

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 24 June 1997

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B**Chairman:**

Mr R.P. Bass

Members:

Mr C.J. Caudell
 Mr R.D. Clarke
 Mrs R.K. Geraghty
 Mrs L. Rosenberg
 Mr G. Scalzi
 Ms P.L. White

The Committee met at 11 a.m.

 Correctional Services, \$84 718 000
Witness:

The Hon. D.C. Kotz, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education and Minister for Correctional Services.

Departmental Advisers:

Mr J. Paget, Chief Executive Officer.
 Mr J. Hayward, Acting Manager, Financial and Physical Resources.
 Mr A. Kelly, Director, Offender Services (Metropolitan).
 Mr G. Vinall, Director, Offender Services.
 Ms J. Treadwell, Director, Strategic Services.
 Mr M. Boswell, General Manager, Business Services.
 Mr S. Briggs, Director, JIS.
 Mr P. Menzies, Manager, Human Resources.
 Mr R. Wright, General Manager, Prime SA.

The CHAIRMAN: As all members would be aware, the Committee hearings are relatively informal and there is no need for members to rise when they ask or answer questions. The Committee will determine the approximate time for consideration of proposed payments to facilitate the change-over of departmental advisers. Changes to the composition of the Committee will be notified as they occur. Members should ensure that they have provided the Chair with a completed request to be discharged form. 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 Friday 11 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 no longer than 15 minutes. There will be a flexible approach in relation to giving the call for the asking of 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, but any supplementary questions will be the exception rather than the rule.

Subject to the convenience of the Committee, a member who is outside the Committee and 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 the member outside the Committee wishing to ask a question is necessary.

Questions must be based on lines of expenditure as revealed in the Estimates of Receipts and Payments. Reference may be made to other documents, including Program Estimates and Information. Members must identify a page number on the program in the relevant financial papers from which their question is derived. Questions not asked at the end of any day may be placed on a House of Assembly Notice Paper if lodged in the normal manner and in a suitable form.

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: that is, that it is purely statistical and limited to one page in length. All questions are to be directed to the Minister, not to the Minister's advisers. The Minister may refer questions to advisers for a response. I also advise that for the purpose of the Committee there will be some freedom allowed for television coverage by allowing a short period of filming from the northern gallery.

I declare the proposed payments open for examination and refer members to pages 24 and 264 to 266 in the Estimates of Receipts and Payments and pages 487 to 496 in the Program Estimates and Information. I invite the Minister to make an opening statement.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am pleased to have the opportunity to detail the significant achievements of the Department for Correctional Services over the period since we last gathered in this forum. In doing so, I would like to place on record the Government's appreciation for the advances made by the department over the past three and a half years, and I personally acknowledge the department's commitment to the efficiencies that have been achieved over that period of time.

In his opening address last year, my predecessor indicated the intention of the Government to further reduce the cost of keeping an offender in prison across the department to \$33 000. I am pleased to report that we are on target towards achieving this. It has placed the department in a more than favourable position in comparison with other jurisdictions and freed up public funds for other important Government initiatives.

Recognising the particular needs of women prisoners, the Government also announced the department's intention to establish what could be classed as a modest textile manufacturing industry for female prisoners at the Adelaide Women's Prison. This facility is now operational and provides work and an opportunity to develop employment related skills for some 11 women and certainly with scope for further expansion in the future. Operation Challenge, for young male offenders at Cadell Training Centre, was also foreshadowed last year and this program commenced in December 1996 with 10 prisoners graduating in March this year. A further group will graduate in September. Of course, evaluation, including the use of control groups, is part of that program.

Mobile work camps, which were referred to in 1996, have continued to be a successful initiative, with projects being undertaken for the Department of the Environment and Natural Resources in a range of areas such as Balcanoona in the Gammon Ranges, Mount Remarkable National Park, and Danggalli Conservation Park, and certainly consideration has

presently been given to a proposal for a long term Department of the Environment and Natural Resources project in the Coorong.

As part of the strategic review undertaken by the department the Government has since approved the expansion of Mobilong prison industries and accommodation by 140 to provide a capacity for 320 medium and low-security prisoners. Decisions with regard to the construction of any additional facilities have not yet been made. A further development since the 1996 committee hearings includes the letting of a contract to Group 4 for prisoner transport and import management. This contract is operating successfully and has certainly attracted the interest of interstate jurisdictions. In summary, the department continued to make substantial advances in correctional administration. The future direction of the department will continue as established in recent years and I am anticipating a period of stability where the gains made in a range of endeavours will be integrated and consolidated.

Mr CLARKE: I welcome the new Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Correctional Services to South Australia and wish him well in his job and at the same time pay tribute to the work of the former CEO of that department, Ms Sue Vardon, who has gone on, one could say, to greater and higher heights within the Federal bureaucracy. Before going straight to questions on the Correctional Services budget, I make the point that the Opposition would have preferred to deal with employment first because of the horrendous unemployment figures which we now have in this State and which we have had for a number of years, particularly over the past 3½ years. I can understand the Minister's wanting to avoid media scrutiny on that issue, which is why employment has been pushed down the agenda until late this afternoon to avoid television or other electronic coverage of that issue.

Turning to the Correctional Services budget, I refer to page 493 of the Program Estimates. During the Estimates Committee last year the then Minister told us that work had been almost completed on options for a new prison in South Australia and that an announcement on the new prison would be made later in 1996. As an interim measure Mobilong Prison was to be expanded by 32 beds. The former Minister also stated that projections for prison population growth indicated there would be an extra 521 prisoners in the year 2000—less than three years away—compared with 1994-95 levels. Has the Minister now scrapped plans for a new prison? If so, how does she propose to accommodate the additional 521 prisoners expected in our prison system by the year 2000 and how much has been set aside in forward estimates for the next three years for new prison facilities?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the honourable member for his question. Before answering that question, I should comment on the member's opening address in terms of his suggesting that the Government was interested in steering away from media scrutiny. I understand the Opposition's obsession with the media but I would have thought that giving employment a full afternoon, right through to the evening, would be the more important aspect to glean the information in which the Opposition is interested.

As far as accommodation for prisoners in the system is concerned, for the first time in the history of this department a strategic review was undertaken, which is historic in its own right. That strategic review alluded to the projection of trends in prisoner numbers that could possibly rise through to the year 2010 and obviously from those projected trends there

was the propensity for prisoner numbers to increase considerably. Under those circumstances, and when you have a review, you start to plan and analyse according to the figures you are given. Unfortunately when it comes to specific areas, trends are not an exact science, but give the department a fair indication of what needs will be for prisoner accommodation through the future.

To that end the expansion of Mobilong has been the first move and some \$6.6 million has been extended into that area to increase the accommodation at Mobilong. That will certainly increase the prisoner accommodation numbers by 140, giving Mobilong a 320 bed capacity. That now means that in the immediate future we have prisoner accommodation covered by that expansion. It means that within the next year or two another reassessment will be taken looking at the trends that will be projected at that time and on that basis we will then look at whether a new prison or prisons may be required. But there will be no further moves to expand any further areas of the prison system within 18 months or a year, after which time we can look at the trend figures again to make sure they are still following the projections indicated.

Mr CLARKE: I take it then that the trend figures that the former Minister used one year ago to project an extra 521 prisoners by the year 2000 is now gathering dust and is worthless. You have no idea of what the projected prison population will be in a year or two?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Trend figures are not an exact science. With a degree of reasonable and logical application, the requirements for the next two years we believe will certainly be covered by the expansion of Mobilong. This does not mean that we will not be looking at the need or requirement to build further prisons, but simply means that in the immediate future the expansion of Mobilong will be as far as we will take this, possibly into the year 1998-99, at which time those trends will be reassessed. If they indicate, as they have in the past, that those trends are continuing, detailed planning will take place for a new prison system but it will not be considered in the coming year.

Mr CLARKE: The former Minister also indicated that the Government might consider private management if it was to expand an existing prison facility. Does the Minister intend to privatise any existing prison facilities or does she have any plans to permit the private sector to construct or operate new prison facilities?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That is almost a pre-emption of something that is not occurring at the moment. The consideration of new prisons will not be taken at this time. Owing to the privatisation of the Mount Gambier prison, which has certainly resulted in efficiencies for the Government in the management of the overall prison system, any future look at building extra prisons will certainly take into consideration whether they should be privatised. It would not be ruled out.

Mr CLARKE: Last week the Victorian Government released contracts which govern the relationship between that State and private prison management companies. This coincided with an Australian Institute of Criminology conference on accountability in private prisons. Will the Minister follow the lead of the Victorian Government in releasing the contracts with Group 4 for the operation of Mount Gambier Prison and prisoner transport services and, if not, why not?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am quite sure that the Deputy Leader is aware that the Government has already released the plain English version of the contracts to the committee which was set up by this Parliament and which requested all the

documents that related to those contracts. Therefore, I can only say that that has already been done.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer to the performance indicators on page 493 of the Program Estimates and Information booklet under 'Issues/Trends'. It is noteworthy that, while introducing major rehabilitation reforms, the Government has managed to lower the cost to the taxpayer of keeping prisoners in prison. How has the Department of Correctional Services reduced the cost per prisoner in recent years?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: This is indeed a success story for the Department for Correctional Services. The department has made considerable inroads into the cost of maintaining prisoners. The cost per prisoner has been reduced over that period of time from \$54 000 to a current level of \$36 000. These movements in cost reduction, excluding debt servicing, represent a reduction of 34 per cent in real terms since June 1993. The figures published in the table in the Program Estimates are all converted to 1996-97 values, so the figures will differ from those published last year which were, of course, in 1995-96 values.

Much of the improvement has been achieved through major or structural changes in prisons, community corrections and head office functions, along with significant savings achieved in the areas of workers compensation. By altering the fine default centre to a living skills unit, changing work practices, reducing staff numbers, targeting a reduction in workers compensation levels, increasing prime revenue (that is the industries area), and by competitive tendering processes, the department has absorbed a total of \$7.5 million in efficiency reductions in attaining this very dramatic drop in the cost of maintaining offenders in prison.

The fine default centre requires a special mention, as there was not only a reduction in the number of fine defaulters requiring imprisonment but also a corresponding increase in fines received through the courts authority. That was a very positive result for both agencies and the Government. Additionally, the department has accommodated more prisoners through dual occupancy where appropriate, outsourcing of the expanded Mount Gambier prison, and taking up spare capacity in the system, accommodating over the last three years approximately 400 additional prisoners based on a daily average. That is an important point to make, because we are dealing with a substantial increase in the numbers of prisoners relating to the figures we are now talking about.

The 1995-96 cost of detaining an offender in prison produced recently by the Industry Commission indicates that the average daily cost of imprisonment in the Northern Territory is \$182, \$162 in Victoria, \$150 in New South Wales, and \$140 in Tasmania. South Australia, at \$133, is now the third most cost efficient corrections department in Australia. Western Australia has done exceptionally well at \$92, whilst Queensland is at \$89. However, these costs include debt servicing costs and a portion of the cost of support services.

The improvements have seen South Australia achieve the third lowest cost per prisoner in Australia behind Queensland and Western Australia. Each of these States has also idiosyncrasies which explain the low cost. Western Australia has a much higher prisoner population of which a greater proportion are in open prison accommodation. Queensland would not have the level of debt servicing costs that are such a large proportion of our total costs. The department is aiming for further implementation of efficient processes in order to

continue that momentum which we have observed in recent years.

The current proposal relating to the expansion of Mobilong Prison, as part of the Prison 2010 strategy, will see a lowering of the staff to prisoner ratio; that is, more prisoners per staff member, thus resulting in a further reduction in the costs per prisoner within that institution.

Mr CAUDELL: First, as this is the first chance I have had since the Minister was appointed, may I take the opportunity to commend the Minister on the excellent job she has done since taking over the portfolio. I refer the Minister to the prison program outlined on page 493 of the Program Estimates and in particular I refer, under Issues/Trends, to:

Need to develop new facilities for industries.

Two essential components of the Government's policy for work in prisons are: to expand the range of work programs for prisoners and establish new industries which can be developed as import replacement programs. What progress has been made in these areas in the past year and what plans are in place for the coming year?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the member for his question and for his good wishes. In the past financial year the range of prisoner work has expanded in most prisons, and the relevance of work has improved in line with labour market demands. Vocational training is also linked to labour market requirements and therefore is an integral component of the quality program within the business units. The focus for commercial development in prisoner employment is concentrated on working in conjunction with the private sector to assist local companies to become competitive in their respective markets. There have been instances recently where prison labour has helped in the development and commercialisation of new products for niche markets, and other ventures have been established to assist companies to combat advantages gained by importers who compete solely on price advantage.

These joint private sector prison industry ventures are established and operated in a fashion similar to private sector volume manufacturing concerns. The business unit layout equipment and quality systems are similar to those in the general community. They provide a relevant training environment for prisoners and a quality production facility for customers. The ventures have been recommended by the Prison Industries Steering Committee as being within Government policy guidelines and have the support—and this is important—of industry and the trade unions.

During 1996-97 the department commenced significant new ventures in association with private sector companies. The ventures have received support from both industry and the trade union movement and certainly will provide significant benefits to prisoners, the department and, indeed, to the company involved. One of the most prominent of the new areas of industry, and most members would probably have seen some of the media reporting that centred on this particular product, concerns what is known as the 'rage cage', which is a reduced size, multi-purpose sports court and complex that caters for over a dozen popular mainstream sports and activities. Prime SA manufactures the entire cage. The concrete slab is not built by us, but we sell the cage kits to Life, Be In It marketing. Life, Be In It supplies the 'rage cage' courts to councils and to other community locations. Funds are provided by both local and international company sponsors.

Prisoners are encouraged to undertake vocational training that supports both the quality of production and prisoners' post release employment prospects. In addition to the 'rage cage', a further significant venture that commenced during the previous financial year continued to provide substantial benefits to all parties concerned, and that is to do with lighting assembly. The customer company imports high volumes of lights for distribution to major retailer outlets as both stock and special occasion lines. The company has designed a product that can be used as a combination of imported and locally made components. That means that within the prison system they are actually powder coated, assembled and packaged by Prime SA. This product replaces a range that otherwise would have been fully imported. The venture operates with the private sector customer providing all the raw materials, electrical components and product assembly specifications and standards. Prime SA provides the powder coating services and assembly unit, including the use of capital equipment, labour and supervision, and the company then markets the final product.

Building on the growth of the past three years, the department's budget for 1997-98 includes an expectation of increases in revenue from prison industries. Those increases will come from continued growth in private sector prison industry ventures and improvements in self-sufficiency initiatives. These funds will be used to maintain prison programs and reduce the operating costs of prisons.

Mr SCALZI: I refer to page 493 of the Program Estimates, 1996-97 Specific Targets, 'Reduction in number of escapes'. To what degree has the number of escapes reduced?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: To date during the 1996-97 financial year, there have been six incidents of escape involving nine prisoners, six of whom were classified as low security and three as medium security. All but one of the escapees have been recaptured. The escape rate for the year to date is .6 compared with 1.27 in 1995-96. The escape rate was 2.49 in 1994-95, 2.29 in 1993-94 and 2.29 in 1992-93. The rate is calculated by multiplying the number of escapes by 100 and dividing that figure by the daily average prison population.

It is worth noting that the peak of 2.49 occurred prior to the closure of the Fine Default Centre at Northfield and its subsequent conversion to accommodate female prisoners. The peak periods occurred during the operation of the Fine Default Centre, which was approved in 1992 with funding of \$989 000 provided to construct a 60 bed bunkhouse-style facility to accommodate male fine defaulters. The perimeter of this facility was a single 1.8 metre high chain wire fence. From the time of its opening the centre had an unacceptable level of escapes. There were not only escapes but break-ins, which is very hard to believe, and several other incidents.

The commissioning of the new Mount Gambier Prison enabled the imprisonment of male fine defaulters in the Yatala Labour Prison. This change of regime for fine defaulters occurred in August 1995 and resulted in many offenders paying their fines rather than opting for imprisonment. Since the 1994-95 financial year, there has been a dramatic reduction in the number of escapes, with current levels being 26 per cent of the number of escapes experienced at that time. This has occurred despite the prisoner population increasing by 10 per cent during the corresponding period.

A low security facility such as the Cadell Training Centre has no physical barriers to prevent escapes. Prisoners are placed in such locations as part of the resocialisation process to assist with their return to the community. Overall, we are

looking at a total of 34 escapes in 1994-95, dropping to 18 in 1995-96 and nine during the current year.

Mr CLARKE: My question relates to page 493 of the Estimates. It was reported in the *Advertiser* of 4 November last year that prisoners were being offered colour TV sets as incentives to double up in their cells. How many prisoners have been given colour TV sets to encourage them to double up in their cells? Does the Minister regard doubling up or trebling up in cells as an acceptable practice, particularly for remand prisoners who have not been found guilty of an offence? If not, what action does she propose to take to end this practice, and when?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Regarding doubling up, in Australia, prison managements consistently work towards single cell accommodation, the only exception being a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which states:

That initiatives directed to providing a more humane environment through introducing shared accommodation facilities for community living and other means should be supported and pursued in accordance with experience and subject to security requirements.

Anecdotal evidence confirms that, in many cases, dual occupancy has a very positive effect on some prisoners, especially those in the Adelaide Remand Centre. Advice has been received that since dual occupancy began self-mutilations and stressful situations have abated because prisoners have been able to share their problems with another offender. The introduction of truth in sentencing has stopped offenders receiving early release—prisoners are now required to serve the full sentence imposed by the courts—and, as a consequence, the number of prisoners within the prison system in South Australia has increased.

Some existing cells now accommodate two prisoners to overcome short-term accommodation needs. All prisoners placed in shared accommodation are carefully screened. Many have indicated that they prefer company in their cells. Few of the incidents which normally occur within the prison environment can be directly attributed to dual occupancy. It is important to recognise that dual occupancy does not increase incidents in prisons. Annual statistics maintained by the department show that, despite a significant increase in the prisoner population, the number of assaults involving two or more prisoners has remained similar.

Mr CLARKE: I agree with you that the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody recommended that Aboriginal prisoners, in effect, double up, if that is their choice because of their cultural background. However, is it not still the preferred option in Australian prisons for single cell accommodation to be provided? Surely, that must be a priority in the remand centre where people have not been found guilty of any offence.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I think I began my answer to your initial question by stating that, certainly within the prison system within Australia, it is considered that single cell occupancy is something towards which everyone strives. I do not know your relationship specifically with the Adelaide Remand Centre and prisoners who have not been sentenced. It is a matter of accommodation. The Adelaide Remand Centre is one of the areas where it has been evaluated that dual occupancy has given greater comfort, if you like, to those who are being held for a period of time without being sentenced. Although it is something we all strive for, I think it is quite obvious from the monitoring that has been done that dual occupancy has not added any greater degree of

concern because occupants of the Adelaide Remand Centre have, in fact, asked to be placed in dual cells.

As far as the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and the discussion about dual occupancy are concerned, we have found that, within the prison system, it is not even a matter of dual occupancy where Aboriginal custody is concerned but that there are cells within our prison system which now accommodate six or eight Aboriginal people (rather than one or two) more because of tribal family requirements. So we do have an expanded system, which is almost dormitory like and which accommodates the needs of indigenous people.

Mr CLARKE: How much was paid to Group Four for management of the Mount Gambier Prison and its contracted prisoner transport services for 1996-97; how much will be paid in the years 1997-98; and where does this item appear in the budget papers?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I believe that the Deputy Leader is already aware that commercial confidentiality relates to that agreement. As I have stated previously, the whole contract was presented to a parliamentary committee, but the actual costs of the contract are commercially confidential. The in-court and transport section of the contract is still in its infancy and at this stage an evaluation is not possible, because the contract has not been in operation for more than a year. That information may be available later, but at this time it is not.

Mr CLARKE: It is clear that I will not get an answer to that question so I will move on. It seems surprising that we know that the global cost of the biggest outsourcing contract to United Water is \$1.5 billion over X number of years. The fact that we are not able to find out what we are paying a private company to provide a public service is truly astounding.

The Government has stated that payments to Group Four are based on a fixed cost which is indexed annually. Last year, the Auditor-General's Report at page 103 stated that the contract is:

... subject to movement in consumer price and wage indices.

What was the rate of indexation of payments to Group Four for 1995-96, and what is the expected indexation rate for 1997-98? How many prisoners is Group Four required to accommodate under its fixed price contract? Is there a minimum or maximum number and, if so, what is it?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Perhaps I should also have added—and I am quite sure the Deputy Leader is aware of this—that the in-transport contract ranges across several agencies, it is not restricted only to correctional services. Therefore, there is no line of budget to which this can be directed at this time. The cost of the overall contract is approximately \$4 million, but as this is a several agency line there is no identified single area in which we can identify the costs to the system at this stage. As the contract continues, we will have an opportunity to evaluate these costs. This is the first time in any jurisdiction that there has been this type of a contract, so there is no data comparison, certainly not here in South Australia. However, as those evaluations are made we should be able to provide more information. I will ask Mr Paget to provide further details.

Mr Paget: To answer your question about indexation, in the first year of operation it was approximately 1 per cent. It has not been established for the subsequent year.

Mr CLARKE: Could you also answer the question about the number of prisoners that Group Four as part of the fixed price contract is required to accommodate? Is there a

minimum or maximum number of prisoners that it is required to accommodate?

Mr Paget: It is up to 100 prisoners.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer to the community services program and, in particular, efforts to reduce reoffending and provide alternatives to imprisonment. What effect has this program had on the department in terms of orders, bonds and undertakings administered in the 1996-97 budget?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In 1995-96 the courts referred 15 031 bonds, orders and undertakings to the Department for Correctional Services and have forwarded 12 369 in the year to date ending April 1997. The department has calculated that offenders have performed community service work in excess of \$8 million during this combined period, which includes road and freeway rubbish collection; removal of noxious trees, weeds and shrubs from parks and Government property; the destruction of vermin; assisting the Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul and other welfare agencies; school community support; and local council support. Since 1996 a user pay philosophy has been encouraged between the Department for Correctional Services and recipient organisations. This involves the forming of partnerships whereby the department agrees to supply a number of hours of community service labour free of charge, with the recipient organisation covering the cost of supervisors and material. This philosophy has been extremely successful, and many community service projects in the metropolitan area are now funded in this manner, reducing the cost to Government of community service.

Statistics maintained by the department indicate that a minimum of 60 per cent of the orders, bonds and undertakings referred to the department are successfully completed. However, it should be clearly understood that this does not mean that the remaining 40 per cent of these orders, bonds and undertakings are not completed. Of these, there is a percentage who do not report to the department and are eventually breached by the department and returned to the court. In conjunction with the courts, the Department for Correctional Services is seeking to overcome what, indeed, is a problem by placing community service officers in courts to intercept offenders before they leave the court.

Another area of concern is the area where a community service order offender may decide to pay their fine at the courts after working part of the community service order but does not notify the Department for Correctional Services. So, the court practice of allowing offenders who have been returned to court for breaching their community service to participate again in this program for the same offence, despite indications that these offenders are unlikely to complete the order, has the effect of artificially inflating the breach rate. It should also be understood that South Australian statistics cannot be compared against other States because of the significant differences in the manner in which the information is presented and the different nature of the programs. It could be that in another State a breach is only recorded if the person involved reoffends. The department is working with the Courts Administration Authority to ensure that data collected on these offenders is accurate. Unfortunately, however, because of different recording systems, this is expected to take some time to complete. Until this has been successfully completed, the department will produce statements on all future breach statistics to ensure that the users of the information are made aware that the information should only be taken as an indicator.

In addition to the work being carried out by the department to clarify and improve the community service program, an officer of the Courts Administration Authority has recently been seconded to the Attorney-General's Department to work on issues that relate to fine enforcement. This may increase the number of offenders who choose to pay their fines and reduce those who are referred to the community service program—that is, if the Government chooses to modify the current system. Officers of the department have worked, and will continue to work, closely with the officers of the Courts Administration Authority and the Attorney-General's Department to identify acceptable practices which will encourage offenders to pay their court-imposed fines rather than incur prison or non-prison alternatives.

Mr CAUDELL: My question relates to the mobile outback work camps and I refer to page 493 of the Program Estimates, and the prison program. What has been achieved by these mobile outback work camps?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: This is another exciting prospect within correctional services and certainly has proved to be of assistance and of great community benefit. Since the pilot MOWCAMPS (mobile outback work camps) program was undertaken officially in March 1995, the concept has grown and become a reality in the department's pursuit to establish a cost-effective alternative to traditional imprisonment and to simultaneously promote restorative justice in the process. The MOWCAMPS project has been successful and has provided meaningful work and training opportunities for participating prisoners in the final stages of their sentence. The program is beneficial to all parties involved in the process—the prisoner, the community and the department. Prisoners learn new skills and work ethic, communities benefit by having some projects completed that otherwise may not be done, and the project is a cost-effective alternative to remaining on site at prison locations.

Since the trial, many projects have been identified throughout the State, particularly with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Close liaison between my department and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is occurring at all times to promote the success of this program. Projects successfully completed have occurred at the Gammon Ranges National Park, Danggali Conservation Park, Mount Remarkable National Park, Coorong National Park and work with the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Community advisory committees have been formed at Leigh Creek for the Gammon Ranges National Park, Renmark for Danggali Conservation Park, Meningie for the Coorong National Park and Port Germein for the Mount Remarkable National Park. These committees consider projects and include representation from the police, the Department for Correctional Services, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and ministers from two religious denominations. On completion of each project, the community advisory committees meet and evaluate the outcome of the camp. Two staff supervise 10 to 16 prisoners. Each officer is rostered on duty for 17 days and then has 11 days off duty. The groups are away from prison for a period of four weeks at a time and then return to the institution for two weeks, before returning again to the planned project. There is a whole series of other areas in which work is undertaken by MOWCAMPS. They include: fence building and maintenance, household painting, pest plant control, repair and installation of park signs, road repair, walking trail maintenance, tank cleaning, installation and plumbing, waste management, removal and salvage of fencing material,

concreting and paving and even a mallee fowl survey. This work would not have been done, because of the costs involved, if it had not been given to this group to undertake.

Mr CAUDELL: What is the future of MOWCAMPS?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: A proposal was submitted to the previous Minister through the former Chief Executive Officer, Miss Sue Vardon, which outlined an expansion proposal which embraces Woma Farm, which is a complex at Baroota, approximately 50 kilometres from Port Augusta Prison. Talks are now taking place between the Minister for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and me in relation to a proposal of setting up a long term MOWCAMP at the Coorong National Park based at Noonameena Lodge. This proposal includes an 'in kind' donation to MOWCAMP in the way of accommodation, vehicle running costs and equipment to fulfil the work commitments.

I have a series of statistically based tables which advise of the costs involved in maintaining individual MOWCAMP programs and their associated community benefits. The benefits have been calculated using an average hourly benefit of \$8, and the overall benefit has turned into almost a \$300 000 scheme. This document will be made available, if anyone wishes to contact me or the department.

Mr SCALZI: I refer to page 496 of the Program Estimates, achievement of level 3 of occupational health and safety standards. Relating to this achievement, what is the level of workers' compensation claims and costs within the department? Can the Minister provide the Committee with details of the department's workers' compensation experience in the 1996-97 period, including a comparison with the previous year, and provide details of any actions or programs undertaken or planned by the department to manage occupational health, safety and welfare?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the member for his question, which is a reasonably complex one. The department has made significant inroads in improving the management of workplace safety with the implementation of a number of initiatives focusing on the safety and welfare of all staff. The staff counsellor has continued to provide individual counselling to many staff and families who, in the past, would have contacted their doctor with the possible outcome being a stress claim. Early intervention and attention to the identified issues have certainly prevented many potential claims. The accident incident report forms have been distributed to each work site, an analysis of accident causation, particularly by the local committees, has enhanced prevention initiatives.

Departmental rehabilitation policy sets out the roles of managers/ supervisors and clearly emphasises their roles in early intervention and return to work programs. Workers' compensation budgets are devolved for individual locations to manage with an incentive to utilise any savings for the implementation of health, safety and welfare initiatives to enhance the work environment. The central office staff involved in claims administration and rehabilitation and the safety consultants liaise closely with local health and safety committees and management to assist in the understanding and implementation of health and safety issues. Training has been given to managers and supervisors in health and safety responsibilities, safety awareness and hazard management.

Training has also been provided for staff in pre and post incident skills and counselling. Health and safety committee and representative structures have been reviewed and elections held as necessary. Level 1 and 2 training has also been provided to the health and safety representatives. The

departmental health and safety policy clearly defines the responsibility of all levels of staff and it has been distributed to all staff members. The stress management policy has assisted in maintaining the focus on workplace stress, and local management, health and safety committees and peer support teams have helped in identifying the problems. Critical incident counselling and debriefing has been undertaken by a staff counsellor and rehabilitation officer since 1994. The department provides what we believe is a responsive service which has been readily accepted by staff and which has contributed to a reduction in compensation claims. Management and staff have received education training relating to post traumatic stress and the benefits of diffusing potential issues.

Another specific issue identified is raising awareness in the duty of care obligations that the department has in engaging contractors. Training sessions and policy guidelines have been developed and implemented as an initiative to minimise potential risk liability in this area. At the request from local work sites the department is assisting in the establishment of staff support teams who are trained in the identification and intervention of occupational psychological distress in the workplace. The department has recently been audited for WorkCover for compliance with prevention performance standards and achieved a solid level 1 rating in the WorkCover prevention audit. It has also achieved level 3 for the claims and rehabilitation audits. The audit process does provide the catalyst to identify local safety problems and gives the opportunity to improve workplaces. So the department in consultation with the Government Workers Rehabilitation and Compensation Office and the Crown Solicitor's Office negotiated with employees who have been in receipt of ongoing workers' compensation payments and was able to offer a number of separation packages following agreement to a suitable payment as settlement of the compensation claim. Since 1993 the department has been able to offer 149 packages to employees under these arrangements, which has represented significant savings in the potential costs these employees would have incurred should they have continued to work within the Public Service.

These employees were targeted because they were in situations where they were unable to return to work in a custodial environment and it was extremely unlikely that they could be effectively redeployed within the Public Service. As a result of all these initiatives the department has achieved a reduction of workers' compensation claims by approximately 30 per cent over the past three years and there certainly is a continued commitment to reducing the claims. There has continued to be a considerable restructuring across the whole department and resultant changes in responsibilities for all positions. This process of change is committed to improved and more efficient work practices and an increased commitment to the essential areas which are employee safety, health and welfare.

Mrs GERAGHTY: As to page 494 of the Program Estimates, what is the Government's policy towards the use of education hours, that is, hours spent undertaking a training or education course in lieu of the hours required by fine defaulters to remit their fines? Have any fine defaulters been permitted to use education hours to remit their fines?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I suggest that the amount of time that a fine defaulter actually spends within the prison system would not necessarily be conducive towards starting an education or rehabilitation program and I doubt very much whether there is any means of improving that situation, purely

on the basis that fine defaulters rarely spend excessive time within prisons.

Mrs GERAGHTY: As a supplementary, there is no thought or movement towards education hours to remit fines?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I do not believe it would be a reasonable supposition to consider that, to be able to set up an assessment of an individual's abilities and then assess and put into place an education or rehabilitation program for someone who would not be in the system for any period of time, would be a viable option for the individual in prison paying off a commitment to the community through fine defaulting, purely on the basis that the hours they spend there are minimal.

Mrs GERAGHTY: What police or other checks are conducted on personnel employed to supervise community service orders?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Every departmental employee is subjected to stringent security checks—including police checks—so any prison officer in a supervisory position would have undergone those relevant tests, as is the case for every member of staff employed in the department.

Mrs GERAGHTY: By way of supplementary question, is the Minister prepared to give an assurance that persons with a criminal record have not been employed as casual CSO supervisors?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I do not know whether I can give that assurance. A review which was conducted some time ago looked into the specific background of individuals who had been employed within the Department of Correctional Services for a number of years, and this goes back well and truly under a Labor Administration. If my memory serves me correctly, that review showed that a number of individuals within the department had some form of breach recorded against them—not necessarily horrendous or untoward but certainly they had breached the law in different areas. I cannot give relevant details off the top of my head, but I am prepared in the coming week to give details on that review, if that would suit the honourable member.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Yes. Will the Minister explain why one of the specific targets for community corrections in 1997-98 is 'continued exploration of alternatives to imprisonment'? While the number of community corrections orders expected to be commenced in 1997-98 is only 16 577—a fall of 9 per cent on 1996-97 levels and the lowest number for years—what are the alternatives to imprisonment and community service orders which the Government will employ for offenders and fine defaulters in 1997-98?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The whole issue of looking at alternative means of dealing with individuals who breach the laws of society is something about which a number of agencies and bodies continue to have discussions and debate. Members will find that this will be an ongoing issue within the community and within different agency levels in an attempt to identify different means of exacting a penalty from those who break the law. That does not necessarily mean imprisonment. We are looking at the more minor areas of breaches. At this stage it is an ongoing means of discussing and attempting to come up with ideas, concepts and principles. I am not aware of any determined alternative than the ones of which we are already aware, such as community service orders, that could be classed as a specific alternative means that anyone has come up with. It is still in the discussion process. We will all hear about any concepts or principles that come out of the discussions to be held on alternative means.

We have been looking at other jurisdictions to see what means they use as alternative methods of penalty. In New South Wales there is a concept of community corrections cocktail order, which is being used to describe offender specific orders involving varying amounts of home detention, intensive community supervision and community service work in specified programs, which is fairly much what we do in South Australia.

There has been a Chief Executive of Justice Forum that has sponsored a fine enforcement project which will investigate the approach used by Western Australia, which enables those authorities to confiscate assets or one's driver's licence in lieu of fine payment. Apparently that sanction alone has increased fine payments from 45 per cent to 75 per cent, so that takes away the need to even look at alternative means because people are paying their fines under those situations rather than having to be found community service orders or be imprisoned. Apparently it has reduced overall the imprisonment levels of fine defaulters. Some of those areas are being looked at to see whether they can be used in South Australia to break down that area of fine defaulting and community service, which takes up a degree of administration within South Australia.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer to the living skills unit and refer to page 493 of the Program Estimates, the prisons program. Will the Minister outline the benefits of establishing the living skills unit at the Adelaide Women's Prison, in particular what improvements will be made in the area of work opportunities for women prisoners in the coming year?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Following the transfer of fine default offenders to the Yatala Labor Prison on 3 August 1995 arrangements were made to integrate the fine default centre buildings into the Adelaide Women's Prison. That 60 bed centre was altered to accommodate 28 female offenders in a self-contained living environment. That has increased the capacity of the Adelaide Women's Prison from 45 to approximately 70 prisoners. The unit also has the capacity to accommodate a maximum of four women looking after babies or young children. These units have a second room connected to the mother's room and enable the development of the maternal bond and to facilitate reunification with children prior to release.

The living skills unit provides the Department for Correctional Services with the ability to transfer female prisoners who have demonstrated good behaviour through a graduated release program, culminating in a transfer to the unit prior to release. The unit has lower supervision levels than the high security area of the prison and this encourages prisoners to take responsibility for themselves within a certain service perimeter. The unit reinforces the living skills necessary for prisoners on re-entry to the community and criteria for acceptance to the living skills program include lower medium security prisoners only; prisoners must be drug free; they must have a demonstrated appropriate behaviour for at least three months prior to entry into the units; and, they must have a commitment to the philosophy of the unit and be willing to undertake work and/or education.

High security prisoners are continued to be accommodated in the high security section of the prison. The security consists of a 3.6 metre chain mesh outer fence with razor wire and a 1.5 metre inner fence. These are supported by a microwave detection system, integrated with camera surveillance. The inclusion of the living skills unit has increased the land area available to the Adelaide Women's

Prison by approximately 2.02 hectares. The accommodation within the unit commenced on 23 October 1995.

The living skills programs themselves are considered to be some of the best in the country and certainly support women prisoners not only in the prison system but also to resocialise on their exit out of the prison system.

Mr CAUDELL: I refer the Minister to the Estimates of Receipts and Payments. Will the Minister outline the support given to non-government agencies, specifically Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services of S.A. Inc (OARS)? Will the Minister also provide details of the services provided to the Department for Correctional Services by OARS?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services is one of those organisations that has continued to grow and give tremendous support to prisoners on their release from prison. The program has a great number of advantages for those who have breached the order of society and spent some time within our prison system.

Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services (OARS) is a non-government welfare agency, and its basic tenet is to provide services to offenders and their families. It is funded by various Federal and State Government grants, as well as income which it generates from its Fresh Start employment, education and training services and other fundraising activities.

OARS functions using a mixture of salaried and volunteer labour. In the 1996-97 financial year it was provided a grant of \$328 000 from the Department for Correctional Services. In early 1996, OARS did in fact experience a short-term cash flow crisis after the discontinuance of Federal Government grants, upon which OARS had become somewhat reliant. OARS then approached the South Australian Government for assistance, and two proposals—an ex-gratia payment or a low cost loan—were considered. Neither of those particular proposals was approved but, as an alternative, Correctional Services and the Department for Family and Community Services, through the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) provided funding earlier than would otherwise have occurred.

Since this time, OARS has in fact successfully restructured its financial arrangements with its bankers, as well as selling some of its assets to repay debt. I believe it is now considered that its current financial situation is quite satisfactory. OARS has subsequently sought an increase in funding from the department which would allow an expansion of its case management services in different areas.

The services provided by OARS play an integral part in assisting offenders to rehabilitate themselves and avoid re-offending. The department has certainly encouraged OARS particularly to focus its effort on those persons who are released from prison and who are not under the supervision of a parole officer.

For the first half of the 1996-97 financial year, OARS has provided services for 124 individuals who were seen for case management counselling interviews on 640 occasions; 843 individuals and families were seen for short-term intervention; and 93 home visits were made. As part of this agreement with Correctional Services, OARS provides a bus service to take families to Cadell Training Centre each Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to the foregoing activities, short-term hostel accommodation for single men, including those on home detention and home detention bail, is provided by the Commonwealth-State funded SAAP program, which is administered through FACS.

Through its Fresh Start training service, which is a registered service provider under the Commonwealth labour market, OARS provides occupational training and employment services for unemployed persons, including many former offenders. These services are provided on a fee for service basis and in most instances under the Commonwealth Employment Services Regulatory Authority (ESRA) Scheme.

The department will provide OARS with a grant of \$331 300 for the 1997-98 financial year, payable in four equal instalments. This compares with a grant of \$294 000 that was payable in 1994-95, and represents an increase of some 13 per cent over the last three years. The increase certainly has come at a time when the department is becoming increasingly efficient in the use of its resources.

Mr SCALZI: I refer to page 493 of the Program Estimates and Information booklet. Will the Minister outline the process by which the Department for Correctional Services has increased the number of offenders involved in targeted programs?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: A comprehensive assessment system is being introduced into the prisons, and this means that program needs can be more effectively identified. Program delivery has increased with the introduction of the Reasoning and Rehabilitation Cognitive Skills Program. This program for offenders is highly structured and comprehensive and is aimed at providing offenders with the skills that they need to stop offending. A total of 36 staff have completed the intensive 10 day coach training course which is delivered by the program's Canadian authors. This group includes 20 Correctional Services officers, 13 social workers (eight from Community Corrections), one education staff, one professional development consultant and one social worker from FACS working with youth.

The Canadian consultants are returning later this year to finalise this training by evaluating the delivery performance of each coach and then accredit them. On completion of this process, they will select six of the top performers and train them as the coach trainers. This step means that the department will then have the capacity to train its own coaches. A total of 147 offenders, mainly prisoners, have completed the 75 hour program to date, and approximately 50 more are currently undertaking the program.

The Parole Board and the Prisoner Assessment Committee are now making referrals for offenders to undertake this program, which will continue to be delivered in prisons and Community Corrections. In 1998 a consistent timetable for program delivery will be established to deal with offender movements across the system. Although efforts are being made to minimise the movement of prisoners participating in the program, this will ensure that, where a transfer is required, program continuity can then be maintained. Data collection systems will also be introduced during the 1997-98 period which will enable the department to measure its performance in this whole new program area.

Ms WHITE: I refer to an issue that was raised earlier about community service orders and refer the Minister to page 494 of the papers. In doing so, I note an Issue/Trend listed for 1997-98 for a higher successful completion of community service orders. The previous Minister stated in a press release dated 5 December 1996 that about 43 per cent of people on community service orders are failing to complete their orders and he said (correctly in my opinion) that this record was not good enough.

The Minister has talked about data collection and other matters, but I will raise with her examples of the difficulties

that have been supplied to the Opposition. This matter has been addressed to the Minister, so I ask for her comments.

In a letter from a community service officer to Ms Michelle Ward of Seaford, the officer states:

On Wednesday 30 April 1997 you were assigned to work at the Seaford Primary School. Your 'acknowledgment of conditions' required you to report to . . . at the school and arrange agreed work days and times with him. I am advised by . . . you have made no contact with him. To avoid having your undertaking cancelled and returned to court, I direct you to contact . . . at the school no later than 3 pm on Wednesday 21 May 1997 and arrange with him days and times you can work.

Should you fail to comply with this direction, you will be suspended from the Community Service Program pending further court action.

I wish to highlight some statements from a letter to the Minister from this woman. She says:

I would like to draw your attention to some problems I have had regarding the undertaking of 24 hours of community service which I have incurred due to a traffic infringement. As I am a university student whose only income is Austudy, I requested community service and this request was granted by the Christies Beach court on 14 April 1997. After the court appearance, I went to the Department of Correctional Services' office at Noarlunga Centre to obtain my assignment but there was nobody present in the office who could help me. An appointment was made for 30 April 1997. I duly attended the office on that day, and after discussion with community service officer . . . it was arranged with the Seaford Primary School that I would work in the school library for 24 hours. . . . told me he would ring me and advise me what day and time I should report to the school. I advised him I was at university on Tuesdays and Thursdays but that he could ring me any time as I had an answering machine. You will note from the attached copy of the 'acknowledgment of conditions to perform community service' that there is no date or time to attend the school.

Last Friday I received the attached communication from . . . informing me that I had not contacted the school. I rang . . . who asked me what the date and time was on my acknowledgment. I reminded him that there was no date or time on this form and that he was going to advise me of this information by phone. He then stated that he remembered this arrangement and that he had forgotten to follow this up. I had attempted to contact . . . [his supervisor] prior to my conversation with . . . but I was continually put on hold, then told I would be put through but I never was. I have requested a letter of apology to me, an explanation to the school that it was not my fault and that I had made no contact, and I also contacted your department by phone last Friday.

In another section of the letter this woman states:

I found it very upsetting that I was advised that I could have my undertaking cancelled and be returned to court when I was in no way responsible for non-communication by the Department for Correctional Services. I was also annoyed that the interviewing officer did not appear to be listening to me. I had told him that I had arthritis in both my ankles following severe fractures in a car accident, and I also walk with a limp which precludes me from standing or walking for any length of time. He rang the school and promptly arranged for me to do their gardening. When I pointed out that I had told him I could not do this type of work he said, 'Oh yes, you did too,' and rang the school back and arranged for me to work in the library.

My question is: what measures is the department undertaking to ensure that the successful administration of these orders is completed and, more importantly, what follow-up procedures are in place?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: As the honourable member has stated, we are looking at some 15 000-odd community service orders and I am sure that the honourable member recognises the type of administration that is involved, particularly when we are dealing with individual people. The department certainly works extremely hard to make sure that all of the areas under its administration are indeed not only complied with but, indeed, followed through. In the instance that the honourable member has raised, I am aware that this is a situation which is unacceptable and the department, of course,

was alerted, and I believe there is a letter that is to be forwarded which at the moment I do not believe has yet been signed and sent on to the individual concerned. But in this case we have absolutely no hesitation in suggesting that this is an error that the department recognises and takes on board, and it is a letter of apology that the circumstances in this particular case should never have occurred in the first place. So I assure the member that it is not something that the department is proud of and the department will certainly make sure that this type of thing is avoided as much as possible. As I say, in this instance an apology will be forwarded to that individual because it should not have happened.

Ms WHITE: I refer the Minister to page 265 of the Estimates of Receipts and Payments—'Program 1—Prisons'. Under the line 'Goods and Services—Operating expenses, minor equipment and sundries', expenditure for 1996-97 has blown out, so it seems, from an estimated \$14.731 million to a revised \$19.427 million, almost a 32 per cent increase. Why has this cost blow-out occurred and will the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of this item?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I would ask Mr Hayward to address this question.

Mr Hayward: This year all government agencies were required to report on a different methodology. We are required to report under an accrual accounting system. One of the expenditure requirements has been the incorporation of canteen operations. This expenditure is offset by an increase in revenue under the sundry receipts area, referred to on the previous page. That actually accounts for \$2.453 million of the increase in expenditure in the present area on goods and services. The other approximately \$2.4 million relates to an increase in appropriated funds from Treasury and Finance relating to the prisoner movement and in-court management contract.

Ms WHITE: A noted criminologist and Director of Crime Research at the University of Western Australia, Professor Richard Harding, has called for public sector prison agencies to be split into a purchaser and provider agency so that both the public and private prison managers are accountable to a common regulatory body. Given the Liberal Government attraction to purchaser provider models in other areas, does the Minister support this suggestion?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: As the member has rightly pointed out, in many areas there is certainly a move between those separations, purchaser/provider, and in fact it relates to other estimates that we will discuss today. That certainly is the case within the TAFE area. At this stage the concept has been developed right across Australia in many different agencies. There is no consideration at this stage to take that on board, but that does not preclude discussions on what may occur at future times.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer to the program Straight Talk which I have had the opportunity of sitting in on at FACS at Noarlunga Centre and which I have supported for a long time. I refer to page 494 of the estimates. The Government has committed itself to some remedial programs for offenders. Can the Minister advise on the current status of the Straight Talk program, which utilises offenders to educate target groups in the community on the consequences of offending behaviour?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the honourable member for this question and I recognise her very close interest in this area particularly with young people. The Straight Talk program is certainly one of the successes of the department

and it is a program that I have supported from its initiation. The program is a crime prevention program which utilises the voluntary services of offenders on community based orders, and ex offenders are also part of the scheme. They inform and educate young people and others as to the consequences of offending behaviour. The program targets groups in areas such as secondary school students and those adolescents who are seen to be at risk of reoffending who are involved in Family and Community Services and Police Department programs.

Many presentations have been made in this financial year to different students of different schools. In fact at 33 secondary schools those presentations were made and also to youth at the Cavan and Magill Training Centres, and other Family and Community Services facilities, as well as other young offenders referred by the police. Presentations have also been made to 102 interested community groups as a community development exercise in heightening community awareness in relation to the criminal justice system. It is very pleasing to know that following each occasion a Straight Talk program is taken out into the community and presented, in any of these areas, I invariably receive, through the department, many, many letters of congratulation directed to the actual program for the benefits that community members see in this particular area. On many occasions I know that the Straight Talk involvees, if you like, have been invited back up to 17 times and the demand for the program certainly increases. So this is one that is of great benefit not only to young people in the community but to the community at large, and it is certainly a program that the department will be continuing to support.

Mr CAUDELL: I refer to page 496 of the Program Estimates—Support Services: the provision of a human resource service. Will the Minister provide updated information on the Diploma in Correctional Administration, which was introduced for custodial officers in 1995?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: It is extremely important in the area of prison reform in Australia that those who are part of the prison system be fully aware of all the up-to-date methods that can be integrated and, in an operational sense, used within the system. It is good to see that there are up-to-date courses of study for custodial officers. The Diploma in Correctional Administration is a tertiary education program, which was developed jointly by the Department for Correctional Services and the University of South Australia in June 1995.

Some 23 staff from institutions, community correction centres, central office and the University of South Australia are accredited by the university as associate lecturers. The course, which is a distance education program, articulates into a Bachelor of Social Science degree and is aimed at providing custodial officers with up-to-date skills and knowledge to fully professionalise their work. Some 68 students are currently undertaking the course: two have received recognition of prior learning and progressed to the second stage of the course, and four additional students will have reached the second stage of the diploma by July 1997.

Trainee custodial officers are automatically enrolled, and to successfully complete their induction training they must pass two diploma subjects. The department supports the students through the associate lecturers, local mentors, line managers and a centrally based professional development consultant. It is expected that the first graduations from these courses will be in 1998.

Mr SCALZI: I refer to the development of Aboriginal staff, in which I have a great interest given the disproportionate number of Aborigines in our prison system. Page 496 of the Program Estimates, Specific Targets/Objectives, refers to the continued implementation of the EO strategy. What has the department done about the development of Aboriginal staff?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the honourable member for his previous and current concern in this area. Aboriginal employees currently represent 2.5 per cent of the department's work force, and the majority of these are employed in base grade custodial positions. Strategies have been developed to increase the number of Aboriginal recruits, and those strategies will be implemented during the next six months. The department has created a new position of Manager, Aboriginal Services arising from the initiative to combine and expand the former personal consultancy and offender service roles with respect to Aboriginal services.

The Manager, Aboriginal Services is a member of the department's executive and will serve to meet the increased specialisation and complexities associated with providing a more holistic, enhanced and cohesive approach to Aboriginal staff policies, programs and services through the department. The position of Manager, Aboriginal Services was advertised locally and nationally in February 1997, and an appointment is expected to be finalised before the end of the financial year.

The department applied for and was granted exemption under the Equal Opportunity Act for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander equal opportunity employment program, which was gazetted by the Minister pursuant to section 67 of the Public Sector Management Act. It is intended in the near future to conduct a specific recruitment program for Aboriginal custodial staff in all correctional institutions to increase the number of Aboriginal custodial staff and to enhance the services that are currently provided for Aboriginal offenders.

It is anticipated that these initiatives will provide leadership and strategic focus for the development, implementation and monitoring of the department's Aboriginal staff policies, programs and services. It will enhance our commitment and contribution to the ongoing achievement of our obligations with respect to the recommendations that were set out in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I refer to page 496 of the Program Estimates—Support Services. The prison medical service has in the past been based at the Modbury Hospital. Under the previous Minister there were attempts by the department to take control of the service and contract it out. It has more recently been suggested that the Royal Adelaide Hospital will take over the service. In the Program Estimates an objective for 1997-98 is the establishment of a health service agreement between the South Australian Health Commission and the Department for Correctional Services. What are the department's current intentions for the future of the prison medical service—that is, will the service be based at the RAH, and, if so, when? Will it have its own CEO or be contracted out?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The honourable member is correct in all aspects of the detail that she has provided. After what was a considerable assessment of the risks involved in the competitive tendering processes, the department recommended that it would not embark on a competitive tendering process for this key aspect of fulfilling the duty of care towards all prisoners. The department put forward a strategy to improve services and to prepare for the prospect of

competitive tendering should that be required in the future. I have decided to accept its recommendation.

Therefore, the Department for Correctional Services' Business Service Unit is currently negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the South Australian Health Commission for prisoner and offender health care services. After the completion of that memorandum of understanding—once it is finalised and approved—the Health Commission, with the involvement and assistance of the department, will develop what is known as a service level agreement (SLA) with the new health care provider. The Royal Adelaide Hospital, as the honourable member has rightly pointed out, has a comprehensive suite of services and has expressed an interest in the opportunity to provide prisoner and offender health care services.

I think I can say that prisoner health care will not be outsourced at the present time. There is a lack of systematic data with which to benchmark. Therefore, we consider that risk exposure at this time will be very high. A credible service provider is directly available. However, there is a need and opportunity to improve the business-like relationships necessary to ensure proper services within reasonable value for money considerations.

The basic approach adopted for the development of the memorandum of understanding and health services is similar to that which was used very successfully in Mount Gambier. At this stage, the health services are being negotiated with a view to upgrading areas which I considered in the past to be lacking. So, negotiations are being conducted with the Royal Adelaide Hospital to provide that service.

Mrs GERAGHTY: Will it have its own CEO?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Yes, indeed.

Mrs GERAGHTY: What was the estimated expenditure on the PMS for 1997-98, and what was the expenditure on the service for each of the past three years?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Health services are supplied through the Health Commission, and therefore there is no budget line within the department. It is incorporated within the Health Commission.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I refer to page 495 of Program Estimates. Justice information contains some of the most highly sensitive and confidential information contained in any Government database. Access to this database has been strictly limited to certain public servants. Now that EDS is responsible for managing the JIS network, can the Minister say what procedures, if any, the department has in place to detect unauthorised access to the system?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The same principles apply as I explained previously about security checking on all departmental staff where security checks are done on each and every individual. The same applies with EDS and EDS personnel. A security rating must be acquired by each individual employed through that area. Within the components of the system itself, there is in place certain audit trails. If there is any breaching of access, it can be evaluated, recognised as a breach and action can then be taken.

Mrs GERAGHTY: So, there is ongoing monitoring to detect abuse?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That is right.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I refer to page 494 of Program Estimates. You told Parliament on 29 May that some reassignment of community corrections programs had occurred within the Aboriginal lands but that no positions had been removed from the Marla area. The Opposition is aware that the Government has just terminated two positions at

Marla, one a qualified parole and probation officer who is to be transferred out of the area and the other an Aboriginal liaison officer and interpreter. Can you confirm that the remaining officer at Marla is not qualified as a probation and parole officer and that the office now does not have a Pitjantjatjara translator? Can you confirm that local members of the judiciary and Aboriginal groups have written to the Government supporting the retention of the two officers? So, how can you justify the loss of those two positions?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The Department for Correctional Services operates community-based correctional services out of its three remote area offices—Ceduna, Coober Pedy and Marla. The principal functions of those officers are to manage local offenders subject to community-based supervision orders (specifically community service), fine options, probation and parole, and to provide an information service to the courts and the South Australian Parole Board. In the past, these services have been provided in each remote area location on the basis of a traditional one-to-one social casework model of intervention using a complement of probation and parole officers, social workers, community service officers (who are departmental operational staff) and casual work supervisors.

There was minimal opportunity in this model for the involvement of Aboriginal communities where many of the offenders are actually resident. The effectiveness of that approach in terms of service outcomes—and we talk about successful completion of orders and diversion from custody and so on—has over the past year or two been increasingly questioned by various jurisdictions throughout Australia.

The experience in Western Australia in negotiating with selected Aboriginal communities to co-manage local offenders by way of community supervision agreements was consistent with the thrust of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and has informed developments in South Australia. In July 1996, therefore, departmental representatives attended an inter-jurisdictional community corrections workshop in Alice Springs and this meant that information was shared on a range of offender management initiatives including community supervision. The response to a verbal briefing to the departmental executive following the Alice Springs workshop was one of strong support, paving the way for the development of a revised approach to the provision of community-based correctional programs in the State's remote areas.

That approach is consistent with both restorative justice principles and the recommendations of the royal commission. It seeks to involve Aboriginal communities in the management of local offenders by means of specific partnership agreements and an important dimension of such partnership is that, although participating Aboriginal communities undertake local supervision of offenders, the ultimate statutory responsibility will continue to rest with departmental staff who act as case managers. Within the context of this community management model, it is necessary that departmental staff (case managers) are able to fulfil a broad range of statutory functions.

The northern country region has accordingly negotiated an expanded role for its community service officers. To reflect this multifunctional role, community service officers were retitled community correctional officers (CCOs) in line with counterpart positions in most other Australian jurisdictions. The department's remote areas CCOs have statutory responsibilities for all offenders on probation, parole, bail,

community service, fine option and home detention whilst assisting those communities who wish to participate in managing local offenders.

Included in this model is a provision of both formal and informal training for community representatives, case management advice and support, and administrative remunerative matters. In the area of staffing, the previous and current staffing establishment level at Marla was and is 10 positions. The current staffing at Marla has not altered. There is currently still 10 staff at the Marla operation. In the Ceduna area, there is a difference in staffing. Previous staffing totalled four; current staffing in that area has gone to five. There is an increase of one in the Ceduna area. In Coober Pedy, the previous staffing level was five; the current staffing level is still five. Previously a total of 19 staff was involved in Marla, Ceduna and Coober Pedy. The current staffing level for those three areas is 20. So, overall, there has been an increase of one.

Ms GERAGHTY: I have a supplementary question. Is the Minister saying that there is still a qualified parole and probation officer and an Aboriginal liaison officer and interpreter?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I have further information and I will expand on that whole area. The Aboriginal liaison officer position, which previously assisted Marla field operations, has been substantially reviewed in order to provide a more appropriate field support—that is, social work, rather than simply interpreter services—and has been relocated to Whyalla so that it can provide those same services to the Far West Coast. This position has been taken up by Ms Valma Ah-Nge, an experienced social worker trained Aboriginal probation and parole officer, whose role is to provide a range of professional support services to the courts, the Parole Board, Aboriginal communities and local CCOs. There is no replacement in this model for resident social workers in remote areas. The Senior Practitioner position at Ceduna has been replaced with a CCO position, while Mr Fitzsimmons, who was the Senior Practitioner at Marla, has been offered a position elsewhere within the department.

The hours worked by casual employees each week varies according to the number of offenders available for work on community service, which is quite reasonable. For example, at times of special ceremonies or funerals, few or no offenders may be available to work. Consistent with departmental practice elsewhere in this State, where opportunities arise for the supervision of community service using community organisations, the use of casuals diminishes.

There has been extensive consultation with the region's staff over three months about the proposed changes and the rationale. Mr Tony Shillabeer, who is the Manager, Community Programs, and his staff at Marla have had a number of discussions regarding program changes with Aboriginal communities on the lands and at Oodnadatta. Mr Shillabeer has also had individual discussions with local Aboriginal community leaders, Donald Fraser and Yami Lester, who expressed in principle support for the revised approach and its underlying philosophy. A meeting with the Pitjantjatjara Council scheduled for 1 April 1997, which was designed to more fully explore the planned improvements in services, was unfortunately deferred by the council until some future point in time. Local staff are keen to maintain this commitment, but will in the meantime continue to liaise with individual communities.

At a central agency level, the department's regional manager, Mr Vandenbergh, explained the department's

proposals to the Non-custodial Sentencing Option Group, its parent body, the Aboriginal Justice Inter-departmental Committee, and the departmentally sponsored Aboriginal Deaths in Custody Forum. Mr Vandenberg and Director Operations country area, Mr Graham Vinall, have also recently had discussions with Tauto Sansbury and Warren Guppi of the Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Committee. A number of discussions have occurred with the South Australian Parole Board, which is happy with the revised approach, and participated as presenters in a recent regional case management workshop for all CCOs. Discussions with the courts—and, in particular, the Senior Magistrate, Chris Vass—have met with a similarly positive response. Mr Vandenberg has made three unsuccessful attempts to establish dialogue with the ALRM, Port Augusta Branch, but has had no response to date, and it would seem that this organisation is disinclined to discuss areas of mutual interest. But there has been no change to operational boundaries of the northern country community corrections region, and the department certainly has not had any letters of complaint on this matter from the judiciary.

The CHAIRMAN: As we are running out of time, if there are any questions that either the Government or the Opposition wish to put on notice, they can be read into *Hansard*.

Mrs GERAGHTY: The Minister did not clarify whether social workers spoke Pitjantjatjara.

The CHAIRMAN: If you wish to ask that question on notice, the Minister can reply appropriately—or, if the Minister wishes, she can answer that now.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Yes, that person is still available. I believe that the position is now located at Whyalla, but it is a support mechanism for the whole of the Far West Coast.

Mrs GERAGHTY: I would like to place the following questions on the record, and they relate to Program Estimates, page 494:

1. The last annual report for the Department for Correctional Services 1995-96 stated that the final report of a major review on home detention would be available in 1996-97. The annual report also indicated that only 73.8 per cent of the 423 individuals given home detention successfully completed their detention—that is, 111 breached their detention and were returned to prison. Will the Minister inform us what the recommendations of the report were and what changes have been made to the home detention program as a result of the review?

2. Will the Minister provide the Opposition with a copy of the report?

3. What is the target for the number and success rate of home detentions in 1997-98 and what are the expected figures for 1996-97?

My next series of questions relate to Estimates of Receipts and Payments, page 265:

1. The interest earned on the operating account for 1996-97 increased from a predicted \$150 000 to a revised figure of \$800 000. Was the increase due to the gross underspending in the capital budget—that is, the actual expenditure of \$7.526 million, compared with an estimated \$12.696 million—and, if not, why did expected interest increase by 433 per cent?

2. What are the official reasons for the capital budget being underspent in 1996-97?

3. Does the Minister guarantee that the capital budget will be fully expended in 1997-98?

4. What is the expected change in balance in the deposit account of 30 June 1997?

Ms WHITE: I refer to the Prison 2010 program. My questions are as follows:

1. The support services program on page 496 of the Program Estimates refers to the commencement of the Prison 2010 program through the expansion of Mobilong Prison. Will the Minister release the Prison 2010 program and inform us what plans for further expansion of the prison system are included in the program: in particular, what is the latest estimated prison population in South Australia in 2010, and which prisons are expected to be upgraded or expanded under the program?

Mrs GERAGHTY: I refer to page 490 of the Program Estimates. My questions are:

1. Why has the staff of the JIS increased by four since 30 June last year?

2. How many extra staff have been employed because of new and additional responsibilities arising from the EDS contract?

3. By how much will Treasury supplement the JIS budget in 1997-98 to compensate for additional costs expected to arise from the introduction of unit pricing under the EDS contract by 1 July?

4. How much of this supplementation is for (a) depreciation of infrastructure assets; and (b) amounts in lieu of the cost of capital?

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

[Sitting suspended from 1.3 to 2 p.m.]

Membership:

Mr Brokenshire substituted for Mr Scalzi.

Department for Employment, Training and Further Education, \$166 555 000

Departmental Advisers:

Mr B. Stanford, Chief Executive Officer.

Ms T. Flynn, Manager, Youth SA.

Ms C. Tunks, Director, Employment Division.

Dr G. Wood, Executive Director, Vocational Education and Training.

Mr D. Carter, Executive Director, Group Corporate Services.

Mr R. Higgins, Financial Management Accountant.

The CHAIRMAN: I declare the proposed payments open for examination and refer members to pages 32 and 259 to 263 in the Estimates of Receipts and Payments and pages 465 to 486 in the Program Estimates and Information.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In opening up the lines of Youth Affairs and Employment and Training, Youth Affairs comes under a separate ministerial portfolio but, as it is aligned with Employment and Training, I am prepared to take all relevant questions. If we are opening up the total lines, I would seek to make both opening statements on each relevant area at this stage.

Mr CLARKE: I have no objection.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In relation to the youth portfolio, as Minister for Youth Affairs my role is to advocate in all spheres of Government to ensure that the needs of young people are fully considered. I am sure that the Opposition will have had an opportunity to ask individual Ministers about the detail of their programs during this Budget Estimates session. This Government has made a commitment to acknowledge

and celebrate the positive contributions young South Australians make to the State.

The Program Estimates that we have before us relate to the project and grant funding available through Youth SA for the latter type activities. Youth SA is a division of TAFE, and supports me in this ministerial role. It assists the South Australian Government to coordinate its policy and service response to those young people aged 12 to 25. This requires a partnership approach with a broad range of Government departments and agencies which directly or indirectly serve young people.

Youth SA's expertise lies in being able to consult directly with young people about aspects of their lives, their positions in the community and as consumers of services and by maintaining strategic links with youth agencies and organisations, both in Government and in the community sector. Youth SA is strategically positioned to analyse youth issues and to provide the relevant advice to the Minister for Youth Affairs.

In the current economic and social environment this Government has addressed youth issue in an innovative two-pronged approach. First, the Government has appropriately implemented line agency policy and program responses to meet youth needs in this environment. These responses include early intervention and prevention strategies which are designed to reduce the negative impact on individual young people and at the same time reduce the potential for spiralling costs of expenditure in welfare and social infrastructure.

This Government values young people as important members of the South Australian community and as such recognises that they have a valuable role to play in our communities. I have implemented a number of strategies which encourage young South Australians to take on the responsibility of participating in decision making that affects their lives as well as promote the value of the active and meaningful participation of young people in all aspects of the South Australian community. This includes maintaining a range of youth participation activities that demonstrate best practice in youth participation to other public sector and community agencies and, for example, they include:

- The incorporation this year of Youth Week 97, which promotes the active participation of young people in the planning, coordination and implementation of Youth Week activities.
- The Youth Parliament, which uses a youth development model to develop young people's interests in and knowledge of our parliamentary process. Thereby teams of young people research Bills over a number of months and the program culminates in the debating of these Bills in a session of Youth Parliament.
- A pilot project for young people has been recruited as youth advisers on the boards, management committees or other directive function of a number of Government or Government-funded agencies.
- The establishment of a ministerial council of young South Australians to act as a formal advisory structure to me about major issues and areas of concern relating to young South Australians.
- Maintaining a small grants program—called Youth Leadership Grants—to assist young people and youth organisations to develop new innovative youth participation projects.

An outcome of these strategies is improved participation of young people in management and policy decisions of Government, the public sector and community agencies. This

Government has also committed to acknowledge and celebrating the positive contributions that young South Australians make to the State and celebrating their skills and achievements.

Youth SA maintains a range of youth celebration activities which demonstrate through example the recognition by Government of the active participation of young people and its investment in them as our future leaders in the economic, social and cultural affairs of this State. Youth celebration is attained through a number of strategies, which include :

- the provision of a framework for a Statewide program for celebrating those skills, achievements and the contributions of young people in the form of Youth Week.
- the Youth Media Awards, which recognise the role the media plays in raising community awareness of young people in these issues. Awards are presented for the best examples of journalism which accurately report on youth issues and young people's contributions to this State.

The youth sector is a small and diverse component of the community service industry sector. The Government, through Youth SA, has identified specific assistance and development for that sector, and the strategies that I am about to outline were developed by Youth SA with the sector to improve outcomes for young South Australians. They are as follows:

- consult with the sector and plan for improved infrastructure and resourcing allocations for youth service provision.
- continue a process of seed funding, pilot policy and program developed models to improve service outcomes across sectors. That includes ethnic youth development seeding grants of \$76 000 this financial year and a further \$104 000 in 1997-98.
- identify and plan for training and development of youth workers in emerging issues that face young people, and this is done through the Youth Sector Training Fund managed by COPE.
- ensure consistent standards of service outcomes for young people by facilitating a quality assurance system within the sector.
- fund a youth peak organisation to provide network support for youth workers and to advocate on youth issues, and
- advocate for equity of research allocation by Government to young people who are aged between 12 to 25, and that is 21 per cent of the State's population.

That concludes the youth statement.

My opening statement in regard to employment is as follows. Since coming to power in December 1993 this Government has been extremely active in addressing the issue of unemployment. For the period January 1994 to May 1997 over 20 000 people have participated in specific employment programs funded by the South Australian Government. In addition, over 10 000 young people were involve in career promotional activities and over 3 000 young people in seminar and business development activities which were initiated through the Kickstart program. The State Government itself has provided traineeship opportunities for over 3 500 young people since January 1994. One of the first major initiatives of the new Government was the 'Let's Get South Australia Really Working' jobs package, which was introduced on 6 January 1994 and which included a range of initiatives specifically designed to assist the unemployed in accessing employment opportunities.

From January 1994 to the present the three initiatives of Greening Urban SA, group training employers rebate and an employment broker scheme, funded under the jobs package,

provided employment and training opportunities for 1 419 people with 1 118 (79 per cent) of these participants gaining employment as a direct result of their involvement. The release in December 1996 of the youth employment statement by the Premier further demonstrates the Government's commitment to addressing youth unemployment.

There are three components to the youth employment statement, these being vocational education in schools, employment encouragement incentives for employers and specific employment initiatives. The employment initiatives, which include Job Shop, Community at Work, Regional Labour Exchange and Group Training expansion have been implemented and are being well supported by industry and the community generally. Job Shop has commenced with contracts for the placement of 295 participants. There are 24 projects being developed for Community at Work funding. Group Training has increased its contracts of training by 134 since July 1996 and five job exchanges have been approved for a total of 150 participants in the first year of operation. This represents an increase of two job exchanges developed over that originally planned and is a direct response to regional demands.

The employment encouragement incentives component of the youth statement, which includes the WorkCover levy exemption and payroll tax rebate, has been well received by employers, with 519 applications from individual employers for the WorkCover exemption as at 31 May 1997. This means that 837 new positions for young people have been identified in these applications.

The recently announced South Australian Government employment partnership contains a range of new initiatives, a number of which specifically target young people. These include the South Australian Government Youth Recruitment Program, with up to 500 full-time positions, and the local government employment program, offering 200 positions. These initiatives are all additional to existing State Government programs such as Kickstart, Self Starter and IT Skills Advantage and clearly demonstrate the breadth and commitment of the South Australian Government in dealing with the issue of unemployment.

Ms WHITE: One would have to say—and certainly the South Australian community is saying—that young people in this State are being attacked on all sides. We have seen over the past year cuts in funding to a wide range of areas affecting young people by both State and Federal Liberal Governments. Entry into higher education has been hampered by changes and greater imposts in terms of HECS structures. There has been the introduction of full fees for undergraduate courses in one of our universities in South Australia. Young people have had to deal with the impact—and will have to deal with the impact now—of attacks on their income support through the proposals under the Commonwealth youth allowance scheme.

There is increased difficulty in obtaining eligibility for support, and this comes on top of withdrawal of a number of labour market programs, with the withdrawal in the budget last August of Federal funding for a whole range of labour market programs which were implemented in this State and which impact on South Australians' ability to find work.

There is the withdrawal of a range of services to young South Australians in this State in a number of portfolios that impact on those young people's ability to enter or continue in education and training in this State. As well as all that affecting young people, they have also had to deal with a very negative image in the media, sometimes being blamed for the

high youth unemployment situation in this State and nation. So, it is a grim set of circumstances with which young people have to contend these days.

Last year I raised with the former Minister the circumstances in which young people have to live every day in this State. The Minister gave a rejection of the picture I was painting, until I read to him from his own budget papers. I will make a comparison and point out to the Committee that much of what was said in the budget papers last year is still a factor today. Last year's budget papers, under 'Issues/Trends' states:

South Australia retains the highest rate of youth full-time unemployment nationally. South Australia's labour participation rate remains the lowest of mainland States. Predictions of slow growth, especially in the retail industries, in mid-1996 evidenced pressure on young people, family, relationships and concerns for our future. Public and community agencies reported a reduction in resources and increases in demand for services to young people.

This year's budget papers, under 'Issues/Trends', again contain a reference to the unacceptable level of youth unemployment in South Australia as follows:

Public and community agencies report a reduction in youth specific resources, despite demand for such services from young people. Changes to Federal income support arrangements will reduce access by young people to current pathways in employment and training. As a result of income support changes, many young people will be forced to rely on parental resources during education and training who previously may have had a choice to remain or become independent.

There is reference also to the pressure placed on young people and family relationships. The Minister would have to agree that the outlook is somewhat similar. Since the first 1996 scenario, there has been a significant pull-out by the Commonwealth in terms of its funding. Youth unemployment showed no improvement whatsoever in the past financial year. Surely the Minister would have to accept that her Government is not getting to the core of the youth unemployment problem. Is the Minister satisfied with the performance of her Government, and of herself as Minister, in presiding over no change to the youth unemployment rate in this State over the past financial year?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Within the honourable member's opening statement many comments were made relative to the whole situation of youth unemployment and the area of youth issues. She spoke about Federal funding cuts and related it to the university sector. Her concern was that areas there might see young people not gaining entry to the universities because of a range of cuts. As the honourable member is aware, the universities receive the bulk of their funding from the Commonwealth Government, and that Government last August announced that funding to the higher education sector would be reduced over the next three years as part of the Government's overall reduction in expenditure, which is predominantly to address the national deficit left by the former Government. In its higher education budget statement 1996 the Commonwealth Government stated that:

In applying the reductions to operating grants, the Government's overriding consideration will be to safeguard two imperatives—undergraduate teaching and research. Institutions will therefore be expected to maintain undergraduate load at levels already agreed and to make any necessary adjustments at the non-research postgraduate level. Institutions already have complete freedom to charge fees for non-research postgraduate students.

To increase the number of undergraduate places, institutions were also given the right to start charging full fees, once HECS funded places were filled, up to a maximum of 25 per cent of fee-paying students per course. Whilst funding to

universities has been reduced by 3 per cent from 1996 to 1998, a further 1 per cent in 1999 and a further 1 per cent in 2000, this should be offset by increasing enrolments within the university, some of which will be fee-paying.

Under the Federal Government's reforms, increased access to the education system has been quite dramatic. Indeed, in Australia, overall enrolments are up from a target of 33 095 to 35 777 students, an increase of 8.11 per cent. Also of note, the undergraduate target of 28 880 students has increased by 2 164 students to 31 044, an increase of 7.49 per cent. Faced with an environment of expanding opportunity, it is critical that universities are responsive to student requirements. Increasingly, students recognise that their educational investment must have an employment outcome.

In terms of staffing numbers, the university will decide on the most appropriate staffing levels required to meet the demand presented through enrolments. For many universities, the change in rationale for funding allocation, which is becoming increasingly client focused, will provide new opportunities. In order to maximise those opportunities, the Federal Government has made available nationwide some \$26 million to institutions which demonstrate that such assistance will lead to permanent educational benefits that are beyond current funding capacities. This special assistance is directed toward institutions which are undergoing structural change. The Commonwealth Government has sent a very clear positive message to the community that tertiary education must in fact be responsive to student demands and part of a pathway into real jobs. Indeed, the Commonwealth Government's reforms are an indication of the importance of higher education with the ability for students to be able to control their own destiny.

The honourable member also talked about youth image in relation to the negatives that are often portrayed in the community and particularly the media. One very positive initiative of this Government was the establishment of the Youth Affairs Ministry, which has enabled me to play a very positive role in presenting the achievements, skills, and development of youth in this State. I have covered some of the areas in which the portfolio for which I am responsible has actually promoted and will continue to promote the achievements of youth.

I think we all recognise that those who cause us some concern within the community, and who therefore attract the negatives, usually comprise about 4 to 5 per cent of all youth. The majority of youth are articulate young people who achieve in many areas, and I believe that the youth affairs portfolio will continue to develop and showcase the talents of young people. That is one of the reasons why Youth Week has been incorporated in September this year. That is totally the intention of that particular week. With the support of the community and local councils throughout the State, I believe that will be one of the ways in which the youth portfolio will be able to demonstrate the positives of youth.

I have no specific knowledge of the range of cuts in other areas which the honourable member alleges. Regarding the number of youth in our State who are unemployed, I draw to the honourable member's attention the fact that in 1993 the youth unemployment rate was just over 39 per cent, which at that time was the highest youth unemployment rate in mainland Australia. Interestingly, in May 1992, the youth unemployment rate had risen to 44.7 per cent. So, I suggest to the honourable member that, as we all know, youth unemployment, as unacceptable as it is, has been endemic not

only in South Australia but across this country for a very long time.

I also find it of interest to note that during a previous Estimates Committee hearing in 1993 the following comments were made:

It is not fashionable for certain sections of the media to look at where our young people are, particularly those in the 15 to 19 age group. It is easy to throw around statistics, such as 38 and 40 per cent. When we ask people what those figures mean, it has been my experience that people do not know. They say it means that 38 or 40 per cent of young people are out on the streets either harassing old ladies or involved in graffiti. I would put on the record exactly what the situation is with young people.

In the 15 to 19 age group in South Australia, first I refer to unemployment statistics. In the latest statistics we find that full-time unemployment for young people is 9 500, which is 9.5 per cent of the total teenage population of 100 300. That is far too high, but is 9.5 per cent of that age cohort; it is not 38 or 40 per cent. This 9 500 compares with 10 200 in July 1993. We see that 90.5 per cent of young people in the 15 to 19 age group are meaningfully involved in education, training or full or part-time work.

Let us get the facts on record and stop trying to stigmatise young people. Let us stop casting around for some sort of election gimmick, and not make young unemployed people the scapegoat. This Government will not be part of that.

Those words were spoken by the then Labor Employment Minister, the Hon. Susan Lenehan. We have seen exactly the same circumstances occur throughout the period in which we have talked about the number of young people who are unemployed in this State. It is important to recognise that we are not talking about the total population of young people when we talk about statistics. The figure is 37 per cent at this time.

The unemployment statistics of young people are produced on a monthly basis. It is extremely surprising to see the number of people who take interest in those monthly youth unemployment figures when in fact they may have increased by .1 per cent. However, when they have come down quite dramatically, no-one appears to be interested. During the last month, in terms of the figures we are now talking about, the number of youth unemployed dropped by 20 per cent. The major touted figures in the newspaper recently indicated that there were 10 600 unemployed young people unemployed in this State in the month of May, yet in the month of April the figure was 8 800. Overall, that 20 per cent drop from the previous month means that somewhere 2 000 young people were employed in that time. They are very difficult figures to deal with on a monthly basis. It is more accurate to look at the overall state of young unemployed, but talking about figures does not get us to the point of addressing the problem.

In this case, I can only disagree with the member for Taylor when she talks about cuts cross the board. With respect to my department, I am sure she is well aware that this Government has put in substantial amounts of money, particularly through the youth employment statement, which was announced at the end of December and which has been implemented during January and February. In just four months, the amount of money put into job programs is starting to come to fruition. Over 800 young people came into one program alone in a short period of just four months, and a further 200 are waiting to come on stream. Hundreds more are now coming out of employment programs because of expressions of interest.

All those examples are of job creation. They are not unsubstantiated. These people are not invisible—they are real young people who have been put into real job situations. I agree that the image of youth needs to be picked up, but I certainly do not agree that promoting unacceptable and

volatile monthly figures helps the youth interests of this State when we are attempting to tell young people that there are jobs out there and that this Government is working quite considerably towards creating those jobs.

Ms WHITE: The Minister still did not answer the question. We have just heard words by a former member of Parliament from years ago and the Minister's defence of the budget cuts to the university sector by the Federal Government. I would have thought that she might have stood up for young people in this State and those who wish to study in the higher education sector by reprimanding her Federal colleagues for those cuts. Instead, she sits here and defends those cuts. I ask again: is the Minister satisfied with the performance of her Government, given that youth unemployment has not improved over the past financial year? Surely the Minister will agree that her Government is just not getting to the core of the problem?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the honourable member for her supplementary question, but I advise her that if she asks me a specific question it will be a specific answer that she gets. If she wishes to generalise out of context I am happy to take that as a separate question. But when the honourable member was talking about funding cuts she was relating it specifically to universities and further education, as part of her opening statement. I made the very plain statement as to exactly what is happening in that area. If she believes that increases in enrolments are in some way endangering the youth of this State, I am afraid I cannot agree with her, and neither can I see the point she is making when in fact enrolments into universities have increased. As far as the rest of the area, I can assure the honourable member that this Government has not just sat back and talked about the problems of youth unemployment, which were definitely inherent within the last Labor Administration.

This Government has taken more than a proactive approach and is the only State in the whole of Australia that is actually supplying not only the programs but is, in effect, presenting \$30 million over a three-year period, which I advise the member also takes us beyond an election period. So it is not something that is just an election gimmick; it is a whole program set in place to address the very serious aspects of youth unemployment—but doing it in a most proactive sense. I imagine that it would be in everyone's interest, including the Opposition's, to be out there promoting the youth strategies that this Government is involved in and also suggesting to young people that jobs are being created out there, because one of the problems that we have assessed relating not only to youth unemployment but to industry and community economic development is the total lack of optimistic hope, which was taken out of this State three and a half years ago. It has taken a good deal of work and effort to bring that back into the State. The honourable member continually talks about the negatives, when youth interests should be the uppermost thought. The statement that jobs are out there for young people should be the message that is getting out, not the negatives that the honourable member is tending to pursue.

Mr CLARKE: I appreciate that the Minister sits near the Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources but I trust she will not emulate him with the length of his answers. I refer to Program 10—Employment Development and Skill Formation in the Estimates of Receipts and Payments, page 261, and my question is: does the Minister support the Premier's statement of 17 May that his target was to bring down our unemployment rate to the national average over the

next two years and, if so, why do the Government's budget papers show that this Government does not expect to come anywhere near that target?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I certainly do support the Premier's statement. I believe it is a realistic objective to look at within the next two years, bringing South Australia's figures down to a national average and to all intents and purposes every program that will be developed through my area will look to doing just that.

Mr CLARKE: The fact is that the Government's budget papers, in particular Financial Paper No. 1, page 3.2, show that the budget predicts employment growth by just 1½ per cent in South Australia, compared to 2 per cent nationally. How can the Minister support the Premier's projection for the next two years of coming down to the national average, when the Government's own budget papers show that we do not come within cooee of it?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The budget figures in fact show 1½ per cent over 12 months. I again say to the honourable member that there is a positive note in different areas of economic development, and I would advise the member that, when we consider the degree of economic imbalance that was left to the State three and a half years ago, it meant that a great deal of economic investment and development had to be brought back into this State. Considering that that is well under way at present, considering that there are economic trend lines that constantly show an upward trend in this area, considering the amount of work and effort that this Government will continue to produce through its employment statements at the moment, and looking at the amount of development that will occur, the job basis that we are talking about, to create real jobs for young people, is not just an illusion but in fact a reality. I suggest to the honourable member that each of the very important areas that are being considered by my department at the moment will open up a great deal of growth. There is \$1.3 billion worth of development that will certainly also bring this State to an area of creative economic development, which will, in effect, create job growth.

Mr CLARKE: Somebody ought to tell the Treasurer to get his financial papers in order, because Financial Paper No. 1 at page 3.2 says that we have an employment growth rate in South Australia projected out at 1½ per cent to the year 2000; nationally it is projected out at 2 per cent. How on earth you can reconcile your statement and that of the Premier that we will match national average unemployment levels, on those sort of predictions, is beyond me. Can you tell me, Minister, what the number of additional jobs per annum that the budget paper forecasts as 1½ per cent per annum equates to?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The member is probably also aware that there is an area where the national economy is going to have an effect on any State economy, and perhaps he has overlooked the fact that the Commonwealth Treasury has also stated in its budget paper of 13 May that it has a forecast of acceleration in national economic growth in 1997-98 of 3.75 per cent and has estimated that job growth will increase from 1.2 per cent in 1996-97 to 2 per cent in 1997-98. So I can suggest to the member that an improvement in a national outlook is also likely to be reflected in the State economy.

Mr CLARKE: I wanted to know what the 1½ per cent equates to in jobs.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Quite obviously the answer is a little bit more complex than I can deal with at the moment.

I will take the question on notice and guarantee to get a reply back within 10 days.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer the Minister to Financial Paper No. 1, page 480, and I ask a question about youth activity at the community level within councils. It is important that all levels of government take an active role to assist young people to become active members in their community. Each council approaches their roles in a different way. What is the State Government doing to encourage and assist councils to encourage young people to become active at the community level?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: It is important to focus on positive youth activity. Firstly, I would like to address the member's comments that it is important for us all to take a role in encouraging and providing opportunity for young people to become active at all levels and in all facets of our community. Secondly, I believe it is critical that we recognise the positive contribution that young people make and can make to society.

To encourage this, I established, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, the South Australian Youth Week which will commence on 20 September 1997. This week will provide young people with an opportunity to express their views and act on issues which impact on them. Young people aged between 12 and 24 years will participate in a range of activities that focus on the issues and concerns of youth at a local level. It will also provide the opportunity for councils to work with young people to better understand the issues and concerns that are important to them, especially as in establishing Youth Week activities councils will be matching State Government funds. A broad range of local councils, in cooperation with young people, have responded with excellent and innovative activities for that special week in September. I hope that we will all consider the needs and efforts of our young citizens throughout the year in our planning and consultation. I look forward to the energy and excitement which I believe Youth Week will bring.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer to page 480 of the Program Estimates which concerns support for the South Australian youth sector. I am constantly amazed at the size and diversity of the youth sector. Apart from the youth clubs and organisations, such as Scouts and Guides, it covers areas which range from health to housing, recreation to refugees, juvenile justice, education, rural issues, Aboriginal issues, employment and education. How does your portfolio effectively support such a diverse and broad sector?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I agree with the honourable member: the youth sector is broad and diverse. It is particularly important because it deals with our next generation of adult citizens and those who will be the role models, parents and decision makers for future South Australians. Youth SA has an important role in this: it supports the youth sector in a number of strategic ways, first, with the provision of core funding to the youth sector's peak organisation, the Youth Affairs Council of South Australia (YACSA) which represents the non-government youth sector and has an active coordination role.

Secondly, it provides training funds which target youth workers and youth agency managers. This training assists in the development of hands-on and practical skills and is provided by the agency COPE. The training is offered in country and metropolitan areas of South Australia. Thirdly, there is the coordination of a series of seminars for the youth sector. Up to four seminars are held each year which cover a range of relevant and cutting edge topics. Youth SA recently held a seminar on the current developments in

information technology and the implications for the youth sector and disadvantaged young people; and another on zero tolerance of violence strategies for the youth sector. For the remainder of 1997 seminars will be held on racism, mental health services and full service schools.

Another aspect will be to develop a quality assurance framework in the youth sector which assures consistency of service outcomes for young South Australians. It is a very broad and diverse area and causes a great deal of interest for those who work in the area. I am pleased to say that the programs that are being provided support and encourage that whole range of diversity.

Mr CAUDELL: What efforts are being made to encourage more accurate reporting of youth issues in the media?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Through Youth SA we sponsor the Apple Computer Youth Media Awards—this is the second year those awards have been held—for journalists and photographers in the South Australian media. There are eight categories over print, media, radio and television, with subcategories for metropolitan, suburban and regional press. A new category was offered this year for photographs of young people and youth issues. These categories are for journalists of any age for their writing about young people.

A special category for the ETSA Corporation Young Journalist of the Year is restricted to entrants under 26 years. This year it was won by talented ABC radio current affairs reporter, Sally Sara. Significant sponsorship and prize donations from the private sector has given the Youth Media Awards a good profile. Since the awards began in 1996 the *Advertiser* has appointed a special youth affairs reporter and the *Sunday Mail* has increased the youth focus for its youth reporter who also produces *Veg Out*. A significant number of entries this year came from students writing for the Messenger Newspaper's popular youth publication *Y*. The winning entries were recently displayed in the South Australian Press Club and will shortly be on display at the ETSA Corporation.

Mr CLARKE: In your answer a couple of questions ago you agreed with me that national employment would grow by 2 per cent and South Australian employment would grow by 1.5 per cent. When the Premier announced his target of reducing our unemployment rate to the national average, what assumptions did the Government make about future levels of the labour force participation rate and about levels of net interstate migration from South Australia? As you would appreciate, if our participation rate in South Australia is the same as the national level, and if we had not had the same net outflow of migration from this State, our unemployment levels in this State would be significantly higher. On what assumptions did you base your projections for unemployment? The Premier stated that it would get down to the average national unemployment rate within two years.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I was privy to the comments that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition made as to the flow of population out of South Australia. It is interesting to note though that over the past decade we have had increased numbers of population in this State—7½ per cent. That equates to 100 000-odd people who have come into this State. The honourable member who talks about the considerable exodus from this State would also need to take into consideration that overall there has been an increase of 7½ per cent in the past decade—not a downward trend in population but an upward one. I will take the rest of the question on notice.

Mr CLARKE: As a supplementary question, obviously in absolute terms our population has grown because human beings do procreate.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Not at the rate of 7½ per cent, I can assure you.

Mr CLARKE: But in terms of net interstate migration the figures are undisputed—that there has been a net outflow of over 13 000 people over the past two calendar years, and that our participation rate is at least almost 2 percentage points lower in South Australia than it is Australia-wide. What were the Government's assumptions with respect to net migration outflows from South Australia and the participation rate in this State to determine that the Premier could say, 'We will achieve at least the national average of unemployment within two years?'

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I consider that I have already answered the question by saying that I will take it on notice. Obviously, we have a dispute. If the honourable member is going to include hypotheticals within his question on assumptions and perceptions, then I do not think that would be part of a question I would take on notice. I am not here to answer hypotheticals, but I will take on board any other part of the question that has not been suitably answered according to the—

Mr Brokenshire interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The member for Mawson is out of order.

Mr CLARKE: I am staggered. There is no way the Government can make predictions as to the level of unemployment in this State compared with Australia nationally without having these factors taken into account, and I would have thought they would be readily available through your department. I do not know how else you make assumptions to make these predictions.

The CHAIRMAN: Ask your next question, Deputy Leader.

Mr CLARKE: Does the Minister agree with the body of opinion from her own office and that of the Liberal Prime Minister, John Howard, that you need economic growth of around 4 per cent to make real dents in unemployment. If so, why did your own budget papers assume just 3 per cent annual growth to the turn of this century and that Australia is expected to grow faster than South Australia over that time?

The CHAIRMAN: Could you refer that question back to a reference?

Mr CLARKE: My question relates to Financial Paper No. 1, page 3.2, and Estimates of Receipts and Payments, page 261—employment development and skill formation.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The Deputy Leader appears to be getting confused. The honourable member is talking about Federal areas not State areas. Can he be more explicit?

Mr CLARKE: Your Government's budget papers show that South Australia will grow as an economy at a lower rate than the Australian national economy, and that links in with my earlier question that our employment growth in South Australia is projected by your Government—not my figures—at a lower rate than the employment growth rate for Australia as a whole. The Prime Minister of this country has already said that we need a growth rate nationally of 4 per cent to make any dent at all in unemployment. Yet, you have agreed with the Premier that South Australia will get down to Australia's average unemployment rate within two years. How will we achieve that given the figures in your own budget papers?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The honourable member is not referring to any specific line at all in the budget papers. Quite obviously, the financial papers and statements of Government

take in a great deal of information that also equates to opinions that range across a whole series of jurisdictions including the Federal area. The honourable member is not picking up a specific line in asking his question, but rather analysing some of the comments that have been made out of other jurisdictions that point us to different areas within the State. If we are talking about jobs—which is what I am here to do—then as a goal we want to see South Australia's unemployment reach the national average by the turn of the century. That has already been stated, that is, within 2½ years. It is a sizeable task to which we agree. We have put up with high interest rates for an extended period and we have had low commodity prices for a number of years and, in particular, capital for small business.

If I were to relate the same question you asked of the appropriate Ministers in other areas, then you have already been told, very clearly, that the State Bank falling over happened to impede the progress of South Australia considerably. There are emerging signs that the economy is starting to pick up. We are coming off a low base. All those things are conceded. This Government has put in an immense amount of hard work over the past 3½ years.

If the Deputy Leader wants to put the whole area into perspective, let us go back to 1993 when we took over with 11.1 per cent unemployment. In the last term of the Labor Government, 30 000 odd jobs were lost to this State. Unemployment was 11.1 per cent. The Deputy Leader may also remember that during that time almost every real industry and business in this State was packing its bags and leaving. Why? Because this State had been taken almost into bankruptcy by a Labor Administration. Job creation can only occur if there is industry and investment development within this State. It has taken 3½ years of hard work by many people who have put a great deal of effort into all areas of debt reduction and the considerable liabilities left to us by a Labor Government. They have taken a great deal of time and effort to do all the hard things necessary to encourage business and industry into South Australia. Unless business and industry are here we do not have economic development and we certainly do not have jobs for our young people.

There is a range of other areas I could mention, but suffice to say that the effort of this Government, the jobs brought into this State through new industry and development, and the immense amount of new investment that has come into South Australia will create the economic development that will show growth. It will not be massive. I do not think any of us in our rational frame of mind could suggest that there will be massive growth in South Australia, but it certainly will be of an upward trend. It is also reasonable and rational to consider that, as an objective, this Government look at an unemployment rate by the year 2000 equal to the national average. I believe, as I am quite sure all members of this Government believe, that is achievable.

Mr CLARKE: I am not talking about other lines or outside this jurisdiction. The fact is that the questions I have asked relate to Program Estimates under your budget line and your ministerial control, about the Department of Employment which is charged with coming up with ideas for job creation and formulating policies and recommending to Government what its expectations will be with respect to jobs growth and economic growth of this State as compared with the rest of Australia. So, it is not out of order. All I am simply saying is this: you are telling this Committee—and you cannot do otherwise because it is in your own Government budget papers—that employment growth in this State will be

1½ per cent and nationally 2 per cent through to the year 2000. Gross State product will grow at less than what it is expected to grow nationally out to the year 2000. Yet, you have said this afternoon that you agree with the Premier that you can achieve the national average unemployment levels within two years. On your own budget papers, given the projections for employment growth and economic growth at a State level vis-a-vis the national level that is impossible to achieve. How do you rationalise it? How have you come to that conclusion when you cannot tell me, right now, what assumptions you have made? The department must make very important assumptions on net migration outflow of this State and on—

The CHAIRMAN: The Deputy Leader is repeating something that he said earlier. Could he now come to the question, please?

Mr CLARKE: Does the Minister agree or disagree with the assessment by Access Economics—a body with impeccable Liberal Party credentials, in terms of their costing many Liberal Party policies at a national and State level—that under-employment in this State is in excess of 20 per cent?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I suggest to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that in this field of expertise, which ranges across the board for those who give us information on statistics and projections, there is a great number of experts in the field and, quite obviously, not all those experts agree. I would hardly consider that the honourable member is an expert in this field, either. I believe that the question that was asked has already been answered. We have goals set. We believe that the objective is real, and we will be moving towards that objective.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer the Minister to Financial Paper No. 1, page 480. The Minister's department is well known as a leader in information technology in this State, and I am particularly interested to know whether any specific efforts will be made to allow the disadvantaged young people in our community to access information technology.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Yes, it is vital that we make information technology a focus for young people in order to ensure that they are well prepared for the challenges of tomorrow. I have requested that Youth SA set information technology as a major focus to ensure that young people—in particular, disadvantaged and isolated young people—gain access to IT resources. To pursue this focus, Youth SA has run an information technology seminar to stimulate the youth field to consider the developments in IT. It is important to have practitioners well informed of the progress and opportunities that are available through information technology as an aid to spark a range of innovative program responses.

However, I am concerned that youth workers often do not have access to appropriate and up-to-date IT equipment. I have recently approved a joint project for Youth SA and the Adult Community Education Unit to review these concerns. The main objective of that project will be to provide an in-depth analysis of information technology delivery to community groups existing in rural and isolated areas. The project will identify existing delivery within both Government and non-government agencies. It will identify gaps in service delivery to rural areas and look at options to address the needs that have been raised. I look forward to receiving that report later in the year to identify more accurately where current resources can be better directed and utilised to assist disadvantaged young people.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I again refer to Financial Information Paper No. 1 (page 480) regarding young people, particu-

larly with respect to their role on management boards and committees. I recently saw a television news story about young Aboriginal people who had become advisers on some Government boards, and in my electorate in the south a number of young people are now involved in residents' associations and the like. I believe that their input is vital if we are to consider the interests and requirements of a range of age groups. Will the Minister give the Committee a report as to how she perceives their involvement?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The honourable member is correct. My portfolio, through Youth SA, is trialing a youth participation program, where Aboriginal young people have been recruited as youth advisers to six Government and Government-funded boards or committees. You will recall that part of the Government's election platform was to increase the participation of young people in community life, and that is what this very exciting 12 month pilot project is all about. It follows a similar project which was initiated last year and which was open to all young South Australians. Both projects are to be evaluated, of course, and I certainly expect that they will be shown to be very worthwhile. If this is the case, I will be keen to see them expanded to include more boards.

I had the opportunity to meet with the latest group of young people who were going through a seminar of information, to assist them in how they can enable their opinion and their voice to be heard when it comes to associating on these boards, and I was extremely pleased with the energy of the young people concerned and their enthusiasm and motivation. I am quite sure, having spoken to them all, that this program will be expanded.

Mr CAUDELL: I refer to the Financial Information Paper No. 1 (page 480) Program Estimates and Information 1997-98, dealing with juvenile justice. There is an ongoing concern that young people continue to enter the juvenile justice system. Has the Minister reviewed strategies to attempt to divert our young people from spoiling their youth?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the honourable member for his very deep concern for the area of youth development. An excellent relationship and cooperative approach have been developed between the South Australian Police and Youth SA, of my portfolio, to the great benefit of young people in the past two years. Their joint work in the development and release of the police youth policy has spelt out the commitment and expectations of the police in their interactions with young people. I believe that both the police and young people can now more clearly understand each other and how their behaviour affects what happens between them.

This year, we have seen the South Australian Police and Youth SA employ a dedicated team, comprising two youth development officers, to provide a collaborative approach with other agencies to respond to young people in local communities who are developing patterns of offending behaviour, or are at risk of doing so. The officers work with young people and their families and community to develop clear pathways for their future.

For young people who are exploring their adolescence, and are often finding life somewhat complex, and most certainly full of difficulties, the program can try to ensure that any mistakes remain as mistakes. For the police, the program provides a critical resource to develop broader responses to the needs of young people than a busy patrol can allow. The effective follow-up, which will assist the transition of these young people and the future interaction between the young people and the police, will surely be of a more positive nature because of this interaction.

Finally, the community, which sometimes has a negative perspective of young people, can feel confident that every effort is being made to work with and encourage young people to make choices and involve themselves in activities which will benefit not only themselves but also the community at large. The pilot project, which I believe is an exceptionally good one, has been assisted with a grant of \$60 000 from the Homeless and At Risk Youth Action Package, and I acknowledge Senator Vanstone and the Federal Youth Affairs Grants Program for their part in the support of this program.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to Employment, Training and Further Education Program 10, 'Employment, Development and Skill Formation' (page 261), in the Estimates of Receipts and Payments. How much of the Employment Division's budget is allocated to salaries, operating costs such as cars, telephones, etc., and program delivery, and how many people have been assisted? Associated with that, what evaluation and measurement of outcomes has been undertaken of DEET programs? What are the key performance indicators, and will the Minister make these public?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Can I clarify one part of the honourable member's question? He requested information on DEET programs. Does he mean DETAFE programs or DEET programs?

Mr CLARKE: DETAFE.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In that case, the answers that the honourable member is seeking are far more complex and convoluted than the material contained in our information here. So, I will take that question on notice.

Ms WHITE: I want to make a comment along the lines of my colleague's questioning of the Minister. My colleague pointed out that the budget only projects a 1.5 per cent employment growth for 1997-98 through to the turn of the century, compared with 2 per cent nationally for the next two years and rising to 5 per cent at the turn of the century for the nation. This indicates that we are continuing to underperform in employment for the next three years. That information is in Budget Paper No. 1, page 3.2.

The Minister's comment that the goal is to bring our unemployment down to the national average by the turn of the century is in contradiction to the Premier's statement of 19 May that he would bring that unemployment rate back to the national level by 1998-99. I refer the Minister to a question I asked her and her response on 6 March 1997 in the House of Assembly when I asked:

Is the Government committed to the continuation of the youth training scheme when its current funding runs out—

this was 6 March, remember—

and what commitments have been sought and obtained from the Commonwealth towards the funding of the scheme into the future?

The Minister's response was to describe the scheme and say:

This is all very good news for the youth of South Australia, for the public sector and for the economy of South Australia.

She went on:

Obviously, the member for Taylor has not realised that this is the beginning of the scheme. It has only been initiated and is only beginning to come into place.

She continued:

The scheme will continue until the end of this year and at that stage, as well as many other employment programs that have been put into place, it and many other schemes will continue to take place in this State.

Why did the Minister tell Parliament that this scheme would continue to the end of the year and, further, after that when, a few weeks after she made that statement to the House, the scheme was abolished?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Of course, I do not have the exact transcript of the words I used then but I can certainly confirm to the member that in each of the progressive years that the traineeship scheme has been involved in employment areas of South Australia the intakes for the years began in March each year. What I was referring to when the member talked about the initiation of the scheme was the initiation, again, of the 1 500 trainees who would be taken in this year, and I confirm that the 1 500 trainees are still within the scheme. The scheme will not conclude for those trainees until September or October or even through to March next year, as the trainees will conclude through that period their traineeships within the public sector.

As to the goal of 1 500 trainees who were brought in this year under that scheme, we have overtargeted and taken 1 637 young trainees into that scheme to date. In effect, it was extremely successful—even more so than the initial 1 500 that would have been targeted for this year. It is true that that scheme, which was negotiated three years ago, brought in State and Federal funding to the tune of \$20 million—\$10 million by the State and \$10 million by the Federal Government—concludes at the end of this financial year.

Overall, since the election of the present Government in 1994 we have taken in more than 3 500 trainees for training and work experience in the public sector. As I said, the financial support is a contribution by State and Federal Governments, and an additional \$3 million was contributed by the Federal Government for the off-the-job training component of that scheme. Looking at the number of trainees that we took in again this year, I have given a figure of 1 636. The figures in front of me extend to May this year, and 1 518 trainees have been placed through the most recent intake, which commenced in February 1996 and was completed by 31 March 1997.

This intake was the largest single intake ever of youth trainees into the mainstream South Australian public sector. The majority of these trainees were engaged in office practice. I believe the number was about 968. Other prominent vocations included dental assistant, 80; recreation and sports administration, 78; grounds maintenance, 62; laboratory assistant, 47; multi media, 41; and information technology, 37. The majority of successful completing trainees have gained subsequent employment in the public or private sector from the scheme.

Given the success of the scheme, I have asked that formal negotiations commence with Senator Vanstone's office so that a further traineeship scheme can be implemented in the South Australian public sector in the 1997-98 financial year. This will certainly assist to increase employment outcomes for young people, additional to the 500 placements that we have already targeted for the South Australian public sector under the Government's youth recruitment program.

I also point out that those 500 placements in the youth recruitment program do not involve a traineeship. It is a significant placement because we are talking about full-time employment for 500 young people. Formal correspondence has been forwarded by me to Senator Vanstone seeking support for a public sector regional traineeship, and at this stage Dr Kemp has a copy of that correspondence.

Ms WHITE: As a supplementary, when was that correspondence forwarded?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: We do not have the exact date.

Ms WHITE: Can you provide that date?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Yes, we will take that on notice.

Ms WHITE: It seems to me that the Minister was saying the scheme was a good scheme and certainly, when she responded to my question in Parliament, that was the indication. On 18 June on the Channel 9 news, the Minister said:

Yes, the trainee scheme was good but it is now finished and you can only put so many numbers into one particular area.

In her response the Minister has just indicated that the number of public sector trainees who took up places under this scheme in the last year did exceed the quota set by the Government, so how can she say that essentially there is no capacity in the public sector when her own evidence of the scheme has been that there clearly is? Is it not rather that the Minister's Government has an ideological objection to a public sector scheme such as this?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I find that to be an absolutely extraordinary statement by the member for Taylor considering that, over this last period of time, the negotiated scheme has brought nearly 4 000 young people into the public sector and considering that during the same period under a Labor Administration a minimal number of 460 trainees were put into the public sector by the Labor Government. The member for Taylor's suggestion that there is some ideological difference in the manner in which we approach putting jobs into the area is not only a nonsense but ridiculous. I will expand somewhat, because the member for Taylor obviously has her own impression and interpretation of how the Government deals with these areas.

In looking at the employment concerns that we have right across the board, other areas have been identified by industry, and a great number of individual people on industry training advisory boards have presented information to Government on where requirements for job growth will occur within the next year or two. A great deal of work is done to collect that information. Once it is collected it is collated through the Analysis and Planning Branch of my department. It is through that analysis and planning that the job programs we pick up on identify clearly where the greatest job opportunities will be for young people in future.

One of the areas that has been totally neglected in the past (in fact, there has been a tragic decline) is in the number of apprenticeships that have been put on stream for young people. During the same period that we are talking about, as well as bringing nearly 4 000 young people into the public sector, we have brought 3 500 young apprenticeships on stream. I also remind the honourable member that there are areas of industry growth that indicate to us where job opportunities will be. It is therefore very necessary that we create programs for young people that will give them the best opportunities. It is no good training young people without knowing that there will be a real job available at the end.

Billions of dollars have been spent over the past decade in this country putting together training schemes for training's sake. This is not what this Government is about. To be able to assist us to know where real jobs will be found, the type of information I am talking about is part and parcel of what the employment division does on behalf of Government. Through that process, apprenticeships have been identified as an area in which this State lacks immensely. That is part of the reason why industry and business in general have had

to look interstate and overseas to bring in skilled people to fill the jobs that are available in industry areas today.

I think that it is quite logical that one of the great promotions of a Government is to pick up where the areas of job growth will be and tailor and customer programs accordingly. In the apprenticeship area alone there is further focus from the Federal Government that has recognised that this area is in dire need. To that end, the Federal Government has allocated to South Australia \$20 million, which equates to about 8 000 apprenticeships that we can bring on stream within the next year. This \$20 million program is looked upon by the Federal Government as a means of focusing in an area where we believe the greatest requirement is for job growth. That does not mean that the public sector can still not take in other numbers. We have a youth recruitment program that will bring in 500 young people. That will provide a significant benefit to young people in South Australia, and I would have thought that it would be applauded by the Opposition, because this is not just a traineeship scheme that is a contract for a year where perhaps 75 per cent of those young trainees may or may not get jobs during that period.

Natural attrition within the public sector will create up to 500 allocatable positions (without subsidy) to enable young people to find jobs within the public sector. So, I suggest to the honourable member that there will still be an opportunity for upwards of 1 500 young people to be brought into the public sector over and above what we are doing now. However, the fact remains that job creation skills need to be developed by young people in areas where there will be real jobs and opportunities in the future. I make no apology whatsoever about anything I have said about the discontinuation of this scheme because that does not mean that this Government will pull back totally from utilising the public sector to give young people the opportunity for training. However, in the meantime it will not focus on traineeships in the public sector. This Government is taking a whole broad diverse approach over and above what is available within the public sector today.

Ms WHITE: The Minister talked about training having to lead to real jobs. She has just cut the public sector youth training scheme. Did that not have an excellent placement outcome record and, if so, why did she cut it?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I do not know how much more clearly I can put this. Perhaps the honourable member could listen a bit harder or I will speak more slowly. I have not cut any program. There was a negotiated agreement for a three year period and that contract has finished.

Ms White interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Yes, it is no longer there. I have not cut a program, neither has this Government. When you negotiate a contract and the contract is complete, that is the end of it. It does not mean that there has been a cut. I will again explain for the honourable member what will happen in the public sector area this year. Through the youth recruitment program, 500 full-time jobs—

Members interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The members for Mawson, Taylor and Kaurua are out of order.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: If you can count, madam, I suggest that you listen—500 full-time jobs will be brought into the public sector. There is an area within the public sector (without subsidy) that can cater for a further 500 young people as a result of natural attrition throughout the public sector. So, 500 plus 500 makes 1 000. Through negotiations at the moment with Senator Amanda Vanstone we are

seeking a further 500 traineeships. When I went to school, 500 plus 500 plus 500 made 1 500. If that pleases the honourable member, I hope she will also agree that we are still talking about a possible 1 500 young people coming into the public sector, but I advise her that she should not look just at that area alone. The job component of the \$30 million youth employment program is creating several hundreds of other jobs and that will account for thousands of jobs by the end of this year.

Mrs ROSENBERG: In an attempt to get some positives about employment, I refer to the South Australian Government employment partnership which was announced in the budget on 29 May 1997. How will that partnership increase employment opportunities for South Australians?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The South Australian Government employment partnership is a \$6 million State Government initiative developed to facilitate a longer-term strategic approach to addressing unemployment in South Australia. The employment partnership has been designed to complement economic development priorities and State Government policy directions, including the regional business development policy and the South Australian planning strategy.

The key elements of the employment partnership include: a cooperative approach by State and Commonwealth Governments and local government in the development of employment initiatives (an intergovernmental forum is being established for this specific purpose); identifying and maximising employment opportunities arising from ongoing State Government activities such as the urban development and redevelopment projects; investigating and implementing mechanisms to ensure employment and training activities are linked to work force requirements of potential investors and existing South Australian businesses; addressing skill shortages in key manufacturing in industry; major youth recruitment initiatives, including the South Australian Government recruitment program to which we have just referred for 500 young people and the local government employment program for 200 young people to be placed in local councils with a definite focus on regional locations within our State.

The South Australian Government employment partnership encompasses a number of existing and new initiatives and provides a strategic framework for their operation. The youth employment statement, which was released in December 1996, and the employment partnership are complementary initiatives which demonstrate the commitment of the South Australian Government to promote opportunities for employment, and youth employment in particular.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I agree that job creation is all about a holistic across-the-board approach to the issue within Government and that that includes getting the percentage of debt in the dollar down from the high level of 28 per cent when we came to office in 1993 to 21.6 per cent, getting new economic directions, restructuring reform, and creating the climate for a long, sustainable opportunity not only for young people but for all people who are looking for jobs. To that end, I was particularly pleased to see as a plank of that holistic approach the Minister's initiative which the Premier announced in December 1996 with respect to Job Shop as part of the youth employment statement. This is a key initiative to address youth unemployment. Will the Minister advise members what outcomes have been achieved so far by this program?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The high level of youth unemployment in this State should be and indeed is of concern to all South Australians: that is accepted across the board. Job Shop is one program which the South Australian Government has introduced which will assist our unemployed young people to find jobs. The Job Shop program funds not-for-profit community service organisations who act as brokers. Brokers are contracted to identify employment placement opportunities. They recruit eligible participants (young targeted unemployed people) and match those participants with appropriate employers.

The aim of the Job Shop is to assist in placing approximately 1 000 unemployed 15 to 19 year olds in paid employment, apprenticeships or traineeships with a funding of \$400 000 over the next 12 months. To date, six community service organisations have entered into performance agreements to act as Job Shop brokers, highlighting the willingness and commitment of these organisations to help address the issue of youth unemployment. It is valuable to say that, at this point, we also recognise that it will take not just Government direction to reduce unemployment, it is a matter of all areas being involved, including industry and community organisations.

To this end, it is extremely pleasing to see the number of community organisations that are supporting this program. These six brokers have agreed to place a total of 295 participants into paid employment. I should also say that the Job Shop itself (with the expressions of interest that were called) was actually launched at the end of January, and came on stream in February this year. In that short four month period, there has been tremendous support from the community, and 295 young people have been brought into paid employment through this program.

As at 31 May 1997, the number of young people participating in the program totalled 105, with up to 295 to come on stream. An advertisement calling for further expressions of interest was placed in the *Advertiser* and various regional newspapers during May 1997. The response to this call has also been extremely encouraging. We have heard from over 50 organisations and individuals inquiring about the program—and members should remember that this is the second call. Performance agreements will be negotiated with successful organisations in the near future, again providing the unemployed in the 15 to 19 year old age bracket with new avenues to employment. This is a very exciting new initiative of Government that looks as though it will be exceedingly opportunistic for young people.

Mr CAUDELL: What employment outcomes has the Government's youth employment statement, which received considerable funding to the tune of \$29.7 million, achieved to date?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The youth employment statement was released approximately six months ago. Although the initiatives announced in the statement will not be evaluated until the end of the 1997 calendar year, I am happy to provide an update on the outcomes to date. Commonwealth funds for the vocational education in schools component (the Ready, Set, Go program) will be distributed to all schools in the near future in order to expand delivery of vocational education and training programs in schools and promote partnerships with industry training providers at a local level.

In addition, State Government funds provided for the Ready, Set Go program have been used to establish the infrastructure to support this program. The infrastructure includes professional development for teachers, regional

coordination of workplace programs and the production of resource materials. The second key component of the youth employment statement, that of employment encouragement initiatives, has been well received by employers. To date, 519 employers have applied for the WorkCover levy exemption component and 862 young people have been placed in employment. No information as yet is available on the number of employers who have taken advantage of the payroll tax rebates as these rebates can be claimed only after 12 months.

The final component of the youth employment statement includes a number of training and employment initiatives. The Job Shop program to which I have referred has already engaged six community organisations and placed 295 young people in employment. In addition, the South Australian Government's support of group training has seen an increase in the number of trainees and apprentices from a total of 1 650 apprentices and trainees in July 1996 to a total of 1 784 in March 1997. That means that an additional 134 young people have been employed in these contracts of training.

Five regional job exchange programs have been approved, representing an increase of two exchanges over that which we originally proposed. That is a direct response to community demand. Some 400 places have been identified through that program. The community at work program has also received strong industry and community support, particularly from country centres with seven proposals currently in the final development phase and expected to be finalised by 30 June 1997. Given that the youth employment statement was only launched in December 1996, I suggest that the achievements of the activities to date are most impressive. They certainly augur well for continued positive outcomes, which is what we are all about.

Ms WHITE: With reference to the public sector youth training scheme, given the Minister's acceptance that there is capacity in the public sector due to the ageing profile of public servants—I believe the average age of public servants is over 40—will she act now to propose to Cabinet the reinstatement of the Government youth training scheme with a level of 2 500 places as originally announced by the State Government after a Cabinet agreement to expand the scheme in September 1996?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am not aware of any Cabinet decision to expand that scheme. I think that would be highly unlikely as I have already stated to the honourable member that \$10 million of State money was put into that scheme over three years together with \$10 million by the Federal Government. When you are talking about that sort of money, you certainly must have more than a statement to pull off a negotiated contract such as that. I believe I have answered all questions in the area of traineeships, and I do not believe there is anything further to say.

Ms WHITE: I might add that the former Minister made the announcement about the 2 500 places in September 1996. Minister, you may need to take this on notice, but could you provide a list of all South Australian youth training and employment programs and the amount of funds to be expended on each of these over the coming year?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Yes, I will take that on notice.

Ms WHITE: With regard to the current youth training scheme, what is the average remuneration of a person in the existing scheme? What is the average level of on-costs per trainee within the scheme? What percentage of trainees go on to find work after they have left the scheme? How many of

the 500 public sector positions for next year will be open to the trainees who are employed under the current scheme?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The traineeship scheme is run through the office of the Commissioner for Public Employment, so some of these details are not available to me, but I can tell the member that the remuneration to young people coming into placement situations in all areas is covered under an award, in any case. So there are established amounts. I cannot give the member the detail of that, but it is an award rate. It is not another negotiated amount but an acceptance of the award rate.

Ms WHITE: Could that be taken on notice?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Yes, and I will take the other parts of the question on notice as well.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer the Minister to page 482 of Financial Information Paper No. 1. Community at Work was promoted as a business development initiative to increase employment opportunities in local communities. What activities have occurred to date in this program?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the member for Kaurana for her question and, in particular, for allowing me to talk about this important project. Community at Work is a recent addition to the Government's initiatives to increase employment opportunities in South Australia. Since its commencement in January this year it has created significant interest amongst communities, both metropolitan and regional. Community at Work has given communities the opportunity to work on business development initiatives which otherwise might have been impossible without additional funding. It is important to note that these initiatives must be supported by a matching cash contribution from the community. This is a significant achievement as many communities are reaching into their own pockets rather than seeking further grants from other sources. This demonstrates commitment to this project and in fact the desire to see the objectives of the project achieved.

Some of the proposals that are being implemented include: marketing campaigns to attract new businesses and customers to shopping precincts; development and implementation of business plans for whole towns; and, in particular, developing future strategies for industry diversification, business development and employment creation and special events to raise the profile of towns or business precincts, which will then lead to increased turnover and therefore to employment opportunities. An important and often overlooked activity which has developed as a result of Community at Work funding is a situation where whole communities are now working together and focusing on the same goals. Instead of two or three groups in the same town working in isolation they are actually getting together as a group and presenting this as a project on which they can work with a combined effort.

Business communities have applauded the Government's approach to creating employment opportunities and this program is an excellent example of how the Government can assist in generating employment opportunities with the support of local communities. In 1997-98 some \$300 000 was committed to the program, of which some 60 per cent will be allocated to country regional programs, and I think that is an important point to put on the record, that some 60 per cent will go to the regional areas. Some \$100 000 was allocated in 1996-97 for the commencement of the program. So one can see that we have taken an evaluation approach to this and, through the demands of various communities, this program has now been expanded.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer to page 482 of Financial Information Paper No. 1, and I refer to what the Minister has had to say this afternoon and particularly to the member for Taylor's comment that 40-year-olds are old when it comes to re-employment. Looking at the future trends for South Australia, the mid and long term trends are looking better each time they come out and the job trend indicators from the ANZ bank, etc are up 18 per cent. Something that concerns me is the fact that, whilst young people are a major concern, there is also a priority with older people, especially when considering the expertise and experience that they have and the fact that they have a lot to put into the community if they can find employment. What is the Government, and particularly you as Minister, doing to assist this group of people?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The member is right. Whilst a lot of attention has been given to addressing the issue of youth unemployment, the South Australian Government has also been concerned to ensure that older unemployed people are provided with opportunities to re-enter the work force. In South Australia we are extremely fortunate to have the Don't Overlook Mature Expertise (DOME) organisation which actively assists job seekers aged 40 and over. This organisation does an outstanding job particularly considering that the day-to-day administration of the centre relies on voluntary participation and involvement of its own members. The South Australian Government has been a significant contributor to DOME's activities. Funding arrangements provide for training, delivery and employment placements.

In 1996-97 DOME was provided with \$150 000 from the State Government to assist in its activities. At the end of May 1997 the results were showing that 729 mature age job seekers had been involved in pre-employment training and 509 of these had been placed in job placements. Given the outstanding success of the organisation in meeting the needs of the mature aged unemployed, I am pleased to announce that a new contract has been negotiated for DOME for 1997-98, and an increase of funds to that organisation will now occur. The increase will be to \$245 000, of which \$165 000 is for employment placement and \$80 000 is for pre-employment training. The new contract will provide new opportunities for 1 000 older South Australians, and clearly demonstrates again the State Government's commitment not just to the youth of South Australia but to the overall unemployment problem.

Mr CAUDELL: I note that a State Government Youth Recruitment Program was announced in the State budget of 29 May. Why has the Government supported a direct recruitment program and not a traineeship program?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: We have had quite a few questions on the various programs and particularly the traineeship program. The South Australian Government has allocated the \$3 million to a State Government Youth Recruitment Program in order to address the youth profile in the public sector and to ensure that the sector will continue to provide the community with quality services. The State Government Youth Recruitment Program is a planned exercise. Some 500 young people who have the skills required by Government at graduate and non-graduate levels will be recruited to specific priority employment categories. Young recruits will be placed in areas which complement State economic growth priorities and attention will be given to employment intensive industries where job growth is projected. This is an important program and certainly much needed by the public sector. However, it is important to recognise that the State Government is also investigating the possibility of implementing a

further portion of the traineeship program, as we have talked about earlier, in the new financial year. As I stated earlier, there are formal negotiations continuing with Senator Vanstone and we have sought her support to offer another 500 traineeships in South Australia. These negotiations are not yet complete and I hope the Commonwealth Government will support this program.

Ms WHITE: While employment is by far the most pressing issue for many young people in this State, youth affairs entails much more than that. Apart from the employment and training programs, can the Minister outline specific policy directions and plans for new initiatives—and I emphasise 'new'—in the Youth Affairs portfolio?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In earlier statements I identified that some Youth SA activities particularly looked at promoting the solid image of young people in South Australia. To that end the area of youth celebration has been extremely important to us, and so we talked about the youth media awards.

Ms WHITE: But I am asking about new initiatives.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: South Australia Youth Week is a new initiative. I will take the question on notice.

Ms WHITE: Issues affecting young people encompass many areas of Government particularly the important areas of health, housing and juvenile justice. Funding affecting youth programs is spread right across Government in a number of areas. How does the Minister intend to act to coordinate these issues affecting young people across Government? What strategy will she put in place to ensure that there is a whole of Government approach to youth affairs?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Within the Youth Affairs portfolio we have the Youth Affairs Council which was established and funded by Youth Affairs and which looks at the broad range of issues that are important to youth. Through those areas issues are brought to the Minister's attention but, as the honourable member rightly pointed out, the areas that affect youth, such as health, housing and so on, are funded and come under the responsibility of different Ministers. The area of health comes under the Health Minister; the area of housing would predominantly come under the Minister for Family and Community Services; and the area of juvenile justice would come under the Attorney-General's Department.

As Minister for Youth Affairs I have the opportunity, as a member of Cabinet, to bring to the notice of the subcommittees of Cabinet that are set up under the different areas any issues that are brought to me through the information bases that are set up in Youth SA, including the Youth Affairs Council. I have one of the better roles in the Youth Affairs portfolio and that is to promote specifically the celebration areas of youth, the positive areas of youth. As the honourable member herself was concerned about the images of youth, I would expect that that would be an area that she would also commend because it gives me the opportunity to be able to highlight the achievements of youth in the many different programs which are in the portfolio.

Ms WHITE: As a supplementary question, while I appreciate the need to celebrate the positive contributions of youth (and the Opposition wants to be as supportive as it can in generating positive images of youth and recognising their achievements) the question was more fundamental than that: what strategy will you put in place? You listed the Ministers responsible for the areas affecting youth—and we both understand those. I believe there is a need to better coordinate

the approach to Youth Affairs and the issues affecting youth. Apart from being a member of Cabinet, what would you actively do to make sure that youth get appropriate attention in all Government policies and programs that affect them?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I have already said that there are many mechanisms within and across Government and agencies to provide an input into any of the issues that are raised that affect youth, youth issues and youth affairs. At the recent interstate MCEETYA conference I moved a motion for a coordinating model on a national basis to look at putting together a youth task force that would move through Youth Affairs in each of the different States and connect with Youth SA thereby providing a complete link for young people in South Australia.

Many of the programs that are initiated to support youth not only move across other portfolios in Government but also are addressed in many areas through national programs. It seemed a very logical move to encompass all available resources on a national scale, and I am very pleased to say that that motion moved by me at the Ministers' conference was accepted unanimously. That will provide another means by which young people and their issues can be addressed. Quite obviously, there are areas of extreme importance but sometimes States are inhibited by the lack of funds and resources that they may be able to allocate into those areas.

By putting together a coordination of national resources and looking at the problem from a national perspective, perhaps with the expectation that national resources may also be provided, it can be a strong promotion towards supporting youth and issues that concern them.

Ms WHITE: About 18 months ago there was quite some fanfare about the Government's increasing representation of youth on boards and committees and giving young people a greater say in matters of government that affect them. Since that time we have seen the same Liberal Government take the step of introducing into Parliament legislation to proportionately decrease the representation of young people on most important boards affecting their higher education, that is, university councils.

Whilst the Opposition was able to force a backdown by the Government in that instance, we find today that young people's say is still not being included by policy decision makers. It has been 18 months since the Government announced it would set up a Ministerial Council of Young South Australians. It is long overdue. In last year's Estimates Committee, the former Minister said:

We are fairly close to having people involved in that.

When will that ministerial council be up and running?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am not quite sure of the relationship of your question to the university sector, but I am happy to say that when it was brought to my attention the Ministerial Council of Young South Australians, which had been mooted, had not yet come to fruition. I immediately called a briefing on the whole area, which I have always supported. At that stage, I moved to ensure that the Ministerial Council of Young South Australians became a reality.

The Government has recently approved the Ministerial Council of Young South Australians, which comprises a group of outstanding young people, including those nominated by the community youth sector and young people known to members of Parliament. The ministerial council will provide a vehicle for young people to supply information direct to the Minister for Youth Affairs on topics which impact on them. The council itself will not have a direct

policy making responsibility. Rather, it will be a resource group of young people who make their expertise available to me to improve and enhance the decision making process through consultation with young people.

I have written to the young people to clarify their acceptance and availability and to gather more information on individual councillors so that the expertise of the group can be used to its fullest advantage. I know that the honourable member will agree that this will be advantageous to the portfolio of youth affairs and ultimately to all South Australian youth.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer to page 482 of the financial information paper. Much emphasis is placed on linkages between the employment policy and programs and economic development. What activities highlight the linkages in these areas?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: As I have already said, economic development is essential to employment growth, and the South Australian Government is certainly undertaking a number of activities that improve the linkages in these areas. The key to success in programs is to respond quickly and in a flexible manner to address the identified need. A number of innovative programs have been funded, demonstrating the Government's responsiveness in this area.

In response to a growing industry need for call centre operators, in May the Premier launched a program called 'Connecting SA'. This call centre recruitment and training program is designed to assist current South Australian call centre employees, such as Galaxy, Telstra and Westpac, in the provision of skilled staff as well as providing a pool of skilled people to attract new investment to the State. Funding of \$230 000 is committed to Connecting SA to establish appropriate recruitment and training practices for the industry. This work is being undertaken by three brokers and a training company, and will provide training and employment for 280 participants.

I would also like to highlight another successful program which supports economic development on Eyre Peninsula. Funding of \$40 000 was allocated to the Eyre Regional Development Board to help establish the Better Business Centre. The board enlisted the support of the 10 Eyre councils to provide on-the-spot economic development and employment information to business people. The board provided extensive training to council staff in making them fully aware of the various programs and agencies available to assist business needs. The program has enabled frontline staff, if you like, to capitalise on economic opportunities for the local area with a great deal of confidence and, most importantly, coordination.

The region's Kickstart officer is one of the key contact officers for the Better Business Centre. In addition, the State Government has supported the Target 50 project based at Noarlunga, of which the members for Kaurna and Mawson are very well aware. This is a project that aims to place 50 trainees and apprentices with local businesses in the area. Target 50 will contribute to the economic development of Noarlunga by providing, in the longer term, a larger skill base. To date, Target 50, after only two months of operation, has placed 11 trainees and 17 young people directly into jobs. So, those three examples cited demonstrate a range of activities that are designed to complement economic development initiatives in a variety of regions and under different circumstances.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer to page 482 of Financial Information Paper No. 1, Program Estimates and Information

1997-98. This question expands on my previous question about getting young people involved in boards and committees. Much attention is now being given to young people in developing a business enterprise culture. In my electorate quite a number of young people have become involved in developing their own small business soon after leaving school. I see great potential there, and I wonder what action our Government is taking to assist young people who want to start their own small business.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Young South Australians have certainly created business ideas. They have energy and enthusiasm, and they also recognise that they can determine their future by establishing successful businesses. The Government's Self-Starter Scheme provides young people with small business training and start-up funding to establish their own businesses. Applicants undergo accredited training in small business, culminating in the production of a business plan. A panel of Government and business representatives assesses the business plans and allocates grants of up to \$3 000 to individuals or partnerships.

The grant assists with start-up costs of the business and, to date, the panel has supported the business plans of some 30 young, innovative South Australians. These businesses involve a range of industries from the arts to information technology and manufacturing.

Another important feature of the Self-Starter Program is the 12 month mentor support provided to successful applicants. This support is proving invaluable in helping young people overcome the difficulties faced by most people in developing small business within the initial stages of establishing their business. This is a program that will continue into 1997-98 with a budget of \$120 000 for 13 new business start-ups in 1997-98.

Currently, consideration is being given to working cooperatively with the Operation Livewire program to maximise opportunities for young people. This program is sponsored by Shell Australia in conjunction with Rotary clubs and it seeks to encourage young people between the ages of 18 and 25 to establish their own business ventures—and I know that the member for Kaurua is aware of that particularly successful scheme also. So, the support of both Government and private sectors in promoting self-employment opportunities for young people is most evident in these activities.

Mr CAUDELL: My question relates to page 482 of the Program Estimates and Information 1997-98. How is the State Government working with local government to create employment opportunities in South Australia?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The State Government has been concerned about the availability of employment in regional South Australia, particularly for young people, and has developed a joint package with local government to help address this problem. The State Government is working with the Local Government Association of South Australia to identify 200 positions for unemployed people in projects of economic or community benefit, with a major focus on the development of regional tourism infrastructure. The scheme will provide participants with a minimum of six months' employment, but it aims to identify positions which will have a potential for continuing beyond this period. At least 40 per cent of the positions are to be with non-metropolitan councils, and priority will be given to young people aged 25 years or less.

Funding of some \$500 000 has been provided by the State Government to assist the Local Government Association to identify appropriate positions and to provide an incentive

payment to participating local government agencies. It is expected that the scheme will not only provide valuable work experience for the unemployed but will also act as an important catalyst in helping local government agencies to identify new positions in areas of growth.

Mr CLARKE: I want to preface my next question with a statement, on which the Minister may wish to comment. The Minister has spoken much about youth unemployment and, in her answers to questions from the member for Taylor, when referring to the teenage population or the 15 to 19 year old age group, she said that the unemployed made up about 9 per cent of the total population. I should like to read from a document put out by the Minister's own Labour Market Branch, which we took off the Internet today. Headed 'The permanent collapse of the youth labour market', it reads:

Figure 1 graphically illustrates the 'permanent collapse' of the youth labour market in South Australia. The graph shows changes in full-time youth employment levels as well as changes in the employment level of all age groups over the last two decades. From the graph it is clear that the number of teenagers in full-time work has been declining at a fairly steady rate since the early to mid 1970s, dispelling the notion that teenage unemployment is merely a coincidence of cyclical downturns (periods of low or negative economic growth) in the economy.

The number of teenagers in full-time employment in South Australia has plummeted over the last 20 years—from 57 900 persons in 1970 to 16 900 in 1992, a 71 per cent drop. In contrast, full-time employment for all ages has grown, albeit slightly, from 436 500 persons in 1970 to 467 300 in 1992, a 7 per cent increase. It is due to this loss of the youth employment base that full-time education has superseded full-time employment as the main activity of young people today. Thus, a feature of today's youth labour market is the fact that the lack of jobs is driving many teenagers to seek 'shelter' in the school system by prolonging their stay at school.

With each cyclical downturn in the economy, the employment base for young people is demonstrably proving to be more vulnerable. For example, during the recent cyclical downturn between 1990 and 1991, full-time employment numbers for all ages declined by 3.4 per cent, whereas full-time employment for 15 to 19 year olds declined by a massive 28.1 per cent.

Given the crisis in youth unemployment in this State, can the Minister explain the underspending of \$3.5 million on the YTS program last year, as shown on page 115 of the Estimates of Receipts and Payments? Is this year's \$3 million recruitment package simply the \$3 million underspent last year?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I have no idea who is the author of that item. Obviously it does not show who the author is. The comment that I would make to the Deputy Leader is that most rational people who are open to looking at the broad interpretation of youth employment and employment across the board have recognised, as I have, and I certainly do not move away from that, that unemployment *per se*, including youth unemployment, has been endemic in this country since the 1970s. In fact, I may even have stated that in earlier comments. It is certainly nothing new. It is still totally unacceptable, but the point is that it is endemic. Part of the comments made in that rather puerile doom and gloom little tome that was taken off the Internet is correct only in proportion. When we are talking about unemployment, the youth full-time unemployment rate in May 1997—and this is looking at the latest data available—was 37.1 per cent compared to the national average of 28.3 per cent. As a proportion of the 15 to 19-year-old population, only 8.6 per cent were unemployed and looking for full-time work in May in South Australia.

South Australia's youth full-time unemployment rate fell by five percentage points over the month to May, which I indicated earlier, but it still remains the highest rate of all the States. However, monthly movements in labour force survey

estimates should be treated with extreme caution because, given the volatility in the original monthly data series due to both seasonal effects and errors associated with the data collection process, because the ABS does not seasonally adjust labour force data relating to youth at the State level, averaged over the quarter to May 1997 to give a more reliable estimate, the youth full-time unemployment rate in South Australia was 38 per cent and the full-time unemployment to population ratio was 9.1 per cent. In the quarter ending May 1997, there were 8 900 teenagers unemployed and looking for full-time work in South Australia, and an estimated 1 100 of these teenagers are in full-time education.

In addition, during the May quarter of 1997 there were a further 8 700 teenagers whose labour market and educational status could be considered precarious, that is, they may be at risk of not making the successful transition from school to work. In that area we have an estimated number of teenagers in part-time employment and not studying full or part time, and the approximate number of those is 6.4 per cent of the youth population, some 6 300 persons. It is also made up of teenagers who are jobless and who are not looking for work and are not studying. The estimated number of those people is 2 400 or 2.5 per cent of the youth population.

Central to the concept of youth at risk is the notion that young people face difficulty in the labour market later in life, unless they spend their formative teenage years gaining meaningful work experience, education or training. So, from this data there are over 16 000 teenagers at risk of not making the successful transition from school to work in South Australia, and that is a figure equivalent to 16.9 per cent of the teenage population. We can talk about the statistics over the past decade or two, but unemployment is a priority of this Government. It is recognised as being a problem. No matter how the debate moves in and around, whether it is on monthly figures or statistics, or whether it is the overall problem we face, this Government has clearly announced, as stated by the backing of its \$30 million youth program, that it regards unemployment in this State as a priority. That is why the Government is taking the measures it is.

It is our job to decrease unemployment in that area. We have taken on the responsibility to create development in this State so that we open up job opportunities. We are spending millions of dollars on training programs and on job component programs of the youth employment program. There is a host and range of job opportunities for youth at this time in South Australia. Regardless of what the statistics are telling us, I can tell the Committee that in the months from February until now—just on one program alone—we have taken 861 young people into jobs that supposedly do not exist in South Australia. They are real young people who have been put into real jobs. As I say, we can talk about statistics until the cows come home, but the fact remains that we are creating job opportunities and placing young people in employment, and we will continue to do so.

Mr CLARKE: As a supplementary, even though the Minister has totally sought to discredit her own department's analysis of the collapse in the labour youth market—

The Hon. D.C. Kotz interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister will come to order. The honourable member's supplementary will be relevant to the question asked.

Mr CLARKE: Why was \$3.5 million underspent last year in the YTS program, and is the \$3 million that has been set aside for a recruitment package, which the Minister has

spoken about quite fulsomely today and on other occasions, simply the \$3 million that was not spent last year?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In his position, the honourable member should clearly understand what the budget figures are telling him. In this instance, the figures to which he refers are from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment. A similar question has already been asked of the Premier in the Estimates briefing, and an answer was well and truly given. This is not a DETAFE allocation. It is not a proper question for this Committee.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to the 500 trainees who will be brought on as a result of this allocation of \$3 million, which the Commissioner for Public Employment and the Minister are talking so fulsomely about to the press. When will the recruitment of those 500 trainees commence, in how many phases, and with what numbers employed in each phase?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Once again, the honourable member has unfortunately got the substance of his question wrong. I presume that, when the honourable member refers to 500 trainees, he means the 500 full-time positions that come under the youth recruitment program. They are not traineeships but full-time positions. Those programs also come under the Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment. I will take those questions on notice but, again, they have been directed to the wrong Minister.

Mr CLARKE: I assume that, in future, if it does not come under her ministerial authority, no more public pronouncements will be made by the Minister with respect to the youth recruitment program. If the additional \$3 million were to allow the recruitment of a further 500 permanent employees, they could receive a maximum of only \$6 000 per annum. What costs will be covered by the \$3 million allocation, and what is the extent of the assumed agency contribution?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The member for Taylor asked a similar question that dealt with the amounts paid to young people in this area. The majority of the question asked has been taken on notice. However, the answer to one part of the question previously asked by the member for Taylor informed her that, in effect, all these jobs come under the ambit of the Commissioner for Public Employment. They are all under awards. There are no negotiations or renegotiations on particular components or salaries. I will take on notice the other aspects of the honourable member's question.

Mr CLARKE: There is \$3 million to employ 500 trainees. If \$3 million is divided by 500, it comes to \$6 000 apiece. If they are placed within the Government, what is the assumed agency contribution to make up the difference between the \$6 000 and the appropriate wage rate?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That certainly is a simple question: the agencies pick up the difference.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer the Minister to the VET programs. What benefits are enjoyed by the State as a result of international activities undertaken by the Department of Employment, Training and Further Education?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The international activities undertaken by the Department for Employment, Training and Further Education bring a variety of benefits to South Australia. I am pleased that the honourable member has focused on this area because it is exceptionally important. Activities may include: the recruitment of students to study in Adelaide; the placement of teachers in off-shore countries; or the licensing of curriculum in organisations where strategic relationships are formed. Each category of business brings its own rewards and these benefits or rewards can be seen

through internationalisation of staff, curriculum and students, the integration of multicultural understanding, positioning of South Australia as a world supplier of education product, and financial and economic benefits to the State.

For example, the 1997 semester 1 enrolment of 680 students can be said to contribute to the State some 274 jobs and will inject into the State a sum of about \$14 million. These benefits are realised in areas such as food production, accommodation, tourism, transport and so on. It is believed that, in addition to these figures, each student is visited by a relative at least once during their studies and thereby a further contribution is made to the tourism industry.

Some of the examples of international activities undertaken by TAFE are also important to note. Through its support for local food producers the Regency Hotel School attended the APEC International Fair in Yantai, People's Republic of China, in June 1997. It conducted a restaurant called 'A Taste of Adelaide' and was supported by some 30 local food producers who supplied four tonnes of food for the export promotion. This activity follows closely on similar activities in Japan and Hong Kong. The food suppliers at these activities are now enjoying increased exports as a result of the Regency Hotel School efforts.

The sharing of TAFE contracts in China has also resulted in significant benefits coming to the secondary system through a recruitment opportunity for Chinese children to enter the system and study at years 10, 11 and 12. My colleague the Hon. Mr Lucas and I signed a contract to this effect in March 1997. This contract has the potential to double the present secondary international student enrolment within a very short time. A further benefit is a contract with a company in Malaysia for the provision of competency based training. This contract is positioning TAFE teachers as experts within the region and has certainly generated other training opportunities.

Contracts won by TAFE during the past year have included the following countries: China, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Western Samoa, Sweden, Malaysia and the Solomon Islands. The Adelaide Institute of TAFE has been awarded a \$20 000 grant from DEETYA to complete the development of learning materials for the 'entrepreneurial skills for small business' course in China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. It has been awarded a grant of \$20 000 from DEETYA to conduct a workshop in Bandung on networking for curriculum and research, the provision of fellowship programs for the Department of Health in the Philippines, and the provision of a one month fellowship program for Technisa—the vocational education and training distance education college, which services the whole of South Africa. We have also seen the provision of a third workshop for the Colombo Plan Staff College—16 people from eight countries will travel to Adelaide for a two week program on technology in VET.

Other work for the CPSC includes the facilitation of two workshops, one in Manila and one in Bangkok, and cooperation with the Australian National Commission for UNESCO and the Victorian Department of Education to mount an international conference on VET in Adelaide in March 1998.

Regency Institute programs include: a contract for the delivery of mechanical maintenance training for the Sheraton Hotel chain in Beijing; the delivery of a training program in ozone protection in Western Samoa; an AusAID contract to teach executive chefs advanced culinary skills in Fiji; and a five year contract with Yantai in China to train senior managers in quality management systems. The Torrens

Valley Institute programs include: six Chinese University lecturers from Liaoning Commercial College attending a Chinese teacher education program; Swedish students attending a food and wine training program; a teacher upgrading program for the Solomon Island College of Higher Education; an Indonesian land management program; two groups studying occupational health and safety and water pollution control for the Indonesia Australia Specialised Training Project; nurse educators attending from Indonesia; Thais from the Land Titles Project in Bangkok studying human resource management; hosting a Chinese delegation studying the South Australian education system; and hosting an AusAID parliamentary study tour from Rajya Sabha.

The South-East Institute has two three-month consultancies with South African Lumber Millers Association to provide for upgrading saw doctoring in South Australia. Western Adelaide Institute programs include fellowships and consultancies in printing and automotive industries in Malaysia and the successful implementation of a competency based training program in Kuala Lumpur. The Douglas Mawson Institute programs include the provision of a consultant to the Australian Submarine Corporation-Silk Line joint venture in Thailand to build patrol boats for the Thai Navy. So, in a host of programs in South Australian institutes, not only has VET been delivered within the context of worldwide acceptance of the excellence within this State but also our business connections interstate and internationally are second to none. In fact, not only do those contacts and contracts bring benefits into the institutes in South Australia but also they can be seen to have the potential to provide economic development and investment in this State. So, in the overall area of international business the institutes are certainly doing their part in attracting investment to South Australia.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer to page 482 of the Program Estimates and Information, regarding disadvantaged people in our community and the fact that often they cannot access employment and training activities to assist them in their future careers. Particularly in relation to the fringe areas of my electorate of Mawson and the District of Kurna, the member for Kurna and I are concerned about disadvantaged people's access to transport, technology and all those things they need for job opportunities. No doubt the Minister's department is trying to assist them with training activities; what activities is our Government involved in funding?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That question is very sensitive and important. The members for Kurna and Mawson have often made representations on behalf of their constituents in these areas. There are people in our community who face greater hardships when seeking employment or embarking on careers. Disadvantaged people may include people with disabilities, Aboriginal people and women wishing to enter non-traditional trades. To that end, the South Australian Government has funded a range of agencies which operate programs that alleviate various hardships, be they a lack of employment opportunities or a lack of access to training. Agencies such as Minda Incorporated, the Fleurieu Works Scheme and Barossa Enterprises have all been funded to assist people with disabilities. These projects are focused on business enterprise development to create employment in agriculture, manufacturing and the identification of new commercial opportunities. To date, 10 intellectually disabled people have commenced training in agriculture as a result of this funding, whilst seven on Kangaroo Island and eight in the Mid North will also benefit from this program.

With regard to Aboriginal people, my department has funded two significant employment and training programs. The first saw 95 young unemployed Aboriginal people participate in a number of pre-employment programs, with one-third successfully gaining employment as trainees. The second provided 60 Aboriginal secondary students with an opportunity to experience a technical trade by undertaking a week's training at a training institution. The vocational areas that were covered included construction, mechanics, gardening, horticulture, cooking and metal fabrication.

Finally, with respect to women in non-traditional trades, the State Government maintains a very proud record. Three recent initiatives aimed at increasing women's access to these trades certainly demonstrate this. Two involved funding to group training and the automotive industry training board program for women interested in gaining trade traineeships, while the third funded 12 women to participate in a woods trades course currently being run by the Port Adelaide Training and Development Centre.

All the comments I have made in this area demonstrate the commitment of Government to addressing the needs of that particular group of people. I can assure members that, with the collaboration of industry and training providers, it will remain a high priority to ensure that pathways remain open for the disadvantaged in our community.

Mr CAUDELL: I refer to page 478 of the Program Estimates and Information. What is the progress of the City West Child-Care Centre?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am pleased to confirm that the University of South Australia and the Department for Employment, Training and Further Education have negotiated a formal agreement for the development and operation of the City West Child-Care Centre. As members would know, the Adelaide Institute of TAFE has been a high priority for the development of a child-care centre since 1989, and numerous potential development sites have been investigated. The substantial cost involved in purchasing a suitable site and developing a child-care facility within the Central Business District of Adelaide as a DETAFE only facility was certainly not feasible.

The development of a joint partnership child-care facility was planned to achieve economies for both organisations, particularly in the operating costs associated with such a centre, and with an overall reduction in capital costs to both parties. Following extensive negotiations, the new facility will have a licence capacity of some 96 places, 35 for DETAFE and 61 for the University of South Australia. Development planning and project management of the child-care centre project is being undertaken by the University of South Australia.

The construction contract has been awarded to Marshall and Brougham Construction Pty Ltd. Construction has actually commenced and is programmed to be completed by November 1997, with the centre becoming operational in January 1998 in preparation for the student academic year. The DETAFE capital funds have been accessed through a specific purpose Commonwealth grant and the university funds through the national child-care strategy capital works program. The centre will be managed by a joint partnership between DETAFE and the University of South Australia with representation from users of the service. TAFE continues to be committed to ensuring that women in particular are not disadvantaged while they are accessing vocational education and training programs.

Mrs GERAGHTY: My question relates to page 482 of Program Estimates and Information. How does the State Government disburse Industry Training Advisory Board funds from ANTA? Is it paid up front or in arrears?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In the 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial years, the level of Commonwealth funding provided to support South Australian ITAB funds was \$1.65 million. The 1997-98 financial year Commonwealth funding for industry input on training issues for South Australia will be \$1 312 500, which is a difference of \$337 500. Some considerable concern has been expressed by the board members of the South Australian ITABs about the future of ITABs as a consequence of the reductions in Commonwealth funding. I might be pre-empting the honourable member's overall question, but it is important to give her the whole picture as far as ITABS and its funding is concerned at the moment.

The network of State ITABs, both individually and collectively, certainly perform an important role in the achievements of the objectives of training reform in South Australia. In September 1994 at the ministerial council (MINCO), an agreement was made that State Ministers would review the level of recurrent State funding to ITABs with the objective of matching the level of Commonwealth funds provided through ANTA in the ratio of \$1 of State funds to each \$2 of Commonwealth funds. A decision has been made to increase the allocation of State funding to ITABs in the 1997-98 financial year in order to match the level of Commonwealth funds provided to South Australia for industry input for vocational education and training in accordance with those targets that were set at the September 1994 MINCO meeting.

The increase in the allocation of State funds to ITABs is clearly not a replacement of Commonwealth funds: it represents a move to a level of State funding that is consistent with the agreements that were made at those council meetings in 1994. The amount of State funds needed in the 1997-98 financial year to meet the MINCO target will be \$660 000, which is an increase of \$306 000 over the existing level of funding. The honourable member's specific question related to whether the payments were made quarterly, up front or in arrears. I will take the honourable member's question on notice.

Mrs GERAGHTY: As a supplementary comment, if the payment is paid in arrears, that means that ITABs has a cash-flow problem, which means that they cannot implement their training projects and cannot squirrel away any money because that then jeopardises future funding. ITABs need the payments to be made at least three monthly in advance, which will still allow the checks and balances to occur, but will still enable them to implement their programs. We would like to know whether ITABs will receive payment up front in part instead of in arrears as it has been?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: At this stage, I do not know whether the payment is made in arrears and I would not like to suggest that that is the case. What I can tell the honourable member is that if there is a concern at all it might be about funding for the next financial year. I can assure the honourable member and ITABs that carry-on funding for ITABS will be provided from 1 July 1997, pending their signing the 1997-98 performance agreements, and that will obviously obviate any cash-flow problems ITABs might have. I will take the rest of the honourable member's question about payment in arrears on notice.

Mr CLARKE: I refer to the 500 youth recruitment persons covered by the \$3 million. Minister, you said that the agencies will be picking up any additional costs over and above the \$3 million grant made by the Government under this scheme. Has the Government provided supplementation to agency budgets to allow them to take on these youth recruitment persons as permanent employees?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The answer to the member's question overall is 'No'. I should also add that because of the quality of the young people we have in these positions the demand will be excessive. The demand for these young people in those areas will be very great.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister says that there is no supplementation to the agency budgets. Given that a 1 per cent efficiency dividend has been imposed on agencies in terms of wage rises for the next 12 months, do I take it that this does not represent 500 additional jobs but relates simply to replacing people whom those agencies would have had to replace in any event?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I have already made a statement in response to a question I think asked by the member for Taylor, explaining that there are 500 full-time jobs. As well as the 500 full-time jobs that the \$3 million will provide to bring into the public sector, due to normal attrition and other effects within the public sector there is availability for another 500 young people to be brought on stream. So this is not instead of but still additional to. So we are looking at 1 000 young people being brought into the public sector area in the next year. As I explained in response to the member for Taylor's question, if the negotiations with Senator Vanstone come to fruition we will be looking at another 500 trainees, which will mean that we will have 1 500 young people to bring into the public sector area over the coming year.

Mr CLARKE: Minister, your press release of 12 June says that you have allocated half a million dollars for the employment of 200 young people with local government. As this works out at \$2 500 per employee, what is the assumed contribution from local government towards the pay of these young people?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In that case, again, the difference will be the additional moneys required.

Mr CLARKE: By way of a supplementary question, you say that this scheme will employ 200 extra people at \$2 500 each. We could probably take a rough guess that the local government authority will have to cough up about \$10 000, depending on their classification, plus on-costs. Does the Minister have an assurance from the local government authorities that they will indeed recruit these 200 young people that she says will be employed over the next 12 months, if they have to meet basically 90 per cent of the cost of the wages?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am advised that in putting this scheme together consultation took place with the Local Government Association. The funds have been agreed to. They are there not only for salaries and wages but also for materials that may be required and in order to promote job employment or skills development in job opportunities. I am advised that there have been no problems in terms of the amount of funds discussed between Government and the Local Government Association. I am afraid that I cannot pick up any of the negatives that the honourable member may be implying in his question. It appears that through this negotiated agreement the funds made available are quite suitable.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer the Minister to page 473 of the Program Estimates. What opportunities exist for TAFE

services in the provision of vocational education and training for secondary schools located in the southern metropolitan area, such as the Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, Murray Bridge and the Murray-Mallee regions?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The majority of TAFE institutions and many educators in schools are working collaboratively to ensure that vocational education and training in schools is implemented and that learning outcomes are appropriate. For example, the Onkaparinga Institute of TAFE has accepted this challenge and has developed positive, close-working relationships with over 50 schools in the southern region. Onkaparinga TAFE has provided advice, evaluation, monitoring, training and other services to its regional schools through an educational manager and coordinator. In 1996 there were more than 700 registrations of school students who undertook VET in SACE modules. In 1997, registrations through Onkaparinga TAFE are expected to exceed 2 000.

As a major initiative, the Onkaparinga TAFE has now decided to appoint a schools project officer (.5) to undertake key duties including: liaison with TAFE institute staff already interfacing with schools, for example, the VISA coordinator, Student Services Officer, assessor trainers, program and campus staff and managers; liaison and coordination with school and cluster VET personnel to facilitate the increasing development of VET programs in schools; with the support of the South Central Regional Network, schools, TAFE and industry, establish pathways which school students can utilise (these pathways including VET in SACE, work experience in industry, TAFE training programs and further choices of higher training, university education and employment); the promotion of closer working relationships between schools and Onkaparinga TAFE at regional and program levels; revised duties for educational managers, including responsibility for the effective policy formation, organisation and management of TAFE schools liaison and the strengthening of partnerships to further develop VET in SACE; and the Onkaparinga Institute of TAFE program managers and lecturers to provide an ongoing advisory service to schools covering curriculum requirements, maintenance of standards, assessment plans and procedures and methodology to achieve the key competency skills. TAFE staff also provide services in relation to the preparation of memorandums of agreement, registration of school students, data entry and result records. Within existing resources, TAFE institutes, as demonstrated by the example of Onkaparinga Institute of TAFE, have provided a wide-ranging service to schools and have actively promoted the implementation of vocational education and training in SACE arrangements, which will be extremely valuable to every young person who gets to that level of education in our public system.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer the Minister to page 473 of the Program Estimates. What will be the benefits to students and industry of current initiatives within DETAFE to deliver TAFE SA courses via on-line technologies such as the Worldwide Web, which we have just heard about, and the Internet?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: TAFE SA is taking a key role in preparing the South Australian work force and wider community for the effective use of the new on-line technologies such as the Worldwide Web and the Internet. New skills and training in the use of these emerging technologies are required by the new sunrise information industries and enterprises developing within South Australia. These skills are also required increasingly by the established industry sectors, that is, the service and retailing areas. Students

undertaking their studies via on-line technologies are acquiring the necessary information skills for successful participation in the developing information economy. The new on-line technologies are also providing opportunities for more responsive training for individuals and enterprises through more flexible and just-in-time delivery of on-line training into South Australian workplaces, community and regional centres, on TAFE campuses and into South Australian homes.

It is estimated that shortly over 1 000 TAFE students will be undertaking their studies in this way, and this number is expected to rise rapidly over the next 12 months. TAFE SA is also extending its reach into the global training marketplace through the strategic use of on-line technologies, enabling it to compete with interstate and overseas providers of education and training and to retrain and expand its current market base in South-East Asia. The access to global networks provides learners with the most up-to-date and relevant information for their courses, thus ensuring that the TAFE graduates are conversant with world best practice within their chosen occupations. The Worldwide Web also provides a further opportunity to provide update information on courses and other departmental information to prospective students, industry, the public and other agencies.

TAFE and South Australia are recognised as international leaders in the use of educational technologies. The current initiatives will ensure that TAFE SA retains the leadership that it has in this area, resulting in increased educational export opportunities and competitiveness in the emerging global electronic marketplace.

Mr CAUDELL: Will the Douglas Mawson Institute and the Western Adelaide Institute amalgamate and, if so, what are the reasons for and benefits of the amalgamation? I refer to page 473 of the Program Estimates.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The Government management framework requires agencies, including TAFE institutes, to achieve best practice and organisational efficiencies in the context of competitive neutrality. Douglas Mawson and Western Adelaide Institutes have been working in alliance since October 1996 and have achieved and will further achieve an improved level of service both to employers and to individual students as well as structural efficiencies in delivering publicly funded vocational education and training in the western, north-western and inner southern metropolitan area. A detailed corporate business plan has identified planned savings and costs over the next two years associated with the establishment of the new institute.

Those savings relate to areas of enterprise agreement implementation, internal corporate review, restructure of the amalgamated institute and State program rationalisation. Both institute councils have strongly promoted and had extensive consultation regarding the proposed amalgamation with students, staff and other stakeholders. The new institute will have a strong positioning focus on applied design and technology that will enable it to enhance and maximise its potential to contribute to key Government economic directions and strategies.

The diversity and specialisation of the combined staff will enable the institute to market an expanded range of programs both nationally and internationally and provide opportunities to capture a greater share of the vocational education and training market. The name of the new institute, Douglas Mawson, acknowledges a prominent South Australian, and it certainly has a meaning and relevance in the national and international environment.

The two institutes together have responded with savings and corporate services management and the nomination of four teaching TVSP positions to achieve the stage 1 enterprise bargaining target of some \$300 000 and the corporate services review and savings of \$204 000. It should be noted that a further five TVSP positions will be nominated from the western Adelaide Douglas Mawson resources as part of the State program savings plans, and by further leveraging the advantages provided by the amalgamation over the next 18 months an additional amount of \$238 000 has been identified. However, after deducting costs of some \$96 000 directly associated with the amalgamation, the overall net savings will still be \$142 000.

Ms WHITE: I return to some comments that the Minister made earlier and I seek clarification. First, the Minister talked about 1 000 public sector trainees. The Minister said, 'There were 500 plus 500.' The first 500 about which the Minister was talking were the 500 released in the budget. Will the Minister detail what the additional 500 is? The Minister has interchangeably used the words 'trainees' and 'full-time positions'. In referring to an answer to a question by my colleague the Deputy Leader the Minister said that these extra 500 were trainees. Will the Minister clarify what this 500 plus 500 is? If they are trainees, what sort of trainees are they? Are they long-term unemployed people? Whom will this group comprise?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am trying to clarify exactly what the member for Taylor is talking about in terms of the 500 plus 500 plus 500. I thought it had been explained reasonably clearly. If we talk about the youth recruitment program there are 500—that is the \$3 million investment by Government—so we have that 500 out of the way. The other 500 about whom we are talking are existing trainees who are likely to get full-time positions within the public sector. We have 500 positions that would normally come about through attrition within the public sector, and the existing trainees at the moment can be offered those positions within the public sector. So, that is the second 500. The last 500 is the group of traineeships that we are attempting to negotiate with Senator Vanstone at the moment.

Ms WHITE: My question relates to truants. Last night I was at the Hackham West Community Centre where a youth project was being launched. A Christian brother happened to be present who is involved in a program called FAME. I do not know whether the Minister is aware of that program. FAME is an acronym for Flexible Alternate Mobile Education, I understand.

This program is aimed at high school students who are at risk of truancy, if I can use that word, and who are not fitting well into the mainstream school program, and it has been operating only this year. The early indication, according to the Christian brother, is that they have had good success. What is your policy on dealing with this group of young people? Do you agree that this FAME project is a good project? If so, do you intend to fund it?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am somewhat confused as to what line of our budget this question is addressing. On the one hand, as Minister for Youth Affairs I do not want to appear as if I have no interest in or sympathy for a scheme which talks about at risk children because there are certain programs which we fund consistently now. But in terms of the Committee and the question asked, it has no relevance to this area. In fact, when talking about truancy you are talking about the Department for Education and Children's Services.

Ms WHITE: I am referring to page 480 of the Program Estimates, the Youth SA budget line. The former Minister was involved in funding a program to address truancy, so I assume that now still comes under the Minister's gamut. In fact, it was associated with the Kickstart program.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: There are several areas through either Youth Affairs or others on which we fund programs such as for young people at risk. The honourable member was talking about a specific program on which, at this stage, we have not had any contact asking directly for funds. At this stage, as I said, I cannot comment on that program because there is no relationship between my portfolio and that specific program. That does not mean that we do not have programs that pick up children at risk. I am sure that the honourable member is aware of the Focus on the Future program which commenced in July 1995. That was an initiative of the former Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education and was designed to assist children at risk of leaving school early and becoming long-term unemployed.

That program was piloted in four regions of the State in 1995-96, received funding of \$43 000 and targeted only compulsory aged students. In 1996-97 the program was expanded to include post-compulsory aged students and expanded to eight regions with a total funding allocation of \$250 000. As part of the Employment Division's resource agreement for 1996-97, the program was set a target of 800 participants for the final year. As at 31 May 1997, 1 103 young people had participated in programs relating to Focus on the Future.

So, although this came through the area of employment, training and further education, the Focus on the Future program will continue to occur within the schools. The Ready, Set, Go strategy, which was developed in response to youth unemployment, will receive \$11.8 million over the next three years as part of the youth employment statement. This strategy is an education plan which seeks to ensure that students are more work ready, better prepared for their career pathways and more work wise through increased involvement in work placements. The 'Go' phase of the Ready, Set, Go strategy will, in part, target students at risk of leaving school early, and the \$700 000 that has been allocated to specifically assist these students will be administered through the Department for Education and Children's Services. So, the importance of this type of program has been well and truly recognised and will continue within that Ready, Set, Go strategy of the youth employment statement.

Mr CLARKE: Does the \$3 million that has been set aside for unemployed youth include all or part of the existing graduate recruitment program?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I invite Ms Tunks to answer that question.

Ms Tunks: The hallmark graduate recruitment program was suspended with the 1500 Traineeship Program, so there has been no graduate recruitment within the public sector over the past 12 or 18 months or so. I cannot give the Committee the exact figure: I would have to talk to the Commissioner's office. Part of that is to be reinstated as part of the 500 Employment Recruitment Program instigated under the Youth Recruitment Program of the OCPE (Office of Commissioner for Public Employment).

Mr CLARKE: By way of a supplementary question, how many graduates will form part of this 500?

Ms Tunks: I cannot provide that information. I will have to take that as a supplementary question.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: It is still to be determined at this stage.

Mrs ROSENBERG: I refer the Minister to page 477 of the financial papers. My question relates to TAFE SA with regard to image. With the emergence of a competitive training environment and the user choice market, will the Minister advise what is being done to ensure that TAFE SA strategically positions itself to compete successfully in the new training environment?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: TAFE SA, with its 10 institutes and 54 campuses strategically located throughout the State, provides South Australians with an unrivalled vocational education and training resource—of which some industries, businesses and individuals are not sufficiently aware. There will be increased competition for TAFE institutes arising from the implementation of user choice in apprenticeships and traineeships in 1998, whereby employers and employees will be able to choose who will provide off-the-job training, and also through the continued implementation of competitive tendering for a range of vocational education programs. TAFE SA, under these circumstances, is actively positioning itself to compete successfully in this competitive environment so that it can continue to support the Government's focus on employment outcomes, especially for young people.

Two key client groups have been identified as a focus for marketing TAFE SA; that is, school students between years 10 to 12 and employers. The students in years 10 to 12 are at the critical stage of decision making about careers, and they need to be more aware of the job opportunities that studying at TAFE can provide. Promotion activities, such as the recent very successful Workskil and the Career Expo, which attracted some 35 000 people—mainly school students—and the distribution to every year 10 to 12 student in South Australia of n-Vision, which is a publication providing information about TAFE SA courses, the careers and where they lead to, are examples of how TAFE SA is increasing the awareness of school students to the choices available in TAFE.

The TAFE institutes are working very closely with local employers, industry and employer associations, both to ensure that the courses meet their needs and that employers are fully aware of the training services that are available through TAFE institutes. An extensive range of marketing strategies is being drawn on from promotion and advertising on television, radio and in the press to direct approaches to employers and employees.

'Culinary Clout' is one example of the heightened approach to marketing TAFE programs. It was adopted to position TAFE institutes in an increasingly competitive environment. Every employer, apprentice and trainee in the hospitality industry was presented with a package highlighting the advantages of training through TAFE SA. The result was a 10 per cent increase in participation in hospitality apprentice classes.

In a small business management course conducted by Adelaide Institute and broadcast nationally, the marketing module identified one of the aims of marketing as creating a pool of satisfied customers desiring a continuing service. So TAFE SA is doing just that through its image and positioning strategies so it can compete effectively in what is going to be an even more competitive, open training market.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: My question to the Minister concerns page 473 of the Program Estimates. I understand that some of the TAFE SA institutes are forming strategic alliances, which is a great initiative. Can the Minister advise

what developments have occurred and what she sees as the benefits of these strategic alliances?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: While all institutes of TAFE work cooperatively through TAFE SA, more formal processes of working together have been established through some institutes grouping into strategic alliances. These strategic alliances are evolving as the practicalities of alliances and opportunities for other synergies emerge. Many benefits come from a strategic alliance. They include strengthening regional training provisions in State priority areas such as information technology, small business, manufacturing, primary industry and food processing.

It also includes the sharing of specialist staff, enhancing regional clients' access to an improved range of services and products, providing competitive advantage, building upon existing quality physical and human resources, increasing cost efficiencies and the potential for increased market share, streamlining corporate services and educational support services.

Alliances between country and outer metropolitan institutes are being formed to realise these benefits and, in particular, to increase the range of programs available in country regions. Industries and businesses in the northern Adelaide region see great benefits in an alliance between the Para Institute and the Regency Institute since the increased training capacity that this alliance can bring is closely aligned to their training needs, particularly in automotive manufacturing, the defence industries and information technology. An alliance between Para and Regency Institutes is therefore being explored.

I have spoken about the strategic alliance between Douglas Mawson and the Western Adelaide Institutes and this alliance has worked so effectively that the two institutes are amalgamating as the Douglas Mawson Institute of TAFE. It will provide an enhanced service to the western Adelaide region through the consolidation of staff, expertise, educational programs and services. These strategic alliances and the continuing collaborative activity of all the TAFE institutes ensure that the training needs of South Australian industries and business and the communities served by the TAFE institutes are met in a most professional manner.

Mr CAUDELL: I refer to the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme (NYARS). What is South Australia's involvement in this scheme? I am impressed by the research report that the scheme produces.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the member for his question and I must agree—I have been most impressed as well. The National Youth Affairs Research Scheme produces some excellent work. South Australia does exceptionally well from this scheme. We contribute a mere \$9 000 per annum to the national project which costs about \$200 000. In other words, South Australia gets \$200 000 worth of research for an outlay of \$9 000. The research scheme is overseen by the MCEETYA Youth Task Force, and new research consultancies are funded each year.

Youth SA has a staff member involved with the steering committee of the research scheme, and that committee deals with the day-to-day coordination and management of the scheme. A report on transition from the juvenile justice service has just been released and another on under-age school leaving is currently being published. This scheme can produce a considerable amount of work on a research base that is not only extremely beneficial to agencies across the board but to members of Parliament and those with an interest in this area.

Mr CLARKE: I previously asked the Minister a question about the graduate recruitment program, and Ms Tunks explained what was going on there. Have any other existing programs been rolled into this new \$3 million program that we have been talking about?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I doubt that I know of any program that has been rolled into another program coming out of the new measures that the Government has taken, certainly not in the \$3 million youth recruitment program. Basically, across the board the answer is 'No'.

Mr CLARKE: Regarding the employment encouragement initiatives under the Minister's first job program—I know that the Minister has referred to some of the numbers already but I just want to get it in a more consolidated form—how many placements have been budgeted for; how many placements have been achieved to date; and what moneys remain?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The employment encouragement package which the honourable member has identified was the second key component of the youth employment statement. It was designed specifically to remove employers' concerns about the costs and red tape associated with employing young people. Three initiatives fall under this component of the statement. They include: the WorkCover levy exemption, the payroll tax rebate and the promotion of fixed term employment arrangements to enable employers to work with and train young people without incurring costs associated with unfair dismissal laws. The employment encouragement initiatives have received a State Government commitment which also covers that three year period, and a total of \$17 million has been put aside.

Mr CLARKE: How many placements have been budgeted for, what is the number of placements achieved to date, and how much money has been unexpended to date?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I can tell the Committee about the WorkCover exemption area, and I have placed those figures on the record today. Under that levy exemption, 862 young people have been placed in employment. However, the information regarding payroll tax is not available at this time, and it will be 12 months before that is known. In the WorkCover levy exemption area, there are 862 young people.

Mr CLARKE: The Minister refers to the 862 young people who have been placed under the WorkCover scheme. Did the Minister have a budget for the number of placements to be made? How much of that \$17 million overall is still unspent? What tracking does the department do, say, six or 12 months after the expiry of the Government incentive, to make sure the scheme is placing young people in long-term secure jobs? How many jobs remained six months after the seed funding provided by Kickstart had run out? That sort of tracking was done by the Commonwealth DEET in terms of its labour market programs.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: There is a whole component to this, which covers the fact that the \$17 million is the established amount put aside to look at that range of initiatives. It includes the payroll tax and the WorkCover exemption. I do not believe that any specific area is set aside for individual portions of those incentives. One can imagine that in putting together a scheme like this for the first time and in offering these types of incentives it is difficult to assess to what degree employers will pick up what portions of the incentives. It is my belief that there was no set amount within the \$17 million that actually connected with an initiative component of that set of initiatives within the employment encouragement package.

As far as the tracking is concerned, I cannot tell the Committee whether there is any mechanism in place to do this. If it was done it would be done through the Department of Industrial Affairs. Overall, this program is covered through the Department of Industrial Affairs.

Ms WHITE: I refer to Kickstart and to page 470. What are the outcomes of the internal review of Kickstart authorised through the employment division of DETAFE?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The Kickstart for Youth program has been highly successful since its introduction in 1991 and has played an increasing role in linking employment with economic development. As the honourable member is probably aware, the basic premise behind Kickstart was to identify job opportunities and arrange appropriate training based on employers' needs to equip people to do the jobs. Activities could be anything from a few hours to several weeks, depending on the skills of the individual and the requirements of the employer.

The Kickstart employment and training officers, based with development boards, have certainly been ideally placed to maximise employment opportunities and broker appropriate and timely training for industry needs. The basic concept of this outcome for this model is now being picked up by the Commonwealth in its new employment placement structures, and in response to this change in focus a review of Kickstart was initiated in January 1997.

The program has continued to be a strong one with an additional allocation of some \$350 000 made in the 1996-97 year. The success of the Kickstart model in South Australia has led to the Commonwealth's putting in place its new model whereby private sector organisations are funded to place people into employment and the structures for this are called the EPEs (employment placement enterprises). These organisations will be paid on outcomes achieved, that is, they too will be employment outcome focused. The new functions will usurp the role of the Kickstart officer and have made it necessary to rethink the role of Kickstart. The review of the Kickstart model of operation was initiated as a proactive response to identify new approaches and directions which do not duplicate Commonwealth activity.

The review is to focus on the strengths of Kickstart and develop a new model from this base, and once again this maximises employment outcomes in South Australia. A very experienced team from the University of South Australia led by Professor Ed Carson has consulted widely to ascertain the past effectiveness of Kickstart in relation to employment and economic development. In light of these findings and the review team's knowledge of the new developments, it is charged with proposing the most effective path for the future. The recommendations to be made confidentially to Government will be considered carefully, but meanwhile contracts for the current programs to continue into the new financial year are being negotiated. The Kickstart program has been a flagship program for the employment division. Some have classified it as a lighthouse on the national scene which other States have envied and attempted in part, and now the Federal Government is paying the compliment of adapting the program federally.

This State Government is committed to ensuring that in whatever form the program emerges in the future it will again lead the field, and it is looking definitely at the innovative and flexible side of that program, which is responsive to the needs of industry and effective in providing real pathways to employment at a regional level. Since July 1994 until the end of May, some 7 957 participants have been involved in

Kickstart employment placement programs, with over 63 per cent employment outcomes. A further 2 823 young people aged between 15 and 19 have been involved in Kickstart for Youth since its commencement in 1995 and, with the 44 per cent going into employment, an additional 3 196 people have been involved in business development and seminar activities connected with the program.

So, Kickstart has done a very good job and during the six years since its inception has been amended and moulded to increase its scope and effectiveness. Its ability to adapt and change has been its strength. We believe that we must capitalise on Kickstart's strengths and respond positively to the changing environment with a model that maximises the use of State resources without duplicating Commonwealth activity. That is where the situation lies at the moment.

Ms WHITE: As a supplementary question, the Minister has talked about Kickstart and Kickstart for Youth. What specific allocations or proportion of allocations will be earmarked for young people in the reorganisation of Kickstart or its replacement?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That is part of what the review is all about. Until we know the outcomes and the areas in which we must place resources and develop, at this stage there is no means of determining what future resources will be required.

[Sitting suspended from 6.3 to 7.30 p.m.]

The CHAIRMAN: Opposition members have indicated that they wish to deal with the budget lines concerning training. The Minister has a short statement in relation to training, and then we will commence with questions.

Membership:

Mr DeLaine substituted for Mrs Geraghty.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Earlier today I provided the Committee with an opening statement on my youth portfolio. This statement will now focus on the vocational education and training sector of the department's budget. The vocational educational and training sector is undergoing a significant change at both national and State levels. A key focus of the change is the development of a market in vocational education and training which offers real choice and a comprehensive range of quality programs.

The 1997-98 budget for the Department of Employment, Training and Further Education (DETAFFE) provides funding of \$306.2 million comprising \$281.6 million recurrent and \$24.6 million capital. The State appropriation component is \$157 832 000 recurrent, and \$8 723 000 capital. The 1997-98 recurrent budget provides the following:

- continued support for a number of highly successful strategic employment initiatives and Youth Employment Statement activities;
- continued support for enhanced programs to improve community awareness of the positive contribution of young people;
- anticipated growth in publicly funded vocational education and training in the high priority industry sectors identified in the State Training Profile for 1997, including:
 - community services, health and education
 - primary industry
 - computing and information technology
 - tourism and hospitality, and
 - food processing.

The 1997-98 capital budget includes an increase of \$2.7 million State funds and will provide funding for a range of major projects which include:

- the continuing development of a new TAFE horticultural campus within Urrbrae Agricultural High School, a \$16.1 million joint project with the Department for Education and Children's Services. (That is an input of \$10.5 million from DETAFE and \$5.6 million from DECS.)
- a \$4 million redevelopment of the Kadina campus of the Spencer Institute of TAFE; and
- a \$23.7 million Performing and Visual Arts Training Centre to be constructed on the new Light Square site.

The State Strategic Plan for Education and Training—1998 to 2000—which is currently under development will strengthen the State's strategic training processes for vocational education and training. In particular, the State strategic plan will optimise the support provided by publicly funded training to South Australia's future economic and social prosperity.

The State Government's strategic economic priorities are a very important guiding factor in the development of the State strategic plan. In the plan, public funds for training will be directed to support Government priorities in industry areas including food processing, aquaculture, tourism and hospitality, wine, information technology, defence and construction. The State strategic plan is built on an extensive program of consultation with stakeholders in vocational education and training, including Industry Training Advisory Boards (ITABs), enterprises, peak employer and employee groups, equity groups, providers of vocational education and training, and students.

The advice on training demand received from the Industry Training Advisory Boards has been significantly improved this year. This has been assisted by the preparation by the department of a series of publications called Industry Notes which provide an economic, demographic and labour market analysis of the industries covered by each of the ITABs.

The ITABs build on this analysis with their own extensive knowledge and consultation with their industries to provide specific information about training demand. A number of supplementary components for the State's strategic plan are also being addressed:

- capital development plan/capital development strategic plan
- apprenticeship and traineeship commencements
- open training market
- progress report and current year against the annual national priorities
- adult community education
- language and literacy
- school VET activity
- maintenance of effort.

Significant progress will be made in 1997-98 to expand the vocational education and training market as User Choice arrangements are fully implemented from 1 January 1998. These arrangements are a central component to the introduction of a new apprenticeship system across Australia. Under User Choice, employers and trainees or apprentices will be able to choose a training provider on the basis of their needs and training requirements. Employers and trainee/apprentices will be able to negotiate with providers about the timing, content and flexibility of their training and, for the first time, non-TAFE providers will compete along with institutes of

TAFE to attract apprentices and trainees across all contracted trainee areas.

At the same time the impact on TAFE SA, currently the major provider of apprenticeship training, will be carefully monitored to ensure there is no unnecessary impact, particularly in high priority training areas, and in regional and isolated locations. I expect to see growth in the number of apprentices and trainees as a result of changed incentives and administrative arrangements associated with the new apprenticeship scheme, and also improved efficiencies in the overall cost to Government of training. South Australia's publicly recognised vocational education and training market is expanding and offering more choices to its clients.

There are presently more than 370 registered providers in South Australia, almost double the number that were registered in 1994. In addition, existing registered providers are extending the scope of their registration, adding to the number of programs that are on offer. Registration is the quality assurance process, which ensures that vocational qualifications are valued by learners, industry, educational sections and the wider community. Through the registration process, a balance is achieved between safeguarding standards and encouraging new training organisations into the publicly recognised system to promote consumer choice and to meet the demand for training.

Ms WHITE: In the interests of time, I will immediately ask my questions. What proportion of the DETAFE budget is allocated to TAFE SA and, in answering this question, will the Minister provide the financial breakdown of the budget for TAFE SA, VET, corporate services, the employment division, Youth SA and any other agency that is included?

Mrs Rosenberg interjecting:

Ms WHITE: It is not in here.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The question has been asked of the Minister.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the honourable member for her question but, because of the complexity and detail necessary in the answer, I will take the question on notice.

Ms WHITE: I really wanted to question the Minister on these lines. It is a fairly fundamental and simple question as to how much of the budget goes where. I am at a real disadvantage in pursuing a line of questioning if the Minister refuses to answer.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not think the Minister has refused to answer. The Minister has indicated that she considers it a complex question and she has taken it on notice. There is nothing more that can be done.

Ms WHITE: With respect, Mr Chairman—

The CHAIRMAN: I am talking, the member for Taylor. The Minister has answered the question in that way. A facility is in place where questions can be taken on notice. The Minister has indicated that the question will be taken on notice and I now ask the honourable member to ask her next question.

Ms WHITE: With respect Mr Chairman, if I cannot get the answer to a really fundamental breakdown of the budget in broad groupings which the Minister should have at her fingertips, then I am unable to ask detailed questions and this would just end up as being a series of questions placed on notice for the Minister to work out later. How can I scrutinise the budget if the Minister cannot answer the basic question concerning a breakdown of figures for the divisions of her department, in terms of budget? This is a fundamental, basic question.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister has indicated that she will take the question on notice. There is nothing I can do to force the Minister to answer the question in any way other than that.

Ms WHITE: Can the Minister guess, give rough estimates of, the budget breakdown? How much is spent on the Employment Division, how much for Youth SA, how much on VET, how much for TAFE SA and how much in corporate services?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I do not know whether the member for Taylor knows the extent of the questions she has asked. The Program Estimates do break down certain areas of the budget. Can the member direct her questions to the Program Estimates, which detail the areas of Youth SA and others? At this stage I can probably say that about \$50 million goes into the open training market. It is extremely difficult at this stage to come up with accurate details, even in percentages, of the amount that goes to TAFE SA. So, I am afraid that that will have to be taken on notice. However, the Program Estimates are exactly the type of papers that identify a great many of the programs, with the appropriate amounts. If the member wishes to ask questions along those lines, on papers that are provided to her, I am quite happy to answer them.

Ms WHITE: This puts me at a considerable disadvantage, Sir. How can I scrutinise the budget if I cannot get the basic figures? If the Minister cannot even tell me how much of her budget goes towards TAFE SA how can I have a starting point to question any of the funding allocations? That is what budget estimates are all about.

The CHAIRMAN: The budget papers are there to ask questions on. I invite the member to ask her next question.

Ms WHITE: I am asking a basic question.

The CHAIRMAN: The Minister has indicated that she will take on notice the question that you asked.

Ms WHITE: What proportion of group corporate services is allocated to TAFE SA?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That type of detail which the member is asking for in terms of statistics and the percentages that relate to the budget areas is just not available at this time. So, again, it would be a matter of us taking the question on notice. Unless the member can ask a question that relates to the papers that are provided by the Government on the budget lines, then I am afraid I cannot help her at this time. However, I will certainly attempt to obtain the breakdown of figures that she is asking for, in very specific terms, which we do not have on hand at present. We will ensure that we forward the details to her at a later date.

Ms WHITE: I do wonder whether we will conduct this whole exercise again and whether there will be an opportunity to question the Minister when she does have these basic figures. What proportion of the TAFE SA budget is allocated to program delivery, that is, TAFE courses, and what to maintaining institute infrastructure?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: As long as the honourable member continues to ask questions in terms of the percentages of specific areas of the budget, there will not be an opportunity tonight to answer those specifics. The honourable member knows that there is a series of papers provided and that the programs are detailed in the Program Estimates.

Ms White interjecting:

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That is exactly right. As I said before, unless the honourable member can relate questions to the areas provided within the budget area, we do not have at hand estimates of statistical matter that the honourable member seeks.

The CHAIRMAN: The honourable member has now asked three questions—

Ms White interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I suggest to the honourable member that after Government members have asked their next round of questions she ask a question and refer it back to a page and line in the budget papers.

Mrs ROSENBERG: What is being done to strengthen the relationship between higher education and vocational education and training in South Australia?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I am pleased to be able to answer this question with a reasonable amount of detail. I am advised that there are many initiatives in the State that strengthen links between the university and VET sectors. These initiatives are indicative of the high level of goodwill and commitment to cooperation existing among the sectors in South Australia to better serve the interests of students and the State. The following examples serve to illustrate the point. Each university has agreements with the Department for Employment, Training and Further Education to link awards and courses and in some cases to establish collaborative delivery arrangements.

With respect to the University of South Australia, there is an agreement between the department and the university that is the longest running of its kind. It commits the two organisations to collaborative initiatives related to articulation and credit transfer, research, professional development, marketing and joint planning. Credit transfer and articulation arrangements have been developed between many courses. The university has subquota places for applicants with a TAFE qualification. In 1996, over 250 students entered the university on the basis of their TAFE qualifications. The University of South Australia also has arrangements with TAFE campuses for the shared use of learning centres and telecommunication facilities to deliver university programs.

With respect to the University of Adelaide, a similar agreement was established recently between the department and the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences within the University of Adelaide. The agreement commits the department and the faculty to work collaboratively on credit transfer, curriculum development, resource sharing and the development and accreditation of practically oriented postgraduate courses. In the 1997 admission cycle the university recognised TAFE qualifications for the first time as meeting the entry requirements to undergraduate courses offered by the university.

Developing arrangements also exist between TAFE and Flinders University. In the area of collaborative delivery arrangements such as accountancy, in 1996-97 a common first-year program in accountancy was conducted in the Riverland. There are a host of other areas that all are part of that collaborative delivery arrangement which shows the very close collaboration that we have with the universities and TAFE SA.

Ms WHITE: I want to ask about expenditure under this budget line, although it is proving to be a little difficult, given the Minister's position. I refer her to page 472, which lists a 1997-98 estimate of total program expenditure of \$292.753 million. I want to ask about costs of programs, but that is proving increasingly difficult if the Minister cannot tell me how much is allocated to various components of the budget. I will persist, but if this is going to turn into a whole session of questions on notice, that is extraordinary. I would have thought that the Minister would have these basic figures

here. I will continue asking these questions and the Minister can respond.

The CHAIRMAN: Please ask the question and give me the line and the budget reference.

Ms WHITE: Page 472, 'Total program expenditure': I am asking about that total program expenditure. It is a basic question in budget scrutiny: surely it is in order. How much of the TAFE SA budget, the amount of which the Minister cannot tell me at this point, is devoted to student services; how much is devoted to learning resource centres; how much is devoted to learning support; how much is devoted to institute administration; and how much is devoted to maintenance? They are pretty important questions.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Again, I can only indicate to the honourable member that she is not asking simple questions. She is not relating to specific areas. She talks about wanting to know the component cost of certain programs. The honourable member is not defining any particular program; she is asking for statistical amounts of disbursements of funds. The obvious conclusion that I can make on the honourable member's question is that she is entirely ignorant of the manner in which funds are distributed throughout TAFE SA into the VET section and the numerous areas that make up this very large and complex area, where people in TAFE institutes are given certain disbursement of funds and those funds are thereby broken down according to the needs and requirements that are programmed throughout the year within the institute areas.

There are separate accountable areas within many different areas of TAFE and, unless the honourable member can come to terms with the fact that she is not asking specific questions, that she is not relating to any of the specifics that can give her information on program lines within this budget, then I believe that the honourable member is just wasting the time of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: The question has been asked and the honourable member has the answer. There is nothing that can be done in relation to those questions. I ask the honourable member to ask her next question.

Ms WHITE: If the Minister cannot tell me how much she spends on running the TAFE institutes, how can she answer questions as to whether she is doing it efficiently? Surely a Minister would know how much she spends on that?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Once again, I refer the honourable member to the Program Estimates. There is a total appropriation amount recorded in the Program Estimates. There is a breakdown of the funds that are used in each of the areas and, if the honourable member cannot grasp a situation that is extremely complex, when she is not asking specific questions that relate to those breakdowns of funds, it is absolutely ridiculous to say that the Minister is not aware when there is a Program Estimates book in front of the honourable member that gives her the appropriation of different lines that are used in different areas.

The statistical requirements that the honourable member is seeking are certainly not part of the make-up of accountability. They are different aspects in this very complex budget line. I am afraid, Sir, that the honourable member is wasting the time of this Committee unless she can come up with specifics in this very broad area which is extremely important within this State in providing as it does a very important area of training. I am sure that many questions could be asked which are important to the State of South Australia to have on public record and in relation to which I could detail exactly what the Government is doing in this area but, if the

honourable member does not have the presence of mind to look at the Program Estimates and thereby identify the questions to which she would like to elicit answers, I am afraid there is nothing further that I can do to assist her in this matter.

The CHAIRMAN: I ask the honourable member now to ask her next question and refer to the exact area in the Program Estimates to which the question relates.

Ms WHITE: I again refer to page 472 and that same line. It is a basic question to ask the Minister how much TAFE SA costs out of the budget. It is a basic question to ask the Minister how much the VET division costs out of the budget. It is a basic question to ask the Minister how much Youth SA—

The CHAIRMAN: Order!

Ms WHITE: This is extraordinary.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The honourable member has asked that question and the Minister has indicated that it will be taken on notice. If the member cannot ask another question that is relevant to the budget lines, I will ask the Government side for the next question.

Ms WHITE: Okay, I will ask an easy one. How many hours did TAFE SA teach in 1996?

The CHAIRMAN: What is the honourable member's reference to the budget line?

Ms WHITE: The same line, Sir.

Mr CAUDELL: Which side—the left-hand side or the right-hand side of the page?

Ms WHITE: Am I personally being frustrated here?

Mr CAUDELL: Mr Chairman, I just want to know—

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I do not need the assistance of the member for Mitchell.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thank the honourable member for the simple question. Once again the honourable member is asking for a very specific set of figures because she is identifying TAFE. I can certainly give the honourable member some indication of the overall hours in the whole area of annual hours curriculum, but we do not have those figures available to break that down into the specifics of TAFE because those figures are not necessary for us to account for any of the areas of maintenance of effort that require the dollars that we receive in any area. There is no requirement for that specific breakdown. At this stage, as I said, if the honourable member wishes I can give her the annual hours, which is the overall curriculum area of student hours.

Ms WHITE: If the Minister has no idea how many hours TAFE SA is teaching and cannot tell me what proportion of the budget TAFE SA takes out of the total budget, how on earth can the Minister work out how much each of those hours costs? This is important and it cannot be written off because we are now in an environment where we have public sector providers and private sector providers, and it is the Minister's responsibility to compare the costs in each of those areas. How can the Minister not know those costs?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I have not said that we do not know: we do not have that breakdown of figures with us. I can give the honourable member a reasonably approximated answer concerning the hours. As I said, I have the student activity maintenance of effort for 1996, which was \$14.914 million, and that is the annual hours curriculum. That is the measure of VET activity in TAFE institutes and private providers as funded by the State and Commonwealth Governments within the scope of the National Vocational Education Agreement. The TAFE quantifying amount could

possibly approximate two million hours within that figure. I am sorry: that is the higher amount. It is nearly 13 million hours, but that is the approximate figure.

Mr BROKENSHIRE: I refer to page 478 of the Program Estimates and Information. Due to my family heritage on Yorke Peninsula, particularly around Moonta, I would like to ask a question on the new TAFE campus at Kadina. The Premier and the member for Goyder would be interested in this answer because I know there is a lot of good economic growth in the area and they need the support of the TAFE campuses. Could you advise on the latest developments with respect to the new TAFE campus at Kadina on Yorke Peninsula?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I can only agree with the honourable member's comments. Having been on site and having spoken to the local community, I know the benefits this will bring to the area and I know that the member for Goyder has been very active in supporting the campus redevelopment. The Kadina campus of the Spencer Institute of TAFE requires extension and upgrading to meet new needs and to address existing inadequacies. The existing TAFE facility, which is 300 metres from the high school site, is made up of temporary transportable accommodation and is not considered suitable for vocational education purposes. Redevelopment on the existing site has therefore been ruled out as a less than optimal solution.

The proposed redevelopment will involve the construction of a new TAFE facility on the Kadina Memorial High School site adjacent to the existing secondary school buildings and, whilst maintaining separate identities for the secondary school and TAFE, it will provide maximum opportunity for partnering and sharing of facilities between TAFE, the high school and, indeed, local government. The facility will contain a joint use library resource centre, classrooms, multipurpose workshop, computing studies and extensive facilities for video conferencing and remote learning. At the existing Kadina campus, current facilities are certainly deficient and customers throughout the region are concerned about the underprovision of training.

The local government and the Regional Development Board are pursuing strategies to significantly increase the population in the Kadina region. There is potential for new industries in intensive horticulture, aquaculture, tourism and the aged-care industry. There has been strong agreement throughout the Yorke Peninsula region that the Kadina campus should be the focus for vocational education in the region. There was an equally strong requirement that the service provided to the region should be distributed with the use of technology whenever appropriate.

The willingness of all communities to consider joint-venturing and sharing of resources will help ensure its success. Early planning studies have indicated that the project will cost approximately \$4 million, and DETAFE has included the proposal in its forward capital program with State funding allocated for the project in 1997-98 and 1998-99 financial years. Services SA has been appointed as the project manager and selection of a primary consultant is in progress. A tentative program allows for a construction start by the end of 1997 and an anticipated completion by the beginning of 1999. All parties strongly support the development and the expectation is that the facility will be a significant community asset for that region.

Ms WHITE: What proportion of the budget is allocated to the open training market?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: As I stated earlier, funding for the 1997 open training market is \$13.5 million.

Ms WHITE: What proportion of those open training market funds went to TAFE SA?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I stress that this is an approximate figure, but I believe that TAFE SA would accommodate 48 to 49 per cent of that amount.

Ms WHITE: What is the cost per student hour for the open training market funded program provided by TAFE SA?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The honourable member again poses somewhat of a dilemma. The honourable member is obviously aware that we are moving into user choice and that there are competitive tendering processes in place where private providers, as opposed to TAFE, are now in the open market training area. At this stage, I conclude that there would be a sense of commercial confidentiality in releasing the unit costs of student hours, because TAFE would be placed in a rather invidious situation with other providers if it were to release that information. I am prepared to take that portion of the honourable member's question on notice and determine which figures I believe can be released to her, once we have looked at the question that she has asked, and any other relevant aspects that may need to be answered.

Mr CAUDELL: In the short time in which I have been reading financial accounting documents and budgets, etc., it appears that the budgets have provided more information than was the case previously. However, there are reasons why they do not go into the more detailed responses that the member for Taylor is seeking. Will the Minister explain why the budgets and program estimates are presented in the way in which they are and why they do not go into the detail which the member for Taylor is requesting?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The member for Taylor's questions concerned the proportion of funds related to TAFE. The total expenditure in the breakdown of that budget, including output in student hours and all the other areas that carry on from that, is available. However, it is not available tonight, and my explanation to the Committee is that, with the Government's gradual move to a purchase provider model, the budget estimates are constructed around vocational education and training (VET). TAFE is a subset of that. Therefore the TAFE figures would have to be extracted. It is not as if they are not available, but they are not available here tonight.

Mr CAUDELL: I refer to page 476 of the Program Estimates. I understand that the current ANTA agreement ceases at the end of the 1997 calendar year. Can the Minister advise on what progress has been made in negotiating a new ANTA agreement?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The Ministers met in Adelaide for ANTAMINCO on 23 May 1997 and, at that meeting, the Ministers agreed to progress rapidly a new ANTA agreement through the Commonwealth-State working group of officials. The new agreement will be based on the agreed Commonwealth-State submission to the Council of Australian Governments and will be premised on providing increased flexibility and responsiveness within the national system and reform of vocational education and training more generally. States and Territories are committed to supporting their Governments to meet the education and training needs of industries, enterprises and individuals within their communities and to facilitate the meeting of economic development objectives. Any new agreement will need to deliver the above and provide funding certainty for State and Territory systems.

States and Territories will support the introduction of more streamlined arrangements with ANTA and the Common-

wealth for a far more strategic approach to the reform of this sector. Improved relationships between educational sectors will also need to be facilitated by new arrangements for them to be acceptable to the States, as with greater clarity of relative roles and responsibilities of partners to that new agreement. In addition, negotiation between the partners will need to be transparent and open while allowing some differentiation in approaches adopted by the States in keeping with regional and system differences. The working group of officials is expected to meet before the end of June and have finalised a new ANTA agreement by the end of August 1997.

Ms WHITE: Why has the Minister not requested the budget breakdowns in her portfolio for TAFE SA, the VET division, corporate services, the employment division and Youth SA? Why does the Minister not have those figures?

The CHAIRMAN: The member for Taylor must refer to a budget line to ask a question. The Minister has indicated that the question concerning the breakdown has been taken on notice and will be supplied within the guidelines set down for Estimates Committees at a later date. That decision has been made and I have ruled that the Minister has the ability to do that. It is no good asking the same question over and over again. If the honourable member wishes to ask a question, she must refer to the budget papers and a budget line.

Ms WHITE: The last question I asked the Minister was about the average cost per average student hour for the open training market funded programs provided by TAFE SA. I now ask her to provide the average cost per average student hour for the open training market funded programs provided by non-TAFE providers.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I repeat to the member for Taylor that the answer on student hours and costs has already been given in terms of the accuracy that determines each of the unit costs that we are looking at. I can provide the member with a published average that takes into account all providers in South Australia and the cost per hour, which is stated at 11.9 in the section for South Australia.

Ms WHITE: That was not the question I asked. I asked: what is the cost of the TAFE SA provider and what is the cost of the non-TAFE provider? I did not seek an average of the two.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I do not know whether the member for Taylor is hard of hearing, but I explained succinctly that, because of commercial confidentiality, those figures would not be given.

Ms White interjecting:

The CHAIRMAN: Order! The Minister has the call.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: We will look at whatever information that can possibly be passed on to the member for Taylor—and we will certainly do that—but I advise the member for Taylor to consider seriously what it is that she is asking for and to understand that we are talking about a competitive marketplace where there is a difference between the purchaser and the provider and where the commercial confidentiality link is an extremely sensitive one. It will not be done in a public manner such as this.

Ms WHITE: It is a competitive environment, which is why we need to know how the public sector is going and how the private sector is going. I am talking about averages over a whole sector, one public and one private. How is that commercially confidential? I am asking not for individual provider costs but for overall sector costs.

The CHAIRMAN: Order! I rule that the question is out of order. The member should refer to a budget line and page

and, if it refers to what the Minister has already indicated—and I believe she has answered that question—the question is out of order. Will you ask your next question and refer to a budget line, please?

Ms WHITE: I refer to the same budget line on page 472—total program expenditure. What process is used to determine the allocation of resources for the open training market?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The answer to the member's question is that the authority in this State is the State Training Authority. On advice from departmental officers which will be taken into consideration—in this instance, we are looking at 1998—the allocation will be made. At this time, those allocations have not been made for 1998.

Mrs ROSENBERG: Will the Minister please advise on the development, size and purpose of the open training market in South Australia?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: It is a fundamental tenet of training reform in Australia, agreed by Ministers nationally, that a diverse training market should be developed within a range of available potential training providers. The benefits of choice and competition are available to students, trainees and employers. Funds for the open training market are allocated from within the department's total budget. Tenders are open to all registered providers. TAFE SA institutes can and do compete, typically winning a significant proportion of the funds. Funding provided for the open training market in the 1997 calendar year is \$13.5 million. In South Australia, the overarching name given to the funding program aimed at implementing this policy direction is the open training market. Within this, there are a number of targeted funding programs such as traineeships. These already operate on a basis of user choice, that is, the trainee and his or her employer choose the training provider, and public funds flow to that provider upon enrolment.

The general tender program, which is another targeted funding program, involves funding allocated as a result of competitive tendering. In the preferred provider program, the State Government has historically provided funds to the University of South Australia and to Tauondi. Since the open training market program was instituted, much closer contractual conditions are being imposed with outcomes tied to the State training profile. A proposal from the South Australian Fishing and Seafood Academy will be funded through these arrangements. There is also the strategic development program, and these funds are allocated for projects of high State priority.

Ms WHITE: With regard to the open training market, how did the non-TAFE sector providers perform in 1996 in terms of the average number of student hours they promised to provide and the number they did provide?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The private providers who received open training market funds have been exceptional in the manner in which they have completed and complied with the performance agreements that are signed within our department. In any area of their accounting system private providers must hold the lines open to show exactly within those lines how the funds are expended and how the arrows relate. All expenditures must be open to any audit that may be conducted. At this stage, there are no adverse remarks to be made about any of the private providers.

Ms WHITE: To clarify, is the Minister saying that the proposed number of student hours that the private provider sector guaranteed to provide was the number provided in 1996?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: As far as the advice I have been given, that is the case.

Ms WHITE: If that were not the case, are penalties extracted from those private providers?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Usually when providers access funds, they are not given the total funding in one-off amounts. Proportional amounts are given over the time of whatever training contract is signed and, unless the first portion of the funding is signed off according to the requirements of the performance agreement, which includes the auditing of expenditure as under the agreement, they will not receive the second stage of funding.

Ms WHITE: Have penalties been imposed on any individual private providers due to their not meeting the contracted student hours?

Dr Wood: On a small number of occasions it has been agreed that a grant will be given to a provider on the proviso that a certain number of students is taken on and, if only a proportion of those students is taken on, that is the proportion of the funding they get. In that sense there is a penalty.

Ms WHITE: With respect to the open training market, how many calls are there for the tender of training programs throughout the year? You communicate that the money is available. How many times a year do you call for tenders?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Until this year two calls have been placed publicly but, because of the administration that occurs through the massive amount of response, that will be reduced to one call in the coming year.

Mr BROKENSHERE: I refer to page 473, the Program Estimates and Information. In addition to my earlier questions with respect to on-line delivery, will the Minister advise on the expanded use of video conferencing to increase access to education and training in regional locations? How regional is 'regional'? Does it encompass the Far North? In what areas are we developing video conferencing access?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Access to TAFE SA courses is expanding due to installation of further video conferencing sites, to which I believe the honourable member is referring. The rate of expansion is limited only by access to suitable telephone services and funding. During 1996 the number of sites grew to a total of 35 and provided about 16 000 hours of operation, about 90 per cent of which are for teaching. Use of these sites has enabled TAFE institutes to aggregate viable class sizes over a much wider range of classes, which has the effect of allowing TAFE to teach more classes as well as taking the classes closer to our students, especially in the non-metropolitan areas. Steady progress is being made to include more TAFE sites in the tele-learning consortium of video conference classrooms. During the past 12 months sites have been added at well and truly isolated locations.

They include Roxby Downs—which I think the honourable member will agree is a fairly isolated location—Kingscote, Victor Harbor and Renmark. So, funds have been provided in 1997-98 to either expand the tele-learning consortium or enlarge the bridging facilities between the sites.

Ms WHITE: The Minister mentioned that in future there would be only one call for tender for the open training market programs. I thought the whole idea of the open training market was to provide added flexibility in the system. Do you not regard one call for tenders as being a little inflexible?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I would consider it totally inflexible if we did not get a sufficient number of applications. But, as with anything, it relies upon our funding source and, if we receive a call for sufficient applications, which are usually in

excess of the funds we have, I would consider that it was not unreasonable at all.

Ms WHITE: Last year I showed interest in the protocols used by DETAFE in ensuring a separation between funder—purchaser—provider in the open training market. Next year significant funds will be allocated for user choice, so the protocols must be in place. What protocols are being used by DETAFE to ensure that separation between funder-purchaser-provider?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I ask Mr Carter to answer the honourable member's question and give the details on the technicalities of the provision of purchaser-provider.

Mr Carter: With the implementation of user choice, the department is now planning the 1998 resource allocation under three broad headings. They will be for the user choice arrangements which will be operating for the first time in South Australia on a full basis. The allocation for user choice is based on the selection of the provider by the employer or the trainee based on a predetermined price. So, if the users choose to go to TAFE SA the funds will go there and, if the users choose a private provider, the funds will go to that provider. As we indicated a while ago, the Minister will make the decision on the allocation to the open training market, and some proportion of that open training market will go out to general tender call and other programs will go to preferred providers. As we also explained, approximately 45 to 48 per cent of that money will probably go to TAFE SA.

Finally, the department is entering into a new resource allocation model with TAFE SA. In the 1998 year the separation between TAFE SA and the budget process will be virtually complete within the organisational structure in which we operate. In 1998 we will have a purchasing arrangement with TAFE SA based on its production of student hours, completed modules and competencies. That will link into the State training profile and the institute directors will negotiate a resource agreement with the Chief Executive based on purchase prices that will be determined between now and the end of the year.

Dr Wood: By national agreement, Ministers have agreed that all providers who are registered with our State Accreditation Registration Council must be acceptable. So, the department does not control who can receive funds under the User Choice Program. That is in the hands of the consumers.

Ms WHITE: The Commonwealth announced that \$250 million would be allocated to the new apprenticeship and traineeship scheme. Am I correct to say that this is not new money but money previously used to pay for trainees on the job training?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The honourable member is now asking a budget matter that relates to the Commonwealth, not to the State. We do not allocate funds out of the Federal budget. That is a Commonwealth budgetary matter.

Ms WHITE: The Minister said that out of that money will come 10 000 traineeships.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I did not say out of any money would come 10 000 traineeships. I am not sure what the honourable member is referring to.

Ms WHITE: You understand what I mean when I refer to the \$250 million allocation that has been allocated by the Commonwealth Government?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I believe there was a \$265 million allocation from the Federal Government of which approximately \$20 million was set aside for apprenticeships that might equate to about 8 000 apprenticeships that would come to the State from the Federal Government. If the member

wishes to ask whether it is new, old or indifferent money, that is a matter for the budget of the Federal Government, not the State Government.

Ms WHITE: Is this \$20 million to which you have just been referring money that we did not have previously?

Dr Wood: My understanding is the money being referred to is the money which Dr Kemp has spoken of recently. My understanding is that that money is not for the State systems to provide training but money which the Commonwealth is making available to pay the subsidies and incentives that the Commonwealth pays to encourage people to take on apprentices. If I understand the question correctly and am referring to the right bucket of money, it is the funds which in South Australia's case it said we would like more apprentices and trainees to be employed. If that were to happily come to pass, then the Commonwealth has made available \$20 million to pay the incentive and subsidy funds which would be necessary.

Ms WHITE: So this is not new money?

Dr Wood: I cannot comment on whether it is old or new money. It is money which the Commonwealth is saying is available for the payment of apprentice subsidies and incentives, but I am not able to say where the Commonwealth finds its funds from.

The CHAIRMAN: We now seem to be discussing Federal money. I ask the member to ask her next question and refer to the budget line.

Ms WHITE: The Minister has just referred to 8 000 new apprenticeships. That implies new jobs, does it not?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Apprenticeships.

Ms WHITE: I asked whether this is new money or, as Dr Wood seemed to be indicating, money that was previously used to pay for off-the-job training because, if that is so, and you intend to provide these new apprenticeships, surely that implies a cut of \$20 million somewhere else?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: This is Federal money that has been allocated to this State. In fact, it has been allocated throughout Australia. South Australia's percentage of that \$265 million should be \$20 million. We have not had the availability of 8 000 apprentices to put anywhere in South Australia. This is additional to anything we are doing. This is money from the Commonwealth. It will equate to 8 000 apprenticeships that do not exist at the present time. It will open up 8 000 new areas for people to be put into apprenticeships and therefore jobs.

Ms WHITE: Minister, are you saying that this does not represent the money that is currently used to pay for off-the-job training?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That is right, exactly.

Ms WHITE: My colleague the member for Torrens asked a question earlier about ITAB funding and how it was disbursed. On Tuesday we commence a new financial year—1 July is not very far away. Minister, will you inform ITABs by the end of this week or early next week about their funding for next year? I raise this issue because, in order for them to manage their budgets and maintain their staff, they need to know that information. ITABs are, in fact, small businesses and employ people. Will you inform them of their allocations before the end of this week?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The question and the manner in which it was asked implies that the ITABs are not aware of the funding arrangements. I inform the honourable member that that is not the case. The ITABs are aware of that. It would be far more pleasant, I am sure, for the honourable member to ask the question straight out than implying that

perhaps there is something that has not happened when in fact it has.

Ms WHITE: Are you saying that the ITABs have been given their funding for this next year?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: I thought I said that quite clearly.

Ms WHITE: A MINCO agreement of 1994 states that the States would contribute 50 per cent of the Commonwealth funding to State ITABs. Is this the case? Has that been achieved?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: If the honourable member refers to an earlier question asked by the member for Torrens, she will find that that question has already been answered and I therefore refer her to the *Hansard* record.

Ms WHITE: I have that question asked by the member for Torrens in front of me—

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: That occurred in a Committee at which all members are meant to be present. If the honourable member did not happen to be in the room, I cannot help the fact that she did not hear the answer. The answer was given; it will be on the *Hansard* record.

Ms WHITE: That has been achieved, has it?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The answer has been given.

Ms WHITE: Given the tone of the Minister's responses, I will put some questions on notice. I do not think that much is to be gained in my persisting with questions because, quite frankly, without the details of basic budgetary allocations—

The CHAIRMAN: We have an agreement that questions can be asked according to the budget lines. If the honourable member has no more questions other than questions on notice then I am prepared to accept a series of questions on notice and that will be the closure of the line. Does the honourable member wish to ask some questions on notice?

Ms WHITE: I will ask a couple of further questions followed by some questions on notice. The first question I want to ask concerns declared vocations, the Minister's attitude to the abolition of declared vocations and the impact that that will have on the training sector in this State.

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: In the first instance, traditionally vocations have been declared in areas where the industrial parties have agreed that a recognised amount of training is required before a person can practise in that vocation. While declared vocations began in trade areas to regulate apprenticeship training, more recently non-trade areas have been declared in order to assist the development of traineeships. As at 27 February 1997, South Australia had 328 declared vocations, of which 222 are trades and 106 are non-trades. At the MINCO meeting of Ministers on 20 September 1996 all Ministers, with the exception of New South Wales, agreed:

That State and Territory VET legislation be amended to remove the declaration of vocations and as an alternative use nationally endorsed competency standards and qualifications outcomes supported by national training packages leading to specific training programs approved at the industry, State and Territory or regional level.

It was agreed that this process be managed over an agreed time frame and be implemented incrementally as training packages are negotiated with each of the industry sectors. Work is proceeding in my department and with other relevant organisations on the implementation of that MINCO decision, to identify the legislation which would require change and then outline the strategy for implementing those changes. The training package being developed nationally at the moment will then form the centrepiece of the new arrangements. However, I would say that the Committee can rest assured that I will not be abolishing the existing successful appren-

ticeship and traineeship system until we have some very clear alternatives which may be available and which indeed would advantage the State.

Ms WHITE: Minister, NETTFORCE is going to be withdrawn by the Commonwealth. What marketing arrangements for the sector do you have in place for when that occurs? Will the service be maintained?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: The areas that NETTFORCE supported will be continued through CELTAS. Perhaps Dr Wood can explain the marketing arrangements.

Dr Wood: There are marketing arrangements concerning new apprenticeships that are being negotiated currently between ANTA and the State. The State has its own plans and ANTA has separate national plans and is providing extra funding to enable the marketing of the whole new apprenticeships concept to go ahead.

Ms WHITE: I accept that the Minister may take this question on notice. Can she itemise, by agency, all spending within her portfolio over 1996-97 on consultants, on polling, on public relations and on advertising?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: With the complexity of that range of areas, we will take that question on notice.

Ms WHITE: In regard to VET places in the State, in what areas have people missed out on places in VET? In other words, were we oversubscribed?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: We will take that question on notice as well. We do not have the immediate array of answers on that subject.

Ms WHITE: How many hours provided under the training market are for new training? How many of those hours provided by the private sector providers are a direct substitution for something that has been done by the public sector, and how many of them are additional, that is, courses and programs that are not currently provided by the public sector?

The Hon. D.C. Kotz: Under the same circumstances as the previous question, we may take that question on notice.

The CHAIRMAN: Are they all the questions that the honourable member wants to put on notice?

Ms WHITE: I think so.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Ms WHITE: Mr Chairman, could I have a guarantee that those questions not answered during this section will be taken on notice by the Minister?

The CHAIRMAN: The questions that the Minister indicated would be taken on notice will be answered according to the rules set down under Estimates Committees and agreed to by both sides of the House. So, they will be answered within the appropriate time. There being no further questions I declare the examination of the vote completed.

I thank the Minister and her staff for their assistance, and I also thank members on both sides of the Committee for their compliance with Standing Orders which has made for a reasonably amicable Estimates Committee today.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.47 p.m. the Committee adjourned until Wednesday 25 June at 11 a.m.