

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 27 June 1995

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B

Chairman:

Mr H. Becker

Members:

Hon. Frank Blevins
 Mr K.A. Andrew
 Mr E.S. Ashenden
 Mr R.D. Clarke
 Mr M.R. De Laine
 Ms L.F. Rosenberg

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

Employment, Training and Further Education
 \$162 796 000

Witness:

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

Departmental Advisers:

Mr A.J. Strickland, Chief Executive Officer, Department for Employment, Training and Further Education.

Mr D. Carter, Director, Corporate Services.

Mr R. Higgins, Manager, Financial Management Accounting.

Ms C. Tuncks, Manager, Employment Programs Unit.

Ms T. Flynn, Manager, Youth SA.

The CHAIRMAN: I welcome the Minister and his staff. The proceedings are relatively informal. The Committee will determine an approximate time for consideration of proposed payments to facilitate changeover of departmental advisers. If the Minister undertakes to supply information at a later date it must be in a form suitable for insertion in *Hansard* and two copies submitted no later than 14 July to the Clerk of the House of Assembly. I propose to allow the lead speaker for the Opposition and the Minister to make an opening statement if desired for about 10 minutes, but certainly no longer than 15 minutes. There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for asking questions based on about three questions per member, alternating sides. Members may also be allowed to ask a brief supplementary question to conclude a line of questioning; however, there has been a tendency for some members to ask as many as five or six supplementary questions. That practice will now cease, and I will allow one supplementary question only.

Subject to the convenience of the Committee, a member from outside the Committee who desires to ask a question will be permitted to do so once the line of questioning on an item has been exhausted by the Committee. An indication to the Chair in advance from that member is necessary. Questions must be based on lines of expenditure as revealed in the Estimates of Receipts and Payments (printed paper No.9) or reference may be made to other documents, including Program Estimates and Information and the

Auditor-General's Report. Members must identify a page number or the program in the relevant financial papers from which the question is derived.

I remind the Minister that there is no formal facility for the tabling of documents before the Committee. However, documents can be supplied to the Chair for distribution to the Committee. The incorporation of material in *Hansard* is permitted on the same basis as applies in the House of Assembly; that is, that it is purely statistical and limited to one page in length. All questions must be directed to the Minister and not his advisers. The Minister may refer questions to advisers for a response. For the benefit of departmental officers, a diagram showing facilities available to them is available from the Attendants at the rear of the Chamber. I also advise that, for the purpose of the Committee, some freedom will be allowed for television coverage by allowing a short period of filming from the northern gallery. All television stations have been advised by the Speaker of the procedures to be followed.

I declare the proposed payments open for examination and refer members to pages 176 to 180 in the Estimates of Receipts and Payments and to pages 511 to 532 in the Program Estimates and Information. Minister, do you wish to make an opening statement?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, Mr Chairman. The situation in regard to the Department for Employment, Training and Further Education overall is a very encouraging one. We have a budget allocation of approximately \$300 million, if we include moneys also advanced to the University of South Australia for its expansion programs. We have had within TAFE a significant lift in productivity in the past 12 months to the extent that we have been able to pick up almost all of the \$1 million training hour deficiency we inherited in 1993, and in dollar terms met the requirement under the maintenance of effort arrangements. Whilst we can always do better, it is to the credit of the staff of TAFE and the officers in head office that we have been able to get a significant boost in productivity. It is highlighted in one institute by a significant boost, but across the board it has meant that we have been able to pick up almost all of that deficiency in one million training hours, which is a magnificent effort in the space of 12 months.

Enrolments are up in TAFE by approximately 4 per cent. Whilst it is difficult in the context of TAFE to be absolutely precise about enrolments, because we have 300 award programs, and we have various short courses, the figure is of the order of a 4 per cent increase in enrolments. We have a whole range of exciting new initiatives and I will briefly touch on some in a moment. We have now in place the VEET board, legislation for which went through Parliament some months ago. The VEET board will have general responsibility for overseeing training in South Australia and will ensure as far as possible that the training needs of industry and enterprises are met. That board has been announced and for the benefit of members I provide the following details. The Chairman is Mr Peter Romanowski, General Manager of Mitsubishi. The members are: Mr Peter Smith, General Manager of AWA Defence Industries; Prof. Judith Sloan, Director of National Institute of Labour Studies at Flinders University; Ms Dagmar Egen, Deputy Chancellor of the University of South Australia and also involved in the information technology industry; Prof. Ian Chubb, Vice Chancellor of Flinders University; Mr John Lesses, Secretary of the United Trades and Labor Council; Ms Robyn Buckler, Training Officer, Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous

Workers Union; Mr Paul Rosser, Service Quality Manager, SAGASCO; Prof. Harry Green, recently retired Dean of Engineering at the University of Adelaide; Ms Deborah Thiele, who is Rural Woman of the Year but who also has educational and other qualifications; Ms Dianne Ewens, Regional General Manager of Telstra; and Mr Andrew Strickland, Chief Executive Officer, Department for Employment, Training and Further Education. It is a powerful and significant board which will contribute significantly to ensuring that in South Australia we have the best training not only in the Government sector but also in the private sector.

In TAFE we have a significant capital works program under way. We are reaching the completion of the Adelaide Institute Development. Adelaide Institute has something like 23 000 students currently and, with the expansion, will be able to take close to 29 000 students. We have an expansion program at Noarlunga which is nearly complete. It will provide a whole range of additional teaching facilities and also a new training restaurant, to build on the excellent training restaurants that we have in South Australia. We have works under way at Whyalla in terms of expanding the administration and other facilities. At Mount Barker we have a significant expansion program.

We are about to embark shortly on a major project on the Urrbrae school site in conjunction with DECS to provide a state-of-the-art horticulture training facility for South Australia. In the South-East, there will be massive expansion on a new site to provide a range of excellent new facilities. In addition to that, we are expanding our interactive video network. We now have 18 centres throughout the State where students can interact visually and by way of audio contact with other centres. That is another example of how TAFE is leading Australia and the world.

Other exciting developments involve the area of youth. We are committed to a major new development, Kickstart for Youth. Kickstart has been a very successful program and we are now expanding it specifically to target youth. It always had a youth focus, but that was not its central focus. We are building on that by having a specific additional focus targeting 15 to 19 year olds who are currently not in employment, training or education to get them work ready and to train them to fill specific vacancies in industry. In addition, we will target 13 to 15 year olds who are at risk of dropping out of the system and who have not been entering TAFE, university or employment.

I strongly believe that if we target that group early in conjunction with DECS and other agencies we can ensure that those young people do not go down the path of being part of the long-term unemployed. That very exciting development will involve 14 officers specifically allocated to those tasks: 10 for the 15 to 19 year olds and four for the 13 to 15 year olds. The Commonwealth has recognised the value of that program and has agreed to provide some financial assistance towards it. That is another of the exciting developments taking place within the portfolio area.

We are also significantly boosting training for information technology. As honourable members will be aware, as a State, we are set to become the information technology training centre for the Asia Pacific region. It is important that we have people who can fill positions within Motorola, EDS and other organisations. We are boosting information technology training with mid-year intakes and promotional activities not only for people who wish to undertake electronics *per se*, but also for those who want to work in related fields. It is vital that we have the trained people.

We are specifically trying to encourage young women to consider information technology as a career because it is a growth area and one which requires maths and physics. It is therefore important that young people take that into account and do not exclude themselves from those options by not studying physics and maths at high school. Information technology is a priority, as is support for the wine industry.

Other exciting developments involve the vehicle industry certificate. We are a leader in that area. The growth in respect of that certificate has been outstanding, and it means that anyone in the automotive industry who does not have a trade qualification can aspire to a certificate which is recognised nationally. Even if those people work in different companies, such as General Motors and Mitsubishi, and can do different modules according to the needs of those companies, they will end up with a certificate which recognises their contribution.

That program has been outstandingly successful. Productivity is up in those companies, absenteeism has reduced, safety has improved and the morale of the work force has been significantly boosted because it gives everyone in the industry the opportunity to aspire to something and to obtain recognition for the contribution they make.

Our initial objective in terms of the number of training hours has been exceeded by something of the order of 40 per cent. We intend to expand that concept to other industries. It means that people who may have missed out on training early in life (formal training and apprenticeship training) can access training through something equivalent to the vehicle industry certificate, although obviously named appropriately for the industry concerned.

We are also expanding the Greening Urban SA Program, and I am today announcing a range of 11 new projects which will be funded. The good thing about the project is that it is not training for the sake of it. It is training to meet specific employment possibilities within local government. The range of projects which will be under way in the very near future, in addition to those currently operating, are at Renmark, Moonta/Kadina, West Torrens, Munno Para, Burnside, Henley and Grange, Saddleworth/Auburn, Burra, Ceduna, Mannum and Coober Pedy. It covers a range of areas. If members in country areas want some more details, I will be more than happy to provide them today. I mentioned the VEET board, and it is great news that that is under way.

In conclusion, I point out that there has been some misunderstanding in terms of the finances and budget allocation for TAFE. The reported statements by the Leader of the Opposition and others suggesting a \$15 million cut do not reflect the true situation. What we have is an approximate 2 per cent cut in recurrent funding, which will not impact directly on programs. Capital works, which are funded by the Commonwealth and which are provided in lump sums according to the project, do not necessarily correspond easily with the bookkeeping financial year.

So, the \$15 million headline is quite misleading, because we can take out \$10 million immediately from the capital works area. There is no cut in real terms to capital works. In fact, the State Government is putting in close to \$2 million of its own money, which it is not obliged to do, towards the Mount Barker project and the Whyalla project and, hopefully, in the near future towards an expansion at Port Pirie. It is quite misleading to suggest that there has been a cut of \$15 million. There has been nothing of the kind. It represents about a 2 per cent cut in the recurrent budget. On that positive note, I conclude my statement.

Membership:

Ms Stevens substituted for Mr De Laine.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the Deputy Leader wish to make a statement?

Mr CLARKE: No, Sir. However, as different topics come up during the course of the Committee, I will make some short statements, particularly with respect to TAFE. Dealing with Youth SA and Kickstart, I refer to pages 527 and 529 of the Program Estimates. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, about 8 000 15 to 19 year olds are looking for full-time work at present. This represents about 31 per cent of that labour force cohort. Given the Government's budget target of only 1.5 per cent employment growth in the payroll tax sector, what are the Government's specific targets for youth unemployment in 1995-96?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Targets are a very difficult area, as the honourable member would know. My objective is to get youth unemployment down to zero. There has been a significant drop in youth unemployment in the past 12 months but, in terms of our specific Kickstart for Youth program, we are seeking at least to create 1 000 additional positions for young people through that program. As I said before, I should like to get youth unemployment down to as close to zero as possible.

Mr CLARKE: Does the Minister have a target with respect to the next year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In relation to Kickstart for Youth?

Mr CLARKE: No, youth unemployment.

The Hon. R.B. Such: As a percentage, I am seeking to get it down to as close to zero as possible, and I believe that through Kickstart for Youth we will make a significant dint in it. I am keen to get it as close to zero as possible. With Kickstart for Youth we are targeting 1 000 young people initially.

Mr CLARKE: With regard to the youth training scheme, I am somewhat mystified by the comments made in Financial Paper No. 1 on pages 3.8, 3.39 and 3.40. The reason given for the substantial cut to the scheme was 'in accordance with progress made in reducing youth unemployment in South Australia'. The Minister should be aware that it is only among 15 to 19 year olds that the number of people looking for full-time work has dropped measurably over the past year. The ABS table on page 15 of its publication No. 6202.0, released on 8 June 1995, shows that the number of people aged 20 and over looking for full-time work is virtually static for the same period. Given that the average age of participants in the youth traineeship scheme, according to the Premier, is 20 or 21 and that almost all participants are aged 19 or over, why has the Government cut its allocation to the scheme?

The Hon. R.B. Such: These things need to be looked at in the overall context of Government programs. We have a significant commitment to take on trainees in the public sector, and I am sure the Premier would have referred to that. The next number to come in will be of the order of 600 or 700—building on the number that we have already taken. We are trying to address the very serious situation of the decline in the number of technical trainees within the public sector which existed when we came into Government. We will be pursuing that issue through an innovative Government private sector link group training scheme, but there is no intention to diminish our overall commitment to training young people—quite the opposite. It needs to be looked at it in the context of the urban greening program and a whole range of other

schemes that we have—incentives via WorkCover, payroll tax and so on—designed to create more employment for young people.

Mr CLARKE: By way of supplement, what I do not understand is that the reason given for the cut in funding to the youth training scheme was on the basis of progress being made in reducing youth unemployment—the 15 to 19 year olds. The figures have shown that there is a measurable reduction in unemployment amongst those persons aged 15 to 19, but amongst those over the age of 20 (and the youth training scheme covered those people), in terms of reduction in unemployment, it has been static, and yet you are cutting the very scheme that encapsulates those people and where unemployment levels still have not been reduced.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The first point is that that specific scheme comes under the responsibility of the Premier because it is the responsibility of the Public Service Commissioner, but there is no intention to diminish the commitment to training young people and one has to see all those schemes as part of that overall push, including Kickstart for Youth. In relation to trainees generally, we removed the absolute bar which was put on by the previous Government. That had a very restrictive age limit on those trainees because it was discriminatory. I can only repeat: there is no intention to diminish the effort. The honourable member will shortly be aware that there is to be a significant boost to the number of Government trainees being taken on. I want to add to that, not only in areas such as clerical and so on, but in the technical areas as well.

Mr CLARKE: Is the Minister concerned with the recent massive decrease in the year 12 retention rate from 93 per cent to 76 per cent? Does he share my view that, if South Australia is to compete successfully nationally and internationally, we need a work force which has skills at the highest level, and that the fall in the year 12 retention rate has not been matched by a corresponding rise in young people in other forms of accredited training? In other words, they are just dropping out altogether.

The Hon. R.B. Such: One of the reasons why we are pushing Kickstart for Youth is to tackle the significant number of young people who have been falling by the wayside, particularly in what I would call 'blue collar areas'—and that is not a negative reflection on those people. Tradespeople should be proud of the fact that they are tradespeople. What has happened is that in many of the blue collar areas, particularly some of the northern, southern and western suburbs of Adelaide, a lot of those young people have not been getting into university because we still have a school system that is dominated by the universities. We are trying to address that. I am trying to deal with that issue in conjunction with my colleague the Hon. Rob Lucas.

What we have at the moment is a system that gives them the message that everyone needs to be a lawyer or a surgeon. We probably have more lawyers than we need: we need more people in trades and other skilled areas. Until we change the present focus on the secondary school system catering for 30 per cent of students who go on to university, we will not make much progress. The Minister responsible for DECS and the SSABSA board are well aware of that issue, as am I. Universities naturally want to protect their position, but there needs to be more flexibility and variety in the system. I think that the secondary school system through the Australian Vocational Traineeship Scheme can do a lot, but in my view that scheme has not been fully implemented because of a lack of funds.

There has been an ongoing battle with the Commonwealth to free up some money to provide additional funds for the school sector so that teachers can supervise students adequately in industrial premises where they do work experience. This idea that you can release secondary school students into factories and elsewhere and pick them up at the end of the day is a nonsense, and it costs a lot of money. So, we need to tackle the way in which universities control the secondary school process and, even further down the line, primary schools. We need to promote some vocational options on a greater scale. Some TAFE institutes have introduced innovative programs where students spend two days a week at TAFE, two days at school and one day at the workplace. I think we need a lot more of those sorts of options.

However, underlying all that is the need to elevate the status of people who use their hands as well as their head. For too long in Australia we have held the view that if you use your hands as well as your head somehow you are inferior to someone who wears a white collar. That is absolute and utter nonsense. It is one of the reasons why Australia fell back in terms of manufacturing and other industries. We need to change the status of people who are involved in vocational areas. One of the key things I am pushing for TAFE is to keep promoting TAFE as a real option and to encourage links between TAFE and schools. My answer could go all day, but I realise the problem. Because of demographics, there has also been a drop in age groupings to about 18 or 19, but the fundamental issue relates to educational processes and structures rather than demographics.

Mr ASHENDEN: The Estimates Papers describe the implementation of Kickstart for Youth to establish firm contracts and performance indicators for the year 1996-97. As the Minister announced the program in March, does that mean that this initiative will take over 16 months to become fully operational in the financial year 1996-97?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In relation to Kickstart for Youth, we have excellent staff in DETAFE, led in this particular area by Cathy Tuncks. The program was scheduled for September, but will come on earlier. Most of the officers have been appointed, and that program will deliver the goods. We must make sure that all our programs meet the objectives. Whilst the traditional youth strategy did a lot of good things, it is fair to say that across the board there was a lot of variation in terms of outcomes. We have applied the same rigour to areas of adult literacy and Aboriginal education: we need outcomes and we monitor programs. If they do not deliver we want to know why and what we can do to make them deliver. So it will be an ongoing process to make sure that the new program does deliver.

Mr ASHENDEN: What impact will the reduced level of funding associated with the introduction of Kickstart for Youth have on the delivery of services to young people?

The Hon. R.B. Such: If you look at the programs overall, taking into account things such as urban greening, you will see that there has been an increase in our financial commitment towards programs that involve young people. As I said before, the youth strategy did a lot of good things: in some areas, it was excellent; in other areas, it was not. What we want now is a hardnosed program that seeks employment outcomes with training being linked to employment rather than focusing on a welfare type approach.

I will give you an example. In the past, students who could not afford their TAFE fees were given money by the Youth Strategy to tide them over and allow them to pay those fees, and then they were reimbursed by the Commonwealth. In

some cases that led to double dipping, and the cost of administering those small grants exceeded the value of the grants. I have now instructed the TAFE institutes to enrol students who cannot pay their fees and when they are reimbursed by the Commonwealth they pay the institute. That in itself has saved us a lot of money.

There still will be money for youth programs in addition to the employment ones. We are not cutting off all programs that focus on boosting self-esteem, promoting leadership or encouraging innovation. In fact, we have programs that focus on the Youth Expo, Youth Parliament, leadership incentives and a whole range of grants schemes which will supplement Kickstart for Youth. It is not correct to say that Kickstart for Youth is the only focus of our youth program: it certainly is not. As I have mentioned before, we have the Public Service training scheme and a whole range of other schemes which are designed to help young people not in some airy-fairy way but in one which gets results.

Mr ASHENDEN: In relation to the Northern Youth Strategy, as you are aware this is an area in which I have had a lot of interest and I have had very close contact with those involved in that strategy. It is a program which I know, from first hand experience, has been very effective and it is an area in which there has been very close cooperation between DETAFE, local government and local industry. In fact, I do not think I have ever seen a program where industry has worked so closely with local government and DETAFE to provide desperately needed assistance to many young people in the northern area.

I would like to raise four specific concerns in relation to that program, the first being the conference 'Jobs for Young Australians' (I have the brochure here). I have been advised that the budget for the conference has been retained but that the three staff working on it have been moved into Adelaide thereby making their work of getting regional support from businesses and youth much more difficult. They have been instructed to take the regional focus out of the conference and make it Statewide, meaning the focus on the north, for which it had originally been designed, has been weakened.

The second concern is in relation to the Youth Enterprise Incubator. That incubator was ready to go, partly funded by the Para Institute. The department has not allowed this to go on saying that it does not meet the new guidelines. This causes me considerable concern because a lot of money has been expended and a lot of work has been done to try to get that initiative off the ground, and the instruction has been given that that is now to stop. Thirdly, for the people involved in this program, no work is being allowed to set up the regional youth focus associated with the regional development plan, which will mean that the work done to get local business support for youth will not continue. As I said, we have very close cooperation out there between industry and there is no doubt a lot of young people have been employed because of it.

Fourthly, youth have not been able to access the Youth Assistance Grants which have enabled them to get back into the pathways, even though the money is still there: in other words, it is there but they have been told they cannot have it. Obviously those matters cause considerable concern. I would appreciate it if you could address those concerns and indicate whether the program, which is well under way, will be allowed to continue to conclusion and, if not, what will be put in its place to provide the support that this excellent program has given?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There have been and are some very good things taking place in the northern suburbs in relation to links between industry and the school sector and encouraging young people to involve themselves in enterprises. However, we have spent \$100 000 or close to it on the conference which I am attending. That conference will bring some useful people together, but one has to question whether, when we have a situation of unemployed youth, \$100 000 spent on a gathering of people to talk about the problem really should be the number one priority. The reality is that it is a committed activity and it will take place, but I have to be quite frank and say that, if I had a choice about it, I would not be spending \$100 000 to get people to talk about a problem which we know how to address and which we can address.

In Australia it has become a bit of a disease where people are spending a lot of time talking about the issues. If we do not know what are the problems now and how to deal with some of them, it is time we gave the game away. The conference will be useful but, in itself, it will not produce the direct employment outcomes that could be tackled in other ways. We are not going to disregard the positive things that have been done out there; we are going to build on them and, through Kickstart for Youth and working through the regional Economic Development Board, a lot of those issues will be pursued and followed up.

In relation to the point made about people being brought into head office, within TAFE we have excellent managers and I believe that it is their responsibility to get the best outcomes. If they feel that they need to locate officers in a particular part of the system I rely on that judgment unless I can get some convincing evidence to the contrary. In relation to that conference and some of the related youth activities, there has been a blurring somewhat of funding outcomes, because the Commonwealth has provided some money, we have provided some money and some money and resources have come right through the school system and local government. We want clear outcomes relating to youth employment and I make no apology for pushing that hard and we will continue to push it hard. However, we are not going to harm the conference in any way.

We are supportive of the general principle of incubators but they must be focused and hard-nosed, and we need not go down the path that has been taken elsewhere in that, whilst some of these projects were well-intentioned, they have not got the outcomes. I do not know whether Ms Tuncks wishes to add anything, but I conclude by saying that there are some very dedicated people out there and some of them are very good at expressing their concerns and raising issues in the public forum, and that is their democratic right. However, ultimately as Minister I have to ensure that taxpayers' money is spent wisely and appropriately, and that is exactly what I will continue to do.

Ms Tuncks: In relation to the last part of the question, youth assistance grants have been available. I do not know what the problem is with the Northern Youth Strategy, but they certainly have been paid across the rest of the State. So there has been no direction that youth assistance grants are not available. Even where the Youth Strategy has ceased to exist in regions, we have managed those through the western Adelaide region and the central office.

Mr ASHENDEN: Based on the answers I have been given, it appears that there has been a complete breakdown of communication, because I can assure the Minister that it is not just one or two people who have taken this publicly: I

have been approached by representatives of the local councils and of industry in the area who have expressed their concern to me at what they see as the removal of a program which has been extremely successful. What steps can be taken to ensure that local government and industry, which has supported this program, are made aware that the benefits of this program are in fact going to continue?

The Hon. R.B. Such: When setting up any new program there clearly is a transition phase, and quite a bit of work is going and has gone into producing information material, appointing officers and liaising with those affected. Whenever you have any change there will always be some people who do not want the change, who will resist it, who will network and who will make a lot of noises and so on. That is fine; we live in a democracy. However, if there is any problem in terms of communication I am sure that it will be dealt with. I believe that the program in the north will be better for the young people and we will not destroy or disregard any positives that have been achieved thus far.

Ms Tuncks: We are negotiating with the Northern Adelaide Development Board (NADB) to manage the Kickstart for Youth Strategy and Kickstart in the northern suburbs. I have been talking with Roger McNicholas and the officers will be placed directly in the board offices when their new accommodation is finished. So, those relationships are well and truly in hand. The new appointee to the Kickstart for Youth position in the northern suburbs is an ex-Youth Strategy person from the Northern Youth Strategy area, so the relationships will continue and I believe will be strengthened by the association with the Northern Adelaide Development Board.

Mr CLARKE: I refer the Minister to an answer he gave me earlier in respect of retention rates in schools. Can he provide information with respect to the percentage of year 12 students who have entered TAFE over the past three years and what is the gender breakdown of that component? I appreciate that the Minister may not have the figures on hand.

The Hon. R.B. Such: We will take that question on notice. Encouraging young women into TAFE has been one of our priorities. As the Deputy Leader may know, we have a program called, 'Tradeswomen on the Move'. We have put a great deal of effort and a lot of money into those programs which, I am happy to acknowledge, are supported by the Commonwealth. It is fair to say that in Australia, as in most other western countries, there has not been a lot of success in bringing about a fundamental change in terms of participation in non-traditional areas via education pathways. We are seeing some success now in terms of young women going into areas of electronics and recently at the Skills Expo we had young TAFE women demonstrating to the public and to young people the effective role of women working in electronics.

Within TAFE we try to have appropriate role models. Several of our directors are women, and we do everything possible to encourage young women to consider TAFE and to consider vocational training as an option. The Deputy Leader no doubt would have noticed our recent advertisements promoting IT and so on, which are specifically targeted towards young women—and also towards young men, of course—to encourage them to consider non-traditional areas and vocational pathways. If the Deputy Leader wants specific data I will seek to get that for him.

Mr CLARKE: Last year in the Estimates Committee the Minister said in regard to the number of staff in Youth SA that:

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.

Earlier this year the Minister announced with some fanfare Kickstart for Youth, the aims of which I support in general terms. However, it seems that the abolition of Youth Strategy at the same time has meant that overall the Government has cut its staffing of youth programs delivered by DETAFE by about 33 per cent. What outcomes for our most disadvantaged young people will be enhanced by this massive cut in staffing?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I do not believe there has been a massive cut in staff. TAFE has been able to do more with less, so it has become more efficient and that is reflected in the increased productivity figures that I mentioned in my opening remarks. There may be a lack of appreciation of the number of staff involved in youth matters because of the transition to the Kickstart for Youth program and because those people are now effectively working in the employment division it may look as though there has been a big shift out of the youth programs area. It is really just changing the hat.

There were a couple of vacancies which, I understand, if they have not been filled are about to be filled in Youth SA itself. It is not correct to say that there has been some significant reduction in staff. There has been a change in personnel because some people are on secondment from FACS and other areas, but we are trying to get the most effective team of people to deliver the goods. I do not know whether either manager wishes to comment.

Ms Tuncks: One of the areas in which we have been able to improve our operations is the administrative function, which has been picked up within the Employment Programs Unit for program activities. No additional staff were taken on for that activity and it has been picked up with existing resources, with a saving of something like three positions, albeit not field officer positions.

Mr CLARKE: By way of supplementary question, is the Minister saying that, notwithstanding the overall reduction in staff numbers, in terms of objectives, targets and delivery of services to youth, they will not be disadvantaged, despite that reduction in staffing levels overall?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There will not be a disadvantage as people previously labelled 'youth strategy' are now part of the Employment Division. There has been no significant reduction in terms of staffing. There were a couple of vacancies in Youth SA. If they have not been filled they are about to be filled. We have taken on recently two university graduates who are on one of the traineeship schemes.

Ms Tuncks: The operation is different. The Kickstart model involves working through organisations rather than with individual young people, so the Kickstart for Youth officers will be liaising and working with community development officers and community organisations such as the Port Central Mission—organisations that have expertise in dealing with young people—and we believe that we will be able to service many more young people than was possible under the youth strategy through the adoption of that model.

Mr CLARKE: Does the Minister accept that a significant number of young people are many steps away from being ready to participate in employment or training initiatives and that the Kickstart for Youth may not be equipped appropri-

ately to cater for all these highly disadvantaged people? How will the Government respond to those young people, particularly Aboriginal youth, given the abolition of the youth strategy and the Aboriginal project officer positions?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As the Deputy Leader points out, it is a program that is targeted at disadvantaged youth, and that is the reason for its existence—those people have been missing out. It includes Aboriginal young people, so there will be no moving away from targeting young Aboriginals or those dropping out of the school system and therefore denying themselves employment opportunities. The focus of that program will be an holistic one. If there are impediments to a young person's getting employment, then Kickstart for Youth can address them. If there is a problem at home—a literacy, numeracy or accommodation problem—those issues must be addressed if someone is to be successful in getting employment. It is more critical at the 13 to 15 year age level. It is not simply a case of lining them up and giving them a job. It will be fairly close to a case management approach, even though often in groups. It is holistic in the sense that we want to look at the whole person and at the impediments to their getting work and specifically target and address those impediments using either Government or TAFE people or, where appropriate, private sector people.

If someone has a significant literacy problem, that may need to be the main focus to help them get employment. Again, it is part of the communication need that we have to ensure that people understand what Kickstart for Youth is about. We recently produced some booklets to explain that it is not simply a quick fix for people to get employment. We want them to get jobs but need to do it by addressing the issues that impede their employment prospects.

I have been given a sample of our latest material. Perhaps the Deputy Leader at his leisure may like to look at what we currently produce to explain the whole gamut of Kickstart for Youth.

Mr CLARKE: By way of supplementary question, I would be interested to look at the leaflet. I recall the Treasurer last year saying that no more glossy or multi-coloured leaflets or pamphlets should be produced and was quite scathing in his criticism of the former Government for it. I do not know whether the Minister has spoken to the Treasurer lately on that issue.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will ensure that the Treasurer sees our brochures, but our people are effective at getting low cost printing.

Mr CLARKE: As long as it is done in Australia. The point I was going to raise, by way of supplementary question, was that of the Aboriginal project officer positions. The Kickstart program starts on certain premises. Whilst they are not readily employable from day one, a number of youths would not necessarily fit within the overall program because of their degree of literacy, numeracy and so forth, being so far below the par that Kickstart is not a program that can deal with that group of people, particularly in the Aboriginal area. How will Aboriginal youths pick it up?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The beauty of Kickstart is that it is flexible. It operates, as we say, basically out of the back of a ute. It is low in terms of bureaucracy, flexible and regionally based. I refer to the Kickstart officers, not in a derogatory sense, as employment ferrets. Their job is to ferret out opportunities, and they do that with great success. That is why we have extended the program to youth. We have found employment for Aboriginal people. We also have an Employment Division within TAFE headed by Les Nader. His area

does a lot of excellent work in terms of assisting not only young Aboriginals but also older Aboriginals with, in effect, work for the dole-type schemes that are funded by the Commonwealth—the CDP. They are having significant success with that, but they also run a lot of other excellent programs for which they have been acknowledged nationally, including programs for family well-being and for young Aboriginal people at risk.

They take them up and experience Aboriginal culture and a whole range of programs that are designed to focus them on employment outcomes. There will be a specific work-ready program for young Aboriginal people and also in terms of the specifics of staff there are two positions: one Kickstart for Youth position in the northern Adelaide area and in the central office one whose task it will be to assist Aboriginal youth across the State. There is no intention on the part of the department to diminish its effort in terms of Aboriginal youth. We want them to have opportunities and, ultimately, to be employed.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to the Program Estimates, page 529. In my electorate of Chaffey I have the Riverland Development Corporation, which I know is keen to continue its successful involvement with the Kickstart program. Notwithstanding that, what advantages are there in developing financial arrangements for Kickstart to regional economic development boards, and will accountability for the significant funding for Kickstart programs be diminished?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I indicated in my opening statement, something like 14 officers are to be appointed to Kickstart operating across 14 regions, most of whom are now in place. I stress that one of the reasons why Kickstart has been successful is that it is local and regionally based. It does not involve people on puppet strings from Adelaide. People in those regions get out and look at opportunities. The honourable member mentioned the Riverland. He will be aware of an example in respect of which Kickstart has been successful there. The citrus industry in the Riverland needed 39 people to maintain quality and act as quality control officers. Kickstart trained 39 people and 39 people got employment. That is the kind of thing that Kickstart does. It does not train people to dig holes and then fill them in: it trains them specifically for employment opportunities which are ferreted out by the officers in their regions.

It is important that the Kickstart people liaise and work in conjunction with the regional economic development boards. That is another reason why they are successful: they meet local and regional needs, the needs of individuals and those of individual companies and organisations. They marry all those up and achieve outcomes which have led that program to be the most successful of its kind in Australia. It is now being copied by other States, and we have just produced a manual for the other States on how to do it in relation to Kickstart, and it is being well received.

Mr ANDREW: As a supplementary to that, the Program Estimates describe good employment outcomes specifically for eight Kickstart regions. What highlights were achieved and what happened in the remaining regions?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In terms of Kickstart overall, we achieve a success rate of about 70 per cent. We specifically require programs to target, as an objective, 50 per cent female participation and 25 per cent youth participation. That relates to the general Kickstart program. Obviously the new Kickstart for Youth will target youth specifically. However, all the programs are required to specifically target 50 per cent female employment outcomes. They must achieve close to

70 per cent outcomes, and that has been achieved basically across the State.

With regard to specific figures, about \$1.5 million of State money has been spent this financial year on Kickstart with 900 employment outcomes already identified. It is a pretty cost effective and efficient program.

I have already referred to the citrus project. Another project involves almond processing in the Riverland which I am sure is a subject close to the honourable member's heart. In that regard, 27 full-time and 15 casual jobs for long-term unemployed people were provided up there through Kickstart. With regard to poker machines, Kickstart trained 12 full-time, 12 part-time and four casual people in one local region. In the timber industry, it created 29 full-time jobs in the forest industry in one local region. Driver training resulted in 12 people obtaining full-time employment and the list goes on. So, it is a success story.

Mr ANDREW: I particularly note the Minister's comments in relation to the almond processing figures because a \$5 million export contract was announced publicly last Friday in relation to a deal with China. That was particularly well noted in my region.

I want now to consider youth issues, and I refer particularly to page 527 of Financial Paper No. 1. The Minister recently launched Xposed'95, the youth expo to be held in Adelaide in September 1995. What benefit will a major city-based event like that be to young people in rural South Australia?

The Hon. R.B. Such: With regard to Xposed'95, as it is called (and honourable members can imagine that we had a bit of fun with the promotional material; I deliberately did not support the notion of 'Xpose Yourself' because I thought that it had a bad connotation), the idea is that from 24 to 27 September inclusive, at the old Adelaide Gaol (I emphasise the 'old' Adelaide Gaol), young people will be able to show their talents, either individually or collectively, with regard to hobbies and sporting activities, for example, racing pigeons or whatever, or if they belong to St John cadets or surf lifesaving. They will be able to showcase that to the public in a positive way.

Some people wanted to know what it would do for youth suicide. It is not meant to do a lot specifically for things like that, but it will help because young people from the country as well as the city will be able to get together and that will give a psychological lift to young people. It will also make older people aware of what young people do. It will make them aware that young people have a significant contribution to make, that they are important as young people and that, while they are the future, they are also the present. Xposed'95 is an opportunity to highlight what young people do.

People have been sent to country areas to promote Xposed'95, and I hope we will obtain significant sponsorship. The department is putting in a lot of money. Some people in country areas will be seeking financial support to travel down and we are trying to address that. We have been able to find low-cost accommodation. There is an interesting marriage in that the low-cost accommodation is in the police barracks. The young people will be able to sleep in the police barracks at night and spend their day in the gaol. That is a useful mingling. The Police Department has been very generous and it has allowed young people to have that low-cost accommodation. The old Adelaide Gaol is a low-cost venue and it is great for indoor and outdoor presentations. I believe that the event will do a great deal to bring young people together and it will help create a more positive attitude towards young

people in our community so that people realise that they are terrific and that they have a lot to offer and to contribute.

Mr ANDREW: My final question refers to the youth program on page 527 of Financial Paper No. 1. An agreed framework of State agencies which provides education, training and support services to young people in secure care was, I understand, facilitated by Youth SA. What benefits are there for young people in secure care as a result of the framework? How does it or how will it enhance the service provision?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There has been a range of strategies involving young people in secure care. It is appropriate to say that I and the Minister responsible for FACS are keen not to have young people in secure care. Therefore, our main efforts are to promote situations which do not lead to their being detained. For a start, secure care is very expensive and it probably does not achieve a lot in terms of affecting those young people.

Where we have young people in secure care, there has been a range of programs. One recently publicised program involved training in automotive skills. Together with the Minister for FACS, I attended the special celebration of that program. Many of those young people come from pretty harsh backgrounds and they now have the opportunity to acquire some skills and a bit of pride. Hopefully when they are released, they will be able to go on to a training course or apprenticeship and therefore become constructive members of society.

The message in terms of young people is that we need to be a lot more innovative. I am encouraging developments such as the possibility of having youth workers based at major police stations. That is something we can and should do. A great deal of the work that the police do in relation to young people involves a form of youth work. If the problems that give rise to trouble are addressed, such as problems at home and at school, as happened successfully with the Hindley Street youth support project, we could reduce the number of young people who end up in secure care and in strife with the police and the courts system.

We are very strongly committed to trying to keep young people out of secure care. However, where they end up in secure care, we are committed to providing them with options. We supported financially Operation Flinders which is an alternative to secure care in many cases. That has transformed the lives of about 80 per cent of the young people involved. We support an Aboriginal equivalent where young Aboriginal people who are at risk of offending or who may face a possible detention sentence can go to the outback and work on conservation projects. When they do that, we have found that it changes their attitudes.

With regard to that Aboriginal project, it is very important that it is run by Aboriginal people. There is no criticism from the young Aboriginal people that it is a program run by whites. It is a program run by Aboriginal people. There is a range of strategies that we are pursuing and we will continue to pursue them.

Mr CLARKE: Which programs initiated by the Aboriginal project officers will be discontinued and what will be the source of funding for the continuation of this work?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Specific Aboriginal programs were operated within the youth strategy. Many of them were good; some were questionable. What tended to happen was that often there was multi-funding of some projects. As an adjunct to Kickstart for Youth, a range of special initiatives will be introduced to assist young Aboriginal people. We are

currently funding one in the southern suburbs, where young Aboriginal people are involved in an art work project. Another range of programs covers areas such as youth initiative grants, so we will continue to encourage and support young Aboriginal people in a whole range of activities. I do not know whether either of the managers wants to comment on any of the specifics, but it comes back to that basic point. We are not focusing solely on employment, important as that is.

Ms Tuncks: In terms of Kickstart for Youth and other programs run by the Employment Programs Unit, the centrally based Aboriginal project officer has a responsibility to identify opportunities, to work out in the regions with the Kickstart for Youth people and the Kickstart people, and to provide opportunities for Aboriginal participation. Equally, they are also involved in attempting to get young Aboriginal people to apply for and assist them in gaining places with technical traineeships administered by the unit. There is a lot of work in that area. In addition, there is a 2 per cent Aboriginal participation requirement in the Greening Urban SA program. So, targets have been established across a number of areas.

Mr CLARKE: To paraphrase his response, the Minister said that some programs run by this unit had good ideas and some had bad ideas. Which programs will be discontinued?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is more that individual projects are subject to detailed scrutiny. At the moment we are funding a project which culminated recently in the launch of Cultural Soup in the Year of Tolerance, which involves young Aboriginal people, as well as people from non-English speaking backgrounds and English speakers, bringing them together in a very exciting way. It has resulted in their not only playing sport together but also working on art projects, putting on concerts, and so on, and we will continue to support any project that has merit in terms of outcomes.

The ones that I am less enthusiastic about, and the ones that have been subject to scrutiny, are the ones that I call the sausage sizzle type activities, and they happen in the non-Aboriginal area, as well. The department needs to be convinced that there is some positive outcome. It will not just throw money around for the sake of it or because it makes people feel good. If we are to ensure that Aboriginal people take control of their lives and have outcomes, and they accept this, their programs must be accountable and effective, just as non-Aboriginal programs must be. To do otherwise does them a disservice. It is more in relation to individual projects where some of the guidelines were a little rubbery and did not necessarily result in any outcome which could be seen to be of benefit to Aboriginal people.

Mr CLARKE: Recommendation 236 of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody deals with Aboriginal youth programs. Recommendation 237 specifically states that 'there is a need for the employment and training of Aboriginal people as youth workers'. Recommendation 238 states that 'once programs and strategies for youth have been devised and agreed . . . Governments should provide resources for employment and training of appropriate persons to ensure that the programs and strategies are successfully implemented at local level'. What funds will be allocated in the coming financial year for the implementation of recommendations 236, 237 and 238?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Youth workers and the provision of direct counselling services for youth are the responsibility of Family and Community Services. The role of Youth SA is really to coordinate the provision of services and to

highlight where there may be a deficiency or an inconsistency, or where there is a need for advice to be given to Cabinet. South Australia has a large number of youth workers, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal. I am told that there is somewhere between 500 and 700. I am not convinced that they are necessarily used in the most effective way. The issue is not only the training of youth workers, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, but also using efficiently the ones who exist. In local government there are 30 to 40 youth workers, the churches have about the same number, and Government and non-government agencies have between 500 and 700. Many of them are not available during the hours that they are most needed, that is, at times when young people are likely to get in strife, particularly on weekends and on Friday and Saturday nights. I am trying to address that issue with my colleagues.

I am not happy about the training of youth workers. We have tried to involve the Commonwealth more in this, and have sought access to ANTA funding, because if many people in the youth work area could access that they would benefit from additional training. I am not saying that they are ineffective, but they would be more effective if they had specific youth training. Many of them have come from teaching and, whilst that is useful, it is not necessarily sufficient in this day and age. It is a big issue. I accept that in terms of Aboriginal youth, we need to make sure that we have enough trained Aboriginal youth workers. We have some excellent workers. I have been up north to the Pitjantjatjara lands with some of them and they are really fine young people, but we need more of them. The prime responsibility comes within FACS rather than Youth SA.

Mr CLARKE: In short, is the Minister saying that, as far as his department is concerned, no funds will be allocated with respect to the carrying out of recommendations 236, 237 and 238, primarily because it is a FACS responsibility?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That is right. We go beyond a narrow interpretation of our role and have provided money to organisations such as Operation Flinders and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme for disadvantaged youth, where they are specifically involved, but we do not provide or train youth workers, either Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. It is an issue that the Deputy Leader should properly address to the Minister for Family and Community Services. If the honourable member can give me some evidence of a need that is not being met, I am more than happy to take it up.

Mr CLARKE: One of the successes of the Kickstart program is the fact that it is based out in the community. Will Kickstart for Youth also be based in the community rather than being used to build a DETAFE bureaucracy?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I indicated earlier, the simple answer is that its success has been due to the fact that in essence it has a non-bureaucratic approach. It is lean and mean in the way it operates—not mean in the nasty sense but mean in terms of seeking outcomes and pursuing them vigorously. Whilst the employment division is clearly under my responsibility and ultimately under the responsibility of the CEO, it operates as a division under Ms Cathy Tuncks, so it is in the family of DETAFE, but it is not to be seen purely as an arm of training. It is part of the employment division. In no way is it intended to make it a bureaucracy. The officers will be based in the regions and the only time we will see them is when they come in for updates or conferences. They will be working out in the regions looking for job opportunities and pursuing training avenues for young people

to make sure that they are job ready. The Manager is keen to add a few words.

Ms Tuncks: The Kickstart for Youth officers will be working through exactly the same structures as the Kickstart officers at the regional level; that is, through their Kickstart committees and the regional development boards.

Mrs ROSENBERG: My question relates to older unemployed people. The Minister may be aware that through my electorate quite often I hear the comment that we are doing a lot for youth, but what are we doing for those who are over 40; and also, when they are over 40 and attend the CES department, they are treated as if they are ready for the scrap heap and not much more. With all the publicity that we have given to Kickstart and its 25 per cent participation for people under 25, what has happened to funding and outcomes for older unemployed people?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I thank the member for Kaurana for the question. It is a very important one, and I am very mindful not to ignore the not so young section of the community—I am reminded of that by my own situation. Members would be aware of the excellent work done by DOME (Don't Overlook Mature Experience). That is an organisation which we support not only financially but also through the provision of computers and other technical assistance. Only last week I opened its new Kickstart cafe (which is appropriately named because of the support from the department), which will provide additional facilities for people undertaking computer training. There is a commitment. Also, I am able to say that the Treasurer was generous in providing surplus computers as well and we have a range of Government agencies, banks and so on that assist as well. But its focus is primarily part-time work.

It is important that we do not overlook the needs of those people. I am very conscious that, as a department, we need to focus not just on the young, but on people of all age groups. One of the things we did, and I intimated this earlier on, was to remove the absolute age discrimination bar in terms of trainees in the Public Service which was introduced by the previous Government and which was quite unfair. That is another practical example of where we have taken out that discriminatory provision so that older people can now access the State Government trainee scheme. In relation to DOME, in 1994-95 it took on 1 146 new members and it obtained employment for a total of 790 people—full-time, part-time and casual work—which is a marvellous outcome. As I said, it is supported financially by us and by others.

In relation to Kickstart, whilst it has always had a youth focus, in terms of at least a quarter of the participants, it has had great success in the older age group. A survey has shown that the age group of 35 to 44 constituted the second largest participation rate group of any in Kickstart. We fund other programs which relate to the needs of older citizens. Now that the age enforced retirement barrier has gone, it is important that we do not waste the talent of the mature age section of the community. I would also support employers looking to employ older people as well as younger people. Older people, through their expertise and experience, have a lot to offer and should not be ignored by potential employers.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I now go to the other side of the spectrum, the 13 and 15 year olds. It may be seen also as a curiosity in the community why DETAFE is assuming any responsibility for that age group, but will it be more than just a token gesture?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I thank the member for that question. As she would know, I am not interested in tokens—

and I rarely play pokies. It will not be a token initiative. It is a very innovative one to focus on 13 to 15 year olds. What happens to a lot of these young people when the hormones flow is that some go temporarily off the rails, as we know. They clash with their parents, who, as we all know in this House, are always wise, tolerant and understanding! It is always said to be the fault of the teenager. So, there are problems at home and that interrupts their study. Young people get kicked out, sometimes for quite ridiculous reasons. I know first-hand of one young lad who was kicked out from home because he went to Tea Tree Plaza shopping centre after school at the ripe old age of 15. I thought his father was quite irrational to kick him out. He went to live with his grandmother and continued his schooling.

There are a lot of situations that are more drastic than that and involve abuse in some cases, but sometimes it is simply a misunderstanding—a lack of communication between the children and the parents. That can impact on their study; they can drop out of school. There can be problems in the school situation. It may not necessarily be bullying, but a lack of direction or they have some learning disability, which, I must say, I am pleased the Minister for DECS is addressing through early intervention. One of the reasons for the testing that is being undertaken in schools is to identify the problems that exist in terms of literacy and numeracy and then they can be addressed early.

Kickstart for Youth, the early intervention aspect in relation to 13 to 15 year olds, will be very significant. We will not be grabbing young people by the collar, but, for example, through programs such as Taste of TAFE, we will be able to show them what exciting training opportunities are available and what happens if you do not get training. If they have literacy problems we can tackle them in conjunction with the schools and other agencies. If they have accommodation problems or if they are on the street we will be working with youth workers, social workers, FACS and so on to target those young people to bring them back in so that we do not have them as long-term unemployed when they reach adulthood. It is a very exciting program. The Commonwealth has recognised its value and I appreciate the support of Federal Minister Crean who has offered something like \$260 000 to help support this new initiative.

Mrs ROSENBERG: The Minister will, no doubt, remember that in my maiden speech in Parliament I challenged the youth of South Australia to challenge all members of Parliament, wanting them to become more involved in the parliamentary process and become more aware of how Parliament works, thereby making members of Parliament far more accountable for the decisions they make—a challenge that I stand very strongly behind.

An honourable member interjecting:

Mrs ROSENBERG: It is probably why the numbers are as they are at the moment I suggest. My question relates to the Youth Parliament which will be held here between 10 and 13 July. How effective has that been in making young people more understanding of the process?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I thank the member for that question. It is very appropriate because the Youth Parliament will be operating in the next few weeks—10 July to 13 July. There have been so-called Youth Parliaments, but this one is significantly different. It involves an eight month training program in which young people learn not only public speaking and debating but also about the rules of Parliament, Standing Orders, and all the procedures. They will be debating an issue that they have chosen, which is capital

punishment. It is interesting that young people should choose that topic. The proceedings will be chaired by a young person, but from time to time I believe the Speaker will come into the debating chamber. There is a two day camp. About 60 young people are involved. The concession that has been made to them is that, whilst they will debate in teams, ultimately they will have a conscience vote on the issue of capital punishment.

What has happened in other States, particularly Victoria, is that a lot of the issues debated by young people and the resolutions have gone on to become law. Whilst we do not necessarily want these young people to become MPs, it does give an insight into the way Parliament operates and helps to demystify and correct some of the uninformed comments which exist about Parliament.

Youth SA is supporting this project generously in financial terms, and it is being organised under the auspices of the YMCA. It seemed sensible to do that, given that the YMCA is involved in organising Youth Parliaments in other parts of Australia. In case anyone is concerned about this, the YMCA is now non-sexist: it takes young women as well as young men. I have met with many of the debating teams: they are very keen and excited. One young lad indicated that he is keen to become a member of Parliament, but I suspect that after he has been through this process and despite reading the honourable member's maiden speech (which, I am sure, he has above his bedhead), he may decline the opportunity to become a member of Parliament.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to the Minister's briefing notes entitled 'KickStart strategy and KickStart project funding summary'. While the Opposition supports the aims and the method of program delivery of Kickstart, it is also clear that in order to achieve success the formula must be finetuned for each region. Concern has been expressed to the Opposition that in some regions there are problems in terms of contact with local bodies together with minimal outcomes. What is the month by month and region by region breakdown for this financial year of the delivery of the Kickstart program measured in the number of people assisted, outcomes achieved and programs initiated?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will take that question on notice. It must be appreciated that, in any program, because of the human factor there will always be some temporary ripples. We had one in the Mid North which largely concerned people involved in local council elections. I travel the State frequently, and I hear positive reports about Kickstart from the officers themselves and others with whom I speak. I can obtain detailed information which I am sure will convince the Deputy Leader that this is an excellent program.

Mr CLARKE: What initiatives will Youth SA be involved in this year besides the Youth Parliament, Tough Love and the Youth Expo?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We are working on a range of things including the finalisation of a youth charter, the intention of which is to signal to young people that, in their dealings with Government agencies, they will be treated with dignity and respect and that, in return, that will be expected of them. That process has been useful, because each Government agency has been asked to indicate the nature of its interaction with young people. It was a productive activity for each agency to look at how it relates to young people and the ways in which they communicate because, if you are not careful, young people can be ignored or overlooked and their interests and needs dismissed. The youth charter is being worked through, and hopefully we will have that in the not

too distant future. It is not meant to be the answer to everyone's prayer; it is really to reinforce in Government agencies and young people the fact that each party has certain expectations and that we will all be better off if those expectations are met.

We have many other ongoing projects. The Deputy Leader mentioned Youth Parliament and Youth Expo. There are also youth media awards. The idea of these is to encourage and reward those sections of the media which report young people's activities fairly and objectively. It is often noted that young people are given bad press. I often say that, if there are half a dozen young people on a corner street, that is a gang but, if there are a half a dozen older people congregating, that is a Government grant about to happen. There is a slight amount of cynicism in that statement, but it is not far off the mark. Young people do get negative press, and we want to encourage the media not to falsify but to report fairly and accurately what young people do.

In addition, we have an ongoing commitment to try to get the community to recognise that young people are important. It is a positive selling message: young people are our future, but they are also our present—if you are 15, that year is just as important as if you are 62 or 93. We are trying to develop improved ways of consultation with young people. That is easier, of course, in terms of mainstream, middle class young people, but it is much more difficult with those who are not in the mainstream. I ride trains and do other things not in a suit in order to interact with young people to try to ascertain their ideas and feelings about various things. We are trying to develop mechanisms which will enable their input to be recognised. That may mean having a barbecue at Salisbury North on a Friday afternoon or attending schools, which I do already. We are also looking at involving young people on appropriate Government boards through a mentor scheme so that they can have input. We are doing other things, but that is an indication: it is certainly not a static thing. We are developing the Young Ambassadors program to support young people who are ambassadors for South Australia. Through youth initiative grants, we support young people in a lot of ways: we have supported some in trips overseas and others in a whole range of leadership type programs. The list goes on.

Mr CLARKE: How will effective police liaison be carried out, particularly at the regional level, now that the youth strategy has been abandoned?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I indicated earlier, it is my keen desire to see a closer liaison between the youth sector and the police. We are currently pursuing that project with the police. We are also seeking to use television, through the production of community television commercials, to promote a greater understanding between the police and young people. The irony is that often the police who are enforcing this are young men themselves. We are trying to develop a situation where the police are more receptive to and understand young people, and *vice versa*, because it is a two way process. To some extent, young people have a false idea of the law and their entitlements. They need to realise that the police have a job to do and, likewise, the police need to understand the psychology of youth, the fact that young people if confronted vigorously are likely to respond negatively, whereas humour and a more flexible approach are often more productive.

We have excellent people working with the Hindley Street Youth Support Group, such as Inspector Bill Prior and Senior Sergeant John Wallace, who are what I would call very enlightened police. They have been very successful in

tackling some of the issues that have arisen from young people because of truancy and other problems at home. I am keen—and I have discussed this with senior police, including the Commissioner—to have some of that alternative type policing which looks at family and school situations rather than simply adopting an enforcement type approach. It is not the role of Kickstart for Youth specifically to target police relations, but one of the roles of Youth SA, which will shortly have some additional staff, will be to encourage and promote that sort of liaison with other agencies, and that will certainly involve the police.

Mr CLARKE: With regard to the Minister's brief entitled 'Let's get South Australia really working—employment broker scheme', I have a series of questions, as follows: what was the budget for the scheme in 1994-95; how much has actually been expended in 1994-95; how many brokers are there and who are they; and how many placements have been made and at what cost to the Government per placement?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Generally it has been very successful. In 1994-95 we spent some \$330 500 and the number of participants totalled 118. We have used a range of people including private companies such as Speakman Stillwell and Skilled Engineering. The concept is to enable people who would otherwise not get employment or who would get part-time employment through those agencies to marry what is, in effect, two part-time jobs into one full-time job. That is the ultimate aim of the scheme. The Deputy Leader has to appreciate that this is a pilot project. As far as I am aware, it is the first time it has been done in Australia on a coordinated, systematic basis.

We do not pretend that we have all the answers or that it cannot be finetuned over time. I think the potential for creating full-time jobs, with the benefit of a full-time job, by using an agency to do the management-type linkages of those jobs, is very constructive. Some of the schemes are Retail Training, the Mid North Regional Group Training Scheme, OPTCOM (which involves IT computers), Skilled Engineering and Speakman Stillwell. Retail Training SA has placed 18 females and 11 males from August 1994 to March 1995; the Mid North Regional Group Training Scheme has placed three participants in full-time or part-time work; Skilled Engineering to date has secured employment for 26; OPTCOM has placed five and provided pre-employment training for 26; Speakman Stillwell is completing its first round of pre-employment training and has announced that it is filling another 50 places. As I say, for a pilot scheme I believe that it has been very successful. We continually monitor and finetune it, but I believe that in the future it will become a very much replicated scheme not only here but overseas.

Mr CLARKE: As a supplementary question, do you have figures for the cost per Government per placement and so forth?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We will take that on notice.

Mr ASHENDEN: I refer the Minister to page 527 of Financial Paper No. 1. The Minister distributed the directory of State Government grants for young people and youth organisations in March 1995 which has been a very useful tool for community organisations, staff and members in their electorate offices. Will the Minister update this directory to reflect current funding availability so that we can be in possession of the current information?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, the answer clearly is that it will need to be reviewed and updated. One of the interesting aspects of producing something like this is that you do not

want to promote an attitude which encourages people unnecessarily or in a way that is unproductive to seek Government contributions or handouts (if you want to put a cruder label on it) but, at the same time, they are entitled to various things that are on offer from Government to assist groups. The fairest way is to make sure that everyone has access to that information so that they can seek Government grants. It is the intention to review and update it for next year to make sure that the information is as accurate as it possibly can be.

Mr CLARKE: What services to young people will be reduced or cut as a result of the substantial decrease in Government funding to non-government organisations in the community welfare sector?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That is the responsibility of the Minister for Family and Community Services. In terms of Youth SA, as I indicated a few minutes ago, we go beyond our charter, not in any illegal sense but in the sense that we are generous in that we support wherever we can a range of programs, often through the Community Grants Scheme, which is not administered specifically by Youth SA but which does benefit young people—for example, parenting programs, Tough Love, Step Teen and others. We fund in a generous way a significant part of Operation Flinders and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme (which I mentioned before). We provide a lot of grants to organisations such as Girl Guides; we help fund its radio room at Douglas Scrub, McLaren Vale. It is not part of our charter to fund non-government groups *per se*, but in actual fact we do, in a generous way, support a lot of non-government organisations and individuals where there is some benefit to that individual, the group or the community.

Mr CLARKE: As a supplementary question, I appreciate what the Minister said about it primarily being a FACS responsibility, but in terms of the financial support that your department has given to these non-government organisations in the past 12 months, what cuts will apply with respect to the next financial year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I do not expect much change in terms of the moneys that we have allocated. I say that with slight reservation because the moneys that are expended depend on the justification. If we budget so much for youth initiative grants and if young people or an organisation approaches the department and asks for assistance, say, to attend a conference or some other worthwhile activity it is considered on its merits. There is no obligation, in a sense, on the department to spend that amount of money. We budget for a maximum amount to be spent but it depends on requests that come in whether or not it is fully expended. There is no intention to have a significant cut back in those allocations to worthwhile community or individual projects.

Mr CLARKE: What funds have been earmarked for youth street work in Hindley Street and the inner city area? On what basis will the Service to Youth and Community Organisation be funded if it is not selected for this work?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Once again, that is the responsibility of FACS, but we do assist. In fact, the former manager of the Youth SA area was involved in helping to coordinate a rationalisation and review of those services. We are not directly responsible for funding any of those programs, but we interact closely in order to keep familiar with what is happening there. The youth support group project has been very successful in Hindley Street in reducing crime but, more importantly, in helping young people. I am keen, as I indicated before, to see an extension, if we possibly can, to

major police stations throughout the metropolitan area and major country centres.

Mr CLARKE: While this is not in Hindley Street, there is an organisation that runs The Shed in Salisbury and it looks after youth and tries to get them out of the interchange area. Are any Government funds from your department involved in that body?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, but only as they would relate to employment and training outcomes. We often support worthwhile projects to assist with young people getting employment or training. We have and will continue to support a whole range of worthwhile programs, whether they are at The Shed or in other areas. We have given some support to programs in the south. As a way of financial encouragement, we have been involved in cost sharing with councils, where they have provided street youth workers, but we do not actually provide front-line youth work services ourselves. However, if our department can assist in terms of training and employment programs, that makes a lot of sense because the best way of dealing with a welfare issue is, in many cases, to provide a job. So our people get in there if they can assist in terms of training and employment outcomes.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister has talked about making Government youth services accessible and, as part of that process, he has talked about the great leap forward of changing the name of State Youth Affairs to Youth SA. In relation to real means of improving accessibility to State Government services, has the Minister now set up a one-stop shop for youth and a mobile facility, both of which he talked about at last year's Estimates?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This is something that is still to be fully achieved.

The Hon. Frank Blevins: That means 'No.'

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

The Hon. R.B. Such: The objective in terms of the one-stop shop still exists and, ideally, I would like to involve the Commonwealth. The Deputy Leader would realise that it is not necessarily easy to involve the Commonwealth, but I think it makes sense and I am still keen to have one place where young people can go for up-to-date information on education, employment training and so on. We have an information centre in Flinders Street, which may not be the best location in town but it can provide, in effect, a one-stop-shop because it has access to the latest electronic communication system to every agency around. However, in my view it is not in the best location in terms of meeting the needs of young people who do not wish to ring up.

So, my ultimate goal is to have something closer towards the Rundle Mall/Hindley Street area where young people can access a whole range of information. That has been explored in a preliminary way with the Commonwealth and it has been canvassed with other agencies but, in essence, we have not yet achieved the one-stop shop in the way that I would like to see it operating.

In terms of the mobile service, the intention is to have access to information provided at various locations. We are doing it with TAFE, but it needs to be expanded in relation to the youth area at venues such as rock concerts, and so on. So we are not quite there in terms of having met those ultimate objectives, but it is still something that we are keen to do.

Mr CLARKE: Can we look forward to it in this coming financial year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Money is tight and it depends on the circumstances. If we could get speedy cooperation from other agencies and the Commonwealth, we could do it very quickly but, as the Deputy Leader would be aware, we are not flushed with funds at the moment. We are going to do some relocation in terms of what we have got in Flinders Street. It is still an objective and I am hopeful of being able to do something soon, but I cannot promise that we will do it in the next 12 months. If things go right it could happen fairly quickly, but I am not quite as optimistic given the financial situation.

Mr ANDREW: I refer the Minister to page 527 of Financial Paper No. 1 in relation to the youth arena. Two youth specific awards were included in the SA Great awards on Proclamation Day this year. Why did SA Great include these categories and what was the response to them?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It was very important as part of this overall strategy of acknowledging the contribution of young people and recognising them in a public way that they be included in those Proclamation Day awards. So we worked in conjunction with SA Great and provided money to assist in the organisation and publicity relating to those awards. I attended the ceremony at Government House, where Dame Roma presented the awards. One of the 1994 awards went to Kelly Dixon, who is the youngest Australian ever to swim the English Channel, and the other went to the Restless Dance Company, many of whose members have significant disabilities. So they were two worthy recipients—one a group and one an individual.

It is important that we continue those sorts of awards. Although not directly financially, we have supported the Young Australian of the Year awards which have now replaced the Young Achiever awards which are promoted and conducted by Channel 10. It has now combined its awards with the Australia Day Council awards, and I launched that a couple of weeks ago.

It is also important that we continue to celebrate the achievements of young people as role models and as examples to others. We will need to talk with SA Great in terms of the continuing format but, at this stage, the intention is to continue to support those Proclamation Day awards to ensure that young people are recognised as part of that celebration.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer to page 527 of the financial papers. Is there any feedback in relation to the goodwill visits that were made by delegations of young people from Japan during 1995?

The Hon. R.B. Such: A delegation from Japan visited South Australia as part of a goodwill mission, and that time was spent very productively; members of the delegation had a look at sheep shearing as well as a range of other activities. I believe those sorts of exchanges and other exchanges involving students are worthwhile, as they do more to promote understanding and peace than probably anything else.

In addition to our support for that and our hosting it, we have provided financial support for some young South Australians to go on the Japanese Prime Minister's Youth for Peace cruise, which visits countries of the Pacific area and which, I believe, is a very worthwhile activity. Young people from various countries visit the Pacific region to promote goodwill and understanding amongst young people. Much opportunity exists to encourage more visits from Japan and other countries. The Japanese are very keen to come here. They know a little about Australia, but the potential is there to invite and encourage many more to visit us. We have links

through TAFE with Japan in training in the catering and culinary arts areas. We need to build on that in order to expand and promote greater understanding between the two countries.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to the Program Estimates, page 523, dealing with industry training funds. Does the Minister support fully the existence of the Construction Industry Training Fund and, if so, what does he believe are the benefits of the scheme?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I certainly support the scheme, which is an innovative one. There was some apprehension by some sections of industry, which were concerned about demarcation between maintenance and new works, but in its short history it has achieved a lot. It is currently funding many people in training, including apprentices, in the building industry. It funded the construction industry skill centre—the earth-moving centre out at Gillman—which would not have been possible without that money. Personally I have had only one complaint in relation to its operation, and that was from an owner-builder who was part way through the process and had to pay the levy. Some councils have been reluctant tax gatherers, as they see it, but the industry and, importantly, the community will benefit from the fund. Only half the people working in the construction industry have a formal qualification and, whilst I am not suggesting that the others are not performing their tasks, clearly it is desirable for everyone in the industry to be able to access training and to benefit from it. Ultimately the consumer pays and benefits and that is appropriate. It is a very small levy and I have not had one complaint from any person having a house built, other than the one owner-builder, and that issue was sorted out over time.

The benefit of the scheme is that the sector that contributes gets back what it contributes, so if people involved in the housing sector contribute they get back what they contribute. The training is not only in relation to off-the-job training but also to in-house training so, where companies can train their staff in the latest computer techniques that will assist the industry, that is now considered by the board. It is very important that the Construction Industry Training Fund and the board be supported. Other industries are now wanting to follow suit.

There will always be a very delicate balancing act because some people see it as an extra tax. Some people do not support training but want to benefit from it. The levy scheme is the fairest way of going about it and the Construction Industry Training Fund and the board, as is the case in Tasmania and Western Australia, are a model which other States ultimately will pick up.

Some people have suggested that it is a deterrent to constructing houses. I do not accept that argument. The levy is so small and the potential or new owner is pleased to have something that they believe is the result of having trained people construct their house. It is a positive outcome for everyone.

Approximately 3 000 people have received training as a result of the fund in 1994-95. This includes 30 000 training hours delivered by the Civil Construction Skills Training Centre—the earth-moving centre—with an average of 70 trainees per month. One of the points, which I have indicated clearly to the board, is that it needs to sell to the wider community the benefits of the fund and the training. I have been urging it to make MPs and others aware of the benefits of the scheme lest people, through misunderstanding or lack

of appreciation, do not recognise the value of this innovative fund.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Minister's advisers for their assistance.

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

Membership:

Mr Brokenshire substituted for Mr Ashenden.

Mr Buckby substituted for Mrs Rosenberg.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Andrew Strickland will shortly take up a new position interstate and we wish him well and thank him for his outstanding contribution in South Australia. I have always found him to be absolutely loyal, dedicated and capable. I am not keen for him to be going, but I wish him well and the position that he is taking up will have a significant Federal impact which, of course, includes South Australia. We wish him well and I am sure that we will see him from time to time.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the Minister like to make a statement?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will be brief because the member for Giles is keen not to be detained. I would like to announce a new fish industry training centre which will be established at Port Adelaide. It is a grant of \$187 000 from the Commonwealth and it will complete the fish processing training facility there and make it the best in Australia and the most extensive and latest in terms of technology.

It will enable fish processing training to be of a very high standard so that, domestically and export-wise, we will do the value adding and will get the full value from the fish and other ocean products instead of other countries getting that benefit. For example, in shops and in retail outlets generally, the product will be displayed and presented in a most attractive way and it will enable the returns to be absolutely cost effective in terms of maximising the amount of flesh and so on that is taken off fish by way of filleting and so on. It is a significant development and it will add to the existing fine facility at Port Adelaide. Once again, I acknowledge the contribution of the Commonwealth and its significant support through ANTA for the second stage of the fish industry training centre at Port Adelaide.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the Deputy Leader of the Opposition like to make a statement?

Mr CLARKE: Yes, with regard to the employment section and we will deal with TAFE a little later on. However, following the Minister's comments about Andrew Strickland, it is appropriate at this juncture that I, on behalf of the Opposition, place on record our appreciation of Andrew's work on behalf of the State of South Australia for many years as Commissioner for Public Employment where I knew him in another capacity. I used to go to him and ask him for a quid as the common law employer of public servants.

While I was not involved so much with the PSA, I recall Andrew's work in the area of personal assistants to members of Parliament particularly with changing Governments or changing members of Parliament. Personal assistants came along and others went off and Andrew was always very good at helping those people who, through no fault of their own and because of the luck of the draw and a change of political masters in those particular electorates, found themselves out of work. Andrew helped them back into public service or to find employment elsewhere. I acknowledge his work during

his term as CEO of TAFE. It is a sad loss to South Australia, but a gain for the national organisation. I am sure that he will not forget South Australia and that he will dole out more money whenever he can to our State, notwithstanding anything else.

I want now to refer the Minister to Program Estimates, page 523. By way of introduction to my questions, I want to make the following points. In this year's Estimates, I must unfortunately make special mention of the Minister's rather poor performance in terms of his reporting on the employment side of his portfolio. On the one hand, I accept that the Minister for Employment at State level can have little direct effect on labour market trends. Indeed, the Minister's role can be reduced largely to announcing the monthly figures when they are bad and watching the Premier announce them when they are good. However, on the other hand, it is essential that the Minister has a firm grasp of the statistics and can portray the situation accurately.

As Shadow Minister I find myself, like many others who study the labour force statistics, somewhat mystified when the Minister comments on the monthly statistics. In fact, I often wonder whether we are looking at the same figures. I am sure that the department is providing accurate advice in relation to labour market trends so I am left to wonder whether the Minister understands the figures or (probably more accurately) whether he is trying to put a positive spin on them each month, no matter what they say.

The Minister will be aware that, by contrast, the Opposition in its monthly press releases, takes a consistent approach by always comparing South Australia's labour market performance since the election of the Brown Government against Australia as a whole over the same period. We have also given full acknowledgment whenever we have seen a positive sign in the labour market. Indeed, I put out a press release only last month.

The times when the Minister has got it wrong include on 9 February, the day figures were released showing that 900 jobs had been lost in South Australia in the previous month and that over the period of more than a year since the election of the Brown Government, a tiny 1 400 jobs had been created—a tiny fraction of the national rate. On that very day, the Minister told the people of South Australia:

This is a day of celebration for South Australia.

The Minister also told Parliament that 22 500 jobs had been created in the year from year November 1993 to November 1994. The truth was that 9 600 jobs had been created (and almost half of them in the next month before the State election). That was a massive discrepancy. I believe that the Minister was trying to rewrite history and to emulate his Premier by using gross rather than net figures—an extraordinary misuse of statistics.

Earlier this month, the Minister again showed his lack of understanding regarding labour force statistics by, in this case, understating the level of improvement in the rate of youth unemployment. He said to the Parliament:

Youth unemployment has dropped by 10 per cent. I trust that the Leader of the Opposition is absorbing those important statistics.

The Leader was listening, as was I and the reality was that the number of people aged 15 to 19 seeking full-time work, expressed as a percentage of the youth labour force, dropped over the year from 40.6 per cent to 30.9 per cent, a drop of about 25 per cent. The Minister was actually selling himself short on that occasion.

At times, these matters are difficult. We all remember the Federal Treasurer whose demise centred around his inability to recall the definition of GOS (Gross Operating Surplus) and that was outside the Parliament. We hope that this Minister would not fall foul of the same problem. What action is the Government taking to ensure that the structural unemployment problem in South Australia does not increase during the continuing national recovery?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Before I get on to the specifics on that, I will refer to the figures in general terms. The ABS figures are snapshot figures. In effect, they are an estimate. It is important to remember that the annual statistic, in using original data, will tend to be more accurate than the monthly seasonal figure.

The youth figure is always expressed as original data. The number of people in that category has varied considerably over time because, as members will understand, more people are staying on at school or are in training at TAFE or university. I have always been prepared to acknowledge that we are not strictly comparing apples with apples because the 15 to 19 year old unemployment focus at the moment is not, in aggregate or other terms, exactly the same as it was 10 or 20 years ago. I have always acknowledged that.

I had the Manager of the Labour Market Analysis Branch of DETAFE (Peter King) look at the figures and, in the paper that he prepared on 16 June, he indicated that, over the year to May 1995, total employment in South Australia has risen by 18 100 (2.8 per cent) to 656 200. That figure is for total employment, in other words, full time and part time. Because the Opposition keeps harping on the question as to whether or not the election promise was delivered, let me quote his comments, as follows, 'Accordingly, using original quarter to date average data, the actual numbers for each respective base period are as follows,' and he includes the tables, which go from November 1993 through to January 1995. He says, 'It can therefore be concluded that, on the issue of the 1993 election promise, if the base period chosen is the quarter immediately preceding the election of the Brown Government, the quarter ending November 1993 to November 1994, then the election promise was in fact realised with a net gain of 1 100 jobs over the target.' We end up with an unproductive exercise, because, as members would realise, figures can be used to make various points, but this is the analysis of the Manager of the Labour Market Analysis Branch, and he is not subject to any political direction. That is his conclusion in terms of meeting the promised target of 12 000 jobs.

Since the Government was elected, we have seen a variation in performance from month to month, and one would expect that because monthly figures are a snapshot and do not necessarily give a full appreciation of the employment situation. That is why I have always been cautious not to get hysterical when things look good or to get utterly depressed when they do not. The more accurate figures are those that are revealed to WorkCover, for example, of actual bodies working. Whilst it is not my portfolio, the Minister responsible for WorkCover, Graham Ingerson, indicated recently that, in terms of employment, the number of employing bodies registered with WorkCover, and paying a levy, has increased significantly.

In terms of the point that the Deputy Leader made, it is true that, as Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, I am not the initiator of all employment creating activities. I would be the first to acknowledge that. That comes within the province of the Premier and the Minister responsible for industry and infrastructure. I am basically

responsible for employment programs such as Urban Greening and for programs involving trainees, apprenticeships, the Public Service, and so on. It needs to be remembered that the figures jump around from month to month. They are snapshots or estimates. They are not a 100 per cent accurate figure. They provide a guide. The independent, non-political assessment in terms of the Government's meeting the jobs target, as stated here, has been that it was met and, in recent weeks, there has been a significant increase in employment.

I am the first to admit that we are not as far down the employment path as we would like to go. We are working on it as hard as we can. It was not helped by the Federal Government's interest rate hikes which impacted on the budget directly here by \$80 million for every 1 per cent increase in interest and also sent a very bad message to industry and others. The basic problem in the housing industry has been overconstruction in the past few years, so, much of the downturn, which has been compounded by interest rate hikes, resulted from the fact that there was overbuilding, and builders will admit that.

We are pushing as hard as we can to create jobs in information technology and in the wine industry. A lot of the jobs in the information technology industry will come on stream gradually. Motorola needs 800 people alone, and there are all the others setting up here, such as Westpac and Australis. We do not kid ourselves that we can put our feet up. We acknowledge readily that there is a lot of work to be done. We are driving as hard as we can. The Premier and Minister Olsen are working flat out to attract industry here. We have been successful in many instances but we still have a long way to go before we get to the point where we would like to be, and that is getting unemployment down to a much lower level. As the Deputy Leader acknowledged, State Governments are limited in what they can do to stimulate employment, but that is no excuse for not taking action. We are on track and we will get there. Recovery has been slower than we would have liked, but we will get there.

Mr CLARKE: What action has the Government taken to ensure that the structural unemployment problem in South Australia does not increase during the continuing national recovery? By 'structural unemployment' I mean that, although we have the people, they do not have the skills to match the jobs available. An article appeared in yesterday's paper about the need to import skilled labour into Australia. What concerns me increasingly is that, each time we go through a recession, the plateau rises in terms of the number of people who are long-term unemployed, and much of that has to do with structural unemployment.

The Hon. R.B. Such: That can be seen in the obvious evidence that there are unemployed people, on the one hand, yet there is demand for skilled employees on the other hand. Recorded job vacancies have been significantly high in South Australia. We cannot automatically switch those people off, and that is where we get that structural problem. We will address an aspect of that through Kickstart for Youth. Through the Regional Economic Development Board, which comes under the Minister for Infrastructure, we are looking at ways of assisting expansion there. The constant message that I have been stating is the need to train people. Sadly, some employers have not given enough credence to training people. As a result, as the honourable member pointed out, there is a skills shortage, then a surplus, and a whole range of waves in between.

Anyone who has had any experience with work force planning would accept that it is a very dangerous area to stake one's life on because it is a very imprecise activity. One has to be a pretty brave sort of person to predict with any accuracy the demands for industry or enterprise. We know that, in terms of information technology, there will be a need, but potential employees do not always have to be people who have done electronics. They may be innovative, creative people, who have the capacity to be adaptive and flexible. Companies such as Motorola have taken on board a few philosophy students. They are looking for creative, adaptable thinkers rather than people who have come through the more conventional electronics areas. We are well aware of the issue and we are working as hard as we can. What makes it very difficult in the Australian Federal system is that the States outbid each other to attract industry, and that is one of the high prices that we pay in Australia for our Federal system.

Mr CLARKE: What success has the Government had in reducing long-term unemployment in South Australia since the election and how does this compare with the national figures? Does the Minister have statistics to show what has been achieved in that area?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As the Deputy Leader would know, unemployment specifically is the principal responsibility of the Federal Government. The Working Nation program of the Federal Government was deliberately designed to tackle many of those long-term unemployed. Many of the programs we administer, including LEAP, specifically focus on long-term unemployed. We have had to argue strongly to the Commonwealth that if you run programs for those people you need additional resources. We have been partially successful in convincing the Federal Government that if someone has been out of work for a long time it will take a lot of resources to bring them back and get them back into the work force. To the May quarter 1995, the number of persons in South Australia unemployed for two years or more fell from 19 300 to 15 000, a decline of 4 300 or 22.3 per cent. The number of long-term unemployed as a proportion of total unemployed in South Australia declined over the same period; that is, the year to the May quarter, from 41.1 per cent to 37 per cent. So, there has been a drop. I take the view that one person unemployed is one too many, but we must continue to put a lot of effort into supporting Commonwealth programs which target the long-term unemployed. Many of our programs give preference to those people in order to tackle it and, judging by the figures, we have had some success, although there is still a way to go.

Mr CLARKE: Supplementary to that, do you have the figures for comparison with the other States on this issue?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Not being responsible for the other States I do not, but I know why you might be interested. We could, no doubt, obtain those for you.

Mr CLARKE: I am happy to take it on notice. I refer the Minister to the VEET board, which the Minister informed us of this morning and it was subject to *Gazette* last Friday, I think. The appointment of the VEET board has taken at least eight months since the legislation was passed back in December of last year or thereabouts. Why did it take so long to appoint members to the VEET board, and how many times did this matter have to go back to Cabinet to be resolved?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The Deputy Leader will find that it went through Parliament towards the end of last year, so it is just over five months. It took a long time to draw up regulations because we are moving to a significantly different structure in relation to the administration or the direction of

training. We are not only creating a new VEET board as the overarching body, but also we have the Recognition Council and the Adult Community Education Council. Incidentally, that was formed and has been operating for many months now under the chairmanship of Jean Wenham. So, we have had parts in operation, but it takes quite a while to get the regulations drawn up and to make sure that all aspects are covered properly. Also, it takes a while to approach people and to obtain their agreement to be part of the VEET board.

In terms of going back and forth to Cabinet, clearly what happens in Cabinet is confidential, but there were no great problems. It was a matter of approaching people and for them to consider being on the board. That was easy in relation to the nominees from the Employers Chamber and the United Trades and Labor Council, but in respect of the other members it takes a while to ensure that we have the very best people. Everyone who is fair-minded would say that this VEET board is a very powerful board and has top people on it. Nothing ever happens quite as quickly as one would like, but I believe it has been a reasonable time that has passed. As I say, we had the Adult Community Education Council to select, and one must do a lot of negotiation with the universities, with private providers and obviously within TAFE. We had various groups in the community that wanted to be on the board, which, because of its importance was not surprising. So, all those issues had to be handled sensitively without, in any way, sending the wrong message to people who cannot be on the board or who may feel that their industry should be represented. What we are trying to do with the board is to have people on there who are not looking backwards, but looking forwards and taking the State view rather than a narrow representational view. So, all those things take a while to sort out.

Mr CLARKE: By way of supplement, since we are dealing with the composition of the board, as to those members of the interim board who were not appointed to the permanent board, was it because they no longer wished to serve on the board or was that part and parcel of your decision-making process that you wanted other people on the board? In your letter to the board members—ex board members as they now are—did the Minister thank them for their past services?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I certainly did thank them for their past services. They have all been written to, obviously as well as the new members. Clearly, not everyone can be on the board. The Government and I had to say no to many worthy people who wanted to be on it. The honourable member would realise that when you look at the composition of the board there are people from the IT industry, agriculture and so on, but if you wanted to have a representative, so to speak—and it is not the way I wanted the board to focus—from every significant industry in South Australia you would have a board that could not be accommodated in the Festival Theatre. But, no, there is no reflection on the people who were on the interim board. They performed the task very well. Peter Wall, who is the outgoing interim chairman, I believe was absolutely dedicated but life moves on and it is time for a board which takes account of changed circumstances in South Australia, particularly in relation to information technology. So, it is an appropriate board, but there is certainly no reflection or slight on those who are no longer on it. They cannot all be on it. We have here some of the best people in South Australia, but we do not have the only talented people on it. There are many others who cannot be on it because of the size of the board.

Mr BUCKBY: I refer the Minister to Program Estimates, page 529. The 1995-96 specific targets identify a participated increase of 200 places in Let's Get South Australia Really Working programs. What outcomes were achieved in 1994-95, and how is the increase to be achieved in 1995-96?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes, it has been a very successful program. In 1994-95 \$1.5 million was allocated to those three components—Group Training Employers' Rebate Scheme, employment broker scheme and Greening Urban SA. In 1995-96 \$1.23 million was spent and \$790 000 allocated to complete those projects. That provided 527 employment places. The budget for 1995-96 is \$1.3 million for an anticipated 730 places. This will be achieved as a result of refinement to the guidelines to maximise Commonwealth support as a result of its White Paper initiatives. In other words, we have tailored some of the programs to make sure that they fit within Commonwealth funding guidelines so that we can maximise the benefit from the Commonwealth. As to the considerations for 1995-96, specifically in terms of the Group Training Employers' Rebate Scheme, we will be targeting disadvantaged groups, long-term unemployed—which I am sure the Deputy Leader will be pleased to hear—and people from remote and rural areas—which I am sure the member to my right will be happy to hear about. There is the employment broker scheme, using private labour hire companies to target disadvantaged individuals. For Greening Urban SA, 200 participants are expected in total during that 1995-96 year.

Mr BUCKBY: I refer the Minister to page 520 of Financial Information Paper No. 1. At a recent school council meeting, the SAIT representative tabled a document that referred to TAFE cuts of \$15 million, which would lead to reduced funding from the Federal Government. Is the Minister's perception of SAIT accurate?

The Hon. R.B. Such: No, it is not. I explained this morning before the honourable member came to the Committee that that figure of \$15 million is inaccurate, because it contains no reduction for capital funding. So, immediately \$10 million can be deducted. In respect of Commonwealth funding for capital projects, we fund some of those projects because we believe that we need to have rapid expansion in some areas of TAFE. So, we are paying out of our own pocket for capital works, which, as I said, are normally the responsibility of the Commonwealth, at Mount Barker, Whyalla and, we hope, shortly at Port Pirie and in the not too distance future within the city of Adelaide regarding a further project. Commonwealth funds are usually in the form of lump sum allocations for projects. Currently, we have several big projects under way, such as the Adelaide Institute of TAFE (in excess of \$20 million) and the Noarlunga Campus of the Onkaparinga Institute of TAFE.

So, the funding that comes from the Commonwealth does not necessarily fit neatly into the financial year used by the Treasurer in his reports. That figure, which has been bandied around—and I have heard the Leader of the Opposition suggest it—has created a completely misleading impression. In recurrent areas in TAFE there has been a cut of 2 per cent achieved through greater efficiencies which do not impact on the teaching area. The real figure is nowhere near \$15 million, and it is quite misleading for people to trot that out, because it does not take into account the reality of the way in which the Commonwealth funds capital works.

Mr BUCKBY: I refer the Minister to page 3.19 of the Financial Statement. I note that additional funding has been provided for specific industry priority areas, including

information technology. What measures are being undertaken by the department to increase the skilled work force in the IT area?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This area is very important in terms of the State's future. We have under way the establishment of Motorola and other major companies which are looking for trained people not only specifically in electronics but in related activities. We need trained people to support and work in those industries. In terms of electronics, regarding the range of programs offered by TAFE, which also encompass general information systems, multi-media, and so on we are having an additional mid-year intake to ensure that we have extra people being trained in those areas. We are also working closely with universities to ensure that the universities provide bridging programs for people who may wish to enter the IT industry but who do not have a background in that industry.

This comes back to the point I made earlier: we need not only people who are trained in electronics but who are creative, innovative and lateral thinkers—all those sorts of attributes are needed. This year, because, through demographics, there was a drop in the age range of young people entering university and TAFE, there was somewhat of a grab for young people between TAFE, universities and private providers. Consequently, some young people who would have otherwise gone into IT or electronics were tempted into other areas. As I said this morning, currently we have more people training to be lawyers than we have lawyers in practice. We need electronics technicians and chefs to work in tourism and so on, and we need to redress the current imbalance. The fact of the matter is that universities, in order to keep up their numbers, took away some of the people who traditionally would have entered into some of those other vocational areas.

We cannot allow this situation of having a shortfall in people trained in information technology and electronics to continue in South Australia. That is why we are conducting a significant advertising marketing campaign directed at parents and young people to get them to focus on information technology and electronics as a career and to ensure that while at school they do not neglect mathematics and physics options, because that will deprive them of the opportunity to pursue certain areas in electronics. It will not stop them pursuing a career in other aspects of IT, but over the past 10 or 20 years it has become unfashionable to study mathematics and science at school and, if we are not careful, we will now reap the proceeds by having too many people trained as lawyers and in other areas with a real deficiency of people trained in highly skilled vocational areas. We must get away from the undesirable situation of having our top students seeking to become a lawyer or a medico when we need only a few to do so. We need to have our best brains also in information technology, viticulture and a whole range of areas. So, this is an important marketing exercise, one which will be backed by an actual increase in terms of places during the second half of this year to ensure that young people are trained in state-of-the-art electronics to meet the needs of industry and South Australia.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to page 523 of the Program Estimates: Planning and Coordination. The Federal Government has announced that an additional \$70 million will be provided in each year from 1997 for vocational education and training. This is in addition to total growth funding for the sector over the period 1993 to 1997 of \$1.5 billion. ANTA growth funding will expand the number of student places

consistent with achieving the Finn participation targets by the year 2001. The growth funding is expected to increase the number of student places in 1997 by 35 000, and South Australia should be doing everything possible to capture its share of this growth.

Unfortunately, the cuts to expenditure on TAFE have already translated into reduced effort, and this will lead to a loss of growth funds for South Australia. The 1994-95 budget resulted in South Australia's being put on a 'watch' basis. Cuts to the State contribution to TAFE could have the following effect: in 1995, \$5.3 million; in 1996, \$10.6 million; and in 1997, \$15.9 million, or a total reduction from 1995 to 1997 inclusive of \$31.8 million. Perhaps for the first time for many years there is genuine concern about the future of TAFE in South Australia. TAFE has been a major target for cuts by the Government, at the very time when we should be rebuilding our skills base and when the department is trying to renegotiate the National Vocational Education and Training Agreement and, perhaps most importantly, when the provision of millions of dollars of Commonwealth growth funds is dependent upon the State maintaining effort. The Brown Government's approach to TAFE is making a joke of the fine work by TAFE staff to deliver world class programs.

I will raise matters relating to what the Minister said to the Parliament recently regarding ANTA growth funds, as it does not correspond with the written material that I have. On Thursday 8 June 1995, the Minister said to the House:

The ANTA board has recommended that we get those growth funds, so it is now entirely in the hands of Federal Ministers Crean and Free.

However, I have correspondence with me from the Chief Executive Officer of ANTA dated 18 May 1995 which states quite clearly that ANTA is yet to make its assessment regarding South Australia and the matter of whether it would recommend that South Australia should receive Commonwealth funds. The letter in part states:

However, we await advice from South Australia on their progress in 1995 towards the target set. The Chair of the authority has explained this matter to the South Australian Minister.

In relation to your statement to the Parliament on 8 June this year, on what date did you receive advice that the ANTA board had recommended that South Australia get the Commonwealth growth funds?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The simple facts are these. When this Government came into office we inherited a situation that had done a lot of damage to TAFE—in fact, the name 'TAFE' had disappeared. What are now under my direction called Institutes of TAFE were called Institutes of Vocational Education, and no-one had ever heard of them. It cost enrolments and it affected morale because that name, which had been developed and established over 20 years, was well known in Australia and overseas, and suddenly people started to ask, 'What has happened to TAFE?'

Not only that but also under Minister Lenehan the previous Government created a mega department which was known euphemistically as little DEET (in contrast to big DEET in Canberra). That meant that the TAFE people were put into a much bigger organisation, TAFE having a lot fewer employees than DECS (as it is called now)—DECS has in excess of 18 000 employees and TAFE somewhere around 3 000 to 4 000. So, what we had was big brother and little sister, and it did a lot of harm to TAFE. We made a conscious decision to separate TAFE because we wanted to put a lot of emphasis on vocational education.

We inherited the situation where there was a deficiency of almost one million training hours under the ANTA agreement. We have, in just over 12 months, picked up that deficiency—and not only picked it up in a remarkable period of time with outstanding productivity gains but also will, in my view, exceed that target this year. We have met our obligations in dollar terms and we have now met them I believe in terms of commitment of hours.

I have spoken with Brian Finn, the Chairman of the ANTA board, and he made it quite clear that the ANTA board had advised the Federal Minister not to threaten us with the withdrawal of funds in the first place. Minister Ross Free decided to go against the ANTA board. He wrote to us and also raised it at the ministerial council meeting, threatening the withdrawal of funds and threatening to put us on a drip scheme. The situation now is that the ANTA board, on my understanding from the Chairman, has recommended that we get our growth funds.

So it is a political decision. It is now entirely up to Ministers Free and Crean whether we get the money because the ANTA board has recognised that we have made a superb effort in picking up that deficiency through a magnificent effort by TAFE staff. We are not going to just sit back and rest on that achievement. We are committed to further productivity gains in TAFE. We are looking at other ways in which we can become more efficient. We have increased enrolments in TAFE; and we have increased productivity significantly across the board by the order of 5 per cent at least, and in some institutes much more than that.

Any suggestion that we have not done the right thing by TAFE is nonsense. There has not been any major cut to TAFE. TAFE, like other Government agencies, has had to take a share of the pain. It is pain that we did not create but we cannot, in all fairness, say that DECS and others will wear the pain and TAFE will sit back. TAFE has taken a cut, approximately 2 per cent of recurrent, but it impacts not at all on programs. We have not affected students in terms of offerings. In fact, we are expanding our offerings: we are expanding what we provide.

Despite this phoney attack on the Government and TAFE by the Opposition, TAFE is poised to get bigger and better, and it will get bigger and better. Even in these tight circumstances, the Government has agreed to fund out of its own pocket capital works at Mount Barker, which it has no obligation to do, supporting the expansion of video conferencing and interactive video in country areas. It has a \$500 000 expansion program at the Whyalla Institute of TAFE. That is hardly an example of a Government that has not been supportive of TAFE.

The Government is extremely supportive of TAFE. We have supported and initiated the Helpmann Academy, which has been a brilliant success. It has been so successful that people have forgotten the significant work that went into establishing it. It did not happen for many years. I was able to rejig it and come up with a formula and use people such as David Meldrum, who has been excellent, to work with the universities and TAFE and come up with an outstanding training institution which demonstrated its expertise in its production of *Berlioz* in Adelaide a couple of weeks ago.

This business about TAFE getting a big hit and being attacked, and so on, is a load of nonsense. There has been no cut in capital works in real terms. In fact, there has been a net increase in capital funding by the State Government when we are not obliged to contribute at all. We have met our requirements under maintenance of effort despite inheriting a very

bad situation which was a consequence of the previous Government. They are the facts.

The arrangement that was put forward at the ministerial council meeting in Alice Springs last year was that they would look at the figures performance by South Australia. With the final consideration being at the end of July (and we are not at the end of July yet), the reality is that the ANTA board has acknowledged that we have delivered the goods and should get our money. I believe, come the end of July, that we should expect to get absolute certainty in terms of those growth funds. The money has not been withdrawn. What has happened is that it has been put on a drip system subject to our performing. We are performing and it is time that we were taken off the drip system so that we have certainty and can use those moneys to provide training for South Australians.

Mr CLARKE: My question was, 'On what date did the Minister receive advice that the ANTA board had recommended that South Australia get the Commonwealth growth funds?' You said on 8 June that the ANTA board had given the approval, when I have a letter here signed by the CEO of ANTA dated 18 May which said that the board had not at that time taken a decision with respect to South Australia.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I spoke directly with Brian Finn, the Chairman of the board. I would have to check to see exactly what day that was but it would have preceded that comment in Parliament because I do not make comments like that unless I am confident of the facts. I did speak to him, having called him in Melbourne. He and Terry Moran, the CEO of ANTA, had offered to come and have a chat prior to the ministerial council meeting in May, and I said, 'Look, that isn't necessary; what I am particularly interested in is knowing when we are going to get our growth funds.' He said that the board's view was that we had met the requirements.

The CEO says that it would have been late May, prior to that answer in Parliament. One would be foolish to be saying that one had a view that the board was going to agree to it if it had not. One would be setting oneself up for a whack around the ears. I specifically spoke to Brian Finn and he said that they would be recommending that we get our growth funds, and they recommend that to the Federal Minister. So, if the board is recommending that who is holding it up?

Mr CLARKE: Do you accept that to avoid losing Commonwealth growth funds the target for 1995 is 14 424 886 student contact hours, which means that there will need to be an increase of over one million student contact hours from the 1994 target of 13 339 517 student contact hours?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The agreement comes up for renegotiation later this year and one of the points that has been of concern not only to South Australia but also to other States is the way in which the funding is calculated in terms of student hours, and so on, and the fact that it does not take account of innovative activities. For example, the Adelaide Institute of TAFE gets about 40 per cent of its income from fee-for-service activities, and to me that is very innovative and shows the capability of the people there; yet you are not allowed to count that and you do not get full recognition for that.

Also, South Australia is a large State which has at least 60 branches of TAFE trying to serve country people and Aboriginal people in the Pitjantjatjara lands, so we are in a totally different situation to that of Victoria, which is more compact. We argue that South Australia's programs are of a better quality than those in many other areas, so one has to

premise the answer by saying that the current formula does not really recognise South Australia's situation—a small population in a large State. Our schemes are innovative in terms of fee for service; we provide high quality training programs rather than a sheep dip principle; and we tailor programs to suit individuals and enterprises. Despite that, we have delivered the goods and we have picked up that one million, and TAFE will go from strength to strength because we are looking at greater efficiencies in the system.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister may have reasons for saying that you should be able to use other factors in determining the formula for the funds, such as South Australia's geographically dispersed area, and so on, when looking at it in terms of other States. However, in terms of the current agreement, would the Minister agree that, if we are to avoid losing Commonwealth growth funds as they currently use the existing formula, we would need to have an increase of over one million student contact hours?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I do not accept the honourable member's argument or his figures. As I said, we are about to renegotiate that whole agreement. The targets that we must meet would not be quite of the order that the honourable member is suggesting, but perhaps Mr Strickland might like to add a little bit.

Mr Strickland: To clarify what is actually a fairly confused situation, we had to negotiate with ANTA about re-basing the South Australian hours because the basis on which the original hours in 1992-93 were calculated was not the same as that which ANTA is now using for interstate comparisons. Off the top of my head—and I would want to confirm this—I believe the figures to which the honourable member is referring are the figures mentioned before this re-basing exercise went on and, while we still have a very significant task, it is a little less than one million student contact hours to achieve in 1995.

As the Minister has already explained, ANTA will make an assessment at the end of July of how well we are going in achieving that end-of-year target in 1995 which would include a little less than but around about one million extra student contact hours, and on the basis of that it will then make recommendations to the Federal Ministers Free and Crean, who are using the Federal Government legislation to possibly withhold these funds from South Australia. So, the whole situation is still up in the air as far as that is concerned. However, I think the figures to which the honourable member has referred are actually those that relate to the period before this re-basing of figures went on. Incidentally, South Australia is not alone in this: these re-basing exercises are going on in most States.

The Hon. R.B. Such: In terms of the vehicle industry certificate for which we do get credit for the hours, we anticipated when that was introduced that we would have something like 160 000 training hours in 12 months. However, my information is that we have achieved 200 000 hours in eight months, and that is just one program within many. We have 300 award programs in TAFE, so the one million figure might sound rather frightening but, as both the CEO and I pointed out earlier, it would be slightly less than that, and I believe that we are performing very well in terms of meeting our requirements.

The formula has changed over time, and we are going through the re-basing exercise. Originally TAFE was able to count things, such as adult matriculation and adult migrant education, in particular English. Those things have dropped out, so really we have almost a changing formula from year

to year. It is a very complex issue, but I can say with some confidence that we have met our obligations and we are fully committed to enhancing TAFE in South Australia.

Mr ANDREW: I refer to page 520 of Financial Information Paper No. 1. We hear much today about caring for the environment and the new trend in tourism, in particular ecotourism. South Australia has many natural tourist assets, including Kangaroo Island, the Flinders Ranges and the annual migration of whales to the top of the Bight on the South Australian coast. My electorate of Chaffey has in excess of 6 000 square kilometres of national park, much of which is jointly managed by both State and Federal Governments and which comes under various categories, such as national parks and game reserves. It contains such well-known areas as Calperum, Chowilla and Danggali conservation parks; much of it fronts to the Murray River; and much of it is associated with the very interesting wetlands of the Murray River valley.

This area is currently on track to being internationally recognised by UNESCO in the form of a biosphere reserve, hopefully in the very near future. Because of this, as we heard at the end of last week, US\$1 million will be bequeathed to this area through the Chicago Zoological Society, which is currently closely associated with the management of those parks, particularly Calperum, and that money will be used as part of a development program for the construction of an environmental interpretive centre. Therefore, the Riverland is very much on the verge of a great opportunity in terms of this ecotourism potential. What is the department doing to provide training or to improve the quality of training for people already employed or about to be employed in this rapidly growing area?

The Hon. R.B. Such: This is an exciting area. Members will be aware of the recent tourism figures for South Australia which show a significant increase. I believe that ecotourism, as it is often called, is a growth area and, to meet that need, TAFE is providing additional training. The Adelaide Institute of TAFE now is offering a specific training program, extending over a year full-time or two years part-time, to train people in ecotourism. As a light-hearted aside, I had a letter last week from a Japanese professor wanting to know more about 'ecotourism' in South Australia, spelt 'E-C-H-O' tourism, and I thought that might be a variation of 'cooee', and so on. However, getting back to things more serious, the ecotourism potential exists not only in areas such as the Riverland. For instance, in relation to the whales which migrate along the coast of the Nullarbor, there is a lot of potential for people coming to view and experience nature without harming it, and that is the difference between ecotourism and what you might call more conventional tourism—it is looking at, experiencing and appreciating without in any way harming the natural environment.

As we know, tourism is a two-edged sword. If you have a lot of tourists you can inflict damage on areas and in the end people do not want to go there because of the damage to it and its natural habitat. So it is important that the people in that industry get the proper training. Already a lot of interest has been shown in relation to that new course. I am aware of people offering tours into the Gawler Ranges and of people flying out from America specifically to be taken on ecotours of that area. We have opportunities in the Coorong, Kangaroo Island, Flinders Ranges and all sorts of other places where people can experience the natural environment in a way that is not possible in other countries.

The existing tourism program at the Adelaide Institute has been expanded. It is running excellent programs in general tourism. These programs are not only available in Adelaide but also in regional country centres through interactive video and other distance education modes. One of the interesting aspects of the eco-tourism program is that people will be able to visit areas of significance in terms of geology, including old mine sites and those we more often associate with ecotourism, such as green environment-type areas. Within Adelaide itself are a lot of aspects that people have not fully explored. Sir Douglas Mawson did a lot of his work in the Sturt Gorge, which has some of the oldest geology in the world, although most people in Adelaide would be totally unaware of it. So, the potential is there.

Areas like the Riverland will benefit significantly. It is an area that young people should consider as a career option. We are starting, through Minister Ingerson, to get tourism to the level that it should be. It is his strong intention and commitment to get it to a much higher level and coming out of this is the potential for involving Aboriginal people because that is an area in which overseas people are particularly interested. I do not think we have scratched the surface as a State or country in terms of sharing that fantastic culture with tourists.

Mr ANDREW: I refer to the Program Estimates, page 529 in relation to group training programs. In my electorate in the Riverland I have an active group training program and I understand that it has a good record of success. What has the Government done specifically for group training and what has been the current outcome?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is true that group training has been a success story particularly in South Australia but also in other States. It got a bit of bad press in New South Wales some years ago, but it has been very successful here because it has meant that individual employers operating in a small way who cannot afford to have an apprentice or trainee can access and contribute to training by taking on someone through a group training scheme. The young person gets training at various locations as well as in TAFE and, on Eyre Peninsula, 85 young people are being trained through the group training scheme and would otherwise have missed out. It has been of great benefit, particularly to people on Eyre Peninsula and in other distant sections of the State.

In regard to statistics, from June 1994 to April of this year there has been a 14 per cent increase in the number of people involved in group training schemes, which is a significant lift from 1 312 to 1 496. We expect that figure to continue to increase. We provided about \$700 000 in terms of administrative support to those 11 schemes and that was matched with funding from ANTA. A number of those group schemes have utilised Kickstart or equity funding sources for specific programs. It is an excellent training arrangement. The hospitality scheme here in Adelaide has been very successful. All the schemes can be proud of what they have achieved because they have given opportunities to young people who would otherwise have not been offered them and it has meant that smaller employers can participate and contribute towards the training of our young people.

Mr ANDREW: I refer to page 523 of the Financial Statement. Recently I had the pleasure of participating in the commissioning of a new video conferencing facility at the Berri campus of the Murray Institute of TAFE. It certainly was impressive and it has been well received over the past couple of months by both staff and students. I believe that a new system is about to be commissioned or installed at the Waikerie campus. Will the Minister advise us of the number

of video conferencing classrooms in the State, for what have the facilities be used and has funding been provided 1995-96 for additional sites for video conferencing?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It has been another example of how TAFE has led not only Australia but the world in using interactive video or video conferencing. We now have 20 video conferencing facilities in 19 TAFE campuses around the State, all connected by ISD links. We will expand that further. We added six last year, despite tough financial times. We intend to create at least another two this financial year and I hope that we may do better. I was recently at Roxby Downs and Western Mining is particularly keen to have a facility there. It is prepared to put in some for itself, but the boon for country areas is that people can access programs otherwise denied them and it provides genuine equity opportunities that previously were not available.

The technology is not only used for classrooms but also for TAFE staff meetings and industry meetings. I am encouraging industry to use the network even more. I have appeared on the TAFE network to talk to staff and answer questions. Whilst my rating was not as high as was Mel Gibson's rating, it illustrated the point that in today's environment it is technology that many people in industry have not fully appreciated. There is not now the need to travel interstate or to regional areas when you can use video conferencing.

We share the network in some respects with the Health Commission and it is being used for counselling of people with psychiatric and psychological problems. People in rural areas can gain access to medical advice in a way that was not possible before. It is extremely cost effective. Last year there was about 8 000 hours of video conferencing use with over 1 600 different sessions. We will see more and more of it. There is no doubt that the Commonwealth, the States and Territories are committed to expanding the educational network and we will see in the next few years EDNA (the educational network, Australia), linking all schools, TAFE, universities and private providers in a most exciting information sharing exercise. I am pleased that the Riverland is about to get its second video conferencing facility and I am sure that everyone is benefiting and saving not only time but also money and getting educational opportunities that were not previously available in that area.

Mr CLARKE: The target figures I used of \$13 million and \$14 million were obtained from the ANTA letter of 18 May 1995. Unless a rebasing was done since 18 May 1995, they are the figures. I understand that the May report from South Australia required by ANTA has still not settled the matter and that a further report is to be submitted this month in an attempt to secure the ANTA recommendation for growth funds to flow to South Australia. Last month the Minister wrote a letter which he circulated to a large number of people asking them to support South Australia's case for growth funds saying that it was now merely a political decision for the two Commonwealth Ministers. I have a copy of the reply to that letter sent by another Commonwealth Minister. I am sure the Minister has seen the letter, but I will read the last part of the reply for the benefit of the committee. It states:

In a situation where the South Australian Government has not maintained its effort in providing funding at sufficient levels to attract Federal growth funding, there is little point in my writing to Federal Ministers urging them to act contrary to an agreement you have yourself signed on South Australia's behalf. The fact is that the Federal Government has played its part, but that students in South Australia have been let down through your Government's not

playing its part. I urge you to follow the example of the Victorian State Government in order to ensure that the South Australian students are not disadvantaged. I wish you success in your efforts to convince your colleagues of the importance of improving education and training in South Australia.

Has the Minister received an assurance from the Premier and/or the Treasurer that, in the event of the Commonwealth not agreeing that the State has maintained effort, extra State funding will be made available to TAFE to meet any shortfall?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I do not need a specific assurance because, as I have indicated before, we are meeting the effort and we have met the requirements. I have no doubt that that money will flow. The only thing that will stop it from flowing is a political decision. I have received a copy of that letter from Minister Ross Free and I appreciate that, like me, he is in the political arena. He has experienced a little heat. In respect of specifically encouraging people in the training industry, the trade unions and employer groups have made the Commonwealth well aware of the situation. I commend all those people who wrote, including politicians of all political Parties and the United Trades and Labor Council. They have turned the heat up on Minister Free.

That is the political process. If the Federal Government does not like the pressure, the answer is simple: it can easily free up those funds at any time. As I indicated earlier, it is likely that it will wait now until the end of July to ensure that it strictly meets the Ministerial Council reference made in Alice Springs last year. From my perspective, it is essentially a formality. It could save a lot of anguish and uncertainty by releasing the money forthwith. As I say, it is in the political arena and, as a Government, we will make sure that it feels the political heat if there is any attempt to deny us our legitimate growth funds.

Mr CLARKE: I am concerned about a political decision being made by Commonwealth Ministers. The Commonwealth Government and the ANTA board have been supportive of Victoria, Western Australia and other States in terms of saying that they are maintaining effort and hence Commonwealth funds have flowed. However, they have not flowed to us. The States to which I have just referred are of the same political persuasion as the Minister's. I would not say that it is necessarily a political decision to deny South Australia funds. It is more an issue of whether the State is maintaining its effort as required under the agreement. If the Commonwealth Government does not agree that the Minister has maintained effort and it denies him the funding, TAFE will be in an awful situation. If there is a shortfall in funds, have the Treasurer or the Premier said that they will supplement the Minister's budget?

The Hon. R.B. Such: All my ministerial colleagues, including the Premier and the Treasurer, are well aware of this situation and they are very supportive. However, I do not need to go to them to ask for a guarantee of extra funding because we have met the requirements of that agreement. The ANTA board Chairman has indicated to me that it is his recommendation and that of the board that we should receive the funds. He recommended to the Minister at the end of last year that he should not deny us the funds or to threaten us by denying us funds. If that is not a political decision, I would like to know what constitutes one.

If the ANTA board is satisfied that we have met the requirements, surely the advice that goes to the Minister should be adhered to. Ultimately, the Federal Government will have to answer if it is seen to victimise South Australia.

The situation in Victoria and Western Australia is not identical to the situation here. We are in a somewhat different position in terms of the situation that we inherited. We have performed an amazing reversal here in terms of what we inherited.

The Western Australian and Victorian Governments put in extra money, but they needed to do that because of the situation they found themselves in. We do not have to do that because we have met the requirements through a fantastic lift in productivity and we have also met it in terms of our dollar commitment. On any criterion, we have met the conditions. There is no dispute about that in relation to dollar input. They want to know whether it applies in terms of hours and we have met that condition.

Ultimately, it comes down to allowing July to pass and for Minister Free to let his cheque book match up to that agreement. I am confident that we will get the money, but we are going through unnecessary uncertainty and hoo-ha without any benefit to anyone. One would have to ask, even if a State was deficient in terms of training commitment, how would it help to deny it funds for areas where training is needed for expansion? That defies logic. If a State had not fulfilled its training obligations (I certainly reject any suggestions that South Australia has not done the right thing) how would it help the State meet those obligations by cutting the funding for growth areas like IT and the wine industry? That does not make sense.

Mr CLARKE: My next question relates to the Government's admission that there needs to be a change in the way in which effort is measured. The Minister partly explained that in answer to an earlier question with regard to distances and South Australia not being as compact as Victoria. In terms of measuring the way in which States maintain their efforts, as the Commonwealth is putting up scores of millions of dollars for growth funding, it is entitled to appreciate that the States will live up to their end of the bargain of maintaining effort. Would not the best measurement in terms of finding out whether a State was slipping or cheating be student contact hours? That may not be perfect, but in terms of ensuring that States are living up to their end of the bargain, it is the best method to determine whether a State is living up to its end of the agreement.

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I have already said, it is not easy to come up with an accurate and comprehensive measure of effort. It can be measured in dollar terms, but that does not tell you what people do for the dollars. It can also be measured in terms of student contact hours. We could have classes of 200 students and fit them in the exhibition hall. Andrew or one of the staff could give them a lecture and we could count that as 9 000 hours. That would be a waste of time (no reflection on Andrew) in educational terms, but we would get a lot of points.

In South Australia, we have stuck to insisting that we provide quality programs. It is possible to play silly games, although I am not saying that other States have done that. It is possible to obtain many points through the sheep-dip principle. You can whack people through Mickey Mouse programs and get the credit for that. The Commonwealth will then say, 'You are being a good fellow, have some extra money.'

If we are looking for quality programs, that is a silly approach. We are following the productivity line. We have had a magnificent lift of 22 per cent at the Adelaide Institute. In fairness to the other institutes, we must recognise that they are geographically more dispersed so it is not as easy for

them to achieve that kind of productivity return. In addition, the nature of the programs they offer makes it more difficult to achieve that return. From our system, we are obtaining a greater number of student hours, however we want to measure it, per dollar input. We lead Australia and overseas in terms of TAFE. This is why the measure is rather phoney. People come here almost weekly to see how we operate TAFE. They come from Indonesia, Malaysia and all over. The stream of people is constant. The Colombo Plan Staff College was here recently. Adelaide Institute is twinned with two polytechnics in Indonesia. Two of the four arrangements in Australia are held by our TAFE Institute down the road. Regency has links in Tokyo. The list goes on with Torrens Valley and Onkaparinga.

We are world leaders, and acknowledged to be so, but we have this outmoded formula which is now being challenged by many of the States and Territories. It is horse-and-buggy assessment which does not take into account the quality of the programs offered and the fact that we have a significant commitment to Aboriginal people. We are half funding a big training centre, which is now completed, up at Umawa, near Ayers Rock, at Amata. It is very expensive to operate those programs.

We provide our TAFE colleges in those areas with four-wheel drive vehicles, although we do not have to. We do a lot of things that are very innovative and creative but, in return from the Commonwealth, it attempts to give us a whack around the ears. We can run Mickey Mouse programs, which will not help anyone, and we can cram them in telephone boxes and get a lot of artificially high points. However, in the end, it will not help us and it will certainly stop people coming from overseas and interstate to look at what we do here. It is a pretty suspect formula, and I know that it is not easy to come up with good formulas. The intention of the maintenance of effort arrangement is to make sure that the States pull their weight. We are certainly doing that, and the situation that we inherited is different from that in Western Australia and Victoria.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister has referred to his conversation with the Chair of ANTA, Mr Finn, assuring him that the ANTA board had recommended that South Australia has the growth funds released to it. Does the Minister have anything in writing from ANTA in respect of that?

The Hon. R.B. Such: No. My conversation with Brian Finn as Chairman was that the recommendation of the board would be that we get the funds. Prior to the ministerial council meeting, which was in May, both he and Terry Moran, the CEO, travelled around Australia to have a bit of a chit chat, as they usually do. I was keen to make that point with him because he always wants to know in advance of ministerial council what issues are of concern. The principal issue of concern to us is this business of the maintenance of effort. It was a question of ascertaining that information. He volunteered it quite readily and, so, it is now clearly in the hands of Minister Ross Free.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Given that this is my first chance to contribute to Minister Such's Estimates Committee, in slight preamble to the question that I should like to ask and in the interests of this Committee and my constituency, I should like to congratulate the Minister on what I see to be a solid job in his portfolio, and I thank him and his staff—

Members interjecting:

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I will talk about what was wrong with previous Ministers in a moment. Down my way, whenever I as local member have requested any support from

TAFE or the Minister, the Minister has bent over backwards to give the south a go. It is disappointing in the House and in this Committee to hear the Opposition trying to undermine TAFE's operations over the past 15 months, particularly in my area. I refer to what the Minister has already mentioned with respect to efficiency and training hours under ANTA and the previous Government, and the marvellous turnaround that TAFE and the Minister have been able to achieve in the past 15 months. In the interests of this State and particularly the southern area, where the wine industry is involved in enormous growth, the Opposition should support what the Minister and TAFE are doing rather than using its negative attitude trying to score political points.

I feel quite passionately about this because, over the past 12 months, TAFE has had a great record, and that can be seen when one looks at the facts, and where they count, and that is in the lecture room and in the quality of the students' achievements. I refer the Minister to page 525 of Financial Information Paper No. 1 and the stage two development of Noarlunga campus. That is crucial for the hospitality and tourism development on which, down my way, we have a great opportunity to capitalise. When is it likely to be completed and what are the benefits of the development as the Minister sees them?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The expansion of the Onkaparinga Institute at Noarlunga is on schedule. It should be completed by the end of September this year, and work started in March last year. It will provide not only a range of general teaching areas but also a new training restaurant, the name of which has not been decided, but various names come to mind.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: Mawson?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I was thinking of 'Brokenshire'. The prospects are considerable. It is important that, in the south, we have adequate training facilities for TAFE. Out of that institute, we have campuses at Murray Bridge, which is a very important centre, and also in the electorate of Finnis, at Victor Harbor, which is always an electorate to which I pay a lot of attention. That facility needs upgrading and I hope that, in the not-too-distant future, we can work with DECS to provide a joint facility. Wherever possible, we try to combine and link in with senior secondary schools so that we can share library facilities, for example, and also to work in with local councils, which is what we are doing with a joint development at Mount Barker, where the library will be shared. The southern area is growing rapidly and I am the first to acknowledge that the facility at Victor Harbor is not adequate, nor is it of the physical standard that is necessary. I recently opened the Coober Pedy campus with the Speaker of the House of Assembly, and there is no doubt that, when an excellent facility is provided, more students are attracted to it. The number of enrolments at the Coober Pedy campus has increased as a result of having world class resources available there.

The Onkaparinga Institute also has the O'Halloran Hill campus, and it probably has the best heavy vehicle training centre in Australia. It may not be the ideal location, but it is there and we are trying to encourage industry to see it as the ideal spot. There are some who want a facility in the north, but there is no way that I can suddenly find more than \$11 million from the Commonwealth to fund an additional facility in the north. The decision was made by an earlier Government. Onkaparinga Institute also provides services to Kangaroo Island and other areas within the southern region. The facility at Noarlunga will be opened towards the end of this year and it will cost in the vicinity of \$11 million. It is

within budget and it is on time, which is typical of everything that we do in TAFE.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: In relation to the Program Estimates, page 520, can the Minister advise me on the role of the planned new institute of TAFE in the western Adelaide region?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The Croydon campus has been combined with the Port Adelaide campus. The idea behind that is to give it greater focus and, hopefully, a better provision of training in the western side of Adelaide. The council members and staff are currently working on various suggested possible names for that new configuration. It is not a reflection on Regency that Port Adelaide has been put with Croydon, but it makes a lot of sense and, I believe, will provide better delivery of programs generally to the west side, which, in many areas, has suffered for too long with high levels of unemployment. I believe a reconfigured TAFE institute can help meet the needs of the people in that area.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer the Minister to page 3.18 of the Treasurer's Financial Statement. In the statement it says that in 1995-96 the budget reflected a decrease in capital outlays of the order of \$10 million compared with the 1994-95 expected outcome. Can the Minister clarify the situation as, it is my understanding, that there will be an increased State capital expenditure in 1995-96 compared with 1994-95?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I basically answered it before. The Commonwealth provides the capital funding and it funds in stages which do not necessarily correspond to the financial years. We are putting in some extra money of our own for Mount Barker and elsewhere. The figure should be considered as not a cut to capital works but, in reality, it is an increase.

Mr CLARKE: Why has the \$18 million Government loan to the University of South Australia for the construction of the city west campus been included as part of the DETAFE budget when all negotiations have been, and will continue to be, between the university and central agency officials with no involvement of DETAFE?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The answer is quite simple. I have responsibility for higher education and it has to sit somewhere in the budget papers. In effect, I act as guarantor, but there is little risk of the University of South Australia going under. If it does, then I suggest we are all in strife. It is a legal mechanism for reporting what is a guarantee, but it needs to come under my portfolio because I am responsible for higher education.

Mr CLARKE: In relation to Program Estimates, pages 520 and 521, last year the program description for vocational education gave the details of student contact hours for 1993 as 12 291 085 and subject enrolments as 333 703. For foundation education the number of student hours in 1993 was 2 647 657 hours and the subject enrolments' figure was 59 420. This year the Program Estimates has deleted this information for 1994 and there is no indication of any targets for 1995 or 1996. The only statement we have is from the Minister when he promised growth of a minimum of 500 000 student contact hours. Can the Minister provide details of student curriculum hours and subject enrolments for 1994 for both the vocational education and foundation education programs and indicate how they compare with 1993?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will ask the CEO to briefly explain. We can take the question on notice as regards the minute detail.

Mr Strickland: I believe some of the differences in the statistics are because of changes in the way in which some of these programs have been provided. The adult community education component has shifted from one program to another and, similarly, the adult migrant education service figures will change because of a significant decrease in Commonwealth funding for that part of the foundation program. We will certainly provide the figures to show the differences.

Mr CLARKE: What are the projections for 1995?

Mr Strickland: We certainly have them in the State profile, so they will be available, yes.

Mr CLARKE: You have probably already answered this, but maybe I did not quite catch on to your answer. Through you, Minister, to the CEO, if that is possible: why was the format changed this year in so far as the Program Estimates in terms of the publishing performance figures?

Mr Strickland: It was changed because of the change in the timing in the year at which figures are available. You will recall, of course, that we are having these Estimates Committees considerably earlier than in past years and, in conjunction with Treasury, there were lots of discussions about changes in all sorts of aspects of it. That was one of the things that was done; but I still have projections for 1995.

Mr CLARKE: Will this information be able to be reinstated next year?

Mr Strickland: Yes, that would be desirable.

Mr CLARKE: I draw the Minister's attention to information technology and EDS. Last year the Minister told the Estimates Committee that his department would only be outsourcing information technology if there was a net benefit. Is it still the Minister's view that DETAFE IT outsourcing will only occur if there is a net benefit to DETAFE?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It would be unwise if there was not a net benefit. That is still the intention. With regard to DETAFE, one of the important aspects, given that often we are dealing with individual students, individual educational programs, the use of home-based computers and so on, that some special considerations have to be borne in mind. But, overall, there needs to be a net benefit, otherwise there is no point in the Government as a whole, or DETAFE, being involved in such a project. I am sure the Premier has made it quite clear that it is not for an ideological obsession, but it is for practical economic benefit that we are pursuing this course of action.

Mr CLARKE: My concern there is that the Minister's other Cabinet colleagues might say collectively, 'We think there is a benefit,' but there may be no net benefit, in fact a cost to TAFE, if you are forced into the EDS contract. You may be forced to do it (if that was a Cabinet decision, obviously you are bound by it) but on some assumptions that it would be better for other Government agencies. Who will pick up the tab for TAFE if in fact there is a cost to TAFE rather than a net benefit from any such outsourcing?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I do not see that as an eventuality. As I have indicated, certainly the Premier is well aware of the need for some benefit in terms of outsourcing. He would have been made aware of any possible non-return, if you like, from TAFE, but I am not aware that there will not be any net benefit at the end of the day for TAFE or for the Government as a whole.

Mr CLARKE: What do information technology services cost DETAFE at present; what savings will flow from the EDS contract; and how many staff would be made redundant?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The contract has not been let, so it is not possible to give a specific answer. I will be happy to provide some information that is appropriate, but the contract has not been finalised yet.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister would have the information in relation to what it costs the department at the current time?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes. Is the question directed at general services, because we also teach and train people in terms of multimedia, CD-ROM all that sort of thing? Is your question purely in terms of administration cost?

Mr CLARKE: No, the costs of all information technology services provided by DETAFE. Whilst I can understand that no contract has yet been signed by EDS to be able to categorically state this is worth X number of dollars, presumably, if you have gone about this whole exercise as all other Government agencies have done, you would not have done so unless you thought you were going to make a saving on it.

The Hon. R.B. Such: That is right. The point I was making, though, is that we are not only a user of information technology in an administrative sense but we also train people in the use of it. For example, Adelaide Institute of TAFE has a very sophisticated information technology facility involving CD-ROM and so have many of our other institutes. Does the honourable member want that information or outsourcing purely as related to administration type functions?

Mr CLARKE: On the basis of what you are looking at outsourcing, as to what it costs DETAFE currently for those services that it is looking at outsourcing.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will endeavour to come back with a figure, but it may need to be broken down in terms of certain categories.

Mr CLARKE: Will the department maintain control over program development? If so, and, if it is outsourced, how will this be done?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will ask the Deputy CEO to answer this question.

Mr Carter: Program development is not covered by the EDS contract. The department is negotiating a separate outsourcing proposal to cover applications, development and support. That proposal is in the early stages of negotiation and, as indicated previously, we will look carefully at the costs and benefits associated with that exercise before a decision is made to contract out. At all times, the department will maintain control over development decisions regardless of which way it goes.

Mr CLARKE: What effect will the involvement of EDS have on our capacity to sell intellectual property overseas by way of the transfer of curriculum and management programs, and will the department continue to make available staff and resources for travel overseas to service existing and new contracts?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes. The department will still be involved in international activities, and they will not be impeded by the EDS contract.

Mr Strickland: My understanding of it is that it will not cover matters such as curricula. One of the more interesting aspects of this is that EDS is very interested in the fact that we have a network in Asia and elsewhere. I think EDS sees that as something that it can do jointly with us in the future because, of course, it is involved in certain education applications. However, as I understand it, the intellectual property rights will remain with the Government of South Australia regarding curricula, CD-ROM and everything

ranging from tourism and hospitality programs through to quite complex engineering ones.

Mr CLARKE: Last year, the Minister announced the expenditure of \$300 000 for the establishment of the Helpmann Academy. How much has been committed, what programs are being conducted, what progress has been made, and what structure is in place for the management of the academy?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I indicated earlier today, the Helpmann Academy has been extremely successful. In 1994-95, the academy expended \$276 000 from our budget. There have been various performances, and cooperation generally between the universities and DETAFE has progressed to the extent that awards now show that a person obtained their qualification through the Helpmann Academy. The promotion of South Australian art education generally has been enhanced by the academy. We have initiatives operating in Indonesia and Korea. There have been various projects such as *Requiem*, which I mentioned was produced recently.

One of the major tasks facing us in terms of the Helpmann Academy is to ensure that we have excellent facilities for performing arts—an issue of which we are very mindful. No other State has the arrangement that we have with all tertiary providers working together. This is a major long-term initiative that involves six different sites. It is quite innovative in the way in which it has been set up and is operating. I am told that the actual financial allocation for this year will be the same as last year—\$300 000.

Mr CLARKE: What structure is in place for the management of the academy and its budget for 1995-96?

Mr Strickland: The academy is really a consortium of the three universities plus DETAFE in performing arts education right across all four institutions. It is run by a board, which is chaired by Judith Roberts and comprises the vice-chancellors of the three universities, Bill Gillespie from State Opera, the CEO of DETAFE, and a private sector lawyer whose name I have forgotten at the moment. They oversee the expenditure of that \$300 000 and jointly, especially because of their links with their institutions, not only are they encouraging articulation between all those modes of performing arts education, which is something that did not happen in South Australia before and created lots of problems, but also they are now getting into joint programs of education.

For example, the Flinders Street Centre for Performing Arts has students in their first year who come from Flinders University as well as the centre itself to study drama together. Those are the sorts of things that the board does. It was set up under the Associations Act, and it directs expenditure on those tasks. If it were not done in that way, one of the universities would have had its nose out of joint and the whole thing would not have come off. The fact that it has worked and gone from strength to strength is a great tribute, particularly to Judith Roberts.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to page 525 of the Program Estimates. What rental does the South Australian Fishing Industry Council pay for office space at the Port Adelaide TAFE campus, and how much has SAFIC paid TAFE at this point in time for the cost of adapting classrooms for office use?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I understand that SAFIC pays the full commercial rate. There is a significant benefit in having a close link with the fishing industry. The fact that, as I announced earlier today, we have recently received signifi-

cant funding for a seafood processing training centre is a reflection of the energy of Hagan Stehr and Lara Diamani and others who have been very supportive of training for that industry. It is certainly not seen by us as a one way thing; it has been of considerable benefit, but my understanding is that SAFIC pays the normal commercial rates for the use of those facilities.

SAFIC used to be situated at Walkerville which, as far as I know, is not noted for its involvement in the fishing industry. It was encouraged to go to Port Adelaide to be closer to the sea and the fishing industry. We provided them with an interest free loan to relocate to Port Adelaide. I am not sure whether that loan has been repaid yet, but my understanding is that the training area and at least part or all of the office has been leased at below the commercial rate for a period of 10 years. We do not see SAFIC's presence in a negative light in any way: it has been a very positive move to our benefit and certainly to the benefit of South Australians.

Mr CLARKE: Is the South Australian Fishing Industry Council through the South Australian Fishing Industry Training Authority seeking to take over all the maritime activities of the Port Adelaide campus? Have any negotiations been held with Mr Stehr and, if so, what did they entail?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I have had informal discussions with Hagan Stehr and Lara Diamani, who is the officer working there. There have been suggestions about how the area could be used but that has not been finalised. There has been some suggestion of a maritime college that could service the needs of the fishing industry, but we still have a long way to go in terms of considering possible arrangements on that site. I believe we can work out something which is to the advantage of the fishing industry and TAFE without in any way compromising either of those bodies' legitimate interests.

Mr CLARKE: Are the training courses that are run through the Port Adelaide campus in conjunction with the South Australian Fishing Industry Training Authority subject to quotas for the catching of fish? Are the courses being used to circumvent the quota system? If so, what action is the Minister, in conjunction with the Minister for Primary Industries, taking to ensure that this situation is rectified?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I am not aware that they are catching more than they should or that they are catching anything. One would hope, if they are training people, that they are catching something. If they had a greater success rate perhaps that might be an incentive for people to attend the courses. However, there has been no great haul of lobster landing on my desk or, as far as I am aware, on the desk of anyone else in TAFE. I would have to follow that up to find out whether there has been any over-energetic catching of fish, but I would be surprised if there were because I am not aware that they have an extensive number of vessels to engage in it. The CEO says that we have never had a complaint about it or a suggestion that anything is not hunky-dory.

Mr CLARKE: Have you investigated the claims of a Ms Lesley Roberts that there are multiple problems with the examination of a yachting course which is offered through Port Adelaide TAFE but undertaken by the Australian Yachting Federation? I understand that Ms Roberts has written to the Minister on at least one occasion and I have received a significant amount of correspondence from her on that subject.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I think we did receive some correspondence last year, and I would have to refresh my memory about the outcome. I am not aware of any direct or indirect inappropriate activity down there. To save time, we will provide a concise response. If people are out there sailing today, good luck to them!

Mr CLARKE: With regard to targeted separation packages (Programs Estimates at page 525), are you aware that following the latest round of TSPs lecturing staff now constitute only 47 per cent of departmental staff, a significant shift away from the classroom? Does this concern you and, if so, what will you do about it? I understand that at one stage lecturing staff constituted in the high 50 per cent of departmental staff.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The question does not take account of part-time instructors, of which TAFE has a lot. It makes sense to have people who are involved in industry giving or sharing industry-based expertise. I think that figure grossly understates the lecturing provision within TAFE. I would question that figure because it does not sound right and, if it is right, I would want some action taken. I believe it is not correct.

Mr CLARKE: Dealing with institute issues, amalgamations and the like (Program Estimates at page 525), in 1994-95 the capital works program indicated that the \$20 million development at the Adelaide institute funded by the Commonwealth Government was scheduled to be completed by December 1995. Similarly, the \$11 million expansion of the Noarlunga campus of the Onkaparinga institute was also due for completion this coming December. Can you identify funds included in this budget for commissioning these major developments which were constructed using Federal grants? What is the cost to the State of commissioning the new work at the Adelaide and Noarlunga campuses and of staffing these areas, and from where will these extra funds come?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We are budgeting \$100 000 for Adelaide, which, as I understand it, is ahead of schedule, as is the Noarlunga campus. Noarlunga will be ready by September, as I mentioned earlier today. At Noarlunga we have budgeted \$750 000 for a full year to fit that out. It is money that we are well aware we need to provide, and it will be provided to ensure that those facilities are fully operational.

Mr CLARKE: This year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: For 1995-96, yes.

Mr CLARKE: Do you believe they will be fully staffed and operational? Will additional courses be on offer, and what are the details, if any?

The Hon. R.B. Such: As I also indicated earlier today, Adelaide institute gets a lot of its income—about 40 per cent—from fee for service. The new facilities at Adelaide will enable the student intake to be increased by some 6 000 students. Whether it is filled immediately I cannot accurately predict, but it will have improved library resource facilities, improved facilities for Aboriginal students, and so on.

At the Noarlunga campus of the Onkaparinga institute there is a growing demand because this southern region was not having its needs met in terms of provision of training. As I also indicated earlier, whenever you put up or expand a new facility you attract students. It is a fact of life that they will be more likely to attend a facility that is attractive and comfortable rather than one that is not.

One can expect student numbers to increase not only because of growth generally in the south (Noarlunga) and the

sort of programs that Adelaide Institute offers—business studies, and so on—but because they will be more attractive facilities. Members might have noticed that this last weekend the Adelaide Institute erected significant advertising material because many people did not realise that there was a TAFE institute on the north-eastern corner of Light Square.

Mr CLARKE: Will the completion of these facilities result in any rationalisation of facilities? Will any existing venues be closed? Will courses be transferred, and what are the details? Are any existing TAFE campuses being considered for closure and, if so, which ones?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There is no plan at this stage to close complete campuses. In terms of the city, we have within the Adelaide institute the Flinders Street Music School and the Aboriginal programs in Wakefield Street. No final decision has been made about the ideal location for some or all those programs. We will have at the Light Square campus of the Adelaide institute a significant Aboriginal enclave and additional training facilities for Aboriginal people, and we may need within the city area a transitional facility/building for Aboriginal people where they can undergo preparation which will make them more likely to succeed at the mainstream TAFE institute.

There is no intention to close down any campus at Noarlunga. In the long-term we would like to create something much more substantial and physically more attractive and useful at Victor Harbor, but that is probably a few years off. The only one we are currently disposing of other than the old Grange Primary School site is Kilkenny where, once again, it does not involve a loss of programs: it is the realisation of an asset, and the funds will go into TAFE.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister mentioned the Grange campus. Recently I attended a public meeting, and a number of residents were concerned about the possibility of the transfer of the property over to the council and basically their having to pay for it twice. The local residents feel that they established it in the first place; yet they are having to buy it from the department a second time.

The Hon. R.B. Such: In essence, TAFE was the meat in the sandwich. The Grange campus programs were transferred to the Port Adelaide campus when it was built, as it was a much better facility. The old site at Grange was used and is owned by TAFE, and the moneys from the capital realisation of that site will go towards TAFE projects, particularly capital works. However, as part of the process we have agreed to make a very generous contribution of \$41 000 to the local community, first, to re-house one of their community programs elsewhere and, secondly, to provide a car park for staff and parents at the local primary school. We were not obliged to do either of those things, but we provided at cost to TAFE that \$41 000. Also we have entered into a management agreement to secure the old school building. Some of the locals naturally want everything kept as is, with the local council paying for it. However, the local council has refused to purchase it, so it is going to auction in the next fortnight.

Mr CLARKE: In relation to the amalgamation of Port Adelaide and Croydon, were other more cost effective alternatives considered and, if so, what were they and what was the advice of the departmental executive in relation to this matter?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There is always a range of options but the most logical at this stage is to put Croydon in with Port Adelaide. Some people suggested that there should be one TAFE campus on the west side of the city. That may be a possibility in years to come but in the immediate future the

easiest, most logical and least painful way to do it is to put Croydon in with Port Adelaide, and that will be to the benefit of the students and particularly to the people on the western side of the city. We certainly looked at a range of options. Some people argued that it might be better to close down Croydon, but I did not believe that that was the appropriate option, given that it has very significant automotive, community services and printing facilities. The printing facility is state of the art so we are not going to throw that away.

Mr CLARKE: My next question relates to the Financial Statement and the cut in expenditure by DETAFE. Page 3.18 indicates that the cut to recurrent expenditure is \$5 million. What staffing reductions will result from these cuts; how many staff will be offered TSPs; and what will be the break-up between administrative and teaching staff?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There is no necessary minimum number of staff to be offered VSPs but the net result is likely to be a change of about 30. As I say, we are not locked into any specific, absolute number and the effective reduction would be in non-teaching areas because we do not want to impact on teaching areas. We have had the situation where some people have wanted to take a package and have not been able to because their circumstances do not meet the guidelines, but we have not been in a situation of having to try to force people out. It is a voluntary process: not a retrenchment process. The impact on teaching programs will be minimal and the effect overall in terms of staff numbers will be very modest, but there is no minimum number that we must achieve.

Mr Carter: In 1994-95, 130 TAFE Act staff took TSPs or TVSPs; 30 GME Act did the same; and 33 weekly paid.

Mr CLARKE: Can the Minister provide details of fee increases for all courses offered by the institutes?

The Hon. R.B. Such: They were announced in the budget. In real terms, they amount to something like the cost of an iceblock a week; I think it represented an increase of about 5 per cent. Now we are dealing with a very small base, unlike the university. TAFE fees are very modest and, in some ways, it is probably a misnomer to call them fees. Students pay towards material costs when they are doing a subject that requires materials, such as art, which tends to be the most expensive in terms of materials; a general service fee, the new rate of which is \$63, which is up from \$58; an administration fee, which is based on the number of hours of program they experience, and that has gone from 47 cents to 51 cents.

Naturally I am not keen to increase fees because I do not want to discourage students but the reality is that our fees are extremely modest. If you look at some of the courses which are specifically targeted, for example, at women to encourage them to come back into the paid work force, you will see that students effectively are paying \$1 an hour for a computing course with the latest technology and top instructors, and that is pretty cheap.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister has said in answer to earlier questions that TAFE will be able to carry out all of its work that it has done in the past with less, without any reduction in quality. I take it from what he is saying that there will not be any reductions in programs that are being offered and that he is seeking to make these savings through administrative savings. What administrative savings will be made; how much will need to be invested to achieve these savings; how is it to be funded; and when will the savings flow through to the department?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There is no intention to cut programs as a result of that process. From time to time we have to rationalise programs, but it is not done specifically for only that purpose. To give you an example, we have at various campuses the same sort of program offered and it often makes sense to bring it together to ensure that the students get an even more effective delivery of the program. That has happened for example in relation to courses on heavy vehicles. The areas where we are anticipating improvement in functions and productivity include administrative support, the enrolment area, financial services, human resources, physical resources, information systems and supply. A special review is focussing on those areas, and we expect that review to come up with suggestions and proposals for significant cost savings. However, that will not be in relation to direct teaching programs.

Mr CLARKE: When do you expect to see those savings flow into the department?

The Hon. R.B. Such: More towards the end of the next financial year, but they will be progressively obtained over time—as soon as we can implement them without significantly unsettling anyone or any area. We will do it as we always do, with sensitivity and common sense.

Mr CLARKE: Have reductions been made to staff development programs, how much has been budgeted for this year and how does it compare with the previous financial year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I hope to only temporarily curtail some of the staff development programs. It is an area in which it is not easy to be absolutely black and white. We are funding people to attend international programs. One TAFE lecturer is attending electronics IT updates in Canada and Europe, which is staff development of a very useful kind. We have had to curtail some of the staff development programs, but that is only a temporary measure and not a long-term one.

Mr CLARKE: How much does that amount to in savings?

Mr Carter: Page 515 of the Estimates of Payments indicates the amount involved. Staff development is shown for the 1994-95 outcome at \$2.146 million and the estimate for 1995-96 is \$1.488 million. There is a significant reduction in the direct provision, but the institutes have a substantial amount of funds through their own earnings with fee for service and so on which they would apply to staff development to complement that figure.

Mr CLARKE: I understand the Minister's saying that he hopes it is only a temporary reduction, as do we all. If we are to be the smart State and the leading edge in technology, our lecturers need to be at the forefront of their own training and honing of their own skills if they are to impart that knowledge to others. When the Minister says that he hopes it is only temporary, we are a year out from the budget for next year, but does he have a reasonable expectation that staff development will come back to its former strength in subsequent budgets?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Towards the end of next year we will certainly be back on track in terms of staff development. As the Deputy CEO pointed out, what you see in the media is a cut from the centre of the organisation, but the TAFE institutes are now more akin to a university-type model and are the initiators of considerable moneys themselves. They will supplement what has been a necessary cut at the centre. If you are involved in training you must ensure that your own people are well and truly up to date. One way to do that is to bring in people from industry. We have significant moneys

to employ people directly from industry for many of our courses. That was a specific provision by Cabinet to ensure that we could access the necessary up-to-date skilled people to offset any decline due to the TSP process. TAFE was dealt with very generously in terms of a special consideration by Cabinet.

Mr CLARKE: How much is budgeted for maintenance and how does this compare with last year?

Mr Carter: We can get the precise figure, which is of the order of several million dollars per annum. There will be a minor reduction in the combination of maintenance and minor works, but we have not determined the priorities. At the end of the day the maintenance expenditure will be the same for 1995-96 as it was for 1994-95.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The institutes themselves can generate and initiate considerable moneys to do some of these things. They readily state that they do not have enough money to do everything they like, but they often generate significant funds. Because we are constantly upgrading the quality of TAFE buildings, the maintenance aspect is reflected in the maintenance costs. Our buildings overall are good quality, so we should not be in the situation of some States where their physical resources have deteriorated.

Mr CLARKE: How much will be spent on the development of information technology systems this year and how does it compare with last year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I assume the honourable member is talking of non-teaching programs. We will take that question on notice.

Mr CLARKE: How much will be spent on the replacement of equipment this year and how does it compare with last year?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Approximately \$1 million. The institutes have a degree of discretion themselves and, as the CEO points out, they are the beneficiaries of the generosity of industry, which provides significant donations of equipment to them. There is no way that you can always maintain the latest model machinery, but many companies will donate or lend to TAFE for the obvious reason that they want trainees to be familiar with their product. TAFE benefits to the extent of at least hundreds of thousands of dollars and probably more than that—even beyond the \$1 million mark.

Mr CLARKE: Have there been any cuts in the central office corporate services areas such as strategic planning, curriculum development and policy and what are the details if there have been?

The Hon. R.B. Such: There have been some cuts, but they have not been cut in a way that has prevented them from performing the function that they need to perform. I have the figures for the financial years going back to 1987-88. They run from 1988 through to 1995-96 and are as follows: \$904 000; \$265 000; \$102 000; \$400 000; \$262 000; \$265 000; \$115 000; \$1 million; \$245 000; and, \$715 000. The TSPs were in the latter two figures, so presumably there was quite a bit to cut in head office.

Mr CLARKE: I draw the Minister's attention to Program Estimates, page 520, dealing with the Noarlunga Theatre. Various stories are floating around regarding the contract awarded to operate what has been known as the Noarlunga College Theatre. On 15 May the Minister announced that the Adelaide Commercial Theatres, under the leadership of Mr Bob Lott, had been awarded the lease for the Noarlunga College Theatre. How was Mr Lott chosen as the preferred manager of the theatre? Was there an open tendering process? What other options or managers were considered and who

was involved in the selection process? Why were the offers from the Noarlunga City Council, which involved an investment of over \$250 000 by the council, rejected by the Minister? Has Mr Lott made a more significant offer of investment and, if so, what is it?

The Hon. R.B. Such: One could try to be humorous and say that he was selected by lot. I met the Noarlunga council people including Mayor Ray Gilbert and the community officer down there. I put to them what I thought was a very generous offer because the issue has been dragging on for a very long time. In essence, what was offered was a \$50 000 establishment grant and peppercorn rental for a theatre worth in excess of \$6 million which has state of the art equipment on which we have spent a lot of money recently ensuring that it is up to date. In terms of its technical capability, it is identical to the Space Theatre next door. In addition, we offered to pay the salary of the manager for 12 months.

The council was not able to accept that offer. Time was running out because it was costing \$4 000 a week which was money that could have been spent on training people. I believe that Bob Lott and Robbie Robinson who run Adelaide Commercial Theatres heard a media report and they made preliminary contact which was followed up by my chief of staff. They had a look at the theatre. As I understand it, they are the only commercial theatre operators in South Australia. They said that if we could come up with a reasonable package for them (but costing far less than it currently costs and something which was, in essence, not as generous as we offered Noarlunga Theatre), they would consider it.

The matter did not go out to open tender, but anyone likely to have an interest would have been well aware of what was happening. Some people were keen for the council to run the theatre, but I believe that the outcome is in the best interests of everyone down there. The existing users, including schools and other non-profit groups, will have access under the same conditions that exist now namely, on a no-profit recovery basis. It would only involve costs. TAFE saves \$4 000 a week which we can now put into training. That is our function.

We still own the theatre as there is a lease arrangement. The community will continue to have school and community access for the current 60 nights, and more if that is necessary, and they will also have functions which would not otherwise have been available. The first of those will be shown shortly and that will be an extension of the program offered here in Adelaide at the Arts Theatre or at the Thebarton Theatre. I believe that the deal is excellent. Indeed, the Mayor of Noarlunga has acknowledged in the paper that it is an excellent deal. I do not believe that the council would have been able to operate the theatre in a way that surpasses what Adelaide Commercial Theatres can do. I think that the outcome is excellent.

Mr CLARKE: At the end of the day, did Mr Lott offer a more significant investment than Noarlunga council was prepared to offer?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The council basically wanted us to give it more money. The deal with Adelaide Commercial Theatres means that we are required to outlay a lot less. With regard to the kind of things that we have done, which are quite reasonable and are things which we needed to do anyway, it has been isolated in terms of access, for example. The deal in terms of TAFE is a lot superior to what Noarlunga council was able to provide. The council had an ongoing opportunity over many months to come back with various offers, but it was unable to accept the very generous package that I have just described. That involved handing

over a theatre for peppercorn rental, \$50 000 and paying the manager's salary for a year. That was a pretty generous offer, but the council could not accept it. It wanted more from the Government.

Mr CLARKE: How big a subsidy has been given to Mr Lott by TAFE in this exercise?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is not appropriate to outline specific commercial details. However, the cost is, in effect, minimal in terms of helping to establish the theatre with regard to isolating the theatre by way of separate and lockable access which we should pick up; the separate metering which we would need to do anyway and which we are picking up and the lease arrangement which is virtually identical which was offered to others including Noarlunga council. The specific financial arrangement should remain confidential, but it represents a very modest amount in terms of establishing the theatre as a commercial theatre, but it is nowhere near what was offered to Noarlunga council and certainly nowhere near what it wanted in terms of extras from the Government which would have amounted to tens of thousands of dollars over and above the generous offer that I made.

Mr CLARKE: Will that subsidy be coming out of the Onkaparinga Institute funds?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It is not really a subsidy. We are making available a theatre on terms and conditions which guarantee that community groups and schools continue to have access at the cost-only level that they previously enjoyed. In effect, we are not subsidising the operations of Adelaide Commercial Theatres. It will have to make a profit from its commercial activities to sustain its operation. If it does not, it will go out of business. Onkaparinga does not pay any of the costs. That is picked up as a general TAFE thing.

Mr CLARKE: I presume that Mr Lott will be paying rent to TAFE for the use of the theatre. Is that part and parcel of the overall package?

The Hon. R.B. Such: He will be leasing the theatre which, as I indicated before, is a similar arrangement as to what was offered to Noarlunga council in terms of the leasing of the facilities. However, he meets the ongoing maintenance of the theatre and we have the provision of additional facilities which benefit us in terms of conventions and things like that. It is a very good arrangement so far as we are concerned. It saves us \$200 000 a year. If Mr Lott makes money out of it, good luck to him.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister said that arrangements are in place to ensure that the theatre is made available to community groups and he said that school hirers will get it at cost hire fees. Did the Minister also mean to include community groups getting it at cost?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Non-profit groups will continue to obtain the facility at cost. In effect, the facility is used by 50 000 people a year on 60 occasions. As we know, there are many more possibilities in the calendar than 60. It is in the interests of Adelaide Commercial Theatres and in the interests of Bob Lott and Robbie Robinson to encourage community involvement. That arrangement will continue. Mr Lott will make his money by providing an extension of what he currently operates, namely, the Arts Theatre and the Thebarton Theatre, involving a range of commercial ventures which will earn him money. In effect, he is subsidising the community. It is not a matter of TAFE subsidising him; he is subsidising the community by earning his money from commercial ventures and making it available at cost recovery price only for schools and community groups.

Mr CLARKE: Finally, with regard to the Noarlunga Theatre, the Minister will be aware that there has been a strong mix of cultural mix for the southern community over the years at that theatre. While it is now a commercial operation, I understand that the Minister cannot guarantee that the theatre will continue to offer a balanced mix. However, there is concern in the local community that now the theatre is obviously on a commercial footing, that balanced mix of cultural events may not take place. Has the Minister done anything to ensure that that balance and cultural mix is maintained?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The deal with Adelaide Commercial Theatres provides that access. Some people have suggested that, if it is a privately run thing, the community will be shut out. If the community is shut out, it will not stay in business long. He has made quite clear publicly and privately that he is keen to work with and involve the Friends of the Theatre, and he has demonstrated that in relation to the Arts Theatre. They have a long track record of being very successful promoters in South Australia and they are very much committed to the community. If there were any doubts about what would happen, we would not have proceeded with the arrangement. This is the best of both worlds. It will provide extra entertainment, which the people will be able to see locally without having to travel to Adelaide, there will be access for community and school groups and for TAFE, and there will be better promotion of southern activities by using the facilities in a way that has not happened in the past when they have been idle more often than they have been used.

Mr CLARKE: I turn now to overseas programs and new Commonwealth funding. The Commonwealth Government has announced the new Australian and Overseas Education and Training Program to assist to expand opportunities in key overseas markets and to generate and expand international opportunities for the education and training community. Initiatives include placing representatives in north Asia, increasing the number of exchange places, support for projects to develop mutual recognition and support for the export of Australian programs and systems. What has DETAFE done to access the Commonwealth initiatives?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In terms of international programs, once again I believe that we are very important leaders. I have been encouraging our people to work with the universities, DECS and others to come up with a more combined approach to marketing programs overseas. In that respect, South Australia was behind other States, particularly Western Australia. The first message that needs to be taken on board is that we must have a more integrated, coordinated approach in terms of the marketing of international programs at all levels in South Australia.

Earlier today I hinted at some of the activities in which we are involved. We have close, ongoing links with training establishments in Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. We are also looking at links with China and South Africa. We also maintain very close ties with many training establishments in other parts of the world including the United States, particularly Hawaii, which is a good place to have a link. Adelaide Institute has very strong ties with community colleges in Hawaii.

With regard to accessing Federal money, I must point out that we have won a lot of grant funds. I indicated earlier that Adelaide Institute has won two out of the four contracts awarded for tertiary institutions in Australia in terms of links and the provision of training in Asia. It is not bad to get 50 per cent of all the contracts on offer. We are active

participants in the Colombo Plan staff training program and in fellowship programs. A lot of our staff frequently contribute to UNESCO programs. Adelaide Institute is also involved in the United Nations program of vocational education (UNIVOC), and so it goes on. We are well regarded in the Asia-Pacific region. We belong to AUSTAFE in conjunction with the New South Wales Department of TAFE and we have been recipients of numerous foreign aid projects funded by the Commonwealth. I do not know whether that specifically answers the honourable member's question.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister answered a number of my questions, but I also referred to the new Australian Overseas Education and Training Program.

Mr Strickland: My understanding of that Commonwealth program is that it covers all education from primary level right through to university, and the vocational education and training aspect of it is the one in which we are involved, organised through DEET. Through an organisation called Australian TAFE International (ATI), the Commonwealth and the States come together to try to coordinate their marketing efforts in overseas countries so that we are not all falling over each other trying to attract students here. On top of that are the other matters to which the Minister referred in terms of accessing Commonwealth AusAid, World Bank and other funds to do actual development projects in overseas countries involving vocational education and training. The Commonwealth program that has been referred to keeps a network of education advisers throughout Australian embassies and high commissions around the world and, when we are in those countries, we avail ourselves of those services. They are very helpful.

Mr CLARKE: Last year the Minister said that overseas programs were worth about \$40 million to various parties. Can the Minister table a business plan for the overseas marketing division of his department? What will be the annual cost of running these programs and what will be the revenue? Are the department's overheads properly accounted for?

The Hon. R.B. Such: My answer supplements the last question as well as being pertinent to this one. I have about three pages of projects with which we are involved. The Deputy Leader must appreciate, as I am sure he does, that many of these activities are considered long term. The person or organisation going in for the quick buck will find that they are not welcome, so they should be regarded in many ways as an investment. Nevertheless, we are not in the business of charity. They are investment and there is a long term consideration in regard to return. In recent years, the major blip in the system was a project that incurred a significant downturn because of foreign currency movements, which cost the department quite a bit of money. That happened about two years ago. We are very conscious of the need to avoid that sort of thing, as far as is humanly possible.

In terms of the specifics of the question, I can give the honourable member a copy of the 40 page report on our international education program, its directions and so on. We will make available to the honourable member the whole report. At the recent Minister's conference, TAFE SA put up four discussion papers, one of which focused on international education. We are well placed to be leading Australia in terms of the provision of programs overseas, but we are not doing it in any way that will disadvantage our own students, otherwise there is little point in doing it.

Mr CLARKE: How many students are now attending the International College of Hotel Management at Regency Park? Has the accommodation, which was funded by \$5.8 million from the Commonwealth's Better Cities program, been completed? What are the current fees and will the ICHM operate at a profit during 1995-96?

The Hon. R.B. Such: At the moment we are close to a total enrolment of 220. The accommodation is completed and will be opened tomorrow by the Premier. It is money provided by the Commonwealth, of which we are very appreciative, because that program has the potential not only to train people but, importantly, to train people who will be ambassadors for Australia, who will promote Australian wine, and so on. The trainees coming out of that program will be the managers of Hyatt and Hilton hotels, for example, around the world. To what did the rest of the question relate?

Mr CLARKE: Current fees and whether the college will operate at a profit during 1995-96.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The current fee is \$16 500 per student per annum. We will have a small operating profit this year, significantly increasing over subsequent years.

Mr CLARKE: To finish off the previous question, I presume that the Premier is opening it, but presumably there will be a Federal representative as they funded it?

The Hon. R.B. Such: They were invited, although I am not sure who was.

Mr Strickland: We invited Brian Howe and Ministers Crean and Free, but none of them is able to attend, which is unfortunate.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to the Heong Leong projects in Malaysia. During 1993 Adelaide University negotiated an agreement with a Malaysian based multinational, the Hong Leong Group, to establish a twinning arrangement between the company and the university involving the construction of a new campus in Malaysia. The company also expressed strong interest in South Australia's training and further education programs and expressed an interest in entering into an arrangement with DETAFE. I am led to believe these projects have now stalled. Can the Minister provide a progress report on these projects?

The Hon. R.B. Such: It did not get very far. The expression used here is that it is on the back burner. The short answer is, no, we are not currently involved in anything of significance with Hong Leong. The CEO might give a short answer in relation to the University of Adelaide, if that is the member's other interest.

Mr Strickland: The courses that Hong Leong was talking to the University of Adelaide as providing jointly are now being provided by a different Malaysian consortium called the Lion Corporation and the University of Adelaide, so there is still export opportunities for the higher education in South Australia. Our discussions at TAFE with Hong Leong were purely exploratory and did not get anywhere because, frankly from our point of view, there did not appear to be a return to DETAFE in what they were proposing.

Mr CLARKE: I turn the Minister's attention to the Murray institute and the Gawler campus. The Minister has said the new \$3.25 million facility at Gawler is being constructed by the town council and that TAFE will have freehold title over the property in exchange for the old site valued at \$2.5 million. What agreement was reached on the value of the new and old facilities?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We are getting a replacement facility. As far as I am currently aware, it is still before the Development Assessment Commission. Sadly one of the

commissioners was killed in a car accident recently and that has delayed the final determination on whether or not it can go ahead on the proposed site. It represents TAFE getting a new campus to replace the old one, and it is a pretty good arrangement as far as we are concerned. The community out there and the council are the developers, in effect, and they organise the development, which will be utilised by Woolworths, and also provide the replacement TAFE facility.

The proposed development is estimated to cost \$3.25 million, which will meet the needs of the Gawler community for a long time. The current building is 40 years old and needs significant upgrading, anyway. So, it is a very positive outcome for us. As I say the determination of the Development Commission has been delayed somewhat by the unfortunate death of one of the commissioners.

Mr CLARKE: Did the council pay a cost premium as forecast by you, Minister, and what are the details?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In relation to what?

Mr CLARKE: The Hon. Rob Lucas in answer to a question which had obviously been asked in this House got a response from you. I do not have a date on it but they were amongst the answers given through your office to the Hon. Mr Lucas. One of those questions involved the issue whether the council was to pay a cost premium.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I cannot recall that.

Mr CLARKE: Mr Lucas said that further negotiations would be necessary to establish a cost premium that the town council is paying for the exchange of properties with DETAFE.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I guess the arrangement is between the council and the developers. As far as we are concerned, we get a walk-in brand-new facility. We are the beneficiaries of a redevelopment in which the council is involved. I am not aware of any cost premium; nor am I aware of any difficulties that exist in relation to the sort of building that we are going to get. That was all sorted out. The only factor that is of significance now is the delay due to the appeal by some local people against the proposed location of the TAFE campus. But, once again, the whole process is being organised by the council. We are merely moving from a site which is outdated and inappropriate to a brand-new facility if all things go well. That is basically where my interest as Minister starts and ends.

Mr CLARKE: Does the council have first option to purchase the site in any future sale, and what are the details?

The Hon. R.B. Such: That was an option, but I am told that that has not been finalised. Is the honourable member talking about the option to buy the new site where TAFE is going?

Mr CLARKE: Yes. There is no option?

Mr Carter: That is certainly part of the negotiations between the council, the developers and us, and it has not been finalised.

Mr CLARKE: Does DETAFE have an agreement with the council on future land purchases should expansion be required?

The Hon. R.B. Such: In agreeing in essence to that site, obviously future needs were considered, but I am not aware of any specific agreement that gives us any entitlement to go beyond that site.

Mr CLARKE: Dealing with adult community education (Program Estimates, page 514), the Opposition has been contacted by community bodies, some of which are unhappy with severe cuts through adult community education grants, and others of which are unhappy with the process leading to

decisions regarding the grants. Who made the recommendations and decisions regarding which organisations would receive grants and how much they would receive, and was the Minister or his personal staff involved in the process and, if so, in what way?

The Hon. R.B. Such: These are community grants which are to people who are not mainstream providers of education?

Mr CLARKE: Yes.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Low cost cookery and feeding your family for \$10—that sort of thing. There is a committee, although I am not directly involved in it. My chief of staff has attended, if not all, probably most of the meetings. People submit their requests and they are considered in terms of criteria, the main one being that it increases educational training opportunities for people who otherwise would not be catered for. It funds, as I indicated now, a lot of non-profit groups which provide programs such as parenting courses, self-esteem raising and programs for women who may have been or may still be at home looking after children.

My principal interest is to ensure that the moneys are accounted for accurately. Cheques are usually posted to local members of Parliament, so that they can hand them over personally. The committee makes recommendations. The amount of money provided has generally been \$750 or less, although the guidelines for next year have been altered so that the maximum grant will be \$5 000, because it is felt that it might be more constructive to provide a larger amount. It would be nice to have a lot more money to hand out, but the idea is to make small grants. I am not aware of any significant criticism of the program: most people are usually happy to receive their grant.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to page 531 of the Program Estimates. What action has the Minister taken regarding the closure of the entire visual arts course at Flinders University; has he taken up the matter with the Vice-Chancellor of Flinders University; and what will be the likely impact on the supply of appropriately trained staff for the TAFE system and South Australian schools?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I have been approached by several people who have raised concerns about the future of the visual arts program at Flinders University. As Minister, I cannot direct the universities because they are autonomous. However, inquiries have been made by my office regarding the future of that program. I am informed that no decision has yet been made. Flinders University, under the new Vice-Chancellor, is going through a major reassessment of its programs and general positioning. I think it is quite appropriate that universities—and I encourage them to do so—look at where they are going, what they are doing and what they might do more effectively.

However, I have been informed by the university that no decision has been made to cut the program. It has instituted a review of the program to assess the necessity of retaining it, its viability and the desirability of continuing it, but at this stage as far as I am aware it has not decided to do anything with the program other than subject it to further scrutiny through the ongoing assessment of all the programs which the university currently offers.

Mr CLARKE: My next question deals with the autonomy of universities, and there is a touch of *Yes, Minister*, in the sense of a courageous decision being made. I understand that, earlier this year, the Minister raised the issue of the governance of the three universities in South Australia. What has been the response of the three Vice-Chancellors to the

Minister's letter of February regarding this issue of changing the laws relating to their governance?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The universities have supported the consideration of their governance. It would be fair to say that, initially, the University of South Australia felt that it was closely linked to the community and that, as a new university, its governance was not in any great need of review, but it has agreed to participate in the review. The reason for the delay in getting it under way is due partly to getting from within and outside the university nominations of people to be involved and also because the Commonwealth has now instituted a review of the management and administration of universities. I think it is fair to say that that struck terror into the hearts of universities and their vice-chancellors around the country.

So, the obvious question arises: if we look at governance should we not also look at administration and management? My view is that it would be unwise for a range of reasons to combine the two, because the universities will resist strongly a review of their management procedures and practices whereas they have agreed to cooperate in terms of governance.

There are differences in the way in which our three universities are governed. The intention is not to try to control them or dictate what they do but, in an objective way, look at how they govern themselves and determine whether or not that is appropriate in this day and age, and whether what they currently do is the most appropriate way of governing themselves or whether it would be better for everyone, including the wider community, if they had a different form of governance.

There are umpteen different models. You could have everyone on the council or a small group. Many people in the business community argue that university councils are too large—that councils of 30 people are too big. On the other hand, many academics argue that you need a democratic type model that allows academics and students to participate. We are pretty close to getting this under way. We are finalising the position of the Chair of the committee to look at governance.

The honourable member is correct: many people have said that I was brave to suggest such a thing, but I believe that, as our oldest university has been here for a long time, it is appropriate that we look at the governance of the three universities. It is best if this is done as a collective exercise rather than singling out one university, because that is certainly not our intention. If we look at how the three universities govern themselves and at other models, it may be that at the end of the day no changes will be made, but at least we will have had a rigorous look at staff, students and senior members of the universities and outsiders to see whether there is a better more preferable model to adopt in this day and age, particularly as we head towards the twenty-first century.

Mr CLARKE: I ask the Minister whether he is still pursuing his one man crusade regarding the issue of degrees by TAFE institutes or is he endeavouring to improve the articulation between TAFE and universities?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes and yes. The qualification is that it is not a one man crusade. It is an issue that I have taken up directly with the universities. I must say that they are not thrilled, but I point out that this paper was prepared for the last ministerial council meeting, and I have not received any threatening telephone calls or other nasties as a result. The issue has been canvassed and put before Ministers around

Australia. I believe that, in time, the wisdom of my view will be accepted, because New Zealand has gone down this path, and now the Auckland Institute of Technology offers 19 degree programs. A genuine one-stop shop can be offered where people can do a 10-week course on something or a degree program. The emphasis would be on vocational programs only, so that it would not create universities under a different name.

In answer to the second part of the honourable member's question, we are promoting articulation arrangements with universities, and we will continue to do so and to expand them. We have them in relation to the international hotel management program at Regency Park and other programs such as engineering. It is not an either/or, but under the legislation that passed through Parliament last year no-one can offer a degree program in South Australia unless it is of at least university standard. So, there is a built in safeguard: no-one can offer mickey mouse degree programs.

One of the interesting things is that before we changed the law last year anyone could offer a degree in South Australia provided they did not offer a course leading to the awarding of that degree. So, it was technically possible, until we changed the Act and introduced the new VEET Act, for someone to be awarded a doctorate or whatever provided they did not do any study leading to that award.

The question of degrees is a very sensitive subject. PhDs will give you a different version to that of medicos, vets and chiropractors. The use of the term 'degree' is a very delicate issue, and I do not believe that universities should have a monopoly on the awarding of degrees. I accept that it will not happen overnight and will only take place where you have appropriate staff and resources and where the program is at a degree level. I believe that many of our diploma programs in TAFE—and I have spent a working lifetime involved in higher education—are at a higher level than some bachelor degree programs I have seen around Australia.

You can call things whatever you like, but in the end people will judge you for what they see the program to be worth. We know there are people who call themselves doctor this or doctor that and who might have done a short course when the aircraft was refuelling somewhere, but you can call yourself what you like and people ultimately will have a look at the qualification, where you got it and who was involved in it. I believe there is a place for TAFE in the longer term to consider offering degree programs. That will not stop us offering them in conjunction with the universities, which is what we are now able to do via the Regency program: someone can do part of a degree at Regency and finish it at the University of South Australia. Ultimately I cannot see any justification for universities having a monopoly on degrees any more than I can see any justification for Coles Myer or any other big retail outlet having a monopoly on products they sell.

Mr CLARKE: I hear the arguments that you are putting and will not knock them back automatically, but one of the concerns I have about issuing degrees through TAFE is that that then changes the nature of TAFE. As soon as you start issuing degrees, automatically the institution starts to acquire all the trappings of a university and the pomposity that goes with it. Already the universities have a stranglehold on our secondary education system. It seems to me that that could lead to a situation where, instead of attracting more people into the TAFE system for the very reason that they are attracted now, because they are not attracted to universities for reasons many of us are aware of, once you start issuing

degrees through TAFE it will tend to grow and you will end up with a fourth university in South Australia with all the constraints, pomposity and rigidities that go with it.

The Hon. R.B. Such: I accept that that is a potential danger, but if TAFE became a university under a different name that would be an admission of failure. As I mentioned before, New Zealand has what are, in effect, one stop shops. Previously Maoris were reluctant to be involved in higher education and now they come in, get a basic certificate and say, 'If I am good enough I can keep going. I do not have to go down the road; I can continue on here.' That is what is happening.

The other thing that has happened in New Zealand is that the polytechnics, as they called there—the equivalent of TAFE—are subject to external accreditation which the universities have always fought. The universities have said that they will set their own standards. What now is happening over there, and I predict will happen here, is that the polytechs have been able to go to the international market and say, 'Come and study with us. Our programs are externally accredited. We do not assess ourselves; we have to meet benchmarks set by people outside.' The universities are coming under pressure and will be forced in time, I believe, to say the same thing—that they are externally accredited and their programs are of a certain standard, rather than simply saying that they are of a good standard because they say they are.

The wheel is turning and we are in competition with New Zealand for the Asia Pacific area. We should not kid ourselves. Their polytechs have gone into this in a big way and we are finding a lot of university people switching to polytechs. I think that we need to demystify the whole university process and separate out the status and prestige type arrangements. In TAFE we have a system that is equal but different; it focuses on vocational areas. A lot of the programs universities offer, in essence, are vocational. Dentistry at university provides a lot of skill-based training, and so does surgery one would hope; one would hope that there is a significant degree of skill in the surgeon's training.

But we have surrounded these things with a lot of mystique, mystery and status which is linked more to professional organisations than to anything else. I think that, until we acknowledge that and say that, if you can design a jet engine you are as smart as someone who can do a Bachelor of Arts, we are not going to make a lot of progress. I do not say this in any way to be critical of the universities: I have a lot of respect for universities. But I think we have to face up to the reality that we have lost the plot in terms of not training enough people in the vocational area. Previously we have said that if you work with your hands you are a bit of a dill, but many of the people who have said that have difficulty fitting a light globe to the light fitting in their house.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to the Program Estimates at page 525, which deals with the national award for TAFE employees. Given that we are working within a national TAFE system, the State Government is opposing formally the making of a national award for TAFE employees. Given that they will be performing comparable skills in education training—whether they be in South Australia, New South Wales or Western Australia they will be exercising similar skills and functions—why is it that the Government is opposed to the making of a national award for its employees?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I can understand why unions would seek a national award but the reality is that within South Australia there are significant differences, certainly from the

Eastern States, in terms of the cost of living and therefore what should be entitlement to remuneration. Also, I think that we have to be careful not to blandly have a uniform system across Australia that disregards regional and local differences and needs.

As I said, I understand why the unions are going down that path, because they want to maximise their benefits. But as a State Government we have to be mindful of the community interest and the long-term consequences and costs. I think in many ways this uniformity in regard to pay and so on has worked against South Australia because, as I indicated just now, a lot of the costs in terms of living and so on in a place like Adelaide are significantly less than they are in Sydney and Melbourne. If you are getting the same pay in Adelaide as someone in Sydney you are laughing, in a relative sort of sense.

Mr CLARKE: As a supplementary question, the cost of living may be cheaper for TAFE staff in Mount Gambier or Whyalla compared to Adelaide. However, one does not argue that people performing the same skills requiring the same level of education and requiring them to achieve the same output of production should receive less money simply because of where they live and where they get transferred.

The Hon. R.B. Such: We take account of that in TAFE. Earlier I gave the example that our staff in the Far North get four wheel drive vehicles, and I believe that that is quite appropriate. Also we give them other incentives and allowances to compensate in some way for the additional costs of food and other facilities. You cannot have a policy to suit every variation or possibility in a sub-region but in terms of the States, taking into account circumstances where people work in remote areas, you can make a case that the cost of living is much less in Adelaide than it is in Sydney in terms of rent, and so on. Therefore that reasonably can be reflected in the remuneration. As a Government, we are trying to act in the interests of the community as a whole; it is the democratic right of the union to maximise benefits for its members and it is an obligation of the Government to ensure that it protects the community interest as much as it can.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to Program Estimates (page 514) in relation to rural campuses. The Minister has said that he will build more TAFE campuses in rural areas. If so, how many will he build; where will they be; at what cost will they be built; who will pay for them in their commissioning; and will he be getting extra funds from Treasury to finance these undertakings?

The Hon. R.B. Such: We have one under way at the moment in Mount Barker, which is near country; one under way at Whyalla; and hopefully soon we will have one under way at Port Pirie (these are expansions) in conjunction with the local council; and at Mount Gambier. The honourable member must realise that the Commonwealth funds those projects and the program is locked in for about four or five years. Nevertheless, in terms of needs, areas such as Kadina are long overdue for an upgrade. We have recently provided an expanded facility at Wudinna in conjunction with the local school; we have upgraded facilities at Peterborough, and we will continue to do that. However, still in many of the smaller country areas the facilities are not up to the appropriate level.

Ceduna and Coober Pedy have excellent facilities, but the poor relations are Kadina, Clare, Victor Harbor, and so on. Those places badly need new capital works and, whilst we cannot do it overnight, the intention certainly is to get them on the priority list in terms of subsequent expenditure as a result of Commonwealth money, and if we can round up a

few dollars ourselves I would be keen to put them towards those projects.

Mr CLARKE: My next question deals with overseas trips, and I preface my comments by saying that there is no argument from me about the Minister going on overseas trips as it is a necessary part of any Minister's duties. However, I notice that in the financial statements for last year there was no budget provision expressly set aside for overseas visits. Which programs were the visits he undertook during the last financial year taken from and, if there are overseas trips in the coming financial year, what line will they be taken from?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Many of these activities arise fairly suddenly. The trip to Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand at the end of last year was in effect to fill in because the Minister for Infrastructure could not make the trip. Therefore, at very short notice, I was put in that position. Up until that point I had never travelled overseas in my life. My baptism of fire was to get to Vietnam without any of my luggage because that all got lost. So that trip was at short notice and once again it was approved and endorsed by Cabinet. My staff regard me as 'Mr Frugal' and the total cost for the whole trip, including accommodation and everything else, was less than \$10 000 and that included the costs for my Chief of Staff as well. So, we were almost sitting on the wing of the plane. The trip to New Zealand was partly funded privately because part of that was for my own purposes and the rest was essentially out of a parliamentary allowance; the trip to the United States was not a ministerial expenditure at all.

Mr CLARKE: As I said, I have no argument with the visits, and I recognise the fact that you are working on these trips and doing valuable work for the State: it is just a question as to whether there is going to be a specific budget line for it.

The Hon. R.B. Such: As you know, any official ministerial trip has to be approved and authorised by Cabinet. There is always the possibility of trips. I have been under some pressure to go to Thailand; they have asked me to open the training restaurant there which is linked to Regency. Also I have been asked to go to Indonesia and to the Philippines. I would become Marco Polo if I accepted all of those trips. The ministerial budget, which was underspent, certainly can cope with the occasional low cost trip overseas.

Mr CLARKE: If a trip is to be made at some time in the next 12 months, I would recommend South Africa with respect to training opportunities that are there for TAFE, having just recently visited that country myself—also extremely frugally. In fact, I did sit on the tips of the wings and operated the lights for a discount. I refer to the Program Estimates (page 518), which relates to the salaries of your personal staff. I noted that the salary of your two research officers was \$25 000 each. I am wearing my trade union hat in this arena, as that seems an extremely low rate of pay.

What are their hours of work and is there any overtime component that would apply to these staff because, taking into account the hours they would be required to work, this would be absolutely slave labour, particularly when comparing the rates of pay for a Chief of Staff and for the Minister's media adviser? In the interests of avoiding allegations of sweated labour in the Minister's own office, can he tell me whether or not there is provision there for a substantial pay increase for those two research officers?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The reality is that the research staff are supposed to generate dorothy dixers for the Government, not for the Opposition. The reason why we have two people employed at \$25 000 is that we are meant to have one

employed at \$50 000. It was made quite clear to the two young people that the only way they could be taken on in what is, in effect, training experience and so on, was to split that salary because there is no way that as Minister I am going to get a special entitlement to have extra staff. I thought it was important to have young people, particularly in a training area, and the only way we could do it was to split that salary. They accepted those terms and conditions and are employed at that level; if they do not wish to continue in that employment they are free to go.

Mr CLARKE: That is a Bangladeshi approach; talk about frugal!

The Hon. R.B. Such: The alternatives were accepting the split of the \$50 000 into \$25 000 each or to employ one person at \$50 000, and they accepted the split. In terms of the hours they put in, they make a contribution, but they are not expected to work the hours that a chief of staff works. One would hope that it is a stepping stone for two very young people, both of whom are about 22 years of age. It is not big money, but it is the sort of experience that money cannot buy.

Mr CLARKE: The plantation owners in the south of America argued the same point. Dealing with the current State training profile, I refer to Program Estimates, page 523. I am somewhat confused by an inference that information technology is not considered by industry to be important but that the Government sees information technology as a priority. Does this indicate that TAFE is not industry driven but rather responds to the Government's own agenda? Part of that is that industry is too thick to know what is good for itself and TAFE, you as Minister or the Government has to lead and let industry follow. It concerns me that industry saw information technology as not being important.

The Hon. R.B. Such: Industry does see it as important, although it might not express it precisely in information technology terms. One of the things I have been keen to do is find out what are its needs. Companies will say that they need a lot of trained people. What sort of trained people do they want—graduates of university, people with PhDs or certificate-level people? It is part of my role as Minister, and the role of those advising and involved in drawing up a State training profile, that we try to read the situation down the track. It is my strong belief that we will need extra people trained in those areas. Some of the companies are saying that they need extra people right now, usually at the graduate level.

It is really a question of taking the broader view and integrating the various intelligence that comes my way from the various enterprises and industries. It is like asking an individual in the street whether they think that things are going well. That is one opinion. If you want a meaningful view you need an aggregate view. We have looked at young people coming through the system, at age profiles and at particular enterprises that are setting up (many of the enterprises, such as Motorola, are not fully operational). It is impossible to pull out of the sky 800 people if that is what they need down the track. If they want people who have language skills as well as IT skills to work the Asia-Pacific area, they need considerable lead time. Whilst I do not claim to be a crystal ball perfectionist in terms of predicting the future, I am convinced that there is a need to train in the IT area.

The information that has come through in relation to the profile for next year is that the Employers' Chamber has it as a priority. Whether or not the Deputy Leader sees me as being ahead of my time, the Employers' Chamber has acknow-

ledged it as a significant priority for the next training profile that has been drawn up for 1996. It is the right course of action and we need to ensure that we have those people available not only for the major employers but also for all the spin-off industries that will live off them.

Mr CLARKE: Is the Minister committed through the NVET agreement to a national model for TAFE rather than a Commonwealth-based model or individual State by State models and, if so, will he resist any attempts by the Commonwealth to take over TAFE? A hobbyhorse on our side of politics in this State has been to ensure that TAFE remains a State responsibility. I can understand that some TAFE people now want it to go across to the Commonwealth so that they can get back their money after you have slashed it, but we regard you as only a temporary occupier of the throne and we still want to retain TAFE as a State responsibility.

The Hon. R.B. Such: The Government does not want TAFE to go to the Commonwealth, for the simple reason that there would be a neglect of local regional needs. It is the very reason for having a federation: so that we are not totally swamped by the big States on the east coast. We can have the best of both worlds, which I believe we do. We have national standards and a national approach to training, but we still do our own training in accordance with the needs of our local industries and local regions. We have got away from the difference in rail gauge mentality in terms of training and recognition of qualification, but we can insist and ensure that we cater for the needs of the wine industry and the IT industry.

Members may like to speculate on what might happen in terms of catering for those industries if TAFE was totally driven out of Canberra. This Government is strongly committed to keeping TAFE as a State function. I am aware that a previous Labor Government in New South Wales was contemplating offering it to the Commonwealth. I am not so sure that the present Labor Government in New South Wales still wants to go down that path. There is a lot of sense in having it as a State function but coordinated across all States so that there is uniformity in curricula materials, in accreditation and all those sorts of things. We are now getting to a situation where we have a good arrangement—the best of both worlds.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to the Program Estimates, page 514, and interactive videos. The Minister announced this year an expansion to the interactive video system put into place originally under the Labor Government. However, something similar was promised last year. How many extra sites have been established this financial year, where are they, how many new sites will be created next year, where will they be and how much additional funding has been allocated to the network?

The Hon. R.B. Such: The new ones this financial year include Waikerie, Berri, Mount Gambier, Naracoorte, Mount Barker and Noarlunga. For 1995-96 we are committed to two, but at this stage the location has not been finalised. The cost is between \$250 000 and \$300 000. We may be able to put in more, depending on whether the institutes themselves are prepared to assist with the financing of them, or local industry may contribute. At this stage we are seeking to have at least two additional ones, which will bring us up to 21, with a minimum of 28 by the end of the next financial year. In fact, Adelaide Institute has two systems so, if you want to be pedantic, there are 22 centres on 21 sites.

Mr CLARKE: I would like to read in a few questions on notice. With regard to consultancies and contracts, what consultancies have been let by the Minister's department since 1 July 1994? What was the purpose of each consultancy? Were tenders called? Were specifications prepared and did the consultant prepare a report? Did the consultant make any recommendations and, if so, have they been acted upon? What was the cost of each consultancy, including the cost of expenses? Will the Minister table a copy of all consultants' reports? Will he list all contracts with a value exceeding \$100 000 let since 1 July 1994? What was the purpose of the contracts? Were tenders called and were specifications prepared? How was each contract supervised? Before proceeding to a question on boards, committees and councils, and as I do not want to create unnecessary work, am I right in thinking that only a handful of boards come under the Minister's department's supervision?

The Hon. R.B. Such: Yes.

Mr CLARKE: In that case I will not ask that particular question. What specific budget allocation has the Minister made for programs specifically for women? What are those programs and what are the individual budget allocations? In accordance with the Premier's announcement last year that all Cabinet submissions would be accompanied by family impact statements, how many family impact statements has the Minister's department prepared and what were the programs covered by those statements?

The Hon. R.B. Such: I will take those questions on notice.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.54 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday 28 June at 11 a.m.