as well as their head are somehow inferior to people engaged in what are sometimes called 'white collar' activities. It is important that we enhance vocational training; that it is seen not as a second option or a second best option but that it is equal to but different. I use that phrase with caution because traditionally that was associated with the CAE sector. Some people in universities feel threatened by that term, but there is no need or desire on our part to replicate the functions of universities—that would be quite foolish.

The role of TAFE is to provide excellent vocational training: not to be a university under a different name, but to make sure that TAFE provides courses of excellence that are different from a university. It is important that we get closer to the sort of attitudinal approach of Germany and Japan and have much greater respect for trades people and technicians. For too long we have tended to put down trades people and technicians; it is time that changed and it is my commitment through TAFE that we do all we can to change that attitude.

We are very much committed through TAFE to improving access for people from all sections of the community. We have a very active commitment to Aboriginal people. We are not seeking to patronise; we are interested in training and employment outcomes for Aboriginal people. We have a

strong commitment with respect to women. We have, if not the highest, amongst the highest participation rates of females of any TAFE sector in Australia. Close to 50 per cent of our student population in TAFE is female; that is good, but we need to do a lot more in terms of encouraging women to look at options other than the traditional areas.

The electronics information technology industry lends itself very much to those opportunities, and I would certainly encourage young women to look at the possibility of entering an industry such as that. We focus very much on training but we also concentrate on retraining. The idea that you are trained once and you are okay for life is no longer good enough. It is important that TAFE and the private providers offer opportunities for training and retraining, and also that they provide delivery modes which are accessible and convenient to people. More and more we are concerned with delivery of programs at the enterprise level.

For example, we have a program at the Port Stanvac Oil Refinery where people can access, via computer links, a program offered by TAFE. They can also access the program via their personal computer at home. We have programs extending into rural areas, and it is my commitment that we expand those so that people on farms and grazing properties can access computer learning packages without travelling long distances and can return their assignments by electronic mail. We are committed to video conferencing and expanding that network because that offers people in country areas the ability to access programs that were hitherto denied them.

We are also partners in delivery of programs through satellite communication (the Open Technology Learning Corporation). Increasingly we will see programs offered by the Department for Education and Children's Services (DECS), TAFE, and the universities via a satellite link to various parts of not only South Australia but Australia and neighbouring countries.

TAFE is very much involved in international education, as was mentioned this morning. It is a very significant program. We are regarded as world leaders, and we want to maintain that. We have a dedicated staff in TAFE who through the 10 institutes represent what has been our best kept secret, but that should no longer be so, and we are doing our best to market TAFE to make the community aware of what TAFE offers. My strong plea to parents and young people is to look at the TAFE option in terms of vocational opportunities and employment outcomes, because we offer more than 300 programs, ranging from aircraft maintenance to the training of jockeys. You name it: we offer it. Very sophisticated computer programming techniques and all sorts of activities are in TAFE. In short, I am very proud of the organisation. We are going from strength to strength. We have a very significant capital works program, so the future augurs well for TAFE.

With regard to the question of Aboriginal programs involving the three States, I recently visited the north-west of South Australia, and those of you who have been there would acknowledge that it is a mixed package of some exciting, positive things happening and also some very sad situations. I am trying to address the latter shortly through meetings with ATSI and people in DECS as well as Aboriginal Affairs, FACS, the Federal DEET and so on. In terms of the provision of training, it makes sense for the two States, the Territory and the Commonwealth to cooperate, because the traditional peoples in those areas were not constrained by State or Territory boundaries. The borders project is very innovative

and it makes sense for us all to work together to cater for the needs of traditional people.

As the elders pointed out to me, they want their people to be trained to meet the challenges of the modern world; they want their people to be conversant in English, technical studies and maths; and all those opportunities must and can be provided by TAFE at the post-secondary level. We have an extensive commitment in that region. We have facilities in most of the communities, and I am very much committed to making sure that Aboriginal people, whether in the traditional tribal lands or elsewhere, are not overlooked or ignored. It is an exciting project extending over the three States in terms of delivery of training, and we will certainly maintain our commitment and involvement. I have recently been involved in another exciting development in that region, and I will refer to that in the near future.

Mr ANDREW: I refer to page 551 of the Financial Information Paper and the need for DETAFE to maintain State effort. It is recognised that this State has an agreement with the Australian National Training Authority and that it will maintain its effort for vocational education and training on an ongoing basis to secure growth funding. Has this State maintained its effort for 1993-94 and what is the plan for the 1995-97 triennium?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In respect of 1993-94 we have maintained effort in expenditure terms. The unaudited figures for the calendar year have been provided to the Australian National Training Authority, otherwise known as ANTA, which reflect the fact that the State has maintained effort in expenditure terms for the 1993 calendar year, and that audit will be finalised shortly by the Auditor-General's Department. The preliminary figures for the 1994 calendar year have been provided to and discussed with ANTA. Those figures also demonstrate that this State will maintain effort in expenditure terms for the calendar year 1994. For the triennium 1995-97, the ministerial council has agreed to the measurement of activity as a basis for maintenance of effort in the vocational education and training sector. The State intends to maintain its effort in activity terms for that triennium, and we will do that by continuously improving our productivity so that we will guarantee maintenance of effort and thereby ensure that we get growth funds from the Commonwealth.

Mr ANDREW: I refer to page 546, with reference to vocational education. The Minister may recall that in January the Premier outlined a number of new employment initiatives designed to increase employment opportunities here in South Australia. What is the current status of the group training rebate scheme, the employment broker scheme and the corridors of green scheme, which is now the greening urban South Australia scheme; the employment outcomes generated by these schemes to date; and the expected future performance of these schemes?

The Hon. R.B. Such: These schemes have been very successful. The corridors of green scheme, now called greening urban SA is about to get under way. The group training scheme was introduced on 1 March this year and provides a \$50 a week rebate to employers taking on an additional apprentice or trainee through a group training company. The rebate is payable only for identified new positions, is available for 12 months for apprentices and six months for trainees and is passed on to the employers. During the first quarter of operation from 1 March to 1 June of this year, the rebate was accessed for a total of 104 trainees. The amount of rebates paid out was in excess of \$48 000, with

claims in excess of \$50 000 having been received for the second quarter. With regard to an increase in places for apprentices and trainees involved in group training companies, from July 1993 to July 1994 there was an increase of 239 places, and that is a very welcome lift.

With regard to the employment broker scheme, which is a novel scheme essentially to turn part-time work into full-time work, in the first phase we awarded contracts to three organisations: Retail Training of South Australia Inc. for 42 people to be trained and employed through that scheme; Mid North Regional Group Training Scheme, with 30 participants; and the Regency Computer Bureau, with 30 participants. The last scheme is particularly exciting, as it involves severely physically disabled people and enables them to get training and employment as a result of enhancing their computer skills. Furthermore, today I have approved awarding in phase 2 an additional contract to select staff as brokers to take on 48 people for an expansion of the scheme, and that will be operative forthwith.

The Commonwealth has recently agreed to details of the corridors of green scheme. It will provide the long term unemployed with opportunities to participate in urban greening projects while gaining workplace practice and small business skills and provide an opportunity for local government to promote greening activities, which have urban community and environmental benefits. Long term unemployed job compact eligible participants will be involved in the program with a particular focus on enabling LEAP graduates to build on their previous training, so it dovetails very much with what we are currently doing with the LEAP scheme. Each of those schemes is very positive and has significant outcomes, and I am sure that the newest of them, greening urban SA, will bear fruit very shortly.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: My first question relates to TAFE fees. Page 179 of the Estimates of Receipts and Expenditure projects increased revenue from materials, fees, other charges and other course costs. Will students attending institutes of TAFE or TAFE colleges be required to pay increased fees and charges as part of the revenue raising measures included in the budget, and what fees and charges will apply to students next year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is not the intention to significantly alter fees and charges for TAFE. In fact, any change would be in line with the consumer price index, and we are very mindful of not creating any discouragement to those who wish to access TAFE. I can give the member the precise details, as follows. The administration fee, 47¢ per nominal student hour, with a maximum administration fee per student of \$410; general service fee where subjects total more than 10 hours, \$58, and where subjects total 10 hours or less, \$12; enrichment education rate will be 35¢ per hour; fee for service hourly rate, 35¢; no change to the concessions or exemptions policy; apprentice materials fee, \$84, and that is exclusive of costs which may be recovered from students for textbooks, notes, protective clothing, tools and materials for takeaway projects; and non-apprentice materials fees may be increased up to 2.8 per cent on 1994 fee levels to allow for price level adjustments. Where a materials fee is being introduced for the first time for a new or revised course or subject, the fee must relate directly to the cost of materials consumed by students in the course or subject. So we do not in any way wish to discourage students from enrolling in TAFE. In fact, it is quite the opposite: we want to encourage young people and others to access TAFE.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In terms of the Financial Statement, what share of this year's savings target of \$170 million recurrent expenditure, as set out in the June Financial Statement, was allocated to the Minister's department, and perhaps the Minister can summarise the extent of cuts made this year? Were they achieved solely by staff cuts or by creating other efficiencies through changed work practices, and what are the targeted cuts for the next three years as part of the ongoing program to reduce overall State recurrent expenditure by \$300 million?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In terms of staff targets we do not have any absolutes. In respect of the TSP process, something in the order of 300 staff left TAFE, but because, as I said in my introductory statement, we are into a growth phase we actually have on board now more staff than we had prior to the TSP process. That is because we have growth in areas of demand. For example, I mentioned the wine industry and other areas. So what might appear to be an anomaly that we have shed people through the TSP process, we have actually taken on more people to meet the growth areas, the demand areas. I reiterate: we do not have any set target in terms of staff reductions. The amount that we have to carry as a result of the \$170 million was a \$5 million burden, if you like, but in addition we also picked up some costs as a result of the Let's Get South Australia Working program. As a result of ongoing productivity and other efficiencies we have been able to meet those demands placed upon us. But I emphasise that we are not about to scale down TAFE. As to the figures for next financial year, the target in terms of savings is \$3.8 million and in the following year, 1996-97, it is \$800 000.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In terms of separation packages, what is the staff reduction target used as the basis for framing the 1994-95 budget and what are the target reductions concurrently for the next three years? How many staff have accepted packages since January this year and how many of this number held positions as senior lecturers and lecturers at institutes? Will the reduction in staff at institutes result in a reduction in the number or diversity of courses being offered, and have any staff who have taken separation packages been re-employed as consultants or by contractors working directly for the department? For instance, there have been allegations that cleaners at the Croydon Institute were given targeted separation packages and then returned to work the following Monday as employees of a contractor. Finally, what is the cost of the separation packages approved since January 1994?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Since January of this year there have been 256 targeted separation packages. I mentioned as an approximation earlier on 300, so I was not far off the mark. As to the point that the member made about being re-engaged, I am not aware of that happening. As you know, under the TSP process people who obtain a TSP are not to be re-employed or to engage in direct contract arrangements with the Government for a period of three years. I am not aware of anyone breaching that. If the Leader has any information, I would be interested to hear about it.

As to the other points that the member raised about the number of staff reductions, we do not have any set target or figure that we are working towards. In respect of programs being affected, there should be no significant impact on any program, because the whole basis of the TSP process is that the person leaving should be from a position that is no longer necessary or required, or there is a substitution from another position that is not required, so that, in effect, there must be a net saving to the department and a reduction in unwanted

positions. We also have a guarantee from Cabinet that we can engage people to ensure that there is a maintenance of effort in terms of delivery of programs by taking on additional hourly paid staff. So we have a safety factor built in there, but whether or not we need to draw upon that is yet to be seen.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The report of the Audit Commission did not make any specific recommendations in relation to the Department of Employment, Training and Further Education and, similarly, the Financial Statement delivered on 31 May made no reference at all to the department that I could find. The Chairman of the Commission of Audit did, however, write to the chief executive of the department on 31 December 1993 requesting detailed information about the comparative performance and financial management of the department. I would like to know (and I would certainly be interested in having this tabled, or incorporated into the record if you do not have it here) what advice was given by the chief executive and yourself to the Audit Commission and did the Government receive any advice from the Audit Commission itself concerning DETAFE?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We practice open Government here and I am quite happy for the CEO to indicate what that communication was about.

Mr Strickland: Fundamentally, that communication was one to all chief executive officers of departments to seek some baseline information about our approach to resource management and management of resources right across Government. It was a fairly detailed questionnaire. I do not think we brought the response with us, but I do not believe there is anything in it that would cause us any reason but to be rather pleased about our performance, frankly, and hence we would be very happy to make it available to this Committee as requested.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Supplementary to that, how did the department respond to the questions by the Audit Commission which asked how the department approached the matter of measuring performance? Are there any specific indicators and, if so, what are they?

Mr Strickland: There was a whole series of indicators of how we measure our performance in different ways. If the honourable member looks at the supplementary information provided to the Parliament with the estimates he will see specific indicators that refer to such things as numbers of students enrolled in particular courses, numbers of student contact hours, and those types of things. We indicated to the Audit Commission the sort of information we had on those things. Also, of course, we must provide very detailed information as part of the State training profile to ANTA, the Australian National Training Authority, to indicate to it the amount of money we are spending and the number of student contact hours by a whole series of categories of programs of vocational education and training.

A new one called module load completion (which is a terrible term) basically refers to the type of education that is provided through TAFE institutions whereby the move to competency based training means that students study a course through doing specific modules, so the number of modules they complete is a significant indicator of progress and outcome. Those are the sorts of indicators we have. They are scattered through these papers and progressively, of course, will be available through national statistics, which the national system will be collecting on the whole vocational education and training system throughout Australia. So, you will be able to compare the performance of different States; of private providers versus public providers; and, indeed, of

rural studies in South Australia versus those in New South Wales, etc. The Audit Commission probably realised that this is an area that has more well developed performance indicators than most other areas of Government.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Just adding to that, the Leader would appreciate that, in terms of education and training, many of the activities do not lend themselves to easy quantification in terms of performance. Nevertheless, as a department, we have a commitment to ensuring that we have high levels of productivity, bearing in mind that in South Australia we have, for example, one institute that covers 80 per cent of the geographical area, therefore you must take into account the delivery of programs at Coober Pedy, which almost certainly will be different from the delivery of programs in Light Square. So, there are many variables. Nevertheless, I think TAFE measures up very well.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: How many extra full-time jobs have been created in South Australia this calendar year, according to ABS figures?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Over the year to August, full-time employment in South Australia has increased by 9 000; part-time employment increased by 2 800. Of course, the economic recovery is gaining momentum, so we would expect those figures to improve in the weeks and months ahead.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am a bit confused about this, because the ABS figures I have indicate that only 6 500 full-time jobs and 7 500 jobs overall have been created since the election, yet the Premier yesterday announced in a press conference that over 14 000 full-time jobs have been created this year, thereby exceeding his election promise. So, his statement does not match with yours today, and certainly does not match with the ABS figures that I have. I do not know whether he was being loose with the facts, but he said yesterday that over 14 000 full-time jobs have been created this year.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The data we use would be ABS figures.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The Chair would remind the Minister that he is able to take questions on notice.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: There seems to be some discrepancy between the Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education and the Premier in the space of 24 hours about how many jobs have been created in South Australia. Is it 9 000, 14 000 or 6 500, which is what the ABS figures I have been given say?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The variation that the Leader alleges exists—

The Hon. M.D. RANN: No, you said 9 000 full-time jobs and yesterday he said 14 000 full-time jobs.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Please address all remarks through the Chair.

The Hon. R.B. Such: It could relate to the actual time in August. This document does not make clear whether it is to 1 August or to the end of August. The Leader can rest assured that there is no discrepancy; that, in fact, the commitment that was made, which was for 12 000 by the end of the first year of the Government, will be not only met but exceeded. So that he will not lose any sleep tonight—

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Can you just clarify with the Premier's office whether it meant 14 000 full-time jobs?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I do not know the basis on which his figure was given. We are only relying on you to relate it.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: It was in his press statement.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The Leader and the Minister will cease to have cross-Chamber conversation.

The Hon. R.B. Such: We will ascertain the basis and get back to you pretty quickly on that.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer to page 552 of the Financial Information Paper No. 1 and the objective of providing a pilot course in land management. Is the nationally accredited land management course being provided to Aboriginal people in South Australia?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, a pilot program in Aboriginal land management is being developed, consisting of modules from this new framework for which appropriate learning material packages will be developed. Consultation with Aboriginal communities is taking place to determine the most appropriate content and methodology, as well as location for delivery of the program and, of course, the forms of assessment for this pilot training program. The program will begin at TAFE institutes in February next year and is another exciting commitment to assisting Aboriginal people to obtain the skills and training necessary for them to have a greater input and control over their lives in terms of employment.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer the Minister to page 561 of the Financial Information Paper No. 1. Will the Minister provide details on what is being done to provide training and advancement opportunities for Aborigines in the State public sector?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is very important that Aboriginal people have opportunities to be employed in the State Public Service. We have a strategy, the Aboriginal Public Sector Career Development Strategy, a joint Commonwealth-State program, the intention of which is to increase the number of Aboriginal people employed in the State public sector and to provide training and advancement opportunities so that Aborigines can move up the ranks and be represented in all levels of the Public Service. The strategy involves a range of activities such as: pre-employment training; recruitment; induction for new recruits; on and off job training; management training and executive development; and lateral and vertical mobility to extend and upgrade experience, thereby increasing promotional opportunities. Cross-cultural training also is provided for supervisors.

In 1993 the following targets were reached: 53 new public sector recruits, 27 placements in the context of lateral and vertical mobility, and 58 public sector Aboriginal employees who participated in a range of training courses.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Could the Minister provide information on the status of rural and horticultural programs at the Woodcroft campus of the Onkaparinga Institute, and can he advise whether the programs will continue? What benefits, if any, are forthcoming to students and industry in the area?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The rural and horticulture programs at the Woodcroft campus of the Onkaparinga Institute will continue. They have been very successful and it is important that we maintain them. In particular, the focus on viticulture has attracted attention from wine growers in the region. These programs have resulted in 25 wine growers committing themselves to on-the-job training for long-term unemployed. The students in the programs have learnt a range of skills which have assisted them in securing employment immediately after they have finished the program.

Of the 15 participants in the first program, 11 completed the course and all were employed as a result of their graduation. This is an outstanding result. The current program, which has a further 15 students, is shaping up to be as successful as the first program. Prior to the completion of the

second program, 50 per cent of the participants were already guaranteed employment.

The relationship between Onkaparinga Institute staff at the Woodcroft campus and employers and DEET is a very constructive one and, as a result, we are seeing employment benefits in terms of increased opportunities being made available. Some of the businesses involved include Rosemount Estate, Southern Vineyard Contractors, and Seaview Wines. It is a good example of how TAFE can provide programs tailored to meet the needs of industry as well as those of individuals.

The campus provides training for the urban horticultural industries in the southern metropolitan and Fleurieu region, with certificate offerings including the Advanced Certificate in Urban Horticulture and the Land Management Certificate. Horticulture generally and floriculture in particular are growth areas for South Australia, and it is important that we provide the necessary training so that people can access employment in those areas.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: When the Minister mentioned 'last calendar year' in answer to my prior question, I thought he meant this year—since 1 January. Does the Minister still maintain that the ABS figures show 9000 full-time jobs this year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: To be absolutely sure we will double check, but generally speaking we use ABS statistics. We will make sure that, in relation to what the Premier may have said, we are comparing the same base line with his data; otherwise it is an inaccurate comparison which no doubt the Leader is trying to foment and promote.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I am just trying to get the truth from the statement made yesterday.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I need to see what the base line used for that statement was, as well as the time frame and the actual definition that has been used.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I refer to universities and the Federal Government's new system of rating universities in terms of quality ratings. Earlier this year a quality rating was issued which sought to segment universities across Australia into different quality brackets. In the top quality bracket, rating number one, it had Adelaide University, the University of Western Australia, the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland and the University of Tasmania—very much the traditional universities, although the University of Adelaide (an outstanding university) is of international eminence. That was not so much what concerned me. There were six brackets in the so-called quality rating. The number three bracket included Flinders University, which also has international eminence in a whole range of areas including medicine, research relating to wave patterns, sea level changes, and so on. Then there were other levels. I think there was the fifth level which included the University of South Australia, and there was the sixth level which included some universities in Western Australia and elsewhere.

It seemed to me that this quality index was extraordinarily destructive. It is a quality index that is being used internationally by university against other university—something that people in many other countries cannot understand. I recently was in Singapore and met with counsellors involved in counselling students who wanted to come to Australia and other countries. They told me of their great frustration in terms of someone coming along and saying, 'Look, why are you suggesting we go to University X when we have just heard from this quality rating that there is a much better university interstate or down the road?' The fact is that the

university that might be in category 3 may be much better in terms of a medical school than a university in category 1, or a better engineering school in category 4 compared to a university in category 1.

I think what is happening is that the agents of universities internationally are using and misusing this information in a fairly feral way and it is causing massive damage to our reputation collectively across the country.

As a former member of the national Australian Education Council, I strongly urge the Minister to take up this matter at the next meeting of the AEC because I believe great damage is being done. I intend to raise it personally with Federal Ministers at the national conference of the Labor Party because I think it has got out of hand. No other country in the world does it. We seem to have devised a system which is both inaccurate and inadequate and which is causing us damage.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I certainly agree that it is a problem, and potentially a very serious one. I think the business of ranking universities can be somewhat mischievous because, as those of us who have been to university know, the quality ultimately depends on a number of factors and can vary from course to course and even from class to class. You can have a lecturer who can be better than another lecturer. It has the potential to be an invidious system of selecting universities. In my own experience, I had one university lecturer who did not face the class. I do not think that person was shy, but he was brilliant in terms of econometrics.

The Hon. M.D. Rann interjecting:

The Hon. R.B. Such: He had a habit of facing and mumbling to the blackboard, which is probably safer in some cases than talking to the students. In terms of out-of-class contact, that person was very good. How do you assess class performance by lecturers or tutors in any significant, quantifiable way? It highlights the fact that, if you are not careful, you can end up with a situation whereby people are given misleading information and a university is unfairly tarnished because today's assessment of a university or a course or a class or whatever can be out of date tomorrow, and a lot of damage is done to that university by suggesting that somehow it is not up to scratch.

The universities are very committed in South Australia. I believe we have three excellent universities. They have their own strengths, as I guess they would all acknowledge. They are different, and it is good that they are different. There is not much point in having three separate universities if they are all going to do the same as each other. It is an issue of concern. This is a matter that I have raised federally and will continue to raise. The community and would-be users of universities should be wary of a crude rating scheme, and basically suss out for themselves what a university does or does not do, rather than rely on crude assessments which can be very harmful and, ultimately, counterproductive to a university.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I strongly support what the Minister has said. By way of supplementary, and with a bit of licence—because I would like to ask my university questions in one bracket so that I can get them out of the way (and I am aware that the Minister does not have advisers from higher education)—the other thing I found in Singapore (and this is something which we could both take up with the universities; I have raised it on the Council of the University of South Australia) was that our universities are regarded as being outstanding, not only in terms of what they do with respect to their education output but also in terms of the way

in which they care for students who arrive here. They are met at the airport and found accommodation.

The export of education services both abroad and at home has a massive potential for us to generate both overseas contacts and wealth at home. One of the things that came through to me is that they say 'You do a great job across your universities in caring for our kids as well as our adult students,' but the one area which South Australian universities should pursue and which is being done better elsewhere, particularly at Curtin in Western Australia and Monash in Victoria, is allowing a mid-term intake, because most people actually matriculate in February or March in places such as Singapore March and thus have to wait a year to go to a South Australian university. If our universities, with that excellent reputation for care, expertise and professionalism, had a mid-term intake, we would see ourselves truly becoming a university city in the international sense. It is something I have raised with one university, and perhaps in a bipartisan way it is something that we could raise generally.

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is an important issue. In general terms, South Australia and Adelaide are well known throughout South-East Asia as providing university education of an excellent standard. That also applies to TAFE, I might point out. In South Australia we have a higher percentage of a greater number of Malaysian students than any other State in Australia, and that is because they recognise the quality of university education as well as TAFE offerings here in South Australia. We do make the effort to take account of cultural factors.

That is highlighted to me by some of the Ministers in the Asian region who have said that what has concerned them often with their students going to Europe or America is that those students gain higher education but lose their culture and come back if not as hippies in a way which is destructive to their own culture.

One of the things they value here in South Australia is that their students can come here and retain the elements of their culture without being corrupted, if you like, by influences that they do not want. It is certainly something we bear in mind in TAFE, but also the universities are very sensitive to it, and it is reflected in the success we have in attracting students from the South-East Asia region.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: With the concurrence of the Committee, the Chair proposes to extend to the Leader the courtesy of asking all the questions on TAFE, but asks the Leader to keep them as tight as possible.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Certainly. The one area that has not been raised locally in the university sector is whether we believe as a community or as a Parliament—because it would have to be enacted by Parliament—that there should be a private sector university. Does the Minister believe that there are grounds, reason or need for supporting the establishment of a private sector university in this State? There is, of course, one in Queensland, with the Bond University. There is in Melbourne and in Sydney, in a joint operation, the Catholic University of Australia, and in Western Australia there is the University of Notre Dame, which, although it is a Catholic university established by legislation in Western Australia, is a private institution and has affiliations with its sister university in the United States. Does the Minister believe that the Government would support the establishment of a private university in this State if such a proposition came forward?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There is no commitment on our part to support a private university, but no-one has put up a proposition that I have seen to suggest that there should be.

There has been at least one suggestion that someone piggy-back on one of the existing universities, and that was really to employ university staff and lease some of their facilities. However, I rejected that proposal because there was no evidence of continuity or a guarantee that the programs would exist. We know from the experience of the overseas students in the English language programs what can happen if the provision of educational facilities is not properly controlled and adequately resourced.

I have not had a lot of people knocking on my door asking if they can set up a private university. I would have thought that, in the current climate, the Federal Government is basically indicating there will be no extra money for universities. That may change the situation if people are unable to access the publicly funded ones. There is no proposal before the Government. If there were, and like any of these proposals, it would have to be considered on its merits. There is nothing that I am aware of, and I am not aware that Bond, Skase or anyone else is keen to set up a university here.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: There is no in-principle opposition? Say if a religious denomination, such as in the case of Melbourne, Sydney or Perth, wanted to propose a university, there would be no in-principle opposition to that happening?

The Hon. R.B. Such: No outright opposition. It would have to be considered on its merits. What I would be most keen about is that, wherever such a university were set up, it subscribed and practised the ideals of a university, that is, the pursuit of truth and open inquiry. I would want to be assured that, if anyone put up a proposal, the university would be committed to the search for knowledge and truth, unfettered by any ideological constraints. That would be the basis upon which I would consider what is clearly a hypothetical situation.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: It is a situation that has occurred in virtually every other State except South Australia and Tasmania. That is why I raised it. The Minister is on record as saying that the State Government should provide for more university places. A headline in the *Sunday Mail* on 6 December last year stated, 'We'll send more kids to uni: Lib pledge'. That article stated:

The State Opposition [the then Liberal Party] has called on the Arnold Government to establish more university and TAFE places. Mr Bob Such, Liberal spokesman on further education. . . .

How many kids will attend university next year as a result of the Minister's programs and how is this being funded through the State Government?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The reality is that hordes of people will not be attending university as a result of State Government funding. If we were fortunate enough to be in a situation where we inherited a sound economy and where we did not have to bail out things as a result of the State Bank debacle, we would be able to send some people to university and assist them in the way that the Victorian Government has sought to do. We are committed to funding various scholarships at the postgraduate level, and we intend to maintain that commitment. In regard to assisting undergraduates, we are finding that the same numbers of young people are not seeking to go to university. So, the situation has changed somewhat from a crisis of unmet demand to a position now where fewer people want to go to university and more want to go to TAFE; hence there has been an increase in enrolments in TAFE and a plateauing of or a decrease in the enrolments for university, and that is a natural correction to what happened a few years ago, where there was a ballooning out of people wanting to go to university.

In that respect, it has taken away the necessity that then existed to provide additional funding to assist and create more places in the university sector. As the honourable member has discovered in his political life, the world has moved on for the universities, and more young people are now seeking a more direct vocational education role and university numbers are actually diminishing. We are putting quite a lot of money into the Helpmann Academy to facilitate greater cooperation between the universities and TAFE, and that ultimately will result in more young South Australians being able to access a high quality arts training program. So, the ball game has changed but our commitment and focus will remain in the postgraduate area, which seems to be the area of greatest need at the moment, particularly with the developments in the information technology area.

Mr BUCKBY: I refer the Minister to page 552 of the Financial Information Paper. What is being done to provide a multipurpose community education centre at Amata?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I recently visited Amata, and the facility that exists there for TAFE is certainly inadequate. It is not the sort of facility that that community should be provided with; it is far less than the sort of standard that we would set. It is situated in a house that actually belongs to an agency or a family, so it clearly is not ideal for technical and other training. So, we are seeking to complete a multipurpose community education centre in Amata by the end of this year, and that centre will offer programs relating to environmental health and access, and trades and technical programs. From my visit to Amata and those other communities, I have come away with a very strong commitment to ensure that, whilst they may be a long way from the capital city, they are not a long way from my awareness of their needs and that has been reinforced with discussions with the tribal elders.

So, I believe TAFE has a good record in the traditional lands; it is well-respected and well-recognised by the elders and the people living there, and TAFE's commitment to improve facilities at Amata is part of an ongoing recognition that Aboriginal people need training just as much as non-Aboriginal people.

Mr BUCKBY: What strategies are being implemented to incorporate adult community education into the VEET sector?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Quite a lot is happening and has already happened. Adult community education is really the generic term for interest level courses but it also covers the WEA. The WEA not only provides tours to see the pyramids in Egypt but it also is involved in training of various kinds, including computer training. It is important that that adult community education sector be recognised, highlighted and acknowledged as a fundamental part of the vocational education training sector. So, via the interim VEET board, we have established an interim Adult Community Education Council to provide high level advice, and that will be reinforced by the legislation establishing the VEET board that will come before the Parliament in the next few weeks.

So, it is important to send a signal to the community that the Government believes that adult community education is vital, and that the demands on it are likely to increase, particularly because of an aging population but generally because people increasingly value enrichment type programs as well as training programs. It is important that the Adult Community Education Council be part of the decision-making process, and that is being recognised through the VEET board legislation. The Government provides significant funding (in the order of hundreds of thousands of

dollars) to agencies related to adult community education, including the WEA, because it believes it has an important role to play and it wants to see that role continue and expand so that the community can be enriched via the offerings of that important sector.

Mr BUCKBY: I refer the Minister to page 561 of the Financial Paper. Can the Minister please outline the benefits of the family well-being program to the Aboriginal community?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes; we all acknowledge that Aboriginal families are often under a lot of pressure. Because of significant cultural and other changes, the Aboriginal community is put in a position where it has to cope with and adapt to changing circumstances. So, the family well-being program is funded essentially by ATSIC, from the Commonwealth. The name of the program suggests what it is all about, and it is particularly relevant during this International Year of the Family.

The program is conducted through DETAFE from our Aboriginal Education Development Branch at various locations, such as Ceduna, Port Augusta, Murray Bridge, Adelaide, Point Pearce, Point McLeay and Whyalla. It takes a very sensible holistic approach to family well-being, which acknowledges that there is not much point in training someone if other aspects of their life and lifestyle do not support that training. So, as the name suggests, the program is focused on providing within the Aboriginal family the support that will assist someone to continue with their training so that we can achieve some worthwhile outcomes.

In conjunction with that program is a community counselling skills scheme conducted at Port Augusta, Ceduna, Adelaide and Murray Bridge. The purpose of the program is to ensure that, as far as possible, Aboriginal people access training and remain in training by giving them the necessary support in what we all recognise is a difficult challenge. Whilst we tend to often focus on some of the negative aspects we should also acknowledge that there has been significant achievement in regard to Aboriginal training and education, particularly at the university level. The University of South Australia, Flinders University and the University of Adelaide have a very good record of assisting Aboriginal people to obtain post-secondary training and educational qualifications. There is a long way to go but training and education represents one of the significant ways of assisting Aboriginal people to fully participate in the community and to have an acceptable standard of living and lifestyle. That is the objective of that program.

We now have clarification on the employment figures. The first principle is that the Premier is always right, and that is a very sound policy. There is no problem. I will ask Mr Strickland to explain what appeared to be a discrepancy but in actual fact is not.

Mr Strickland: As we said, we indicated an increase of 9 000 jobs this year. Our briefing note shows that those jobs were for the year to August (August 1993 to August 1994). The net increase in that period amounted to 9 000 jobs. The Premier's press statement stated 14 100 jobs since January. That is correct also because the number of jobs created from August 1993 to August 1994 includes a dip, that is, there was a net loss toward the end of 1993, and then, since January 1994, they have gone up. So both the Premier and the Minister statistically are correct. We cannot reconcile the Leader's figures with our ABS figures. The Leader would have to reveal the source of those figures.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The briefing note talks about the year to August 1994. As the CEO has explained, that was going back to August 1993, and because some people ceased to have full-time employment the numbers came down, but from January to August there has been an increase of 14 100. There is no discrepancy but, as I indicated when I was originally asked the question, it depends on which baseline you are taking the figures. The Leader was hinting at trying to compare non-apples with apples.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: For the clarification of the Committee, the Minister is saying that there was a different basis for the figures?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That is right. One was taking August 1993 as the starting point, and employment increased during that time for part of that time, but there was also a reduction, but from January this year to August this year there has been an overall increase of 14 100.

Ms STEVENS: My question also relates to the Minister's press statement, as Liberal spokesperson in December 1992, and I will quote some sentences from that press statement. The quotations relate to TAFE places. I quote:

More places at South Australian tertiary institutions should be a top priority for the State Government if we are to capitalise on the opportunities presented by gaining the MFP. There will be at least 4 000 qualified students who will be denied the opportunity to study at university or a TAFE college.

And further:

A possible saving of \$1.1 million dollars by contracting out cleaning at TAFE colleges. This money could fund an additional 110 places.

It further states:

Special consideration should be given to country students.

And further:

There should be investment in new technology, including video conferencing and computer-assisted learning to allow country students to communicate with Adelaide colleges.

My questions follow from those statements. How many places were offered by the institutes in 1994? How many will be offered in 1995, and is the Minister satisfied that the Government has given top priority to expanding the number of places as advocated by him?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We are certainly looking to increase our intake of students into TAFE, not only this year but next year. That will reflect, as I have mentioned several times today, that the automotive industry is very buoyant and, if I believe what Keith Conlon said this morning, is about to expand. The wine and electronics industries are expanding rapidly. We are seeing growth in other areas, such as engineering and the hospitality/hotel area. TAFE must reflect that increased demand, and will do so.

Ms STEVENS: What are the numbers of places, or can that be put on notice?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We do not have all the enrolment figures because, as you would appreciate, some of the programs in TAFE for this year are only just being filled. We can give you a figure later in the year, but it would not come within the requirements of Estimates Committees in terms of timing because we simply will not know until the end of the year how many students are on board.

Ms STEVENS: For this year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes. For example, Commercial Cookery starts at Adelaide Institute in about two weeks. I would only be predicting the likely outcome.

Ms STEVENS: Surely, Minister, you must have some rough idea how many places will be offered in 1995.

The Hon. R.B. Such: In terms of TAFE it is not a rigid, absolutely locked in number because it depends on interest in a particular program. You might expect 10 people to enrol in a wine industry course and end up with 15. As you know, TAFE programs are of different lengths: they are not as fixed as a university. We have some short courses, some which take literally years, some which take weeks, and some which take hours. Our target for next year is a minimum growth in student hours of 500 000.

The honourable member made other points about cleaning. We are no doubt saving money through that contract cleaning. In terms of facilities and access for country people, one of our strong commitments is to increase video conferencing and computer assisted programs, and that is already happening.

Ms STEVENS: As a supplementary question, what services have been contracted out by the institutes (and I presume you mean that cleaning is one of them); what have been the savings; and have they been translated directly into additional college places, as was advocated in that press release?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Any savings made at the institute level would go into their pool of funds to increase their offerings. The institutes have a degree of autonomy now, even though they are in the system, and they have the flexibility to make savings and to use those savings to increase offerings and programs. For example, the Adelaide institute obtains about 40 per cent of its income from fee-for-service. The savings on any cleaning contract are made for the purpose of improving our educational training offerings, not as an end in itself. The figure for cleaning represents a saving of \$600 000 over three years by more efficient contracting out of the cleaning requirements.

Ms STEVENS: That \$600 000 has been saved on cleaning contracts across the TAFE system?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It will be saved over a period of 3 years, through cleaning contracts and TSPs associated with weekly based staff who may have been doing that cleaning.

Ms STEVENS: And this \$600 000 has gone into more student places?

The Hon. R.B. Such: They are the projected savings over three years, so we do not have all the dollars in yet. Money saved is directed to educational training programs wherever possible. You cannot be absolute about it, because they might buy a computer for the Director's office, but in general terms that is the intention.

Ms STEVENS: I made the point because in that press statement you were fairly absolute; you indicated a \$1.1 million saving, funding an additional 110 places.

The Hon. R.B. Such: There will be a lot more than 110 places. Hundreds of people will be taken on in the system. I do not know whether the CEO wants to add anything.

Mr Strickland: I do not think you can tie it specifically to the cleaning issue but, certainly in respect of additional expenditure on educational programs, the Program Estimates show that in most of those programs there has been a significant increase in the budgeted period. You have already heard that overall we have also had to make reductions for the State budget, so we have directed the savings into educational programs.

Ms STEVENS: My question related to services that had been contracted out and the gains in student places resulting directly from contracting out services.

Mr Strickland: Contracting out makes savings so that the amount of money you have to spend on cleaning is less than

the previous year. This gives each institute the capacity to spend more on educational programs, and over the system that has been demonstrated.

Ms STEVENS: I want to pursue that a bit further. What services other than cleaning are in that category that you are contracting out to enable those sorts of gains?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We look at not just contracting out but also getting greater efficiencies. One simple one that we are looking at is using smaller vehicles rather than larger vehicles when a smaller vehicle will do the job. So, it is not so much simply contracting out; it is a question of being more efficient. We are looking at areas such as provision of security services and gardening as other possibilities. It has to be a net benefit—a cost saving. We are not on some ideological crusade. It has to be a net benefit. It is not limited purely to those sorts of things; it is also doing more efficiently things that are not contracted out.

Ms STEVENS: What special consideration has been funded in this budget for country students?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It would be a difficult exercise to give a precise breakdown for country students, because many of our city-based institutes also offer country-based programs. For example, the Adelaide institute is involved in Aboriginal programs in the north of the State, and Regency College has students in Tasmania as well as in country areas.

Even in respect of programs such as agriculture and horticulture, Woodcroft is essentially within the metropolitan area, yet many of the people accessing it are from the outer metropolitan area. So, it is virtually an impossible question to answer—certainly on the spur of the moment—and to try to break it down would probably offset our savings in the cleaning area.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Is the Minister taking the question on notice?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is the sort of question to which I think an absolute answer would probably create a false expectation, but I can say that we are committed to improving our offerings to country people and that we are doing that through not only video conferencing links but also computer assisted programs and satellite delivery. There has been and there is no intention to reduce offerings. In fact, I recently announced that we would continue the art program at Mount Barker when there was considerable pressure to relocate it to the city. We are not on any anti country people crusade.

Mr Strickland: If you want more information, I could get it from the three major country based institutes, namely, Murray, Spencer and the South-East. I am aware that, in all those three institutes, both the breadth and the delivery of offerings seem to be increasing. I believe we are servicing our country areas extremely well. I could get you a quick brief from each of those institute Directors on their parts of rural South Australia.

Ms STEVENS: I take the point also that the city ones are delivering both by distance.

Mr Strickland: That muddies it a bit, of course.

Ms STEVENS: I understand that.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The Chair accepts that the Minister's answer to that question is complete in itself and records that there is no expectation on the Minister that this Committee be provided with further information. If through the Minister the Chief Executive Officer finds his way clear to giving some supplementary information, that is fine.

Mr Strickland: We can give a synoptic outline of the country provision, but to actually break down what all our institutes do would be—

Ms STEVENS: I am happy to accept the offer that was made.

The Hon. R.B. Such: We will provide a synoptic outline from the country based institutes on the general focus of their programs, but to do otherwise would engage our department for weeks in a questionable exercise.

Ms STEVENS: Has the Government allocated any additional funds over and above the programs established by the previous Government for investment in technology to assist communication with students, and will the Minister detail that?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This covers a whole range of things, such as video conferencing. We have budgeted this financial year for approximately \$300 000 to expand the video conferencing network, and there is also a commitment via the individual institutes to expand that technology. In terms of computer assisted learning, we are currently looking at ways of providing rental hire and so on at low cost to people on farms and grazing properties so they can access farm management programs that are available via computer. We are involved with satellite delivery through the Open Learning Technology Corporation. That will intensify from now on. It is only from this month that that has been under way. We are always updating our computer networks and facilities. TAFE is one of the largest owners of computing equipment in the State. We have in excess of 3 000 individual computers, as well as a major computing network.

Mr ANDREW: Continuing with the issue of Aboriginal education and referring to page 552 of Financial Information Paper No. 1, what benefits will arise for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara communities from the building of the management training centre at Umuwa?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The TAFE department has contributed \$200 000 towards this project, with matching funds from ATSIC. Umuwa is the regional centre for the Anangu Pitjantjatjara communities. It is really the Canberra, I guess, of the Pitjantjatjara lands. It is envisaged that that money will provide a training centre for the communities so that they can have the skills to manage those various communities. Instead of them travelling to Alice Springs or Adelaide or elsewhere, away from their lands and being subject to homesickness and all of those other traumas, they will be able to study at the Umuwa centre and get up to date management skills in managing what are, in effect, country towns, Aboriginal communities, call them whatever you like. Not only will the Aboriginal people be able to access those programs but their families will be able to be with them while they undertake the training programs. The accommodation there will be a mixture of 'starlight motel', that is, under the stars, which is a fairly popular form of camping out up there and something more sophisticated.

The main point is that the whole family can be there together and clearly that has a significant benefit for the Aboriginal people attending those training programs. Previously they have attended, at great expense, programs in Alice Springs. One program that I am aware of—not funded by us—cost something in the order of \$300 000, an amount greater than our contribution to build half the centre. We will get more cost effective training provision there. The Aboriginal people want to be able to run their communities and this will give them the skills to do it, and so it is a very significant step forward. We look forward to the opening of that new centre at Umuwa.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to further examples of joint ventures between DETAFE and other agencies. I

guess this issue potentially cuts across a number of the programs in the budget estimates. The Minister of Education recently announced that \$5 million has been allocated to the Glossop High School for building works over the next three to four years. Although it is long overdue, it is particularly welcome by my electorate. Will this mean that the Murray Institute and the Glossop High will be considering joint ventures in relation to any potential building agreements?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am pleased that the Minister of Education has made that commitment because, as the local member for that area would know, Glossop High School needs some money spent on physical facilities. What TAFE is always keen to do is cooperate with other agencies, whether it be DECS or local government. Where that has happened, everyone has benefited. Undoubtedly, the trend throughout Australia has been to cooperate and share facilities wherever possible, and at this stage we are working with DECS. The Murray Institute of TAFE is meeting with representatives of the Education Department and also is very mindful of what the community wants in that region, because if the community does not support it, then there is not much point in trying to foist something on them. We are at the stage where we now have a positive indication from DECS that it is keen to provide money to upgrade the secondary school facility at Glossop, and the offer from my department is to work with them and to assist them wherever possible. If that is a shared facility, a cooperative facility, I think that would be to the benefit of everyone up there. So there is an open invitation and also ongoing discussions which I am sure will be productive for the local community. That is where the matter rests at this stage.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to page 546 of Financial Information Paper No. 1 and note the continued substantial expenditure on agricultural and horticultural education programs. The current unemployment rate for my region of the Riverland is around 11 or 11.2 per cent, compared to the present State average of 10.9 per cent. Around 72 per cent of the seasonal labour force within the region is not qualified, as I understand it. Could the Minister elaborate on the training provisions for this group in the community, which will assist both the level of qualification and improved practices, particularly within the horticultural sector in the Riverland region?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am very much aware of what has been a high level of unemployment in that region, although I am sure the local member would acknowledge that things are improving in the Riverland. There is a new sense of confidence in terms of the horticultural sector and the viticultural sector. When I was up there not long ago there was clear evidence of renewed optimism, and that is good. As the member points out, it is correct that there are many people working in the horticultural and viticultural industries who do not have any specific training qualifications, and that applies particularly to those who work on a seasonal basis. As a department we are seeking to provide training for that group that is appropriate to their needs, and the Murray Institute of TAFE, in conjunction with the Regional Development Council, is working to that end.

A special management group has been set up to focus on the needs of those people and on their training needs in particular, and it has representation from local industry, business, horticulture, local government, Skillshare, Kickstart, group training, the Trades and Labor Council, Education Department (or DECS) and, of course, my department and the Federal Department of DEET. This

combined grouping is working towards the development of a regional education and training plan which will complement the regional economic development strategy, which, in turn, is an initiative of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

It highlights the fact that our training provision goes very much hand in hand with economic development strategies and Development Board initiatives, so that the need for trained people is met. What has been identified so far is that there are significant gaps in terms of people who are trained. There needs to be a pool of people who are able to meet the demands during harvest time, and it is envisaged that, either through the Group Training Scheme or private employment agency those people, suitably trained, will be available for work particularly during harvest time in the Riverland. So, the commitment is an ongoing one.

I noted earlier this morning the success with Kickstart and the citrus industry, and for 1994-95 we have committed \$93 000 to Kickstart in that region. The Group Training Scheme in that area has been exceptional in terms of its performance and we expect that Kickstart initiative to lead to a further generation of \$300 000 from industry and from the Commonwealth Government. Things are happening in the Riverland. I am not suggesting it is entirely due to the election of the honourable member there, but certainly there is a progressive and more confident outlook in the Riverland, and we want to be part of it and to assist the local people, because it is one of our magnificent regions in South Australia with great potential. We are in there and we are happy to support the training of people who work in the horticultural industry in the Riverland.

Ms STEVENS: My question relates to page 563, Support Services, relating to computer systems. Is the state of the art software platform for TAFE's new student management program in jeopardy because of the Government's insistence on including DETAFE's new system in its deal with EDS?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Nothing in terms of computing in DETAFE is at risk or under threat, because ultimately any outsourcing or any other focus on computer technology will have to provide a net benefit. The Premier has made it quite clear that we are not into outsourcing simply for the sake of it; there must be a net benefit. In regard to TAFE, we are having ongoing discussions with the Premier's area and the people who are specialists in terms of information technology and outsourcing, but there is no blind ideological commitment to outsourcing or contracting out, whatever you want to call it. If it can be done in a more effective and better way, that opportunity is there, but we are not rushing into something or committing ourselves to something unless there is a demonstrable benefit that will flow to TAFE and to the wider community.

Ms STEVENS: Are you saying that if there is not a demonstrable net benefit TAFE will be staying with what it has already developed?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Essentially, yes. There is no logic in doing something just for the sake of it. We would want to see a net benefit and the Premier has indicated that he wants to see a net benefit from any change in arrangements: outsourcing, contracting out or whatever. I will ask Mr Carter from DETAFE to elaborate.

Mr Carter: With respect to the student management system, which you identified as a very important system, there is no risk at all. We have introduced that to eight of the 10 institutes to date and currently are introducing it to the other two institutes, Regency and Adelaide. They will be

introduced and implemented for the academic year 1995 and there is absolutely no risk to the continuity of that system.

Ms STEVENS: Can you guarantee that the TAFE system development will remain on its scheduled plan?

Mr Carter: The current plan for this year is for the introduction at Adelaide and Regency. There are tight deadlines for the implementation for 1995, and both are on target at this stage. We have a fallback position if, due to circumstances beyond our control, we fall behind, to ensure that there will be no interference with enrolment arrangements. Both Regency and Adelaide have existing enrolment systems and we can run some parallel arrangements for the first semester of 1995 if there is a problem. Certainly, at this stage there is no danger that we will not achieve implementation for the 1995 academic year for both Regency and Adelaide.

The other plan for the student management system for the academic year 1995 is to enhance some of the programs, particularly with respect to the speed of transactions, at the existing eight institutes. So, there will be the introduction at the two institutes and some enhancements at the other two.

Ms STEVENS: Will the Government guarantee the Northern Territory, Western Australia and other TAFE systems using the South Australian TAFE system that they will be fully protected in terms of costs, maintenance and development support in the face of the EDS situation here in South Australia?

Mr Carter: The systems to which you refer are being managed through a national arrangement, via the national TAFE system through a subcommittee of ANTA. Those systems are proceeding with the cooperation of South Australia, which has developed this system, and the Northern Territory, Western Australia and other States and Territories are looking at using our work and introducing those systems. With respect to the student management system, there is no reason why those national developments cannot proceed, and South Australia will continue to participate in those developments.

Ms STEVENS: Why did the department at first invite staff from the computing section to apply for TSPs and then refuse 11 of the 15 applications, and how many staff will retain their positions under outsourcing?

Mr Carter: There was a general call with respect to TSPs and, because of the uncertainty in the information technology area, the majority of the staff in that area indicated they wished to pursue the TSP offer further, because at the time the developments with respect to IT were not known and there was no way our agency or other agencies could give TSPs *en masse*, because that would have meant that we would not have been able to proceed with the development or maintenance of our existing systems. That is something that is being developed progressively as the information on the implications of outsourcing becomes clearer. We are communicating regularly with the staff and, as you indicated, three staff (I think) have taken TSPs as part of a management rearrangement.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Looking at the Financial Information Paper No. 3, I note that stage 2 building extensions to the Noarlunga campus of the Onkaparinga Institute of TAFE are under way. Will you advise the status of works to date?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Work on that building is proceeding according to plan. It is a significant project that will cost in excess of \$11 million. Construction started in March and should be finished by December next year. The southern area is growing rapidly. It needed extending in terms of facilities

offered by TAFE, and that is exactly what we are doing. It will provide an upgrade of facilities but it will also provide facilities that currently do not exist, including a training restaurant. Those members who have had the privilege of attending one of our TAFE training restaurants will know that they are excellent. We have not got a name for it but we have not ruled out the possibility of calling it the 'Robert Brokenshire' training restaurant! I am sure it will feature a lot of Southern Vales' wines which will be appropriate. It will have a very lovely view out from the south-western corner of the complex, and I think everyone in the south is looking forward to that project being completed. At this stage we are delighted with the contractors, Hansen Yuncken, and the architects, Raffin Maron. The project is on track and should be ready in time for an official launch, if not at the end of December 1995, by early 1996.

Mr BROKENSHERE: Something that is of concern to members in the south at the moment is the Noarlunga college theatre, given that when we came into government there was no business plan or direction for the theatre. We are now faced with assessing where the theatre's future lies. I refer to page 556 of the Financial Information Paper No. 1. Could the Minister provide details on what is being done to offset this concern and thereby secure continued funding and operation of the Noarlunga college theatre?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The theatre at Noarlunga TAFE is a magnificent facility. Its historical cost was something of the order of \$6 million. Most communities would be delighted to have a facility such as that. As far as TAFE is concerned, it is not part of our core business to be operating theatres. We do not do any training at Noarlunga TAFE campus which needs that theatre. Our main use of it is for graduation ceremonies, but at the same time we are keen that it remain available to the community, and to that end we are working with various interested parties, including the Noarlunga council, to establish a sound management group who can run the theatre and retain the benefit of it for the local community. It would be unacceptable to see the theatre lost to the community. TAFE has generously agreed to continue funding that theatre for 12 months to allow an alternative management operation to be developed.

The cost to TAFE is not insignificant: it is something of the order of \$200 000 per year. The theatre is used by a range of groups including schools. Something like 57 000 people sat in that theatre during the past 12 months. We are keen that it remain and be retained by the community, and we are working as quickly as we can to develop a committee management group drawn from the community representing Government, non-government and the local council to ensure that it remains for the use of the community. TAFE is doing all it can to ensure the theatre remains, even though it is not part of our core business.

Mr BROKENSHERE: What is the Government doing to encourage women into trade and technical occupations?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I mentioned earlier, in South Australia we have a very good record in regard to encouraging women into TAFE. Women constitute something like 47 per cent of our enrolments. However, many of the women entering TAFE are going into the traditional areas. We do not want to be dictatorial about it, nor should we, because it is not our role to force people into particular training options. However, we are keen that women, and young women in particular, realise that they may be closing off some of their employment options if they do not consider some of the new and more technical programs on offer. I stress that we are not

in the business of trying to force people into programs in which they will be unhappy or into careers with which they will be dissatisfied.

We have a range of initiatives. One of them is called 'Tradeswomen on the Move'. This year it has been active in terms of presenting role models to young women in schools. Something like 3 000 female students participated in workshops organised as part of Tradeswomen on the Move. We have undertaken career sessions and evenings for parents and students and had practical workshops in metropolitan country institutes. The idea was to show young people that TAFE is a friendly place and that we offer a range of programs, many of which are likely to appeal to them and which have very good career prospects. The Tradeswomen on the Move program was at the Skills Expo in May and something like 5 000 people (parents, students and teachers) had involvement in hands-on activities.

We also have, through the Engineering Pathways Program in secondary schools, used the Tradeswomen on the Move's expertise. To date, 64 young women have expressed interest in the Engineering Pathways Program for 1995. We also have Introduction to Trades courses, and 115 women will participate in these programs this year. They are designed to fast track women who are interested in programs such as horticulture, automotive mechanics, diesel mechanics, building and furnishing, welding, sign writing and engineering so that they can get into those programs via what we call a fast track approach.

Other initiatives include women in entry level training best practice project, and strategies for employers to increase the number of women recruited and retained in entry level training positions. This year women in South Australia have won two significant awards in the building industry. A female carpenter with the building industry group training scheme won the prestigious Florence Taylor award for apprentices, and a female plumber won the Ray Hollis Trophy for best performed apprentice over four years. South Australia can boast the first female lecturer in butchery.

So, there are a lot of things that we have done and are doing. Our participation rates for female apprentices is better than those in other States, where the actual rates have actually declined, South Australian having shown an increase. We are not saying that we are there or that enough is being done, but if you look at our promotional material you will see that we make a deliberate effort to ensure that women are depicted in technical activities. In fact, in the latest publication I do not think there are any men on the cover at all, so we might soon be accused of being biased and discriminating. We are trying to get across, particularly to young women, that they should not cut off their employment options. Nevertheless, there is still a heavy tendency or bias towards young women going into traditional areas such as hairdressing.

Ms STEVENS: I return to the question on computer systems that I was asking before. I believe the Minister said that if he could not demonstrate that there was a net benefit in changing then the change would not occur?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I say, I would have thought that was a fairly logical position to take. There must be a net benefit in doing it. In respect of EDS or any other activity, the impact on TAFE and other areas would be judged on their individual merits. We are effectively a training organisation and we would be keen to make sure that nothing, whether it is in terms of outsourcing, contracting or whatever, negatively impacts on our training function and role.

Ms STEVENS: I agree that that is a logical position. My understanding was that the Premier had said there was a \$100 million net benefit each year to the Government as a whole, with all its information technology functions outsourced to EDS.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The figure given by the Premier would essentially be drawn from areas other than TAFE. There could well be areas in TAFE where there is a net benefit and will involve outsourcing or contracting out. As I say, we are not going down some pathway in terms of blind ideological pursuits. It must improve the system. If it does not make it more efficient and effective, I am sure the Premier does not want it and neither do we.

Ms STEVENS: Am I to understand that this net benefit issue is something across all departments?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am only responsible for my own department, but the implications are that there would be negotiations for each agency and department so the circumstances of each area are taken into account. It would be horses for courses. What may suit one department may not be appropriate in another area. In TAFE, for example, we provide computer programs to people's homes and to enterprises. We are somewhat different from other agencies in terms of how we use computer networks. That would require an individual negotiation in terms of how we get involved with outsourcing, contracting out, whether it is in the information technology area or any other area.

Ms STEVENS: When will a decision be made about whether or not this net benefit is there?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We are currently working through that process. It will take some time, and our people will be meeting with the officers from the Office of Information Technology and EDS. The CEO reminds me that it will be probably as late as March next year before that process has been worked through, but that is an approximate indication of the length of time involved.

Ms STEVENS: Why did the department decide to let four of the best computer personnel go through TSPs before a decision was made about whether in fact the net benefit of the whole deal was to not go with the EDS outsourcing but to stick with what you had?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The TSP process is not a process of absolute fine tuning. You lose some people that you may be happy to see go, but you also lose a lot of very good people and people you may like to keep. It is not an absolutely precise process because there are individual human factors involved, and questions of equity have to be considered and dealt with. I will ask the CEO to add further.

Mr Strickland: What we specifically did was examine, under all the scenarios, what our ongoing needs in computing seemed to be, in terms of management, staff, etc. We had been through a period of very rapid development of a number of new systems. Those staff we allowed go primarily either worked on or supervised work on those particular systems. Whether it is under a completely outsourced regime or a partially outsourced regime, we have the staff currently that would enable us to respond to either circumstance. So, for example, if all of TAFE's computing goes across to EDS, all our staff would probably be offered positions with EDS. If we continue with our current regime and none of it is outsourced at all, we would be able to efficiently service our current needs with the staff that we have despite the fact that those ones have been separated in this past period, because they were mainly working on things that have now been completed.

Ms STEVENS: In relation to the people the CEO just mentioned going across to EDS if you went across to EDS, would they have a choice about that? Will the Minister explain the process about people in that position?

Mr Strickland: They would certainly have a choice. My understanding is that that would all be negotiated through during the next period on an individual basis. Nobody will be forced to go to EDS. There will still be a need on a whole of Government basis for a certain number of computing staff to be not working for EDS but placed in Government agencies. We feel there will be quite sufficient jobs for those people, although I must say my expectation is that those whose jobs would be going to EDS would be only too happy to go.

Mr BUCKBY: I refer the Minister to page 557 of the Financial Information Paper and the department's continued commitment to international education. Could the Minister provide a status report on the International College of Hotel Management soon to be built at Regency, including details on anticipated enrolments and relevance of curriculum to industry needs?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This is a very exciting program. One of the things we need to acknowledge in terms of TAFE and its related activities in South Australia is that there has been generally a bipartisan approach to these matters and that is the way in general we should go about our activities in terms of training and education, certainly at least at the higher level. The International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) will soon have accommodation facilities at Regency, costing almost \$6 million. The college involves a partnership involving the Le Cordon Bleu Program from Paris, the Swiss Hotels Association and the South Australian Government via the Regency Institute Hotel School. There have been four intakes to date with students from Australia and overseas: in February 1993, there were 47 students; July 1993, 22 students; February 1994, 46 students; July 1994, 30 students; and a minimum of 60 enrolments is expected for intake no. 5 in January 1995, and approximately 38 of those enrolments have already been secured.

An essential part of the training is that students actually gain work experience in real hotels, and at the moment 50 students are on campus and 87 students are undertaking industry placement, and that should give members some idea of the calibre of this program. At the moment, students are working at Claridges and the Hyde Park Hotel in London, Hotel International in Switzerland, the Sheraton in Melbourne, the Hyatt Regency and Ramada Grand in Adelaide, and the Gagadju Crocodile Hotel in Jabiru, with other students in Germany, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, New Zealand, South Africa, Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. So, in the short time it has been operating the college has an incredible coverage and involvement of students throughout the world. Not only is it important in terms of their training, but these people are essentially ambassadors for Australia and South Australia, and I am sure that in the long-term they will be promoting our local wines and other food products.

The on-site accommodation for 120 students has been approved, and there will be further details of that released shortly. The building should be completed by early June 1995, with work commencing literally within a matter of weeks. So, it is a very successful program, but I want to emphasise, without taking anything away from the ICHM program, that we are also committed to students who are unable to access that program or who cannot afford what is a very substantial fee to attend it. Some people have wrongly

interpreted the expansion of ICHM as somehow the beginning of a possible decline in the number of other programs focused on the hotel/catering industry, and that is certainly not the case. I want to ensure that our local students have opportunities to access training in programs that exist in addition to the ICHM.

Mr BUCKBY: I refer the Minister to page 121 of the Financial Information Paper No.3 and note the proposed commencement of a major project for the South-East Institute of TAFE. Could the Minister please provide information on the project and its current status?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This is a very exciting project and I have just spent three days in the South-East, which included having a look at what currently exists at the Weill Street site and what will exist in the near future at the Wireless Road campus. Overall, the project is of the order of \$10 million plus. It may be larger than that if the Commonwealth comes to the party with additional funding and depending on what moneys we are able to secure from the sale of the Weill Street site.

The Weill Street site contains a theatre, which is surplus to TAFE's requirements. TAFE seems to have more theatres than the Royal Adelaide Hospital. This theatre is heritage listed and, once again, we do not want to see it destroyed or removed from community access. That means that in selling the Weill Street property we have to be mindful of the possibility of a separate title so that the people of Mount Gambier and that region can retain that heritage listed theatre. The project at Wireless Road is significant and, in fact, the multipurpose workshop exceeds the size of an Australian rules football oval, so that gives members some idea of how big it is. That workshop will provide a range of training in not only the metals area but automotive type activities, timber and so on. There will also be a significant expansion in regard to providing facilities for business training and a continuation of the very successful linkages with the road transport training group and the horticulture program, which has been very successful in assisting people with intellectual disability to obtain training. One of the young persons from that program has gone on to gain an apprenticeship, so it is one of our shining lights in terms of special consideration for those with a disability—in this case, intellectual disability. We have been able to extend the training time so that those with an intellectual disability can gain accredited training and go on to employment.

So, hopefully the work will begin on this site in the first part of the next calendar year and will be completed in the 1997-98 financial year. It is a magnificent site, and we are keen that the Department for Education and Children's Services ultimately will be a co-partner there, and there is provision for that to happen. So, all in all, Mount Gambier and the South-East region can look forward to a magnificent TAFE facility, which will be state of the art. Hopefully, at the same time they will be able to have their heritage-listed theatre within the more established part of the town.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I want to congratulate the department for developing opportunities over the years to commercialise its intellectual property, and also to assist the generation of foreign exchange through the development of a number of overseas projects in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and other countries. When I was with TAFE, I had the privilege to visit Bandung, which has an extraordinary South Australian presence in TAFE which is enormously appreciated. Indeed, at ministerial level in Indonesia, I was constantly surprised and delighted to see how highly regarded

the South Australian TAFE system is in that country and at the very highest level in the Indonesian Government.

TAFE employees make an outstanding contribution to the development of that region in 'train the trainer' programs, and others. I was delighted to hear about the International College of Hotel Management at Regency Park. I hate the acronym 'ICHM'. It does not sound quite right for finest cuisine. I point out that the idea for that college came from Rex Lipman, who came to see me and suggested a partnership. Later, I went to London to talk with Andre Cointreau (of the famous Cointreau family), who is the principal shareholder in *Le Cordon Bleu*, which has schools in London, Paris, Tokyo and the United States. Officers went to Switzerland for negotiations with the Swiss Hotels Association.

Many people in Adelaide do not realise what an amazing asset we have. Students can come from around South-East Asia to study at the college and receive not only a TAFE certificate, which articulates to a degree, but also a cordon bleu certificate and Swiss Hotels Association qualifications. I congratulate the Minister for continuing with that initiative. I am delighted to hear about the on-site accommodation, which is of critical importance to the further development of the college. In terms of the \$6 million investment in accommodation, has the Commonwealth contributed to that process, and how much and from whom has it come?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The Commonwealth certainly has contributed. The precise figure is close to \$5.8 million, which is Better Cities money. We did not have a great deal of difficulty convincing the Commonwealth Government that it was a worthwhile investment. Not only will it provide villa-style accommodation for students, whether they be local or overseas, but also it will serve as a very strong indication of the importance of the western suburbs, and will serve as a catalyst to revitalise some parts of the western suburbs where old housing stock needs revitalising; it has a multi-pronged benefit. It is an example of State and Federal Governments working together rather than trying to point score.

There was little difficulty in convincing either Minister Ross Free or Minister Simon Crean of the importance of this project. We are now on the eve of construction of what is a very exciting project. We will be sensitive to the needs of students of different cultures, particularly those from a muslim background, and it highlights the point made earlier today that South Australia has been particularly sensitive to those needs. We have, for example, parents flying out from countries such as India to look at the ICHM. This new accommodation will ensure that parents can be confident that their young people are not only comfortably housed and can study well but also that they are reasonably protected from any negative influences or activities in the wider community.

Although it is not a lock-up situation it ultimately provides a healthy balance between privacy, preservation of their culture and access to the only training program of its kind outside of Europe. It is something of which we can all be proud.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Apart from the involvement of DETAFE and Regency College in the international college are partners such as *Le Cordon Bleu* and Rex Lipman making any contribution to the expansion?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The actual facility will be owned by the South Australian Government. Rex Lipman, *Le Cordon Bleu* or the Swiss Hotels Association are not providing any direct financial assistance to that building. The Government will own it as a result of assistance from the

Commonwealth. It is a facility owned by the South Australian Government and the South Australian community.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Minister, you have already provided details of student numbers attending the international college at Regency Park. When the accommodation is completed next year, what is the projected occupancy and the projected number of students for 1996? Take it on notice, by all means.

The Hon. R.B. Such: That would be a fairly rough estimate at this stage. In the event that something goes wrong—and we do not anticipate that it will—those villas could be sold off to the community or used by the community via the Housing Trust. In effect, we can build them according to demand because they are separate villa-style and, therefore, whilst we clearly need some accommodation up front quickly, we can add to the scheme without in any way running the risk of having facilities that will be under-utilised. We are currently planning for a complex to accommodate 120 students. As I say, they are designed so that they can be used by families or sold off to the community, if necessary.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In terms of the enrolments for 1995, can the Minister tell us whether those projected enrolments satisfy the income projections for fee paying students required by the management plan for the college, and, if not, can he tell us what sort of action will be taken?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The short answer to your question is, Yes, they do satisfy the income needs. The current fee is \$16 000 per annum, which covers the accommodation cost. Essentially, that program needs to pay its way. It will not be subsidised at the expense of other TAFE students. Clearly, the cost involved is significant for people attending, but a range of scholarships will be offered so that young people, irrespective of their parents' means or their own, can access those programs. A range of scholarships are available to try to improve the equity aspect. The funding of those scholarships comes from sponsors from industry, and so on: it is not coming out of TAFE's budget line.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Many of the students would not be paying themselves but might be sponsored by a hotel in Singapore, or what have you. What about the budget for the marketing of the international college? It seems to me that the marketing is critically important, particularly in the area of sensitive and culturally sensitive marketing. What is the marketing budget?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Rex Lipman and his organisation have responsibility for that agreement. As we know, Rex is very vigorous in promoting ICHM. Brochures have been printed recently and a very extensive marketing program is planned which involves visiting Eastern States and making contact with potential students throughout South-East Asia. That is really the responsibility of Rex Lipman and, knowing Rex's enthusiasm, I do not think we have to lie awake at night wondering whether or not he is out there rounding up students; he has an obvious interest in making sure that we meet the required number. We operate parallel, in terms of marketing, and we promote ICHM as well through our agencies and contacts overseas.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Is the Government pursuing negotiations with the Hong Leong group for the establishment of a joint campus in Malaysia for the delivery of TAFE courses; what progress has been made in that; and how much has been set aside in the budget as seeding money for this project?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes; we have had ongoing discussions with Hong Leong but nothing has been completed because, as you will appreciate, it is a two-way process and we want to ensure that there is an equal commitment from them as well as from us. At this stage we have not reached any agreement, but we are having ongoing discussions. In terms of the actual budget, it is not easy to extract a detailed figure, because it would be part of the general international education programs. In essence it would be a small percentage of that budget, because we are really only at the talking stage.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the Opposition has had six questions. I am not denying his right to ask questions, but I am just presuming that this is by agreement.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: It is by agreement, Sir. I will pursue the international context, because I have a particular interest in this area. How many staff are currently working on the Indonesian joint venture and what stage has this project reached? I am aware it is not just Bandung; there is a range of different contracts in south and maybe even north Sulawesi and even Bali, which would not be a hardship post, I am sure. Where are we at with the Indonesian joint venture, how many staff are involved, how is it progressing and are there opportunities for further contracts?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am not sure whether the Leader realises that we have recently successfully obtained two new contracts to provide expertise and assistance to two polytechnics in Indonesia. Those were won by the Adelaide institute of TAFE against competition by other TAFE institutes and universities throughout Australia. We got two of those out of the four, which is pretty good, and the value of that program is \$500 000. In regard to the actual location of those, one is at Ujung Pandang and the other in Denpasar. In addition to that, we have the existing involvement in Indonesia. We have so many of these that it is a question of identifying or singling out the Indonesian connection. We have a joint venture with SAGRIC International, not only in Indonesia but also in the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Thailand, Vanuatu, Malaysia, Pakistan and Bangladesh; and we are pursuing new initiatives in China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Western Samoa and Eastern Europe. The current value to the various parties is about \$40 million.

The honourable member asked specifically about Indonesia. We also have the program based at Tea Tree Gully campus of the Torrens Valley Institute of TAFE—the Centre for International Education and Training—and that trains people here who then go back to work in their originating country. I do not know whether that is specific enough for what was being asked about Indonesia.

As for the number of staff in the international programs area, coordinating the programs in head office we have the equivalent of 8.2 persons, but in the institutes themselves we have people working in these areas either full-time or (and mainly) part-time and we have also got people over in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. I cannot give an exact breakdown on the spot.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: At some stage I would like a briefing about that. I am also interested in what we are doing in Vietnam as well as Indonesia and other places. I have an interest in it.

The Hon. R.B. Such: In terms of Vietnam we have been making contact and we have also had their senior educational people down here. We have also made preliminary contact with South Africa, because there are a lot of opportunities there, and the ambassador has indicated that in South Africa

their needs are great. We are basically anywhere and everywhere where there is an opportunity that benefits us and the other party. We will give a briefing. You just want general information on how many people involved in the international programs?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Yes, and also the nature and extent of the activities. It is a great credit to the department for the work that has been done in that area over the years. Now that the department has recognised the overseas marketing function by establishing a separate unit, and the Program Estimates outline the need to establish performance budgets as a specific target, can the Minister detail projections of expenditure and revenue for this activity for this year? Again, I am happy for this to be taken on notice.

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I pointed out, the international programs effectively must provide a net benefit to us, certainly in the longer term. The Leader may have been absent when I said that we are not simply on a dollar search; nevertheless, we do not see ourselves as subsidising overseas students at the expense of our own. We have to take the view—and I think it is the correct view—that we are in there for the long haul. We are not in there to undertake any sort of pillage or to make a quick dollar. The breakdown of the budget for these programs for this financial year is as follows: the SAGRIC/DETAFAE joint venture, income \$467 500, expenditure \$425 000; Austraining International, which is the linkage with New South Wales TAFE and SAGRIC, income \$530 150, expenditure \$599 065; the Centre for International Education and Training at Torrens Valley, income \$1 562 165, expenditure \$1 432 255; Australia TAFE International, income \$27 000, expenditure \$60 035; International Students Consortium, income \$2 578 819, expenditure \$1 967 925; Institutes of TAFE International activities, income \$509 200, expenditure \$416 439; departmental memorandums of understanding, expenditure \$10 000, no income, for obvious reasons; UNESCO/UNEVOC which is where we share information with other countries and provide mentoring assistance, and so on, income \$100 000, expenditure \$85 000; and the Rajamangala Institute of Technology in Thailand and the DETAFE/SAGRIC joint association, income \$315 437, expenditure \$327 437.

Whilst some are not bringing in a net return at the moment, that is certainly the intention in the long term and, as I say, we are in there for the long haul. Sometimes you have to wear a short term negative income flow in order to maximise long term benefit. In terms of overseas students, in five institutes we have 360 from overseas and we expect that number to increase next year to 400.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I thank the Minister for that information, which I found most helpful. I did notice that there was recorded on page 547 a loss of \$224 000, on the international line. Does the Minister or the advisers have any further detail they can provide to the Committee?

Mr Strickland: The major reason for that loss is actually due to the arrangement with SAGRIC and the fact that on one of the Indonesian projects there was some rather poor budgeting. It is, I believe, a single and unusual loss and should not be carried forward into the program beyond this year. All the SAGRIC arrangements have to take into account foreign currency exchange and things like that and in this instance that was not taken into account and, unfortunately, there was a loss on it. But I do not believe it will carry over into the future and, of course, it was not there in the past, either.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Has MINCO (Ministerial Council) reached agreement with ANTA (Australian National Training Authority) on proposals recommended in the Siganto report to rationalise ITABs (industry training advisory bodies), and what implications flow to South Australia?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The answer is basically, 'Yes, we have reached agreement.' It has been a tricky area because, understandably, many industries want their own advisory body, but the Ministers took the view that at some stage we have to make a decision and say 'That's it,' and even though an industry may not be in with their most desired partner from another industry at least they should see how it works and maybe they can operate, in effect, as a subcommittee of an ITAB. The Siganto review provided a basis for rationalising the system, but I must say that in South Australia we have never had any great difficulties with our ITABs because, presumably, South Australians are a lot easier to get on with, and we have a pretty happy arrangement with our locally-based industry training advisory bodies.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Will the current ITABs that are working effectively in South Australia be denied any funding?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am not aware of any reason why they would. What is happening and what the Ministers have emphasised as a result of the meeting last Friday is that, in the future, through ANTA at the Federal level and via the State mechanism, the State training agency which, in effect, is myself, ITABs will be required to demonstrate performance and, in short, there will be no automatic allocation of funds from the Commonwealth, unless an ITAB is doing what it should do, and that is providing comprehensive and accurate advice on behalf of an industry. The Commonwealth is very keen as are the State and Territory Ministers that ITABs are not an end in themselves, but deliver the advice that industry wants to give, so that the industry can get the training that it requires. A strong signal coming out of last Friday's meeting is that industry training advisory bodies must be precisely that, and it is not necessarily an automatic entrée to permanent funding at a set level.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Does the Minister agree that funding for ITABs should be passed down through the national ITAB system?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This issue was canvassed at last Friday's meeting. It is a fairly contentious one, because the Commonwealth argues that all the money for industry training advisory bodies should come through the national ITAB. We did not agree to that proposition. Part of the process is that the role and performance of ITABs will be reviewed as part of this funding arrangement. The Ministers agreed that funding of State and Territory ITABS would be subject to the development of satisfactory performance agreements, which I mentioned: between national and State and Territory ITABS, 20 per cent; and State training authorities and State and Territory ITABS, 80 per cent. So the Commonwealth did not pursue bitterly its desire that all funding come through the national ITAB but, as often happens in politics, went for a compromise, which is a mixture of funding arrangements. I think the other message was that the Commonwealth is keen in the long term that the State Governments put more money into funding ITABS, rather than simply the Federal Government doing it. Some States already put quite a lot of money into ITABS; we provide 'in kind' support, which assists them.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Is there any likelihood that the State will match dollar for dollar?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We have been reluctant to be part of that courtship ritual by the Federal Government. However, the reality is that down the track, within a few years, that will come to pass. But it has not been formalised or agreed on yet, because naturally the States and Territories are coy about handing in more money than they absolutely have to. But I think the reality is that the Commonwealth's generosity is probably coming to an end.

Mrs GERAGHTY: To recap: if the money does not end up coming down through the ITAB system, can the Minister give an assurance that the TAFE system will not absorb the funding for itself and deprive any of the private sector or State ITABs funding?

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Minister, I point out that the question is hypothetical so you are not bound to answer it.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, it is hypothetical, because we have agreed that there will be funding for ITABs. It is certainly not something that can arise in the foreseeable future, because we have just agreed that we will fund ITABs subject to ongoing review of performance. So they are not in danger collectively of becoming extinct. They are not on the endangered species list unless there is drastic non-performance by one or other.

It would be quite silly to absorb them into TAFE, because what would happen is that what should be an independent source of advice would be part of the training provisions, which would be quite nonsensical, and there is no intention to do that. In fact, in the legislation establishing the VEET board we want to send a clear message that we regard ITABs as having an important role. We do not want to compromise what should be comprehensive and vigorous advice from it.

Mrs GERAGHTY: What is the State Government doing to meet the needs of accredited private training providers to comply with the Australian Vocational Trainee Certificates and training for the unemployed youth in South Australia, and I am talking in general terms?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Through the VEET board legislation we are creating a more level playing field as far as private providers are concerned, so that they can offer their services and the customer may have a choice, which is a pretty major step forward. As part of that VEET board legislation, an accreditation registration council will operate which, as the name suggests, will accredit and register providers and agreements. Essentially, the new VEET board will signal a greater independence and also greater ownership by industry of training in South Australia. It is meant to give vigorous and valuable advice from industry without its being compromised in terms of that advice.

The establishment of that VEET board is a major step forward in terms of private providers, but TAFE will still be around and will still be the major force in training, because of its sheer size, resources and expertise. But there will be a greater role also for private providers. In regard to the AVTCs, the process is still one of evaluation to see how effective those pilot schemes are, so we are not really at the point of determining, or the community or industry determining, who will provide them and how they will be provided. There is certainly no intention on my part to exclude private providers, but we have not yet reached the point where those vocational programs can be fully assessed in terms of their effectiveness. The honourable member is one step ahead of where we are.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Page 552 of the Program Estimates states that the Government will provide language and literacy

skills training in the workplace. Is the Minister aware of the WELL (Workplace English Language and Literacy) project and, if so, will the State Government's literacy program complement that project?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We are already doing much in terms of enterprise based literacy programs. For example, at Mitsubishi we have a very substantial program; something of the order of 30 groups a week access literacy programs at Mitsubishi alone. They have been outstandingly successful and are acknowledged to be so by the Managing Director, because not only is the productivity rate up but the accident rate is down, the quality of the product is improved, there is a happier work force and all sorts of positive benefits. So, we are already in there doing that, and the furniture industry has asked if we can do something similar for it. The great advantage of the approach is that you do not take people out of the workplace so that they are subject to any ridicule by their fellow workers. You avoid the scenario where you are saying that someone has to go back to school to become literate.

The process of doing it in the workplace has been very successful. It comes back to what I noted before, that we need a more holistic approach. It is no good if someone has the skills to operate a particular piece of equipment but has problems because he is not functional in regard to literacy or numeracy. Increasingly we take the view that there must be a holistic approach. As the honourable member probably knows, we also fund literacy programs at the adult level and provide significant resources to assist those who lack literacy and numeracy skills and who wish to access vocational programs in TAFE. I am not familiar with the scheme the honourable member referred to, but it sounds very much like the sort of thing we are already doing at Mitsubishi, which is enterprise based literacy.

Mrs GERAGHTY: It is a Federal program.

The Hon. R.B. Such: We act as agent for the Commonwealth and use quite a bit of its money in literacy and numeracy-type programs. We are happy to be involved with and to support any program that delivers the goods.

Mrs GERAGHTY: If the State Government is running a project that is very similar to WELL, it would seem to be a duplication of a project if they did not complement each other or work together.

The Hon. R.B. Such: We are not in the business of duplicating anything. In fact, we have a specialist program group that makes sure that we do not. There is little likelihood that we would be duplicating what the Federal Government already does. That has been one of the successful aspects of South Australia's approach; that we work with the Commonwealth and not against it. We cooperate, and the Commonwealth often uses us as either total or partial delivery agents. I do not know whether the honourable member realises, but the Commonwealth has changed the funding arrangements for community based adult literacy programs, which is causing us some concern. It could well mean that in some communities some deserving programs miss out simply because they are not sophisticated in terms of accessing the tender process.

We have made those points to the Commonwealth, but we are still very much involved in front line delivery of literacy programs and also involved in those sorts of programs in the prison system in relation to Aboriginal people, in particular, for which we have responsibility.

Mrs GERAGHTY: On page 561 is the comment:

To construct a database which will retain statistical data pertaining to the number of Aboriginal persons employed within the public sector.

And we are talking here about creating further employment. I support any commitment to encourage or assist Aboriginal persons into the workplace. However, some Aboriginal people within the community may find some difficulties at having records of race being kept in such a form. What other information would be recorded and what precautions will the Government put in place to protect the privacy of individuals?

The Hon. R.B. Such: They will all be subject to the privacy requirements. It is an initiative that has come from the Aboriginal group within the department itself. It is not something that others have foisted or have sought to foist upon them. One of the difficult aspects of targeting people is knowing first of all who you are trying to target. If you want some indication of how people are accessing the public service in terms of employment you need some statistical information. I acknowledge the concern the member may have that there could be some infringement on people's privacy. This initiative is coming from the Aboriginal Employment and Training section. I guess that the department and the rest of us would like to see improved progress in terms of the employment of Aboriginal people, even though in South Australia we have done better than most other States.

Mr Strickland: This is an awkward area, and in the past the way we have collected statistics in this area throughout the public sector has been by people nominating themselves as Aboriginal and providing the information themselves. There is always an element of undercounting for those who do not wish to identify. All this project does is satisfy the Commonwealth Government's requirements for returns of information which takes that information and puts it into a programmatic form so it is held on a single PC at the particular branch the Minister has been referring to. Aboriginal people themselves have provided the information and it is their people who are interacting with them. As the Minister has indicated, we are doing all we can to protect their privacy.

Mrs GERAGHTY: We were talking about TAFE and the training restaurants. I have a particular interest in Celia's at Tea Tree Gully. Earlier this year there was some talk about that wonderful facility that we all frequent on numerous occasions being withdrawn. Will it be withdrawn?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I can tell you that there is no suggestion from anyone with any authority in the department that Celia's cease. I cannot understand why anyone would suggest it should cease. One of the exciting things in South Australia—and I think the industry is to be commended—is that the restaurant/hotel industry has supported those training restaurants. They could have taken a narrow, parochial view and said, 'Look we do not want any competition.' To their credit they have said, 'It is not a threat; we encourage and support them.' As a result, in South Australia we have the best quality and value meals anywhere in Australia.

It is a direct consequence of a forward looking approach by the restaurateurs and hoteliers to not only allow these competing restaurants to exist but to actually support them. We have Celia's, Martinhas, Regency, and we will soon have a flash one down south. As well as that we have smaller versions in some regional centres. I think they are marvellous facilities not only because of the training they provide but they provide a lot of good public relations for TAFE as well

as fine meals and wines. If it is to be closed it will be over my dead body.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Recently I noticed an article in the *Finn Review* and I am sorry I am unable to provide a copy. The discussion was on an acknowledged skill shortage that will occur in the future. I understand that that is hypothetical; however, I understand that there will be a shortage of skills in some areas. What commitment is the Government giving in dollar terms to assist minimising the skill shortage that may occur?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is not easy to give a precise dollar figure, but I think there are emerging skill shortages in terms of the electronics industry, and we are trying to address that right now. We have, via the Commonwealth, growth moneys, the principal purpose of which is to address changing training needs and in particular likely shortages. I have not only had the department focussing on what we can do in terms of making sure there are no shortages of skilled people but it is also sending a message hopefully to industry that they need to make sure they are not in a position where they will not have skilled staff. The wise employers have already taken steps to address the question. People who can predict the future in terms of skill shortages precisely are pretty rare, and work force planning has always been a pretty tricky occupation. There could be a skill shortage in some areas if industry does not respond quickly and get people in place, because you cannot train a lot of these people overnight.

The other serious need is to ensure that we have enough young trained people coming through the system because, whether it is the public or private sector, our work force is greying rapidly. The serious problem there is not only one of extra or additional growth, but it is also of mother nature catching up with all of us. We are finding that the average age of teachers, for example, is close to 45. If something is not done in terms of training then literally we face the prospect of a dad's army—and I do not mean that in any derogatory sense—not in terms of lack of skill but more in terms of age profile. It is a very important issue that has to be addressed throughout Australia. It is one that involves the Commonwealth as well because you can train people in one State and before you know it they can border hop. With this movement between States you can have a skill surplus here one minute and a shortage the next.

If we do not train enough of our own people, particularly youth, and find that down the track we have to bring people from overseas then the community will be justifiably outraged and angry. The signal is that industry must train. I have made sure that in our department—and I am sure through the State training profile—that these training needs are recognised and that we are not caught short.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I return to higher education in association with TAFE. In the Liberal Party policy it talked about increasing access to university places where there is community demand and industry need for more trained professionals. The Minister has clarified that there will be no State funds in that area. It is also said that it is Liberal Party policy—and I certainly salute this because the Labor Party was doing it—to encourage all institutes to build links with universities within their geographical area.

I am aware that in the South-East College of TAFE, in Mount Gambier, there were strong links with Deakin University, a Victorian university that is a major international provider of distance education. I know the University of South Australia was involved also through the South-East campus. Will the Minister detail what is being done to further

those links, because it seems to me that we have a system of higher education in South Australia with Adelaide University being essentially in the metropolitan area, apart from the Roseworthy campus, Flinders being on the Bedford Park site, and the University of South Australia with six campuses, one in Whyalla, and one in Salisbury East, which is to be phased out?

When we looked at the analysis of where people go to university, it shocked me to see the divergence between the eastern suburbs and the northern suburbs. I expected there to be a difference, but the difference in terms of university participation was stark. It was even more so when you looked out to rural areas. We have an outstanding TAFE network of buildings and campuses, most of which are not used at the weekends. Is there any expansion of university provision using TAFE facilities?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I must say that I do not think that it has been made all that easy for country people to access higher education programs. That is reflected clearly in the lower participation rates in country areas. In the South-East, Deakin has been very active. In some ways—and it is one of the few times I am somewhat critical of our local universities—I do not think they have been vigorous enough in getting out to the country regions. We certainly can assist in the provision of physical infrastructure in regional and country areas. I have been advocating for a while that the universities, in conjunction with TAFE, should utilise those TAFE facilities to provide at least first year level university programs in country areas on Eyre Peninsula, in the Riverland and build on what is done in the South-East.

Queensland has been doing quite a bit of this sort of work, and it avoids the problem of first year students at the tertiary level having to move to the city at the same time as they are changing from secondary to tertiary study. I do not want to be too critical of the universities because it is a bit of a mixed performance. They have programs linking, for example, the Pitjantjatjara lands, through the University of South Australia, but I am not aware of any significant effort by the University of Adelaide or Flinders to do much in terms of distance education or open learning. I think there is room to do a lot more and to utilise some of the technology that is available.

As the honourable member would know, we have a very extensive video conferencing network. We are putting in three new centres in the South-East, at Millicent, Naracoorte and Mt Gambier. We have already facilities in the Riverland, Eyre Peninsula and Nuriootpa, etc. So, the basis is there for the universities to access and work in conjunction with TAFE, so that country people can more readily access tertiary programs.

In terms of linkages with TAFE, there are many positive things happening. With respect to the ICHM project, the University of South Australia is working with us and has agreed to contribute to a degree program in which students accessing ICHM could complete a Bachelor of Hotel Management. The University of Adelaide is linked in through TAFE to provide a graduate entrepreneurial incentive scheme that is building on the links which already exist between the University of Adelaide and TAFE in respect of engineering. I think there is a lot of scope for additional linkages. There is the Australian Information Engineering Technology Centre, in which we are involved, which includes the three universities in terms of information technology and high tech electronics.

There is still a long way to go, but at long last more is happening in terms of working together. I still feel that

country people are being short-changed in terms of accessing higher education programs. I have taken that issue up with the Vice Chancellors via the committee on which TAFE is represented to see if we can work together and ensure that country people in particular can access locally some of the range of programs offered by the universities. Anything that the universities can do to expand that network I am certainly keen to support.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I concur with that. I think the University of South Australia is doing quite well, particularly through its distance education program as well as its Whyalla campus, and there are a few annexes, including the one at Port Lincoln. I was very disappointed to see the proposal by Flinders University for courses at Port Pirie and the South-East which fell through. The universities are very keen on going offshore and overseas. Indeed, Flinders University has a relationship with Sunway College in Kuala Lumpur where students do their matriculation and first or even second year of Flinders degrees and then come to Flinders University to finish, and graduate actually in Kuala Lumpur where there is a graduation ceremony, which I have attended, and which is enormously appreciated by families.

There should also be a responsibility on Flinders and Adelaide to try to do more in country areas. I certainly picked up at various country areas around the State a degree of resentment that people felt that the universities were forgetting about them. There was generally a strong appreciation of TAFE and what it does in a whole range of areas in country regions, but certainly any encouragement that can be given for universities to use TAFE, particularly with the video conferencing network, is welcome.

You mentioned new video conferencing facilities being opened up in the South-East. What about in the Pitjantjatjara lands? Has any extension through the Coober Pedy TAFE been envisaged? Is there a TAFE channel unit or video conferencing unit at Coober Pedy?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Not currently at Coober Pedy. I have a strong commitment to expand that network. We are in the process of installing a video conferencing facility at Ceduna, which clearly the Aboriginal community can access there. We are putting one in at Berri, and there are the three in the South-East that I have mentioned. My view is that the great benefits of video conferencing will accrue to some of the smaller communities and country towns. Traditionally, people have thought of the major regional centres, but in many ways it will be the smaller communities and smaller country towns that will benefit most from that technology.

It has changed dramatically. Whereas recently it required 48 separate telephone lines to operate, it is now down to two, and the technology is becoming more and more sophisticated. Also, for people such as the Aboriginal communities, satellite delivery will be a very exciting innovation, not only for TAFE but also for universities and the secondary and primary school system. We have to guard against what seems to be happening in some States, where they do not want to share their educational programs, but want to go down a path of requiring others to have a special encoder or decoder. That is a very negative approach. The community has paid for it, and to try to block stuff off at the State borders is a bit like the old railway gauge mentality.

So, a lot of advances are being made, but we still have to be careful that parochialism does not kill off what is going to be the biggest revolution in delivery of training and education that we have seen for many years.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: TAFE was involved in building a facility on the Pitjantjatjara lands to assist the community, particularly women members of the community in Ernabella, in terms of a whole range of domestic training, such as cooking, and so on. Has there been an expansion of that program? What are we actually doing as a State in the Pitjantjatjara lands in terms of TAFE provision?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In the current financial year we are planning to put in a completely new facility at Ernabella. We have had quite constructive linkages with the school that exists at Ernabella, and the University of South Australia has a facility there as well. One of the exciting possibilities for those communities involves programs which will give, and indeed enhance, the skill base for crafts, which then can be sold out of the area to tourists, and so on. We certainly have a presence in Ernabella, as we do in all the communities up there—Amata, Indulkana, Fregon, and the Umuwa Centre in which we are partners with ATSIC.

Our people working in those areas are very dedicated. There is a lot of potential in terms of the provision of training, but there are still a lot of what I call sad activities in some of those areas in relation to petrol sniffing, and we have to provide some real alternatives and opportunities for the people to have genuine self-management and self-control over their lives via the training option.

Via the Port Augusta Kickstart operation, training will be provided in small business as well as in the enhancement of traditional crafts for the people in the Pitjantjatjara lands, so craft activities have a lot of potential. I inspected their craft centre when I was up there recently and purchased some of their products. It was interesting that the person running the centre had an American accent. The potential in relation to their crafts has not been anywhere near realised as yet.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: You mentioned a satellite provision as well as video conferencing. Has there been any greater use of *Imparja* television by TAFE in order to deliver programs to the Pitjantjatjara lands in particular?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Not really, because, as the honourable member would realise, it is a scattered population and delivery of television to those areas is very expensive. I have met with people from *Imparja* to look at ways of using television to promote community health and other positive activities, but at the end of the day it comes down to the sheer cost of using that expensive medium for a scattered population.

The other aspect that plagues our society in terms of television is that it is a passive-type delivery, and we are keener to have a more interactive situation. So, we have had discussions with *Imparja*, but at this stage nothing has eventuated because it comes back to the old problem of the sheer cost of providing a short-term program over television. It really comes down to the dollar cost and, if we had unlimited funds, we would make some use of it. Also, as I have said, it has the disadvantage that it is passive and we want more interactive activities.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The Centre for Applied Learning Systems based at the Adelaide College of TAFE produces some world-class material. I am aware that it is an expensive operation, and I am also aware that CALS has played a major role through the video conferencing experience in which we as a State lead Australia. What are the plans for the Centre of Applied Learning Systems? I know there were problems in relation to the provision by Governments of various persuasions that all of CALS material has to be sold through the South Australian Film Corporation, and that this was seen as

a bit of an impediment to their selling and raising funds. Are there any plans to expand the use of CALS simultaneously with the greater provision of video conferencing?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The short answer is 'Yes.' The problem to which the honourable member referred of copyright and the fact that we are required to operate via the South Australian Film Corporation has now been effectively resolved and it may, in the long-term, require a change to the Act covering the film corporation. However, the stumbling block has been removed, and it was a significant impediment because the return from the production of materials did not accrue to the institute or to that centre. Now that that impediment has been removed by the agreement of the Minister for the Arts we can now get on and expand that operation.

One of the most notable programs that has emanated from that has been *Open for Business*, which occurred in conjunction with Channel 9 and which has now gone national. The potential for that centre is enormous. I see it going on from strength to strength. We regard it as one of our very important centres within the TAFE network.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Proceeding in the area of open learning, one good thing coming out of the negotiations for establishing ANTA which at times were fairly torrid and which went on for over a year was a bid by Queensland to have the headquarters of ANTA based in Brisbane. That had my support because we wanted to ensure that ANTA did not become the captive of the deep bureaucracy in Canberra. The look on the faces of various DEET officials when approval was given for it to be based in Brisbane rather than Canberra was something that I will always cherish—there was a look of stunned silence around the room. I noted that a number of officials actually moved to sunnier climes from Canberra.

As part of the negotiated deal, I said, 'Okay, we are happy to support its going to Brisbane if the Open Learning Corporation comes to South Australia and be located at either Science Park or Technology Park.' That in fact happened. What is the Minister's view on the progress of the Open Learning Corporation? How is it interacting with the local DETAFE operations, and does the Minister believe that it is currently adding value to our community and State?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This month the Open Learning Technology Corporation gets up speed, if you like. We accept that quite a bit of political activity resulted in its being split between Monash and Adelaide, but that is a fact of life. South Australia has the delivery side of the Open Learning Corporation. We are working very closely with the corporation. In fact, within the next few days I am meeting with the people at the Open Learning Technology Corporation. Any innovative schemes take a while to get up to full speed. Delivery via satellite, for example, is very expensive.

I am confident that the corporation will deliver the goods. We are part shareholders in it, anyway, so we desire that it succeed. We are not interested in being there in name only. Whilst we did not get the whole open learning travelling road show, we got part of it. A few things need sorting out, including exclusivity in terms of delivery. One or two States are saying that their programs are their programs and they do not want other people to be naughty and look at them. That was the point I was alluding to before about the railway gauge mentality. Those sort of difficulties can be ironed out. To answer the honourable member's question, I am confident that that corporation will deliver the goods. We will not sit back and hope it happens: we will be making sure, as far as

we can, that it delivers the goods, because people in the community want to see the benefit of those programs.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Earlier, Minister, you mentioned negotiations with the Minister for the Arts. In relation to the Helpmann Academy, what is the future of the Grote Street site? Is it up for sale?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The Grote Street site is owned by DECS. We have several options, one of which is to seek to buy that site. Many people interstate are saying, 'Look, you would be crazy to move because it is a lovely site.' Any heritage area is very expensive to restore and maintain. We have other options, such as going in with the University of South Australia on the West End project. Some interest has also been shown by the other two universities. The Helpmann process has been incredibly successful in allowing people working in the arts and the various institutions not only to get to know each other but also actually to cooperate and work together in a way that was seemingly impossible even a year ago.

The whole Helpmann Academy proposal has advanced very rapidly. I was told that the linkage of the music programs in TAFE with the universities, the possibility of the North Adelaide School of Art linking with the South Australian School of Art, and the drama and technical sides being more closely linked was impossible and would bring about the end of the world as we know it. However, it all seems to be advancing very rapidly.

There are several sad things in relation to the Helpmann Academy: one is that Sheila Helpmann did not live long enough to see the big intake and the celebrations for 1995. The second thing is that the day she was due to sign significant arrangements with us was literally the day she died. As I understand it, all the Helpmann money has gone to the Australian Ballet, the Victorian College of the Arts, and the National Institute of Dramatic Art. A Helpmann Foundation was set up, but whether or not we can get any of that money I am not sure. Sheila Helpmann was to have been a co-patron of the Helpmann Academy. The irony is that we set up an academy named after the family. Irrespective of that and the fact that there may not be money flowing to us is unfortunate, but that will not deter us from continuing on.

It is very sad that Sheila Helpmann suffered a stroke, never recovered and was unable to sign what she intended to sign, which would have provided some additional tangible benefits. To get back to your point, Grote Street is owned by DECS; it would like us either to pay for it or move out. We do not want to jeopardise the programs, but it confronts us with a challenge of providing a first class facility either there or somewhere else to maintain and enhance the arts training program.

The Helpmann process has been so successful that we are at the stage where we need to focus on a facility; we must sort out the Grote Street facility. The concept of Helpmann is focused not on buildings but on cooperation and interrelationships, not creating Taj Mahals. The most beneficial aspect has been the cooperation between the institutions and the people involved in arts training. It has been a most successful process, and I acknowledge the work David Meldrum has done as the facilitator. TAFE provided the money to help bring about the facilitation, and now the universities are being very supportive and have provided on-site accommodation, and so on. Once again, if people work together you can achieve a lot.

[Sitting suspended from 6.2 to 7.30 p.m.]

Membership:

Mr Scalzi substituted for Mr Buckby.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I table the DETAFE submission to the Audit Commission which was the subject of a question earlier. It is a lengthy document, so we would not want to incorporate it in *Hansard*.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: It cannot be tabled, but the attendants will arrange for it to be circulated among members.

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is available for the Leader to look at. He requested it.

Ms STEVENS: Is the Minister aware of the difficulties that have emerged in institutes following the separation of lecturers and their replacement by part-time instructors, and can he elaborate on them?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am not aware of any specific or detailed difficulties. I am aware that the TSP process put some pressure on the Whyalla campus of the Spencer institute in particular, because many of the lecturers there took the opportunity to return to the city, but it certainly has not been brought to my attention that there are any significant problems as a result of that TSP process.

Mr Strickland: I am not aware of any specific problems, either. The directors of the institutes have been managing the process, and nothing has been brought to my attention that indicates that they are not able to fulfil our plans and directions as a consequence of this.

Ms STEVENS: My second question relates to advanced skills lecturer awards. How is implementation in the department going; how many people have got them? What is a general update on that?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There have been 520 applications; 435 have been successful, leaving 85 unsuccessful. I do not know whether you are seeking more information than that.

Ms STEVENS: I am wondering about the resource implications of the processes and the effect on the general running of the college activities.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will let Mr Carter answer that.

Mr Carter: A lot of work was done by the lecturers themselves in terms of preparing their submissions; there is no doubt about that. That work should have been in their own time and should not have impacted on the outputs with respect to their work at the institutes. Certainly, with 520 applying there has been a lot of documentation, and some departmental committees have been assessing those applications, so certainly some resources have been tied up in that assessment. However, but the bulk of that is now through and that sort of activity will be minimal from now on.

Ms STEVENS: Does the Minister recognise the value of women's studies certificate courses as the first stage in vocational training pathways for women?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes; we are strongly committed to providing programs which enable women to access training opportunities and in particular to access the paid work force if that is their wish. What I have suggested is that I believe the term 'women's studies' is probably not the most accurate representation of what those programs are about. I have suggested that the department might consider a more appropriate name because, as you would appreciate, as a training organisation we are not into studies of any kind in the university sense, whether they be liberal studies or whatever. What we have tried to do with those programs is ensure that they are tightly focused on employment and training outcomes. Most of them have been very good; some have been excellent. There have been some examples where particular

programs within a women's studies course have been inappropriate, for example, a unit which looked at what the community thought of women playing various sporting activities. I do not think many people would consider that a central focus for a mainstream TAFE course should be to look at that sort of issue. There have been one or two other examples. They are a minority within the whole spectrum.

The point is that, whether it is women's studies or any other special focus program, we are interested in outcomes which assist the client group, so it has been a question of focusing and refocusing on training and employment outcomes. I certainly accept that special bridging programs are needed which take into account the fact that someone may have been out of the study mode or out of the work force for a long time. Therefore, there is no intention to remove or downgrade courses which provide for that transition to the paid work force or training opportunities. In relation to any of our special introductory programs, we want them to be tightly focused so that they provide outcomes for the client group, and that has been generally accepted by people within TAFE.

Ms STEVENS: Do you keep any data in relation to where students from women's studies courses go and their pathways?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I know, for example, from the course that was run at the Panorama campus that they had very significant outcomes in terms of accessing university study. People are not required to tell us where they are heading, but we would have a pretty good idea of outcomes from within TAFE. The CEO advises me that most go on to study at the university, undertake further TAFE study or to employment outcomes. We do have some statistical information, but whether the indication that a student may give is actually matched in reality down the track is out of our control.

Ms STEVENS: The feedback we have had says that most people have used it as a step in the pathway towards further education and training of one sort or another.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, a significant number. It raises an interesting question whether the role of TAFE is to prepare people to go to university. That is a very fundamental question, and many people have used it as a stepping stone to university. I would have to say that the principal role of TAFE is not to prepare people for university, although it is certainly a more desirable outcome than people not being able to achieve what they want. There is no doubt that the programs have helped and do help a lot of women, and we have no intention of reducing our commitment to the provision for women. In fact, we are keen to expand it and we are doing that, particularly in country areas where a lot of women on farms are assessing our programs. Recently I was in Cleve, and quite a lot of women there are assessing training opportunities through TAFE. So, we should not think of it simply as a city-based focus; it is very much a statewide focus, but at the end of the day we want women to access the paid work force if they wish and to give them the training that enables them to do that.

Mrs GERAGHTY: The prisoner education program was mentioned earlier. I think last year the Minister expressed opposition to the transfer of prisoner education programs to the Department of Correctional Services. What steps has the present Minister taken or will he be taking to return these programs to the control of DETAFE?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is not up to me entirely to try to seek to do that. The Correctional Services Department took

control of most of the programs prior to my becoming Minister. What we currently control are the Aboriginal training programs. I have met with Correctional Services, both the Minister and the head of their training section, Bernard Leverington, and in recent days I have been able to talk to Simon Crean, the Federal Minister, to see whether the Federal Government will assist in the training of prisoners. He has assured me that that is the case, contrary to information that we were given before. Clearly, if people are in prison it is an ideal opportunity for them to access training opportunities, and something in the order of probably half the prisoners have a deficiency in terms of literacy and numeracy. If they come out of prison without any improvement they are likely to run the risk of going back in, or having to be picked up in terms of cost, even if they do not go back into prison, by the Department of Social Security. So it is in the Commonwealth's interest to assist.

We have contributed to some of the programs, for example, at the women's prison. They were a Kickstart initiative, where women were given basic training in horticulture, and welding activities was another project, where they built a carport. Some of the women at the Northfield Women's Complex are involved in training dogs, I think mainly for the blind and the deaf. They are incredibly dedicated to the care of these animals. In fact, they choose to sleep outside of their own accommodation to ensure that these pups make it through the night. We also have in Yatala itself a new program in relation to rare and possibly endangered native birds (and I do not mean gaol birds, but endangered birds). I have seen that project which has only just started. That is being undertaken by inmates there.

There is a lot more to be done and one of the things we can do if we get some money from the Commonwealth is to look possibly at the provision of a video conferencing facility, because that way the prisoners can access programs that are normally only available outside. A lot of the equipment in the prison system is outmoded. For example, some of the training for women is somewhat historic in that it will not necessarily help them to get modern-day employment. The Minister for Correctional Services is very cooperative. In fact, he has just made contact saying that any way we can assist would be welcome. So with the support now of the Commonwealth and in relation to its existing funding for programs interstate, such as Second Chance, we will try to access that money and see whether we can make a real impact on training opportunities within the prison system.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Approximately what level of financial commitment do you expect the Commonwealth to contribute?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is pretty early days, because I only met with Simon Crean last week and then followed it up within the same week, last Friday. I think the current expenditure for Aboriginal programs in prisons via us is about half a million dollars. When one considers that the remainder of the prison population, the European population and the Asian population, gets about the same amount, when clearly they are a much larger group, there is a big issue to be addressed there, and there is also the question of sharing of resources and all that sort of thing. To really make a dent in it, we would want something annually, I guess, closer to \$1 million. That is a ballpark figure. We may not get that much but we will certainly be arguing strongly for a sizeable allocation.

Mrs GERAGHTY: If I may, Minister, I would like to talk about the logo for the department. Has the department

engaged a consultant to design a new logo for institutes to use on their letterhead? Who is the consultant and what has this work cost to date?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The current TAFE system logo which was commissioned under the former Government cost something in the order of \$92 000. What we are trying to do at the moment is to refine that slightly, not throw out that logo but modify it slightly so that it does at least incorporate TAFE SA in it, without detracting from it. If you recall, the logo has a shadow at the bottom of the Grecian pillar, and I believe, with suitable design input, it can be slightly modified. We have been getting some assistance from a designer who is in private enterprise, but basically it is on the understanding that there is no significant financial cost, and we might be looking ultimately at giving that person possibly up to \$1 000. It is very much on the basis of 'Let's see if this person can help us out,' rather than any formalised contract. What I have also said is that TAFE institutes can use their own logo as well. What we are trying to refine and get is a Statewide system logo for TAFE and also one Australia-wide, which obviously is not solely our responsibility. However, if we are going to market TAFE we need a logo which tells people that it is TAFE and TAFE SA. As I say, in terms of this assistance that we are getting from an individual the likely cost will be absolutely minimal. It is really on more of a favour basis rather a set financial arrangement

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: So, Minister, you have not actually employed a logologist?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I say, it was an offer from someone at a graduation who said, 'Let me have a shot at it.' There is no obligations on our part to pay them anything. In the end, we might take them for an extravagant dinner here at Parliament House. It is just at that level. It is just a generous opportunity for someone to see what they can do. Also, at the Croydon Institute of TAFE, the staff and possibly the students there are having a go to see whether they, without destroying the basic logo, can clarify this question of where to put in TAFE SA. That is how basic it is. It is not doing a new logo but seeing whether they can put TAFE SA somewhere in there, because it is not currently on the logo. So that is the long and the short of it. On logos, I can tell the member that as a result of a competition from students, which I think cost us the princely sum of \$250, plus a donation of art materials from a private company and some reworking by the Croydon staff and students, we now have a logo for Youth SA. I am not one noted for spending a lot of money on these things.

Mrs GERAGHTY: So the Minister is saying that the logo in fact has cost very little. The reason I am coming back to this is that I had understood that there had been proposals by the department for a new logo that the Minister had rejected, and I was wondering whether he actually supported the use of the acronym 'TAFE' and, if there were going to be a new logo, when it would be finalised. However, the Minister is saying that that is not the case.

The Hon. R.B. Such: We have not rejected the acronym 'TAFE'. What I did when I came to office was to change it from Technical and Further Education to Training and Further Education because, whilst we are still involved in technical activities, training is a more generic and accurate term. The logo was very expensive. As I said, the previous Government spent \$92 000 on it, and we do not intend to throw it out. I do not believe that in many ways it depicts what TAFE is on about, because our involvement in classical Greek studies is very small, and the logo suggests a broken

Grecian pillar or World Series Cricket. We are trying to make the most of what exists, and if individual TAFE institutes want to have their own logo identity as well as a system-wide one, they are at liberty to do so and I have made that clear to them.

Mrs GERAGHTY: And they would bear the cost of that?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Many of them would already have their own design. We are encouraging institutes to market themselves and to become known for their activities and have the benefit of a system-wide approach, whilst having some local autonomy, so we do not intend to restrict them in terms of something like their own individual logo. We will have a system-wide one within a matter of weeks, hopefully, which they can use as well.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Page 551 of the Program Estimates outlines the policy of providing for the increased role of industries and enterprises in planning the public provision of vocational education. What processes have been established to ensure that this policy is implemented?

The Hon. R.B. Such: You asked questions earlier about the ITABs, and the ITAB network is very important in terms of giving advice on where training should be heading for individual industries. We also have the State Training Profile, which is the responsibility of the interim VEET board, soon to be the VEET board, under the legislation. On that VEET board and currently on the interim one we have significant industry representation, and all those processes should result in industry's making its training needs well known. Apart from that, we have institute councils, on which we have industry representation. We also have individual companies and others that make representation directly to me and to those other bodies.

So, there is a whole range of methods by which industry can make its voice heard. I am fairly confident that the advice that is reflected in the State Training Profile is the advice of industry. I guess we can always try to make the processes more effective, but I am fairly confident that at the moment we are getting that good advice.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: In which institutes have there been reductions in State funded activities so far in 1994?

The Hon. R.B. Such: You mean in training programs?

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Basically, in terms of funding reductions that have resulted in reductions in output in terms of programs.

The Hon. R.B. Such: In the normal course of events there will be some fluctuation between institutes because of changes in demand for training, such as the Murray Institute, which is responsible for providing most of the training for the wine industry. For its courses for the wine industry the numbers are high, and its programs in that area are chock-a-block. You will get a variation anyway, and if there was not a variation we could be justifiably criticised for not responding to changes in demand. But I am not aware of any specifics of where an institute has been cut back for any reason other than variation in program offerings or meeting training needs.

Mr Carter: Basically, the institute budgets for 1994-95. The Minister referred to the \$5 million reduction that the department received in 1994-95, and that was achieved primarily through the TSPs; the reductions at institutes have primarily been related to the TSPs. They were managed because of our maintenance of effort obligations on the basis that TSPs were given only to people who were not directly involved or who did not have a high teaching load; who could not be replaced very easily through PTI or in administrative,

overhead areas that did not impact on the production of student hours. They are the only reductions that have been made to institute budgets, unless there has been some program rationalisation where there may have been movement from one institute to another.

Of course, all the institutes will receive a proportion of the growth money, again depending on the program priorities. We do not have those exact figures, but they could certainly be provided to the honourable member if he requires them.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I do not think that will be necessary. I am aware of how often questions from Estimates Committees, unless particularly pertinent, can waste valuable activity inside organisations when we would rather have people out teaching, so I will not pursue that any more. That is a satisfactory answer. The message I am getting from people both in Canberra and outside is that there is a feeling that, if the South Australian Government continues to substitute reductions in State funding with Commonwealth growth funds, it will end up being financially punished by the Commonwealth under the ANTA agreement. I am aware that measurements of outputs and inputs are not necessarily financial, but the message that I am hearing from Canberra is that there is a feeling that in South Australia there is a substitution of reducing in State funding hoping that it can be matched with increases in growth funds from the Commonwealth. Obviously, there is a sting in the tail under the ANTA agreement. Is the Minister confident that that can be negotiated without any retribution to the excellent work that TAFE does in our community?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, I am, and I am absolutely committed to maintenance of effort. As I pointed out earlier today, in effect we have a guarantee from the Premier and Cabinet that we can draw on additional funds if necessary to maintain that effort. I am very mindful of the need to maintain effort and I am not aware of anything that could prejudice that. Certainly, there is no sort of operation under way whereby we are seeking to minimise our contribution and substitute Commonwealth money. All our funding is subject to audit, so it would be a self-defeating process to try to play funny games, because we have to submit our figures (which are currently being checked by the Auditor-General) to make sure that they are in accordance with the requirements of ANTA. So, it would be a silly process to pretend that we will fool the Commonwealth or ANTA by sleight of hand, because the day of reckoning will come.

There is certainly no desire on our part to play funny games. I am in the business of trying to expand TAFE, not cut it back. As I pointed out earlier, our numbers in TAFE are actually greater than they were prior to the TSP process because we are expanding in growth areas.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: I refer to capital works. I was very delighted to be invited to the opening of the new Salisbury and Port Adelaide campuses which I think are outstanding. As the member for a slice of Salisbury, which includes the Salisbury campus, I know it is already making a major and positive contribution to the Salisbury community. I thought the Port Adelaide TAFE, even though I had seen the plans, models and diagrams, was of an extraordinary standard and it is of great credit to the people in TAFE who work in terms of developing with the Commonwealth both the ideas and the designs for those colleges. I am aware of the rolling sort of forward plan including the extensions to the Noarlunga campus and also to the city campus of the Adelaide Institute. Can the Minister provide a progress report

of where we are going in terms of capital works over the next three years in terms of new institutes?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We have a commitment to relocate the State horticulture training centre to Urrbrae Agricultural High School. We hope that that work will start early to mid 1995. It will be an integrated development with DECS with something of the order of a \$9 million contribution via TAFE. We will have in one location not only secondary school agriculture but TAFE, and across the road we will have university plus postgraduate research. It will be an outstanding horticulture, floriculture and viticulture centre. That is something we are strongly committed to.

We are also seeking, in conjunction with the Mount Barker council, to provide an expanded TAFE facility to include a joint use library on the existing site at Mount Barker. We are currently trying to sort out the design constraint there which is effectively that of money. We are finetuning that project. I have mentioned Mount Gambier which is a huge project due to start very soon. In the longer term we need a significant upgrade of Regency Park. That is not currently in the forward estimates but will be something required. We need to relocate or purchase and upgrade the Grote Street CPA site, if not there, then elsewhere and that is a significant commitment.

We also need to upgrade facilities in places like Clare and Kadina, and provide something at Maitland. Wudinna is another one where we need to not overlook the needs of people in some of the small country centres. Victor Harbor is another opportunity because TAFE owns very significant land in Victor Harbor and I know that the local member there is very keen for a new TAFE facility to be developed there. That could well be in conjunction with the education senior secondary school complex. There are a lot of areas where we are keen to expand and develop. Currently, on the drawing board there are projects about to start which will represent significant expenditure.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Is the Point Pearce TAFE annex still functioning and are there any plans to upgrade that facility which is very important to the local Aboriginal community?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, there are. I was due to visit Point Pearce recently but, as sometimes happens when there is a funeral on in those communities, you can understand that out of respect I visited Maitland and not Point Pearce. It is functioning and it raises the question of how we cater also for the needs of the people in Maitland because the council and the local residents there have asked if TAFE can have a presence in Maitland *per se*. It would require some negotiation if there was a linkage with the Point Pearce facility. Some money was spent recently—I do not know the exact amount—on Point Pearce, but I am told by some of the Aboriginal people who accompanied me up north and who were from Point Pearce that it is working and the facility is functional.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Are there any plans for closures of campuses in the next year or two?

The Hon. R.B. Such: No. In regard to the CPA in Grote Street, and depending on where we end up technically, it is not a closure of the offering; it may be a better facility. Similarly, if the music school in TAFE joined with the conservatorium (about which there is some suggestion at the moment) then that would clearly lead to a closure of that site but not a closure of that program. The same could apply to the Aboriginal centre which is part of the Adelaide Institute annex. The new building in Light Square will provide for

Aboriginal people in an enclave and mainstream arrangement. Once again, the programs will not diminish but the actual site may be closed off.

In Aldgate we own a site which we are currently seeking to dispose of in order to generate money to expand at Mount Barker. At the moment, in conjunction with the local council, we are getting expressions of interest to see if those buildings and so on can be retained for use by the community on a purchase basis by the community and the local council. That would be another site that would close, but the art program I have already announced will continue at Mount Barker. I am not aware of any other proposed programs, but from time to time sites may be closed because we have built a better facility such as Port Adelaide. The Grange site and the Weill Street site at Mount Gambier will eventually be disposed of but only because we are building something bigger and better down the road.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: What is happening with regard to the women's employment strategy which had support from both the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the economic development area, the Department of Labour, and DETAFE (although it was actually physically and spiritually located within DETAFE)?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I assume you are talking about what was called WESMAC (Women's Employment Strategy Ministerial Advisory Committee). That has been reformulated into what has the acronym MACTEW (Ministerial Advisory Committee on Training and Employment for Women). One of the difficulties with WESMAC was that it answered to three or four Ministers and received funding for three or four departments. It spent most of its time trying to secure that funding.

The new committee will be within, and the secretarial support will come from, DETAFE. They will provide advice to me. I think the new arrangement which has been developed in conjunction with the people involved in that advisory committee, including Dr Helen Connole and Tony Flynn as the Executive Officer in particular, but others as well, were agreeable to a tightening of the focus and a more realistic set of tasks so that they could achieve meaningful advice. I am looking to appoint people to that new committee almost immediately because that transition in terms of name and the tightening of the focus have now been done. It is really a matter of appointing people to that committee. That process was carried out in consultation with the Minister for the Status of Women, and she and her advisers are happy with the new arrangement. We are therefore about to proceed down the path of appointing to that committee people who may well include many of those who were on the previous committee.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: With respect to the Equal Opportunities Officer within DETAFE and the equal opportunities group, have there been any changes?

The Hon. R.B. Such: No more significant changes are planned at the moment. What we did was a refocusing because we had a lot of people in head office. Miriam Daley heads up that area which is focused on equal opportunities. I remain very much committed to equal opportunity within DETAFE. Each TAFE institute has an equal opportunities officer.

My approach to it is a very simple one: we require people to provide programs and act in a way that does not disadvantage, discriminate against or make it difficult for people to be involved in TAFE programs. Essentially the message from me and the CEO is that we do not tolerate discrimination, whether on the grounds of race or gender. We do not accept

harassment as being legitimate or part of the TAFE process. In short, I am very much committed to equal opportunity not only in the specific sense but also in the broader sense in allowing and encouraging people to access TAFE programs.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: The operation of the Noarlunga college theatre has been the subject of some speculation in the *Southern Times Messenger*. 'Government funding cuts threatens world class theatre' was the headline. I guess that future is in doubt because of a funding decision made in terms of DETAFE's contribution to that theatre. I understand from previous questions asked of the Minister that he regards the theatre as not part of the core or central business of TAFE and that if the southern community wants a theatre they will have to raise the funding themselves. Can there be some way of tidying things over in order perhaps to guarantee funding for the theatre until such a time as new funding arrangements for its continued operation are put in place. Are there any contingency plans to make sure that the people in the south are not faced with a closed theatre?

The Hon. R.B. Such: TAFE has undertaken at significant cost to continue the operation of the theatre until the end of this financial year. I think the honourable member may have been absent when I answered the question earlier. It costs TAFE close to \$200 000 per annum to maintain the theatre. We do not want to see it lost to the community. In fact, we are working hard to ensure that there is a community-based group to manage it and look after it, and that would include TAFE and local government representation because it is widely used. It is an excellent theatre, and I am strongly committed to doing all I can to ensure that that theatre is not only retained but also actively used. We are seeking at the moment to set up a group which can manage it because, as the honourable member pointed out, it is not central TAFE business at the moment to operate a theatre such as that. We are not running any training programs that require a theatre. It is too good an asset to be unused or have little use, so we are committed to providing (I think rather generously) extended breathing space to enable that committee to get operational and also to involve the Noarlunga council and the friends of the theatre. I am optimistic. I believe that theatre can and will survive, as I do not believe its potential has been fully explored. As the owners of it in TAFE, it has not been our business really to run it as a business or to fully explore all the options. Our people quite rightly are focused on training, not running theatres. That is not our speciality.

The Hon. M.D. RANN: Although there are still a few questions to be asked of the Minister, I would like to thank the Minister and his advisers, the Chair and all members for the way in which the Committee has been conducted. It has been conducted in a collegial fashion. I apologise for my frequent absences, but such is the nature of the day.

I would also like to say that it was an enormous privilege to be Minister of TAFE for three years. It is something that I regarded as a very special time in my professional career, both working with Peter Kirby and Kaye Schofield, and I am sure it would be equally so for the Minister with Andrew Strickland. Certainly, TAFE will continue to have bipartisan support from the Opposition.

Ms STEVENS: This question relates to the vocational preparation program. Concerns have been raised that South Australia may be dragging its feet when it comes to articulation arrangements for what used to be known as the ESL preparatory program. Have all relevant elements of the program review been completed and are they all on the national register?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am not aware that we are dragging our feet in terms of vocational preparation. We channel a significant amount of resources into the vocational preparation program. Since the beginning of last year, all curriculum offerings have been in accordance with the national framework of adult English language literacy and numeracy competence. We are planning an increase in expenditure in the ESL area from \$4.7 million this year to \$5 million plus.

I will take on notice the questions regarding the program review. I am not aware of any difficulties, but I will obtain an answer for the honourable member.

Ms STEVENS: The Minister mentioned an increased allocation of \$300 000 this year for the Helpmann Academy and the involvement of the three universities. What agreement has been reached with the universities in this regard; have they committed funds for this purpose; how will the academy operate; and who will manage it?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It will be managed under a joint arrangement between the three universities and TAFE. It is seen as a partnership between each contributing institution—a collegiate type approach. In relation to how it will operate, as I indicated previously, the focus will be not so much on buildings as on programs and offerings. As a result of the Helpmann process, we find that the institutions are readily cooperating. It has advanced so quickly that it is almost difficult to predict what will eventuate, because there has been this new era of cooperation, which is quite outstanding.

The universities are locked into a triennial funding arrangement. Now that the Helpmann Academy is under way, that funding will be able to come via the higher education sector, in part, and also through the creation of the Helpmann Foundation to which the private sector can contribute. Previously, it was a bit like the chicken and the egg—there was nothing to which people could donate—and the higher education sector could not contribute money to something that did not exist. Those things are about to happen.

Ms STEVENS: Will there be a rationalisation and development of courses now offered by the universities; will these courses offer a new level of excellence; and how will this be achieved?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That is the principal purpose. In South Australia, it is critical that we have excellence in arts training and a more coordinated approach in terms of what we offer, as well as in the marketing of those programs and their status. It will now be possible to market programs for the Helpmann Academy in a way that previously was not possible with the separate institutional approach.

In terms of actual course offerings, I take the view that it is not my business to tell participating institutions what to do or how to do it. This process has been successful because is non-threatening, non-bureaucratic and facilitative. What they eventually offer will be based on what they perceive as the needs of the arts industry. There will be cooperation, which I have hinted at several times tonight, between, say, the TAFE music offerings and the University of Adelaide Conservatorium and programs such as those offered at the North Adelaide School of Art and the South Australian School of Art at Underdale. I do not have with me the precise details, but I am happy for the honourable member to be given more detailed information, probably towards the end of the year. Some of those programs are now being finalised.

Ms STEVENS: How will the Helpmann Academy be promoted nationally and internationally?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Once again, that will come from the shared management responsibility of TAFE and the three

universities. I do not see my role as telling them how to market themselves. I think that will flow as a natural consequence of putting together this excellent range of arts training people and facilities, and I am sure that they will take on board people with the marketing expertise to promote their activities both here and overseas. One of the things that I have stressed in relation to the Helpmann Academy is that it should not be seen as an Adelaide-only activity; it must be seen as a South Australian activity, and country people and their arts training needs must not be overlooked. We need to see it as a South Australian-based academy, but one which will have a national and international focus as well.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Has the Government cut funds for adult education and, if so, by how much? Which campuses will be affected?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I assume the honourable member means adult community education leisure courses. TAFE has a varied approach because some institutes do not regard the provision of adult community education as part of their main activities; for example, the Adelaide Institute runs the Norwood Adult Community Education Centre at which you can learn Thai cooking and other things, but other institutes do not provide any adult community education programs specifically for leisure-type activities. However, those institutes which do not offer those courses usually encourage private providers to make those programs available. That is particularly important in country areas where people often look for that sort of activity, and where those programs act as a bridge towards more formal training. The proposed allocation for community adult education overall essentially is, in real terms, about the same, but clearly that does not take into account what is being done by the universities through their continuing education programs, the expansion by WEA or the significant contribution by private providers.

TAFE's mainstream business is vocational training, but its institutes have the discretion to become involved in those programs if they so wish. TAFE provides many of those programs at below cost, and it provides concessions for many people in the community, both the employed and unemployed. So, TAFE makes a very significant contribution to that part of community enrichment and also is a significant facilitator in areas such as literacy programs.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Page 551 of the Program Estimates refers to the fact that further initiatives and responses will be developed in emerging industry areas, such as information technology. How will this be achieved? Will the decision to outsource the department's computing capacity have a negative effect on the capacity to develop courses and software packages for use in our institutes?

The Hon. R.B. Such: No; the outsourcing, if there is any, is to be considered separately from our educational programs, and the Premier is certainly well aware of that. So, there will be no compromising of our educational offerings as a result of outsourcing or contracting out, if that should eventuate. As I mentioned earlier, we are not going down a dogmatic, outsourcing contracting path. We will outsource only if there is some net benefit and if it means we can do things more efficiently and effectively.

We are moving very quickly to address the needs of the IT industry in terms of training, both at the technical and support levels for universities providing degree programs in regard to electronics and IT. We are very mindful of that and the department is currently vigorously pursuing those activities. We already have links with the Australian Information Technology Engineering Centre at The Levels through

Regency and we had the launch of that last week with national hook-ups to Melbourne and Sydney. We are already part of the IT network and involved in training.

Ms STEVENS: I refer to library resources. The Minister is on record as expressing concern that TAFE spent only 1 per cent of its recurrent budget on library resources. What has he done to increase TAFE library resources, what percentage of recurrent expenditure will they receive this year and is this an increase or a decrease over last year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The individual institutes are not restrained from spending money on library facilities. Part of the \$21 million Adelaide Institute upgrade will see a very much state of the art resource centre there. I do not believe that in TAFE we have reached the level of library resourcing we need and should have, so I do not pretend that the current situation is ideal. One of the points that must be borne in mind is that, with the modular competency based approach, the demand for resources has changed, so some of the more traditional approaches to providing library resources are no longer necessary or appropriate. Many of our TAFE libraries need substantial increases in resources.

In many areas, through electronic resources such as CD ROMS and other electronic linkages, computer packages and so on, this is happening. I would like to see greater resources put into TAFE libraries, but one has to acknowledge that they are now more resource centres than the conventional stacks of books. In terms of dollar amounts spent on them, it is not itemised as a separate line, because TAFE institutes make their own decisions about those resources.

Ms STEVENS: How many staff are employed in the Minister's office and what are their titles, responsibilities and salaries?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The numbers in my office have decreased, with another person leaving voluntarily last week. The budget figures overstate our ministerial staff. I can list their names, but I will provide a list.

Ms STEVENS: Which staff are employed under contract, are they entitled under certain circumstances to productivity bonuses and, if so, what are the bonuses and the conditions?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We do not have anyone on a bonus scheme in TAFE that I am aware of. I have asked the CEO and he is not aware of anyone. Certainly, people are on contracts but there is no-one, to my knowledge or to the CEO's knowledge, on a bonus.

Regarding an earlier question about my staff, we have nine staff: chief of staff, \$68 000; media adviser, \$51 400; two research officers, \$25 000; senior administration officer, \$46 125; administrative officer, \$34 850; appointment secretary, \$31 058; parliamentary senior clerk, \$26 958; and receptionist/clerk \$22 957.

Ms STEVENS: How many media, communication and speech writing staff are employed in the Minister's office?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I have one media adviser. From time to time the research officers also prepare speeches, but that is not their prime function. In actual fact, the department supplies general briefing material and I usually deliver my own speeches. I have never yet read a speech and I do not intend to. To answer your question, the media adviser and research officers sometimes prepare dot points but, in my experience, it is pretty hard to read dot points.

Ms STEVENS: What is the arrangement for monitoring the media in the Minister's office?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We do not have any specific monitoring. In fact, we do not even get newspapers in the ministerial office because our people are too busy. Via the

State Government monitoring system, we receive relevant extracts from principally the daily papers. I guess there would be access, from that monitoring, to items from other media, but we do not have any specific monitoring *per se* within the office.

Ms STEVENS: How many staff employed in the Minister's office have cars supplied for their use and the benefit of garaging paid by the Government?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As far as I am aware, no-one is provided with a Government car. I would be very surprised if they did because I have not authorised it. In terms of parking, the chief of staff, the media adviser and the two research officers have parking assistance—which is only a recent thing—to the total value of about \$5 000 a year.

That is because the nearest car parks close at 5.30 p.m. and the staff work beyond that. They also need access on weekends and so on. So, that is a concession that I have recently approved for them, but they are the only staff members that I am aware of who get any parking provision.

Ms STEVENS: How many cars have private number plates?

The Hon. R.B. Such: None of them gets a Government car, so none would come into the category of having a private plate: they provide their own vehicle.

Ms STEVENS: How many staff members in the Minister's office have mobile telephones that are paid for by the Government and have they been issued with instructions concerning private use of these telephones and how is it monitored?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The Chief of Staff, the media adviser and I have mobile telephones. Being very frugal, I have lent my telephone to one of the research officers for today's proceedings and will recoup it as soon as we finish. In terms of private use, it has not been felt necessary to issue that instruction, because the understanding of my staff would be that any facilities of Government are not available for private use. I am very strict on that. In fact, my staff would regard me as very frugal.

Ms STEVENS: Have any significant changes been made to the way in which the vehicle fleet is managed since January 1994 and, if so, what are the details?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Do you mean for TAFE as a whole?

Ms STEVENS: Yes.

The Hon. R.B. Such: There have been some changes. An arrangement provided for by the previous Government, whereby Government-owned vehicles were made available to non-government organisations, was deemed unacceptable and has ceased. I have also recently asked the department to consider the use, where appropriate, of smaller vehicles instead of the larger six cylinder vehicles. That depends on usage, country distances and all those sorts of things. I do not know whether the CEO wants to add anything to that.

Mr Strickland: As a result of a whole-of-Government decision, following a Treasury investigation that extended over about eight months or so, departments that had purchased and looked after their own small fleets, such as the former Department of Labour or DETAFE, have now had to transfer those vehicles to the State Fleet. That process has taken place in the past few months, and it includes the institutes.

Ms STEVENS: I refer to courses for members of Parliament and comments made by the member for Colton that he was unprepared for the pressures of parliamentary life and that new members should be able to access training courses. Has the Minister established training courses for

members of Parliament and will he undertake to release the results obtained by the member for Colton to enable the Opposition to assess the course and the results obtained by the member for Lee as a matter of importance for the public record?

The Hon. R.B. Such: No course has been established. Through the Adelaide Institute, TAFE has been able to put a proposal to me at my request of what could be offered to members of Parliament on a non-partisan basis. It would be fee-for-service and cover areas such as speech writing, public speaking and legal processes of Parliament. Obviously it would be a voluntary program. However, at this stage it is only a proposal that is literally sitting in my briefcase awaiting my consideration.

It is something that is done in some of the other States; New South Wales does it via its Parliament. Many members of Parliament have asked for it; some have indicated that they do not believe such a thing is necessary, but the largest number of requests has actually come from women who would like to access that program so they can consider whether or not a parliamentary career is the career for them. One of the consequences of that public discussion has been a request mainly from women saying they would like to access a program such as that so they can see what is involved and also avail themselves of some of those skills. There is no doubt that TAFE can provide some of that training, but it would be a fee-for-service cost recovery, would be available to members of Parliament from any Party and would not cover things such as campaigning techniques, which are more appropriately handled by individual Parties. I reiterate that I have literally only just received that advice on what could be offered and I have not had a chance to read it or digest it.

Ms STEVENS: Have you seen any results?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I missed the question: the outcomes of people accessing that program?

Ms STEVENS: Two in particular.

The Hon. R.B. Such: No-one has undertaken the program, because it has not yet been offered, but if we look at it seriously we find that MPs are one of the few occupational groups that have no organised training. Sometimes the public might suggest that it shows. It is not for me to reflect on members of Parliament, but amongst the things TAFE can do is provide training in terms of speech writing, report writing, public speaking and all those sorts of things. If people want to do it, it is voluntary and the opportunity can be made available.

Mrs Geraghty: Supplementary to that: will the course commence before the next election?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That would depend on interest from members. Obviously, we need a minimum number to make it viable, because it would be cost recovery. Within TAFE we have all the facilities for radio, television and talk-back. All those things currently exist within TAFE. If people want state of the art training for MPs or anyone else we can provide it.

The ACTING CHAIRMAN: Members of Parliament might first want to see the calibre of the lecturers before they commit their funds. You might be interested to know that the Minister has answered 140 questions today, 43 from the Leader of the Opposition, 43 from the member for Elizabeth and 28 from the member for Torrens. The Government benches did not get much of a share at all, but as it is the Opposition's day that is fair enough. There being no further questions I declare the examination of the vote completed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9.52 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday 21 September at 11 a.m.