

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY****Friday 17 June 2005****ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B****Acting Chair:**

Ms L.R. Breuer

**Members:**

Mrs F. E. Bedford  
 Mr M.K. Brindal  
 Ms V. Ciccarello  
 Mr R.M. Goldsworthy  
 Mrs. J. Hall  
 Mr J.R. Rau

*The Committee met at 9.30 a.m.*


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South Australian Tourism Commission  
 \$45 314 000  
 Minister for Tourism, \$4 634 000

**Witness:**

The Hon. J.D. Lomax-Smith, Minister for Education and Children's Services, Minister for Tourism

**Departmental Advisers:**

Mr. B. Craddock, Chief Executive, Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

Mr P.A. Van der Hoeven, Chief Executive Officer, Adelaide Convention Centre.

Mr S. Malik, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Adelaide Convention Centre.

Mr C. Stubbs, Management Accountant, Adelaide Convention Centre.

**The ACTING CHAIR:** The estimates committees are a relatively informal procedure and as such there is no need to stand to ask or answer questions. The committee will determine an appropriate time for consideration of proposed payments to facilitate the changeover of departmental advisers. I ask the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition to indicate whether they have agreed on a timetable for today's proceedings and, if so, to provide the chair with a copy. Minister, do you have an agreed timetable with changes? Tourism will be from 9.30 to 12.30; and Minister for Education and Children's Services from 12.15 to 1.15, 2.15 to 4.15 and 4.30 to 6.15.

Changes to committee membership will be notified as they occur. Members should ensure that the chair is provided with a completed request to be discharged form. If the minister undertakes to supply information at a later date, it must be submitted to the committee secretary by no later than Friday 29 July. I propose to allow both the minister and the lead speaker for the opposition to make opening statements of about 10 minutes each. There will be a flexible approach to giving the call for asking questions based on about three questions per member, alternating each side.

Supplementary questions will be the exception rather than the rule. A member who is not part of the committee may, at

the discretion of the chair, ask a question. Questions must be based on lines of expenditure in the budget papers and must be identifiable or referenced. Members unable to complete their questions during the proceedings may submit them as questions on notice for inclusion in the House of Assembly *Notice Paper*.

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 and not to the minister's advisers. The minister may refer questions to advisers for a response.

I declare open the following lines for examination: the portfolio Tourism, Minister for Tourism, the South Australian Tourism Commission, \$45.314 million, and Minister for Tourism, \$4.634 million. I refer members to the Budget Statement, in particular, Appendix C, page c2 and Portfolio Statements Volume 3, part 13. Does the minister wish to make a brief opening statement?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Yes, Madam Acting Chair. For the beginning of the session, I have the team from the Convention Centre and the team from the Entertainment Centre. From the Entertainment Centre I have Bruce Craddock, and from the Convention Centre I have Mr Peter Van der Hoeven who, I am sure, we will all be sorry to hear will be making his last appearance here today. We are supported by Sonil Malik, the Deputy Chief Executive of the Adelaide Convention Centre, and also Chris Stubbs, the Management Account from the Convention Centre. I intend to begin with the Convention Centre so that the representatives can then leave and not wait for the whole of tourism. If you would like me to give an opening statement for the whole of Tourism now I will, or else I will restrict myself to the Convention Centre and the Entertainment Centre.

**The ACTING CHAIR:** Yes.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Thank you, Madam Acting Chair. The South Australian State Strategic Plan recognises the importance of tourism as a significant driver of economic and social benefit to the state. As part of the plan's major objective of growing prosperity, one of the key targets is to increase visitor expenditure in the tourism industry from \$3.4 billion, established in 2004, to \$5 billion by 2008. As I have said on many occasions, the strength of our tourism industry is the strong partnership between the industry, government and regional communities. This collaborative approach augers well for the achievement of this objective, and I take this opportunity to thank the many organisations, regional groups and individuals who contribute to this industry, including the board and staff of the SATC.

Clearly, our objectives will be achieved by working together and by working across a range of areas, because tourism connects to employment, transport, hospitality and accommodation, food and wine, parks and recreational gardens, education, and so on. It also connects with regional and city infrastructure in improving transport access within and to the state. More directly, it relates to the support that may be required for local events and festivals and with the state's capacity for managing and supporting major events and functions capable of attracting high yielding visitors to South Australia.

This industry recognises that tourism is a very competitive business. There are no quick fixes or easy solutions to developing markets or attracting visitors to South Australia.

However, I am pleased to say that over the past four years, and in looking ahead to 2005-06, we have created a stronger foundation upon which we can work together to achieve our goals. We have a State Tourism Plan for the years 2003-08, which was developed in partnership with the industry. We have established a forum called the Tourism Round Table for the industry and government agencies to work together, and across agencies, to connect with communities and with research and to address challenges and opportunities.

As a government we have worked hard to establish the kind of environment in which tourism can prosper and grow as a sustainable industry. We have made progress and have a AAA credit rating achievement for South Australia; and we have continued employment growth. Our whole of government and partnership approach is reflected in the State Strategic Plan, the South Australian Tourism Plan for 2003-08, and our commitment to listen to industry and community views through forums such as the Tourism Round Table.

The outcomes we want include improved profitability and yield for the industry, particularly small business, because more than 90 per cent of the tourism industry is small business. That is why state government budget initiatives, such as our land tax reductions of \$264 million over four years, also deliver important benefits to our industry. It means, for example, that land tax is eliminated for caravan and residential parks, and from 1 July there will be full land tax exemption for all owner-occupied bed and breakfast places where the business operation occupies less than 25 per cent of the floor space of the building. We recognise, too, that in this industry there are key social and community benefits for the state.

Tourism is a key to building sustainable business that protects the environment and enables young people to develop skills and work so they can stay in regional communities. It is an industry that creates opportunities for remote and rural communities, including indigenous communities, and an industry that enables us to build on the strength of the state and its natural and authentic attractions. Our support as a government, including reduced taxation, infrastructure development, and initiatives in education and training, small business, regional development, the arts, and so on, reflect a whole of government cross-agency approach to supporting the tourism industry.

The 2005-06 budget builds on achievements in recent years, including support for infrastructure development in regional and Outback communities, air access to South Australia and targeted marketing strategies to reach both domestic and international markets. I take this opportunity to highlight some of the initiatives and strategies that will be developed in the coming year. They will take place against a backdrop of activities that include a dramatic improvement in airline flights to and from Adelaide over the past two years. There have been additional frequencies added by Singapore Airlines and Malaysia Airlines; the arrival of new airlines, Jetstar and Air Paradise; along with Virgin Blue's roll-out of an extra 15 weekly flights into Adelaide.

In December, Qantas's new direct Auckland-Adelaide flights brought the number of inbound international seats arriving at the airport each week to 4 200. This is a 40 per cent increase compared with two years ago. In addition, Adelaide Airport will be the base for Australia's newest airline OzJet, to be launched this year. The new connection with New Zealand has led to our biggest New Zealand TV and advertising marketing campaign, this year seeing

\$700 000 allocated in 2005-06 to increase annual New Zealand visitor numbers by 20 per cent.

Our international marketing efforts will continue to focus on the UK as our No. 1 overseas market. In this regard, South Australia will host Corroboree UK in November this year. This is the first time this training event for more than 200 UK travel agents will be held in Australia, and it is a great opportunity for us to promote and showcase what the state offers to our key audience. We are also looking ahead to emerging markets, such as China—and I know this will interest the member for Morialta—and India, while our marketing in the USA will focus on our hosting of the 2007 World Police and Fire Games.

While looking to international markets and increased air access, we also recognise the value of encouraging South Australians and their visiting friends and relatives to discover the state; so we will produce a new 'Must see and do' marketing campaign later this year, with funding support of \$465 000. We will also be seeking to attract interstate visitors through our Secrets marketing campaign, which entered a new phase with the launch of Rediscover Yourself in July 2004. This year a South Australian touring guide will further energise the campaign with a new guide being distributed to 500 000 targeted households in Sydney and Melbourne. Similarly, we will allocate \$250 000 towards a successful 'Heart of the Arts' campaign, which badges South Australia as the arts centre of Australia and which will showcase events including the Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts, Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Cabaret Festival and WOMA Adelaide. Also, food and wine is an important niche market, and a new *Wine and Food Guide* will be launched at Tasting Australia.

We could not achieve so much were it not for our regional marketing groups, and I am pleased that this year the state's 12 regional marketing committees will have funding of \$2.4 million. This funding is provided on a matching dollar for dollar model that significantly increases the pool of marketing resources for regions. In addition, the SATC provides extra funding for a number of cooperative marketing campaigns during the year, such as those in the Limestone Coast and the recent campaign in Kangaroo Island. Our regional events and festivals, which have gained significant funding increases over the past four years, will also be strongly supported. To date, more than 100 applications have been received for the 2005-06 program, with more than \$600 000 in direct sponsorship. We are also giving further support to smaller community-based events with the creation of the new community events development fund.

Our strategic approach is also reflected in the continuing support we give to major events. The 2003-04 budget confirmed that there would be ongoing base funding of \$2.5 million within the 2005-06 budget for the Australian Major Events arm of SATC. This allows AME to develop existing events and continue to bid for new events. In 2005-06 AME-managed events will include the Credit Union Christmas Pageant, Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under, Tasting Australia Festival and the World Solar Challenge. Together, these are expected to attract more than 16 000 event specific international and interstate visitors and generate more than \$18 million in economic benefit for the state; while AME will sponsor a further 10 events which it does not run. Members of the Tourism Round Table and the industry generally recognise that we can do more in the winter months to generate tourism dollars. Therefore, funding of \$250 000 will be allocated to attract more events during the winter period.

I have said that the government is taking a whole of government approach to supporting industry development, and perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the state's Infrastructure Plan. The \$260 million Adelaide Airport is due to be completed in October, and we are contributing, in addition, ongoing funding of \$250 000 to support a new visitor and booking centre at the new terminal. This will specifically encourage visitors to consider regional experiences, stay longer and provide an information and travel booking service support for regional tourism markets. In addition, \$4 million has been invested in the development to upgrade Port Lincoln Airport, which has evident tourism benefits for Eyre Peninsula, but so too will the \$48.5 million investment in the Eyre Peninsula water supply, the provision of \$500 000 for the new pipeline to Andamooka and additional funding for upgrading and maintenance of Kangaroo Island's roads.

The South Australian Infrastructure Plan includes many other initiatives that will support tourism, including the proposed extension of the Glenelg tramline to North Terrace. In addition, in recent months, I have unveiled some \$2.5 million in infrastructure developments in outback South Australia. For the first time, with this budget, additional ongoing funding of \$1 million will be provided for major tourism infrastructure projects, as will \$1.06 million for the ongoing Minor Tourism Development Fund.

While we are focusing on increasing the number of visitors, our strategies are also seeking to increase the yield we gain from our existing customers. That is why the Linger Longer campaign that encourages visitors to stay and spend more will continue. That is why we will also support tourism operators with the investment we are making in Connect SA, which is a cutting edge online business management system, and our familiarisation program to connect agents with niche market areas such as the education market. The coming year will have its challenges, but they are also great opportunities. For example, the Australian Tourism Exchange will be hosted in Adelaide in June 2006. This is the largest tourism trade show in the western hemisphere and government funding of \$2 million will assist us to reach and promote the state to about 600 tourism wholesalers from 50 countries.

I am particularly delighted that we will be pulling out all stops to encourage these international tourism industry visitors to discover our authentic experiences in key regions and in Adelaide. I am proud that the event will be staged around the Convention Centre. I look forward to working with the industry and regional communities to grow this industry in accordance with the State Strategic Plan and our objectives in the State Tourism Plan which goes to 2008.

As I said, we will begin with the Convention Centre today, so I want to make some comments about that now. The Adelaide Convention Centre has had a particularly successful year with an estimated turnover of \$19.9 million. This is the highest in the centre's 18-year history, and it is a great tribute to the management and leadership of Mr Van der Hoeven. Marketing activities over the last financial year have resulted in 610 events held in 2004-05, 60 per cent being repeat business, and 98 per cent positive client feedback. Looking ahead, with more than 3 000 bookings in the next 10 years, it will equate to more than \$170 million in economic benefits. The Adelaide Convention Centre has a very fine future; it is becoming integrated with the riverbank, and it is using its facilities to the full throughout the year. We can be proud of what has been achieved.

**Mrs HALL:** I will not be making an opening statement per se on the tourism portfolio; however, before we start on

the Convention Centre, on behalf of the opposition, I pay tribute to Peter Van der Hoeven and the leadership that he has given the Convention Centre over a number of years. I extend to Peter and his family the good wishes of the opposition in all that he may or may not be involved in the future, and I extend sincere congratulations on what has been achieved over a number of years.

Regarding the Convention Centre, I start with matters of international and interstate competition which we, as a state, are facing. As we know, we have been in the top 10 convention centre placements for a number of years, and I have always maintained that that has been a well-deserved position. However, my understanding is that we are facing competition from Melbourne, where a \$370 million 500-seat facility is being built, from Darwin, where a \$100 million facility is under construction and nearly finished and from Canberra, where facilities are receiving a \$40 million upgrade.

In the United States, 45 centres are being built; 25 are being built in South America; 150 are being built in China, and South Africa is becoming an increasingly popular convention destination. We talked about convention centre competition in last year's estimates. Could the minister outline the strategies that the government intends to implement over 2005-06 and into the future to ensure that the Adelaide Convention Centre maintains its top 10 status and that we retain our competitive focus with these international and interstate centres?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think we can be confident that we are now in a very good position because of the leadership of the past. The facilities are not only in fine condition, they are well-managed. The marketing and promotions that are carried out around the world help us network and find and work with other organisations in a very effective way. Clearly, the convention industry is part of tourism generally and its goal is not only to be a venue for hire, but also to attract visitors from interstate and overseas. The high cost of the infrastructure means that it is important that the entire centre operates on a variety of levels. It is not only infrastructure that is maintained at a high level, but also it operates as a training organisation, and it is important in the economy as a trainer of very high quality young professionals. It has very good leadership training and, at the moment, the board has been involved with the matter of succession planning.

The area where I think it links most clearly with tourism generally is in the area of recognising that the benefits of the events are not just the dollar spent within the Convention Centre, they are the ninefold more spent outside the Convention Centre in terms of local tourism, restaurants, shopping and regional visitation. From a whole of government point of view, it is very important that we attract the sorts of events that leverage our other interests; for instance, I was interested that the functional genomics plant technology conference has been attracted in out years and, of course, that connects with our other interests in research. Similarly, medical and research activities as well as some religious events relate to our other state strengths.

In terms of tourism, it is important that the focus is on the winter months because the Convention Centre, like any other hospitality business, has busy and quiet periods and, from the point of view of the community and the state, filling the gaps and coordinating with AME and other arts and sporting events to ensure the calendar of events has hotels booked fully throughout the year is very important as well.

In terms of strategies to compete on a world market, we recognise that many convention centres are being built around the world and the market is highly competitive. One of the great strengths of South Australia is its safety, ease, climate and food. There are particular selling points that, without wishing to defame other destinations, we can compete very positively on, but cost is an issue, as is access. So, one of the issues that I think will help the Convention Centre is the new airport. In addition, the 40 per cent increase in international inbound flights is very significant, because one of the barriers to visitation is the difficulty in getting to South Australia.

One of the great opportunities we are working on currently is New Zealand as a market. New Zealand has never looked at South Australia as being a convention destination for its own organisations—not on a very prominent level, in any case. But, increasingly, we are working with the New Zealand market as an origin for some New Zealand-based national and international organisations. That offers a great opportunity for us.

But there remains the issue of intense competition from low-cost destinations, and I am very pleased to see that the organisation has developed a very firm strategic plan for the out years, with a range of strategies to compete. I am not sure how much of it is commercial in confidence or whether Mr Van der Hoeven would like to comment on how they are achieving this.

**Mr VAN DER HOEVEN:** I would prefer not to make it something that is on the public record, but I am quite happy to take the question on notice and write to the member about that.

**Mrs HALL:** Can the Minister provide a breakdown of conferences and events? I was delighted to hear that we are still running at 60 per cent repeat business at the Convention Centre, but is it possible to have a breakdown of international, national and local percentages, as opposed to one-off individual activities?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am informed that 80 per cent is domestic and 20 per cent is international, which is a better percentage than our normal tourism numbers.

**Mrs HALL:** I would like the minister's view, and maybe some information, as to whether Adelaide has lost any conventions—I have to be careful how I word this, obviously—or has been under threat of losing conventions due to organisations accepting financial incentives to move to interstate or international convention centres. My understanding is that it has become a problem across the convention and conference sector of the industry, and I ask the minister to respond as to whether it has affected us so far.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think the industry is highly competitive and, clearly, there is a bidding cycle whereby there are opportunities to bid for events. We like to get a certain percentage of wins. I think it is difficult to say how many of the losses are caused by inducements and special activities by other destinations. I am not in a position to answer that. I do not know whether Mr Van der Hoeven can do that.

**Mr VAN DER HOEVEN:** All that I can say is that it has been a trend because of new venues having come on the market, but I do not think it will be an ongoing trend.

**Ms BEDFORD:** I understand that Adelaide will host the Australian Tourism Exchange in 2006. What benefits will the ATE bring to the state?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Florey. In the 2004-05 financial year, the South Australian Tourism Commission won the right to host the ATE in

Adelaide in June 2006. The Australian Tourism Exchange (known as ATE) is managed by the Tourism Australia organisation and is considered Australia's premier international travel trade event. ATE provides a forum for Australian tourism businesses to showcase their product, meet overseas contacts and negotiate business deals. It is held annually in May or June, which is a good month for South Australia. It has traditionally been staged in the eastern states but, following Tourism Australia's decision to operate the event on a rotational basis, it will be held for the first time away from the eastern seaboard in June this year in Perth. The next state on the rotation does not automatically receive the event; instead, it must be able to prove that it can meet a rigorous set of criteria.

The 2006 event will be held in Adelaide at the Convention Centre, as I mentioned earlier, from 17 to 23 June 2006. The SATC and the state government believe the event is important to us and has committed considerable financial and human resources to securing the event. The event generates millions of dollars for host states' economies, with delegates spending more than 10 000 visitor nights in the host city. For the longer term, ATE helps to generate billions of dollars in export earnings for Australia as a result of the business generated at the event. Importantly, key international tourism buyers (wholesalers) experience Adelaide and South Australia first hand, giving them the confidence to include more South Australian product in their brochures. These brochures are then used by consumers to select holiday destinations. The increased exposure is invaluable for the state's tourism industry.

It is anticipated that around 1 700 Australian delegates from 630 companies will meet with 600 key overseas buyers from 48 countries at ATE 2006. Around 50 international and 30 Australian tourism and trade journalists will attend ATE in Adelaide. They will report to thousands of people worldwide on what is new in the Australian travel and tourism industry. International journalists will also participate in pre and post tours to experience firsthand other areas of Australia, with SA the main beneficiary.

ATE provides the opportunity to host approximately 300 buyers on familiarisation trips around the state, in particular, showcasing product in regions that are internationally active, such as Kangaroo Island, Barossa, Flinders Ranges, Outback, Limestone Coast, Murray River, Adelaide Hills, Eyre Peninsula and Fleurieu. The full benefits of hosting ATE in 2006 will not be fully realised until the 2007-08 tourism year, due to the time it takes for wholesale programs and brochures to be developed and released to the various markets. Their first-hand experience of South Australia will ensure the state receives the greatest possible exposure in these brochures and naturally increased visitor numbers will be the result. Once SA is featured in programs and is established with the trade, the increased coverage of South Australia is likely to be maintained so the benefits will be ongoing.

The SAT has been working to secure this event for Adelaide over a number of years as it presents an opportunity to build industry awareness of a destination that is beyond comparison. Successfully staging the event, as I am sure we will achieve, at the Convention Centre and with outgoing familiarisations will put South Australia in the big league, with enormous economic benefit in the shorter and longer term.

**Ms BEDFORD:** I refer to marketing for tourism. What is being done to ensure passengers arriving at the new

Adelaide Airport are well informed of the experiences available throughout this state, particularly in our regions? I know that the member for Norwood thinks that the world starts in Norwood, and I have an interest in Modbury. I refer particularly to wine regions and the Limestone Coast.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Florey for her question. The South Australian government is delighted to reveal that the SATC will establish a visitor information and booking centre in the arrivals hall at the new \$260 million Adelaide Airport. This is due to open in October 2005. The airport has been designed so that the visitor information and booking centre is an integral part of the arrivals hall and we will manage this new centre from SAT. The opportunity to welcome visitors to Adelaide and assist with information and travel bookings would put South Australia in a unique position as, apart from the New South Wales entry points, most Australian airports and many international airports around the world offer no assistance to incoming visitors. Generally, information and booking centres are only located in the centre of major cities. Research shows that New South Wales Holidays busiest outlet for visitor inquiries and tourism product bookings is located at the Sydney International Airport. The opportunity to welcome visitors to Adelaide and assist with information and travel bookings is invaluable.

The visitor information and booking centre will give SATC the opportunity to talk directly to visitors, discuss their requirements and needs and provide appropriate advice and, if necessary, bookings. In South Australia this is particularly important if a visitor is collecting a vehicle to drive directly to a regional area, supporting the SAT's strategic direction of targeting the self-drive market. The centre will display the Adelaide regional guide and be well stocked with all of the state's regional guides, maps and other appropriate materials. The provision of marketing collateral immediately upon arrival will provide visitors with information on a range of tourism product and experiences available across the state, not only increasing awareness of what we have to offer but also ultimately increasing sales.

By talking to visitors and providing advice and information, the visitor information centre staff have the opportunity to encourage visitors to extend their stay, visit regional areas and spend more. They will also have the opportunity to make visitors aware of the SA Visitor and Travel Centre in King William Street if further advice or bookings are required during their stay. Currently, experience at the SA Visitor and Travel Centre in King William Street shows that through customer contact we are able to positively influence decisions to travel regionally as part of the total visitor stay, and the airport location will offer additional opportunities. The centre will be open from the time of arrival of the first flight in the morning until the last flight has arrived in the evening.

In summary, the warm welcome to Adelaide and South Australia is anticipated to have a positive impact on visitors to South Australia and will give our state a measurable level of difference in relation to other interstate facilities.

**Mrs HALL:** I request that questions on the Convention Centre and the Entertainment Centre are completed before we go on to the SATC, as it is more appropriate. Will the minister advise the committee of the annual membership fee paid by the Convention Centre for its ACTA membership and is she able to give a breakdown of the conventions and conferences won for the Convention Centre through its

membership of ACTA, therefore equating the benefit of the membership?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am not able to give those figures, but any marketing of Adelaide as a destination benefits all product suppliers, so anything done by the Adelaide regional area or ACTA can benefit the Adelaide Convention Centre. Adelaide benefits from the efforts of the Adelaide Convention Centre, which is active nationally and internationally. I will ask Mr Van der Hoeven to comment.

**Mr VAN DER HOEVEN:** Our membership fee for ACTA this year will be about \$16 000. The business we jointly achieve through our bidding process represents roughly 30 per cent of our international or local bids. In dollar terms I would have to guess presently as I do not have it with me, but it will be an amount approximately a third of our total income. The Convention Centre and ACTA do many joint activities. For example, as is happening today, Destination Adelaide is being staged at the Convention Centre—an ACTA event. We support ACTA in the form of kind by not charging room hire so that the industry is able to exhibit its products to all buyers that have been flown in, and it is a very good joint exercise. We assist ACTA by exhibiting during IMAX shows in Frankfurt and AIM in Melbourne and assist wherever we have international leads through our overseas representation, being in Berlin and the United States, to get the research a little bit quicker. So the cooperation between ACTA and the Adelaide Convention Centre is quite important for the destination.

**Mrs HALL:** The minister referred to the importance of ATE. I wonder whether the minister can give a commitment that the riverbank promenade project will be completed in time for ATE in June next year. I do so on the basis that my understanding is that the project will cost about \$1.5 million to be completed. Adelaide City Council has already committed \$300 000. Can the minister give us an update on the progress of the matter? What is the commitment from the SATC or the Convention Centre and other stakeholders in respect of the riverbank project, and will it be complete by June next year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The SATC has no direct role in the riverbank project. It is an infrastructure project and it is not organised by the SATC as such. There is a relationship of course between the riverbank, the arts precinct, the casino, the railway station, Parliament House and the Convention Centre. Each of those stakeholders are involved, as is the Adelaide City Council. The riverbank project has progressed significantly over the past three years with the development of the bridge, the opening up of the Festival Centre plaza, and now the huge investment by the casino. That has meant that the precinct has had significant public and private investment over the past three years.

In terms of the riverbank adjacent to the Convention Centre, there has been some investment along that walkway. There has been some remediation of some of the artwork, new seats have been installed, and new artwork has been installed. Shades have been placed over the seats, because it can be a stark and bleak place on a hot day, so the shade is very important. We are also in the process of opening up the riverbank to wheelchair access. Anyone in a wheelchair who wished to go down to the water would find it almost impossible to do so.

One of the immediate remedial activities that is being engaged in, I think as we speak, is opening up the lift access. Behind the Convention Centre there is a glass lift and, until we worked on it, it only opened out into the carpark, so

anyone in a wheelchair could not get out onto the riverbank. By the end of the month it will be completed. Holes are being knocked out to allow wheelchair access, which is a great achievement.

On top of that, the council is involved in a study, I understand, of the land which is under its care and control. A consultancy, Oxygen, is currently looking at the function area, or an entertainment event area, which may be in a range of places along the waterfront, and undoubtedly it will involve bulldozing. Oxygen is doing a consultancy on the public space at this moment. We are also running a different consultancy which will negotiate with that group.

Our desire is to work out where the riverbank has come from, where it is going to and what the strategic direction is, because you will appreciate that the original plan was for permeability, access for pedestrians, access for the disabled—which we have just achieved—a space that could be used, possibly more retail or hospitality spaces along the riverbank, and an opening up from North Terrace. Some of those manoeuvres and investments have been successful and some have been less successful. My view is that the permeability is probably the least successful part of that plan, because it is still quite difficult to get through the building down to the riverbank.

Currently, we are assessing what should be the next stage of the riverbank project, and we will negotiate with the Adelaide City Council and try to collaborate over its desire to have a space on its land and our wish to add functional activity, life, and generate activity, because it is extraordinary that the Convention Centre has one of the finest restaurants in town but there is no passing trade. I think that is an area that we would want to improve from the point of view of the Convention Centre.

**Mrs HALL:** Minister, I have listened very carefully to your response, and there are many aspects of what you have said with which I agree. I suppose my specific concern is that we have two very significant international and national events coming up for which the Convention Centre will be the focal point. I refer to ATE and the World Police and Fire Games in 2007. I am just wondering whether we can expect significant progress to have been made on the promenade and the riverbank project prior to the staging of both of those events.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am of the opinion that you have to know what you are doing before you start, and having an audit of progress is an appropriate way of planning. Clearly, we are mindful of future events, and clearly we would not want any activity to damage any experience for visitors, so whatever happened we would have to be very careful with timing. I know that the Convention Centre very often uses January as its refurbishment month. I am not sure how it gets tradespeople, but it is its quietest month, as I understand, and that has traditionally been the time that it enjoys maintenance work, if you can call it enjoying it. Clearly there are issues about timing, but I do not believe you commit funds until you know what you are doing. It is all very well to write numbers on the back of envelopes, but I am a great believer in having an assessment and working out a plan. We are moving incrementally forward. We have made a lot of progress over the past three years.

**Mrs HALL:** We have both made reference to the retirement of the chief executive of the Convention Centre and expressed the fact that he will be a difficult person to replace in the scheme of things. Will the minister outline to the committee the processes that are in place and perhaps the

timetable that has been agreed to find a replacement for our chief executive?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think we are very fortunate to have a CEO with professionalism and a great affection for the organisation. The imminent retirement has not been a surprise to the organisation, and succession planning has been in place for two years now. Work has already been done by the board, and it is actively involved in that process now.

**Mrs HALL:** Do we have a date?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** For Mr Van der Hoeven's retirement?

**Mrs HALL:** Yes.

**Mr VAN DER HOEVEN:** It is 30 June or before; it depends.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is not this year.

**Mrs HALL:** No, I understood that. We have no further questions on the Convention Centre and I thank Mr Van der Hoeven.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank him on behalf of the government for this and the many other things that he has done. Madam Acting Chair, can I make a few statements about the Entertainment Centre?

**The ACTING CHAIR:** Yes, minister.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As you are aware, the Entertainment Centre has been operating in a very difficult environment over the past few years, with external influences such as global instability, SARS and the threat of terrorism affecting international touring and entertainment industry development. One of the other matters that has been significant has been the low exchange rate for the dollar. Given these external factors, it is pleasing to see that the hard work of the AEC staff and board continues to pay off as they seek novel and creative ways to diversify their business and ensure the long-term viability of one of the state's most recognised and important entertainment venues.

I am pleased to report that the AEC is expected to achieve a surplus operating result of \$838 200 for this financial year before depreciation. This includes appropriation of \$750 000 for the upgrade of Alchemy's kitchen and toilets and the emergency services levy of \$35 000. The upgrade of the Alchemy kitchen will assist in the development of the AEC's food, beverage and function business. This is vital to ensuring a stable income stream for the centre throughout the year. In passing, I might mention that the food and beverage facility at the AEC is an award winning outlet and one of which we should really be proud. The surplus operating result after appropriation is expected to be \$53 200. This is a modest increase on the 2003-04 financial year, which saw an operating profit before appropriation and depreciation of only \$29 111.

The operating revenue compared to the prior year (2004-05) of \$9 276 600 is up by 23 per cent on 2003-04. The shows presented compared to the previous year—that is, 2004-05 compared to 2003-04—of 52 performance days is up 6 per cent, and the beverage revenue for 2004-05 has increased by 12.3 per cent over 2003-04 and is now \$3 307 400. There is a 5 per cent growth in function business on the previous year. The AEC has now produced a modest operating profit for the past two years before depreciation. The AEC is constantly looking to grow the food and beverage business and explore additional revenue streams that would not be conditional on the same international conditions as the events business. The upgrade of AEC's kitchen facilities will assist in this. The AEC has had over 219 000 patrons to date

in 2004-05 and over 50 publicly ticketed events. The AEC has now had over 3.76 million patrons through its doors.

**Mrs HALL:** Can we deal with the issue of future usage of the site at the Entertainment Centre? This was raised last year in estimates and some statements were made about decisions for the future. The minister may be aware that on Tuesday the Deputy Premier used the Entertainment Centre as an example of the work being done by the project analysis branch. He specifically said that it was looking at the opportunity to maximise the opportunities for the Entertainment Centre and how we are to cater for the ever increasing demands and needs for that entity. Will the minister give us an update on where she sees this development going and whether there is any time frame?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is a key site and very important in terms of accessibility, visibility, parking access and proximity to the city. It is a building which does require maintenance. It is a relatively old building in terms of entertainment centres. It is very well managed, and it has been the recipient of significant upgrades over the past three years, including work in train for chairs, seating and upgrades to kitchen facilities. The real focus within the business has been on maintaining income streams throughout the year and ensuring that the business operates even when there are not major events. Private functions are catered for—some of them very large and some of them very large religious group meetings. There are self-entrepreneurial activities, and a range of functions such as conventions, meetings and weddings are held on the site. However, notwithstanding that, it is situated on a large area of land which has high visibility, fabulous parking and which is in a great position.

Since we came into government the Entertainment Centre board and I have been anxious to utilise the site, because it is one that, like many facilities around town, is used only part of the day, part of the week and part of the year. The first step forward was a study of the site and potential uses, making sure that one recognised that parking is essential and that the core business is entertainment. So, whatever happens to the site, we cannot compromise the capacity for the Entertainment Centre to do what its core business is. Having said that, there is a range of interesting shop frontages and a hotel.

The first stage in the redevelopment and restoration of the site was the development of the Commercial Hotel. If the member for Morialta has not been, there I recommend she go to Norberto's. It is a stunning restaurant in a heritage building. It represents an investment of \$1 million in upgrading that beautiful building. It has been opened up at the back, with large glass windows through wrought iron gates which look out onto the car park, where there are floodlit giant gum trees at night. It is an exquisite redevelopment. That is only part of that street frontage and the corner location. As a government we have been looking at ways the land can be used for other activities, and we are currently in negotiation with an organisation that may be able to use some of the land but still protect the viability of the Entertainment Centre.

**Mrs HALL:** I understand substantial discussions have been taking place about the prospect of bringing basketball and netball to the AEC. I am sure the minister knows that the Sydney Kings basketball team uses the Sydney Entertainment Centre. I wonder what progress has been made on that as an option, and will the minister be in a position to give her sign-off to it if a successful negotiation takes place?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am very happy for any use of the Entertainment Centre. I think it would be very

appropriate to have those sorts of events, but they are not easily brought to the Entertainment Centre. There are organisations which run those events. There are booking times which are fixed, and I think that one has to be mindful of the fact that when touring companies and bands and groups come through Adelaide they often have a window of opportunity which allows them to come to Adelaide only on a Friday or a Monday or a Wednesday. One of the major risks in this business is that, if you take forward bookings two or three or even one year out, you would then face the potential risk of losing a major band or a major touring company. Ultimately, that is the core business of the Entertainment Centre.

The core business is mass entertainment, not sporting activities, so we have to look after the business first. The difficulty is to use the venue and be flexible enough not to exclude those major events. I think in the short term we are unlikely to seal a deal with those sporting organisations because of our recognition—I think quite properly—that the core business of the Entertainment Centre is mass entertainment. If there were any way we could cut a deal we would, but it would be quite unfair on a sporting organisation to say, 'Tough; Cher is coming next week, so you're out on your ear.' Clearly, there has to be some consistency and reliability in our bookings. I do not know whether Mr Craddock can add anything to that.

**Mr CRADDOCK:** At the moment all our banqueting contracts have a standard clause where, should a clash occur when a visiting international artist arrives, we reserve the right to move those banquets to other facilities. That is a commercial practice that has become accepted at our venue, and we have very rarely had to do it. However, the difficulty of getting a regular fixtured sporting event in our building would be that that possibility of conflict could be dramatically increased. There is a negotiation difficulty with those organisations, and we are still searching for a way around it.

**Mrs HALL:** I noted that the minister said 'in the short term'. Does that mean negotiations with the 36ers and Thunderbirds will not proceed at this stage; and is the definition of 'short term' one year, three or five?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I was trying to imply that I have an open mind and am very receptive to anything that is good for the Entertainment Centre, but I am trying to be honest and suggest that they will not be there this season.

**Mrs HALL:** I have other questions specifically related to the Entertainment Centre and future opportunities and successes. I understand that consideration is being given to improve public transport facilities to carry event or destination specific patrons, somewhat like the AAMI Stadium Football Park connection. Has that progressed far enough for South Australians to look forward to that happening this or next year, or is that part of the future usage development program likely to be announced whenever?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I personally have no information on transport issues. That question might be better directed to the Minister for Transport. I have no information on that. I know there have been negotiations—

**Mrs HALL:** The Entertainment Centre board has been discussing it for some time.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It has been discussing it, but I do not know that we have any movement on public transport.

**Mr CRADDOCK:** The board has been looking at other alternatives for how we can improve public transport access to the centre. What has been achieved is that, through

negotiations with the Charles Sturt City Council and the taxi council of South Australia, we have reached agreement on the redesignation of certain drop-off zones along Port Road, which will improve efficiency. We also have an agreement with the council to improve a major bus and coach drop-off zone, which will allow us to invite or entice increased coach traffic from regional South Australia. Importantly, an achievement we have won with the Public Transport Board is that we now feature in the South Australian Rail communication brochure, which goes out on a fortnightly basis. We now coordinate with train services that drop off at the Bowden station across the road from our centre. Each concert now is well publicised in all its marketing channels, and hopefully that will improve rail access to and from the centre for each show.

**Mrs HALL:** Last year in estimates, the chief executive informed the committee that the predictions were of a 10 per cent growth in food and beverage operations on top of the 10 per cent growth experienced the year before. I missed some of the figures that the minister gave earlier when she was talking about the numbers of shows and the beverage and function increases. I wonder whether those specific predictions have been reached. Is that growth expected to continue given that the Australian dollar, in particular, has stabilised dramatically?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think they were exceeded, not reached. In fact, there was a 12.3 per cent food and beverage revenue increase. I am optimistic that, having won awards for the quality of venue food, and having improved the functional nature of the kitchen, which was previously, I believe, below industry standards, it will be much easier to deliver high-quality food. They did very well in their previous kitchen. I am optimistic that the growth in food and beverage revenue will be supporting the Entertainment Centre when there are downturns in the event industry, because, inevitably, there will be. Currently, the Australian dollar is very high, and the prediction for future events is good. But, as you know, the industry is quite volatile.

**Mrs HALL:** That is our final question, Madam Acting Chair. I would like to again, on behalf of the opposition, extend our good wishes to the team at the Entertainment Centre and, I guess, to make a note of our appreciation of the services of the former chief executive Pamela Del Nim, and to wish the current team all the best over the coming 12 months.

#### **Additional Departmental Advisers:**

Mr B. Spurr, Chief Executive, South Australian Tourism Commission.

Mr A. Wroniak, Manager, Financial Services.

Mr C. D'Ortenzio, General Manager, Corporate Services.

Mr M. Geddes, General Manager, Tourism Development.

Mr D. Crinion, General Manager, Policy and Planning.

Ms L. Grantham, General Manager, Australian Major Events.

**Mrs HALL:** I refer to some remarks, which were made last year during estimates and which were referred to in the minister's opening statement, about visitor expenditure, the State Strategic Plan 2008 and the State Tourism Plan. What definitions or criteria has the SATC now come down on in terms of visitor expenditure? The chief executive last year said that it was looking at ways of obtaining a more regular measure of tourism expenditure, for example, every six months instead of every two or three years, and also a

different set of components. I wonder where we are at on that, because that seems to be the criterion used in the State Strategic Plan.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Expenditure is always contentious and, of course, it is important in major events, as well as general tourism. There are various ways of measuring it. One of the major problems has always been the ABS's lack of definition of tourism, and the fact that it is quite clear that industries which benefit from tourism expenditure are not in the tourism industry. I do not know whether petrol stations or chemist shops recognise that they benefit from tourism. Sometimes we underestimate the economic impact of visitation. We have tried to be more precise about the recognition of expenditure, but I think it is a work in progress. Certainly, we have not done anything that would change the goalposts. I think it is important in this process, if we have a target, that we do not change the method of assessment constantly, because, otherwise, we are unable to compare the baseline with the achievements.

**Mr SPURR:** I concur with that. On a regular measurement basis, we have engaged Brian Dermott & Associates (BDA). It is a firm out of Melbourne, which does research for Tourism Tasmania, Tourism Queensland, Tourism Australia and us, so there is a consistency. They report to us on a six-monthly basis on expenditure.

**Mrs HALL:** I move to grants and subsidies. Tourism development grants and subsidies are budgeted to drop by \$1.3 million from 2004-05 to 2005-06. Is this specific drop in grants and subsidies reflected solely in budgeted expenditure on infrastructure development?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Can you give me the reference for that? Is this page 13.9?

**Mrs HALL:** Yes.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I understand that this is quite complex, because there have been decreases and increases in this budget line. The \$4.296 million decrease in the grants and subsidies from \$6.959 million in 2003-04 actual to \$2.263 million in 2005-06 is due to the completion of the Outback Infrastructure Fund. That was a \$2.7 million decrease, due to the completion of funding for the last year of the three year \$6.7 million Outback Infrastructure Fund. There was a \$2.5 million decrease due to expenditure of carried over infrastructure funds. There was a \$125 000 decrease due to once-off funding for industry assistance, to do with the heritage railway and tramway sector. That was once-off funding. There was a decrease of \$31 000 due to the way in which we allocated corporate services' overhead costs across all the activity areas; that was a new way of allocating costs. Offset against that was a \$60 000 increase as part of the three-year project for heritage train and tram industry assistance to meet the rise in public liability insurance premium problems. There was a \$1 million increase in funding for major infrastructure tourism development projects. In addition, there was an \$85 000 decrease in grants revenue, actual result to nil in 2005-06.

**Mrs HALL:** I refer to page 13.1, the work force summary, and the rising staff numbers. The 2003-04 estimated result was 165 and actual 172; 2004-05 budgeted 170 and estimated at 179; 2005-06 budgeted 179. Could the minister provide details of these numbers over budget and advise in which areas within the SATC the extra staff members are located?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The explanation is that, previously, the regional officers were employed by local committees and groups, and sometimes local councils. Over the past few years there has been a transfer of staff in terms



of employment management and supervision, to some extent, to SATC; and a full-time staff increase of seven from 2003-04 to 2005-06 appears entirely to be out in the regions where the staff have transferred. Previously, we have given funding support, of course, to the regional marketing groups, but this is more of a management and supervision role.

**Mrs HALL:** Are they all in the regions? We have 12 regions.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Not all the regions have achieved it. Mr Spurr can explain that. We have been working through the regions, and I think that only some of them have availed themselves of this activity.

**Mr SPURR:** I think that most of them have now done so. The latest one was Kangaroo Island. Over that period there were seven but, in total, 27 people are now employed through the regions. With respect to Kangaroo Island, because the visitor information centre came under the regional marketing committee, we also employ those people, which increased the amount in the past 12 months. So, over the past two to three years, the increase has been in the order of 27 people.

**Mrs HALL:** Did I hear that Kangaroo Island was the last of the regions to come on board?

**Mr SPURR:** The most recent. The Barossa has been finalised. I am trying to think of any that have not been finalised, but I think they are all finalised now.

**Mrs HALL:** My next question is about regional tourism strategy plans. In 2004-05, as to the target to develop three regional tourism strategy plans, two were developed—Clare/Barossa and the Riverland. Will the minister give me some details as to why two regional tourism strategy plans were developed rather than three? Presumably that is based on the decision to combine Clare and the Barossa. Could you explain that reasoning to me?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The first was Kangaroo Island and the Clare/Barossa plan. The Riverland is still in progress. We have the Fleurieu and Adelaide Hills planned for the coming year. It is a work in progress.

**Mrs HALL:** I turn to marketing. In the Targets 2005-06 and Highlights 2004-05, specific reference is made—and it is throughout the budget papers—of the refocussed domestic tourism campaign, and you referred to it earlier, going into targeted households in Sydney and Melbourne. Does that specific reference mean that there has been a decision to remove South-East Queensland, the ACT and regional Victoria from the household marketing campaigns? If the answer to that is yes, could the minister explain the reason?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We need to get some information about South-East Queensland. As far as I know, all the target markets were the same, but we cannot specifically recall South-East Queensland. We will get that information back to you. I believe we use the same targeting process.

**Mrs HALL:** So, the ACT and regional Victoria are in there but just not listed, and you will check on South-East Queensland.

**Mr SPURR:** We will check.

**Mrs HALL:** As to the reference on the highlights of the Rediscover Yourself domestic campaign, could the minister explain to the committee whether the refocussed domestic tourism campaign is the 2005-06 version of Rediscover Yourself, or is it an entirely new campaign?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The Rediscover program is a continuation of Secrets, essentially. The funding line involves a series of activities including *Postcards* and *Discover* and a whole range of other activities. The campaign, as you know, began last year, and the initial elements of the

campaign included 60-second TV and cinema commercials broadcast in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide and, if you like, they were inspirational positioning advertisements. We are moving now into the next phase of that campaign. Of course, we are continuing with the television activities, but some of our marketing will be more specific to move towards conversions. Would you like me to detail more of the campaign?

**Mrs HALL:** No; that is fine. I was curious to know whether that was just the 2005-06 version of last year's campaign. Again, under Highlights 2004-05, specific reference is made to developing a number of strategic initiatives to promote the state's nature-based and Aboriginal tourism products, and then it runs through recognition, Aboriginal language groups, etc. Can the minister outline any progress that is being made, particularly as it relates to some of the indigenous tourism activities in the Mid North and Lower North up around Iga Warta? Has there been any dramatic increase in indigenous tourism numbers including the add-on?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have had a focus on Aboriginal tourism, as the member mentioned. It is a very specific area that requires considerable negotiation. We have, of course, employed an Aboriginal project officer, who has been leading the campaign to update and upgrade all our regional pamphlets and brochures to have recognition and acknowledgment of language groups and ensure that there is a recognition of traditional owners of the land.

Most of our effort in the north has been around Iga Warta and, if people have not been there recently, it has changed dramatically over the past five years. It now has a swimming pool, an interpretive centre, upgraded and updated ablution blocks, common areas and pathways. It has a whole range of tent and camp sites and small cabin accommodation. The original homestead provides not only a small range of shopping facilities but also quite high quality food, as well as cultural tourism and tour activities.

In addition, the Head of Bight is another major focus for whale watching, and the Ngaut Ngaut Murray Bridge destination is expanding. The newest product is on Yorke Peninsula, and I think members may have seen it on television last week. It is Quentin Agius's project, and it has been off the ground now for about a year and a half. It began partly as a response to requests by the member for Morialta, I think, in many regards, who was keen that we should go to Wardang Island and look at tourism opportunities.

At that time it became clear that Wardang Island was not an easy or simple destination to market or promote. It does not have up-to-date dock facilities or transport, and it has significant land management issues. At the time, we opted to work with the indigenous communities to have training and product development on the mainland. I think that has been very effective, because that new business has started up and is going from strength to strength with car-based tours and cultural experiences. It has proved a very successful activity. In addition, we are still planning ongoing development at Coorong Wilderness Lodge, and there has been an investment at Pomboruk Interpretive Centre at Murray Bridge. That element of product development has gone ahead.

Also, we held an Aboriginal investment conference at the Convention Centre about a week ago, and this brought together indigenous communities from the Far North, the Far West and, of course, down in the Coorong, and there were discussions to do with land ownership, investment, training, work force planning and business development. It was really

a very important event because it was one of the first in which we have brought together economic development and tourism.

We are very keen to involve Aboriginal employment in some of the projects we have supported and are mindful of the work force planning issues. Work force planning, of course, is important for the community, but it is particularly significant in indigenous communities where pre-vocational training and investment are required to make people job-ready in some areas. So, one of the issues that we are looking at closely across the arts portfolio is tourism and education and training. It is an important area because, for regional South Australia, tourism is the one area of optimistic job growth for many people. It is an area we really need to invest in and support in the future.

**Mrs HALL:** Is it possible, in terms of marketing dollars, for the minister to put a figure on the money that is spent on indigenous tourism, marketing and promotion, and perhaps divide that amongst indigenous, arts, wine, food, adventure and soft eco-adventure? Is it possible to put rough figures on that?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is possible, but they are rough figures, and we do not have an Aboriginal wine and food tourism component. I do not know whether the member meant that.

**Mrs HALL:** No; I meant them separately.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Nature-based tourism attracts \$130 000 of funding; the niche market for food and wine tourism is \$80 000; and Aboriginal tourism is \$80 000. Having said that, I think there are other budget lines that are not taken into account because, of course, food and wine tourism does not take into account the investment in Tasting Australia or Food SA. So there is a lot of crossover. But that is the specific funding.

**Mrs HALL:** Do you have a specific marketing figure for the arts?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** There is \$250 000 for the Heart of the Arts campaign, but we also invest in other ways throughout the year. I need some advice on the exact amount. I will ask Mr Spurr to delineate, because I cannot pull it all together in my head quickly. There are budget lines for every festival event.

**Mr SPURR:** The festival and fringe get a special allocation on marketing, particularly for their program in the interstate markets. We have got the Heart of the Arts and that is general, and there is \$165 000 for the festival and fringe programs.

**Mrs HALL:** Is that on top of the \$250 000 for the Heart of the Arts?

**Mr SPURR:** Yes.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Can I explain what the Heart of the Arts is? It is a brochure which lists a year in advance.

**Mr SPURR:** And it incorporates all the arts events, just to increase the level of our branding in Adelaide particularly as the centre for arts all year round. It includes Cabaret, Feast, the festival, the fringe, the Festival of Ideas, and the International Film Festival when it is on. It is coverage across the year. Again, that is mainly centred in the interstate markets. There are other arts events, whether specific events like WOMAD or whatever, which have their own specific marketing dollars. With an event like WOMAD, in the total package, marketing dollars are involved as well, and that comes straight out of Australian Major Events.

**Mrs HALL:** To pursue the general breakdown, which I understand are flexible figures, in terms of major events marketing, is there a set budget line for that or are we looking at a percentage of budgeted amounts for major events set aside for marketing, or do you have a major events marketing dollar? Do you still publish the major events annual calendar, and is it included in the figure that you will give me?

**Mr SPURR:** For the events we own and run—for example, the Christmas pageant, the cycling event and Tasting Australia—we have a general marketing budget for Australian Major Events and the events have their own specific budgets as well.

**Mrs HALL:** Are you able to give me a figure?

**Mr SPURR:** We can provide that for both.

**Mrs HALL:** In terms of the marketing budget for each of the major events (and I do not just mean general sponsorship), are we talking of a percentage of event money or an agreed dollar figure?

**Mr SPURR:** It is more an agreed dollar figure.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It varies for each event.

**Mrs HALL:** Is a percentage set aside for any of the events?

**Mr SPURR:** No; it really depends on the program we are running and whether the focus is interstate, international or local. However, the emphasis is mainly interstate.

**Mrs HALL:** What about the major events calendar?

**Mr SPURR:** At the moment, every quarter is having an insert into the paper of the forthcoming major events. We found that that was better on a quarterly basis.

**Mrs HALL:** Is there a rough figure for that?

**Mr SPURR:** We can provide a background of how much it costs.

**Ms BEDFORD:** Following on from my earlier question about Adelaide Airport, what marketing initiatives have been made to capitalise on the new Qantas Auckland-Adelaide flights?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The South Australian government has been aggressive and sustained in its representations to airlines to increase flights to South Australia, and earlier we achieved a 40 per cent increase in inbound international seats. In terms of Qantas, we were very keen to introduce direct flights between Adelaide and Auckland, and these have already borne some positive results. In December 2004, Qantas launched nonstop flights from Auckland to Adelaide. From a tourism perspective, direct flights have represented a huge opportunity for South Australia, as consumer research indicated that the inconvenience and added expense of flights to Adelaide via Sydney or Melbourne has been a major barrier for New Zealand consumers wanting to visit South Australia. To capitalise on the potential of the new Qantas Auckland-Adelaide nonstop flights the SATC, with other partners, committed \$950 000 to launch the largest ever brand campaign undertaken by SATC in New Zealand.

New Zealand wholesale and retail agencies have been provided with advertising and tactical support for the SA campaign, which has ensured that interest generated by the SATC campaign is converted by the New Zealand travel industry into travel to South Australia. South Australian pamphlets have been developed offering flight, accommodation and tour packages to South Australia. These pamphlets are being distributed to New Zealand consumers who respond to the SATC campaign advertising as well as in major travel agency chains. New Zealand wholesalers have introduced a

range of marketing activities, including newspaper advertising, in-store promotions, e-marketing and South Australian window displays for leverage on the campaign.

In addition, the SATC committed a further \$60 000 on a dollar for dollar basis with three of the key wholesalers for these co-op marketing campaigns promoting South Australia. To date, the campaign has generated over 3 100 responses, with 2 500 of these responses having been via postcards inserted in key magazines, and over 600 were generated from the television advertisements. During the same period, hits on the SATC-NZ web site increased by 100 per cent, while agent and consumer inquiries to the SATC New Zealand office have more than doubled.

Importantly, Qantas has been extremely satisfied with the load factor since the introduction of direct flights in December. In fact, it has found that loadings have exceeded expectations, with total passenger traffic between New Zealand and South Australia by residents and visitors growing 18.6 per cent during the period, compared with 14 per cent growth for traffic between New Zealand and Australia as a whole. The SATC will continue to significantly fund the New Zealand brand awareness campaign by committing \$700 000 in 2005-06 to build on the success of the existing campaign. The target of the SATC's marketing efforts is to achieve a year on year growth of 20 per cent in visitors from New Zealand, using visitation figures to December 2004 as a base.

**Ms BEDFORD:** What are the details of the new outline business management system, Connect SA, which will assist tourism operators?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** From July 2005, the South Australian Tourism Commission is introducing the state's tourism operators to Connect SA to help them compete in the online business environment. Connect SA is an online business management system that integrates online bookings, inventory control, and customer information and makes it possible to have tourism product for sale in real time on multiple web sites.

It will be an especially effective tool for small to medium tourism businesses. Connect SA is simple and easy for consumers to use. Because it runs 24 hours a day, consumers can book tourism product and receive confirmation immediately. Connect SA will integrate with the owners' own web site, southaustralia.com, shorts.com.au, regional tourism web sites, industry-specific sites, travel wholesalers and visitor information centres. It will improve business effectiveness by giving operators a total business management system, which to date had been available only to larger businesses at substantial cost.

Connect SA will also enable operators to receive on-line bookings from multiple distribution channels, including the visitor information centres and wholesalers. This means operators can control inventory and rates on any web site that is linked to Connect SA. It gives operators a reservation system that manages guest arrivals and departures, customer information and processes payments, and allows them to have booking revenue deposited directly into their bank accounts. This helps to reduce banking fees and payment processing times. The system has been specifically designed for the tourism and travel industry and is a first in Australia, giving the South Australian tourism industry a competitive advantage over other states and territories.

Its introduction is part of the SATC's commitment to industry development and professionalism. Connect SA is available to all tourism operators that sell South Australian

product, for and including accommodation, tours, transport, car hire and houseboats. It is simple and easy to use. It provides global consumers with the ability to book South Australian tourism product in real time, on-line, all of the time, and the SATC should be congratulated for being at the cutting edge of this technology.

**Ms BEDFORD:** Before my next question, I congratulate the SATC, and you, minister, of course. What is the government doing to support tourism operators who are affected by land tax?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Florey again for this question. This is an issue that has been troubling for many months but has been resolved by the action of the South Australian government. The actions of the government have certainly acknowledged the importance of small tourism businesses, including caravan parks, bed and breakfasts, by introducing significant land tax relief. Land tax cuts of \$264 million over four years will prove incredibly beneficial to many small tourism operators. State land tax rates were reduced in February 2005, with additional concessions provided for caravan parks and for home-based businesses such as bed and breakfasts. The new rates were effective from 1 January 2005 and further support will come into effect on 1 July 2005.

The new land tax scheme also increases the land tax threshold from \$50 000 to \$110 000 and properties with site values of up to around \$600 000 had their annual land tax liabilities reduced to half or less. Bed & Breakfast and Farmstay South Australia Inc. estimates that around 60 per cent of the association's members operate their businesses from the family home, and that around 60 per cent of these will now be fully exempt. With the rate reductions and private use concessions, the majority of B&B operators would now be significantly better off. The South Australian Tourism Commission has played and will continue to play an active role in educating both the tourism industry and individual operators regarding their rights and obligations in relation to land tax. The land tax relief package has benefited the South Australian tourism industry, especially bed and breakfast operators, caravan park owners and other small-scale accommodation providers, and it is really possible because of our AAA rating.

**Mrs HALL:** I refer to Policy and Planning under Performance Commentary, second-to-last dot point, 'Forging a stronger partnership with the tourism industry in local government through building local government tourism capacity initiative'. Could the minister explain to the committee the expenditure that has been allocated by the SATC to this particular initiative in this financial year, and also provide information as to which local government organisations, such as SELGA, I think, have a formal agreement in place with the SATC?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We cannot give an exact dollar figure for the cost of this. This involves surveys and assessments of what is being done in local government areas. I think it is a relatively small figure but we do not have an exact dollar number.

**Mr D'ORTENZIO:** It is minimal expenditure. It is a combination with the Local Government Association and a detailed questionnaire that went out to 68 councils, and the response rate has been exceptional on exactly where they sit with tourism and what their plans are.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think local government has come a long way in relation to tourism. The days when regional areas regarded tourists as a nuisance is long

gone, and in many regional areas there is a recognition from local councils and local businesses that the tourism dollar permeates the community and keeps them buoyant in hard times.

**Mrs HALL:** Could you provide the number of councils or the specific council groupings that have formal contacts with the SATC? I use SELGA as one example, but have there been any others signed?

**Mr D'ORTENZIO:** A number of them now. We can supply a detailed list. We are probably about 60 per cent through, which is quite significant in the last 12 months, but we can provide a detailed list of those agreements with councils.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The other issue, of course, is that not all places have local councils. We have very strong relationships with progress associations and, of course, the Outback Areas Community of Development Trust.

**Mrs HALL:** Minister, and again you may need to take this particular one on notice, could you give me a dollar figure—and I understand it may be approximate—on the funding allocated to local government, in a general sense, under the Minor Tourism Development Fund for 2005-06?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The budget line for that investment fund is \$1.06 million and, of course, it goes into incorporated organisations. It is not all local government: some of it again might be progress associations or other organisations. That is the budget line which accounts for that sort of investment.

**Mrs HALL:** I turn to visitor information centres. In 2004-05, SATC provided \$260 000. Will the minister explain how this figure compares with the support that may be provided for VICs in 2005-06?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** From which line is the honourable member reading?

**Mrs HALL:** On page 13.10. It has \$260 000 for 2004-05 for accredited VICs. I am just curious about a figure for this year.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Last year was \$260 000.

**Mrs HALL:** Yes, but I would like to know what the figure is for this year.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I cannot tell the honourable member whether there will be another visitor information centre developed. Essentially, the funding for each one is \$6 000.

**Mrs HALL:** I have a specific question from my friend and colleague, the member for Light, who wants to know whether any funding is being supplied by the SATC to the Gawler tourism information centre and, if so, how much?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The member for Light will be interested to know that the Gawler office, which is operated by Gawler council, will get \$6 000 as per agreements with all visitor information centres.

**Mrs HALL:** I am sure he will be delighted with that.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** In fact, the member for Morphett might like to know that one of his VICs will receive \$6 000; Port Adelaide will receive \$6 000; Adelaide City Council (in terms of Rundle Mall) will receive \$6 000; and the member for Kavel will receive \$6 000—

**Mr GOLDSWORTHY:** At Hahndorf?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** At Hahndorf. I can inform the member for Heysen that Mount Lofty Summit will receive \$6 000; the member for Schubert will recognise that the Tanunda office run by the Tourism Marketing Board will

get \$6 000; the member for Flinders has three funded—one at Ceduna, one at Elliston and one at Port Lincoln—and each will receive \$6 000; the member for Giles will be pleased to know that the one in Whyalla will achieve \$6 000; for the member for Finnis, Goolwa will get \$6 000; the member for Mawson will be interested to know that McLaren Vale will receive \$6 000; and for the member for Hammond, Strathalbyn will get \$6 000. The member for Finnis will have two VICs funded, each at \$6 000—one at Victor Harbor and one at Yankalilla. The member for Stuart has three funded—Hawker (in the service station), Leigh Creek and Port Augusta. Port Pirie, which is in the electorate of Frome, will have one funded.

Another two VICs will be funded in the member for Stuart's electorate at Quorn and Wilpena. In the Flinders Ranges again, Woomera in the electorate of the member for Giles; and again on Kangaroo Island, Penneshaw will receive \$6 000. Also included is the Clare Valley, covering three electorates—Stuart at Burra, Frome at Clare and Schubert at Kapunda and Mannum. There is also Murray Bridge in the member for Hammond's electorate. Each of those VICs will receive \$6 000.

**Mrs HALL:** I am sure they will be delighted.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I could carry on, because there is also the electorate of Chaffey, at Barmera, Berri, Loxton, Renmark and Waikerie; McKillop at Bordertown, Millicent, Naracoorte, Penola, Robe and Beachport; Mount Gambier at Mount Gambier; and Goyder at Kadina and Minlaton. That comes to \$240 000.

**Mrs HALL:** I turn to major tourism events. Will the minister tell me whether AME has had to allocate a sum of money to address public liability and indemnity issues; that is, the introduction of liability waivers by participating volunteer sporting and recreation groups in major events for the 2005-06 financial year and, if so, what is that amount?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The major public liability activity across the portfolio has been to do with the 2005 Australian Masters Games. As the honourable member knows, that is being held in October and will involve 10 500 participants. As a government, we made the decision to make changes to the Recreational Services (Limitation of Liability) Act 2002 and the Recreational Services (Limitation of Liability) Regulation 2003 so that waivers could be introduced. The community care underwriting agency CCUA (the games' insurer) required that, if the 10th Australian Masters Games was to enter into contracts with South Australian sporting bodies to run the events, these sporting bodies would need to have a code of practice in place to avail themselves of the South Australian legislation. OCBA (the Office of Consumer and Business Affairs) determined that this request was entirely appropriate and the request was implemented.

**Mrs HALL:** Whose budget line does it come out of?

**Mr SPURR:** The figure will come out of the Australian Masters Games' budget line.

**Mrs HALL:** Will that apply to all future events?

**Mr SPURR:** The other one is the World Police and Fire Games.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not believe that AME has been funding or underwriting in the way that was suggested by the question.

**Mrs HALL:** It was not a suggestion. I wonder whether the Treasurer had decided that AME might be the funding body, but if it is coming out of the actual event—

**Mr SPURR:** Yes, it is coming out of actual events.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not know whether Leeanne Grantham would like to comment any further. Do you have any additional information?

**Ms GRANTHAM:** Yes; that is absolutely correct. It is not coming out of AME at all; it is coming out of the Australian Masters Games' budget.

**Mrs HALL:** Will the minister provide information on the marketing dollar amount that is provided to ACTA for the next 12 months and whether SATC actually pays a membership fee?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We will be funding it to the tune of \$800 000 this year. That is an increase over last year of \$770 000. It goes as a grant with key performance indicators, and I understand that the constitution does not require us to be a member body, but we are obviously a substantial funder. We await with interest the amount given by the Adelaide City Council.

**Mrs HALL:** Will the minister give an approximate figure—I understand that she will not have the figure in her head—and also a listing of the numbers of stands and displays that have been coordinated by the SATC over the past financial year, in terms of (for example) AFTA and the environmental expo that was on? Could I have a list of those and any cost benefits?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As you predicted, I cannot give that information off the top of my head, but we will try to come back to you with an accurate answer on that. It may be quite difficult to be specific.

**Mr SPURR:** To clarify that, it would be all trade and consumer shows?

**Mrs HALL:** Yes. I refer to page 2.7 and the \$2 million that is allocated for 2005-06 for the campaign to promote South Australia as a holiday destination. Will the minister give a breakdown of this \$2 million in terms of international and domestic marketing campaigns? Is the \$2 million to be spent entirely on marketing product, or are there overhead costings in that? Will the minister explain whether any of this \$2 million is to be expended in India? Page 2.7 of Budget Paper 3 is the reference point, under the SATC expenditure heading 'Operating initiatives—international and domestic marketing'.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** You want to know about the percentage that is international?

**Mrs HALL:** Not just that, but also the domestic and international breakdown. Is it all spent on marketing product, or are there some overhead costings in that; and how much of it, if any, will be used in India?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We might have to take that on notice.

**Mr SPURR:** I know exactly how much expenditure on India is in the budget.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We can tell you that India is an interesting market that we have moved more firmly on. As you would recall, since coming into government we have formed very strong relationships with other departments. We have discussed earlier the Heart of the Arts. I should also comment on the relationship with Department of Environment and Heritage, which is very strong in developing a series of activities such as walking trails through national parks, and also marketing the Naracoorte Caves in a range of ways. We have also become very close to the Department of Recreation and Sport, with that trails brochure, marketing program and campaign.

Education is a clear market for tourism. Mr Spurr is on the Education Adelaide board, and we second staff for specific

programs and for specific periods of time into Education Adelaide. There is a synergy in a market such as India, where promoting tourism product is very close to marketing education in Adelaide as a destination. Some of our activities in India have involved tourism and education together, and we have ambassadors and have been involved in a range of familiarisation visits recently. For the first time we have achieved product placement in Indian top end brochures, and we are moving strategically into markets in India now. I think the member for Morialta will be as pleased as I am.

**Mr SPURR:** I can give you the figures. There is \$100 000 allocated for India in the international budget. We have increased China's budget slightly, mainly because of the trade familiarisations, and that is working well, and \$500 000 of the \$700 000 for the New Zealand campaign is out of that money as well. There is \$250 000 in respect of promotion of winter events, and the remainder is domestic.

**Mrs HALL:** Have there been any decisions made or opportunities thus far to include travel journalists out of Vietnam in any of the familiarisation programs that are planned?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I cannot answer that specifically, so I ask Mr Spurr to respond.

**Mr SPURR:** My recollection is that we have just had a very extensive group down from Asia, mainly based out of China, India, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong, to an event we held here called SATEX bringing out those people, but my recollection is that there were no Vietnamese.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I noticed that you have just made an announcement about promoting cycling overseas with the new logo, Oppy. What are the economic benefits of the Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under, and how are cycling events being used to promote South Australia as a cycle destination?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Norwood for this question. I know how keen is her interest in cycling, not just as a tourism event but a recreational activity and mode of transport, and how important it is to her electorate. In 2005, the premier cycling event in South Australia, the Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under, attracted an estimated 495 000 spectators. Of them, 11 670 were event specific from overseas and interstate, generating an economic benefit to the state of at least \$13.2 million. The media impact of the event is still being assessed. It is expected to exceed \$15 million with the majority in South Australia's key international target markets. Television highlights, which saw people watch world-class cyclists riding through our vibrant capital city, then through South Australia's regional areas and vineyards, were broadcast in Europe, the USA, Asia and around Australia to help promote South Australia's regional areas.

The Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under, with funds of \$1.75 million, continues to be expanded into a festival of cycling, including the Be Active Tour, which is just one of the ways that spectators can step out from the sidelines and become truly involved in the Jacob's Creek Tour Down Under action. Many of you may not know that Mr Spurr participated in this last year. The Be Active Tour is sponsored by the Office for Recreation and Sport and presented by *The Advertiser*. The event has proved a great success, with the field this year increasing to 1 900 from 1 400 in the previous year.

The Australian Open Road Championships were also held over three days in the Adelaide Hills town of Echunga on 12, 14 and 15 January. The championships are the Australian Cycling Federation's most prestigious road event, and they

will be again be held in South Australia in 2006, expanding the premier cycling event season to two weeks in length. The cycle tourism opportunities are enormous, partly because it is an example of ecologically sustainable tourism product but also because it aligns with the government's strong commitment to ecologically sustainable product development. This has been identified as a key goal in the current South Australian Tourism Plan.

As the Premier announced in January, the state government has allocated funding of \$105 000 in total over the next three years to a new organisation called the Australian Centre for Excellence in Cycle Tourism. This aims to assist communities take preliminary steps towards more sustainable cycle tourism options. The funding will enable the centre to be based here in Adelaide, further strengthening our city's reputation as the heart of cycling in the southern hemisphere. As a complementary initiative, the SATC is developing a cycle tourism strategy to be released later in the year, which it has developed in collaboration with Bicycle SA, the Cycle Promotion Alliance, and the Bicycling Federation of Australia.

This strategy will aim to further enhance South Australia's reputation as the home of cycling and cycle tourism in the southern hemisphere, building both a festival of cycling and the already well-known cycling trails such as the Riesling Trail and the Torrens Linear Park. The state government has and is continuing to undertake a number of new initiatives to continue to enhance the cycling experience that is proving to be a unique brand for South Australia.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** What has the state government done to continue support for tourism infrastructure in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I again thank the member for Norwood for that question. Every successful development relies on solid infrastructure, and the state government is committed to the ongoing development and improvement of South Australia's vital tourism infrastructure. In the past, the government has provided infrastructure funding on a year-to-year basis through the South Australian Tourism Commission's Tourism Development Fund and, for a number of years, grants from this fund have helped to develop and sustain tourism infrastructure right across the state. They have provided much-needed assistance in developing the tourism industry, encouraging attraction and infrastructure development to service visitors' needs, managing visitor impact and providing incentives for private sector development, particularly in regional areas.

Each year, regional development boards, regional tourism managers and councils are invited to apply for funding, and in 2004 the SATC received more than 70 applications for a total of \$2 million in infrastructure grants. Of these, 28 grants of \$556 000 were then selected for funding. These projects are expected to generate a total infrastructure investment of around \$3.3 million. In addition to the 28 projects, over \$2.7 million was spent on strategic infrastructure products, making a total expenditure of some \$3.3 million in 2004-05. The major projects funded include—and I know these are of interest to the member for Giles—the visitor information centre in Clare and Coober Pedy; an upgrade of the Wadlata Outback Centre in Port Augusta; the commencement of the new ferry terminal at Cape Jervis; the completion of the whale watching facilities at the Head of Bight; completion of the visitor facilities in William Creek and Oodnadatta racecourses; a complete refurbishment and refit of the area within the Woomera Heritage Centre that collects the heritage

infrastructure from the Woomera test site; a completion of accommodation at the Iga Warta Cultural Centre; and the completion of the Marree Town Precinct project.

In the latest budget, the TDF will continue with an exciting new component that further strengthens the government's commitment to South Australia's tourism infrastructure. For the first time, in addition to funding for minor infrastructure, the government has budgeted an additional \$1 million in ongoing funding for major tourism infrastructure. This additional funding will provide operators and developers with confidence in our commitment to the industry and allow the government to invest in the development of strategic, ongoing tourism infrastructure projects, particularly in regional South Australia. In 2005-06, it is expected that tourism infrastructure expenditure will be \$2.06 million, made up of \$1.06 million for minor projects and \$1 million for major strategic projects.

This additional funding for major projects will provide tourism operators and developers with confidence in our commitment to the industry, and will allow the government to invest in the development of strategic ongoing tourism infrastructure projects, particularly in regional South Australia.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** Are there any new activities and events associated with this year's Tasting Australia?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The Tasting Australia Festival will be held in Adelaide and regional South Australia from 21-30 October—so put it in your diaries. The South Australian Tourism Commission has allocated \$1.05 million to Tasting Australia, which is Australia's premier wine and food event and which provides an ideal opportunity to highlight one of South Australia's competitive strengths—our excellence in food and wine—to the world. This year's festival has the theme of the elements of earth, air, fire and water. The extensive Tasting Australia program of nearly 60 events is currently being finalised and will be distributed in late July through the August edition of *Australian Gourmet Traveller* magazine, which has a circulation of 100 000 nationally.

Feast of the Senses—Food, Beer and Wine Fair is the biggest public event of Tasting Australia. More than 35 000 visitors are expected to attend, sampling the best in gourmet food, fine wine, premier beer, coffee and beverages that Australia has to offer, provided by more than 90 exhibitors. Other events include the Regional Culinary Competition, Lifestyle Channel Chefs' Showcase, James Squire Food, Beer and Wine Writers Festival and the World Food Media Awards.

An exciting addition to this year's program is the Adelaide Food Summit. The summit is a two-day symposium, focusing on Australian food trends, foods for health and wellbeing, and the issue of sustainability with a particular focus on the food and related industries in South Australia. The summit is funded by the South Australian Tourism Commission and is sponsored by PIRSA. Dun Gifford, President of the Oldways Preservation Trust, has accepted an invitation to be a keynote speaker at the Adelaide Food Summit, as has Professor Jorg Imberger, head of the Centre for Water Research at the University of Western Australia.

There are a number of regional activities, such as lunch under the vines with Antonio Carluccio at the Grant Burge Winery; Fiesta Festival—a month of food and wine throughout Fleurieu Peninsula; the Coonawarra Cabernet Celebrations; the Langhorne Creek Long Lunch; Tastes of the Limestone Coast; and the fabulous Flinders Wine and Food

Festival. These activities demonstrate that this event truly embraces the regional aspects of our food and wine experiences, which is a great boost for the profiles of our distinct regions and their food and wine tourism product.

The festival is expected to be attended by 70 000-plus people, including 3 000, or more, event specific overseas and interstate visitors, generating an estimated \$3.7 million in economic benefit for the state, as well as the media coverage valued at more than \$10 million in our key international travel target markets. In addition, the funds help to support the positioning of our state in this key area of economic development. The funds provided by the state government demonstrate how important attracting event specific and focused markets for overseas and interstate visitors in the state are to our economy.

**Mrs HALL:** I refer to page 13.3, Volume 3, 'Tourism infrastructure development'. The major tourism development fund, to be introduced in 2005-06, has \$1 million allocated as per the 2004-05 forward estimates. What is the criteria that will be applied to the distribution of major infrastructure funding; how long is this particular fund set to operate; and what is the relationship between this fund and the major infrastructure portfolio?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is interesting that we have an infrastructure portfolio, of course. Many of the tourism impacts and benefits will come from a lot of that major infrastructure, whether pipelines, water supply or airports. Of course, the tourism portfolio has lobbied for some of those investments. They are particularly important in regional areas. For instance, Andamooka is currently very poorly supplied with water. It is a problem for industry. Of course, the biggest industry in Andamooka, apart from mining, is tourism. We have lobbied consistently for improved water quality in that area.

The major tourism infrastructure ongoing funding from 2005-06 will address the need to help some major projects. It will not only enable the Tourism Commission to continue its assistance with major initiatives but also provide funding for minor infrastructure projects throughout the state by using its minor tourism development fund as well. The provision of infrastructure is one of the important issues in our tourism plan, and it needs to be supported by government funding. The benefits of the program are that the major tourism infrastructure fund will add to public tourist attractions and lead to destination development; it will establish investment opportunities through advanced infrastructure provision, particularly in regional areas supporting local development possibilities; it will enhance the economic benefits for regional areas by providing job opportunities across a range of skills, particularly for the young, in line with overall state employment objectives; it is designed to contribute to the value of tourism by encouraging increased visitation and greater expenditure; it will establish basic infrastructure and visitor facilities that will act as a catalyst for encouraging further development by the private sector; and it will ensure that the expectation of visitors regarding quality is satisfied.

It is important that any investment we make must fulfil the overarching goals of government. Of course, that means that they will be sustainable. There will be management of any potential environmental impacts. There must be protection of the natural environment, because tourism is a protector, enhancer and advocate of our natural resources, rather than one that is involved in damaging them. The funding will require that each of those elements, to some degree, be recognised.

**Mrs HALL:** Is there an upper limit on any individual funding allocation?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not believe we have an upper limit, but, clearly, we would be as frugal as possible in spreading the money.

**Mrs HALL:** I turn to tourism events and, specifically, the subject of the golf championships. I am delighted to see that AME has won the right to hold the World Amateur Golf Championships here in Adelaide in 2008. Could the minister provide me with the information of the expected tourism numbers and nights and whether this is going to be shown internationally on television stations other than the US cable TV golf channel?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The rights to host the 2008 World Amateur Golf Championships were awarded and are a tribute to Ms Leeanne Grantham who drove this bid; in fact, it was her first activity in the role. It was a great win. The rival bidders probably had a very big investment in this activity, and we beat the United Arab Emirates to achieve this event. We believe it will bring 1 500 international visitors over the two weeks of the championships so that one would have, as a minimum, a two-week stay. Of course, it will be an opportunity to promote extra visitation to regions, and we will be marketing and encouraging visitors to visit other regions. We would aim to have a significant flow on into regional South Australia.

The event is quite significant because it is the world's most prestigious amateur golf event and, for those of you who know about golf, it is a showcase for the next generation of superstars. If anyone is tempted to watch these championships, you might like to know that Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Annika Sorenstam and Karrie Webb all represented their country in the championships before turning professional. When the event was in Puerto Rico, it attracted 50 women's teams and 70 men's teams. It is a very significant event for us because golf tourism is important and South Australia has some very fine golf courses. As to the specific issue of the television rights, I will pass over to Leeanne.

**Ms GRANTHAM:** The Australian Golf Union will be hiring an event organisation, and it is currently negotiating with different companies. It will be its role to negotiate the television rights through the International Golf Federation. That is not something that Australian Major Events plays a role in, but it will meet with them on a regular basis to find out how that is tracking. It is certainly in the contract; we want international television coverage. It is up to the International Golf Federation under its contract with the Australian Golf Union.

**Mrs HALL:** I refer to events exposure. In 2004-05 the targets contained the goal to generate \$100 million in media exposure from the 14 managed events. No reference to this is made in the 2005-06 budget papers, therefore, what is the value of the media exposure generated by the 14 events managed by AME this year and what target has been set by the minister for the coming year in terms of media exposure?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The cyclical nature of our major events program is an issue. This is an on year, if you like, as opposed to an off year. With Tasting Australia and the World Solar Challenge we will inevitably reach a higher goal. We can predict that number and give you that response on notice. It is a predictable number.

**Mrs HALL:** Still on events, the 2004-05 targets contained a target of a 5 per cent increase in visitation to South Australia for each event managed by AME. The same target is set down for 2005-06 in the budget papers. Is the minister

able to provide a breakdown of the events which did and did not reach these performance targets? Could I have a list of those that surpassed those targets? I understand that you are likely to have to provide that for me later.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think that the events have a different yield; for example, the pageant is not an event that brings international tourists to the same extent. We have really focused on the fact that AME, ACTA, the entertainment sector, the arts and education are part of tourism. As a strategic direction, we have made it clear that AME must run superlative, well-managed and safe events, but its role is more than just community development: it is really tourism. The KPIs for AME are clearly based on tourism numbers. That is why we changed the Tour Down Under's focus to make sure that the event management was focused on the idea of bringing international and interstate tourists. I think that has been very effective. Whilst AME was not disconnected from tourism, it recognises that its KPIs are tourism numbers. That has been a very important move during the time of this government.

**Mrs HALL:** Again, I refer to tourism events and, specifically, to winter events. Minister, on radio recently, you were quoted as saying that \$250 000 had been allocated in this year's budget for the purpose of addressing the winter accommodation and convention situation. Can you advise whether that is new money and whether AME has access to any of that money for winter events activities?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have looked in a whole-of-government way at the calendar and, since coming into government, we have focused on the calendar of events, and that requires us to be collegiate across AME, the arts, the convention industry and holiday-type visitation. Previously there appeared to be no focus on the annual calendar but, clearly, there are peaks and troughs. One of the big troughs is in January, which is curious because of course it is a holiday period, but it is a quiet time for hotels, particularly in Adelaide. It is a busier time in the regions, but I do not think we get our fair share of January visitors. It is a very quiet time for conventions. That is why some of the hotel convention operators go into down time and remediation maintenance programs. The expansion back into that month of bicycle activities and the other activities and events in January are aimed at helping fill that void.

There is always a peak between February and April, and there is always a peak between late September and November. So, filling the gap between May and August is a key priority. It is one of the target areas that was worked upon by the ministers' round table, and a working party has looked at this from the perspective of local intrastate travel and awareness, as well as promoting other events. Since we have a calendar that incorporates all the key events, we know very specifically that the trough that one would expect between May and September is not uniform. In fact, we filled a lot of those gaps, so now when we look at those months we are not targeting the whole four months. In each of the next, say, six years, we can specifically identify which is the sole month that needs effort, so our focus will be on a whole-of-government attempt to fill those gaps, and that will involve not just AME and conventions but also tourism and marketing. I will ask Mr Spurr whether he can add anything to that.

**Mr SPURR:** Currently, AME is having negotiations particularly with Australian Rugby Union and Soccer Australia, and also on a series of what you would call masters-specific games, such as masters basketball, which can be played during those winter periods.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** At a whole-of-government level, we have also begun conversations with other departments about the events they sponsor. If government money is being spent on an event and the organisers do not have a reason for having it at a particular time of year, because of our funding strength, we should encourage many events, training modules or programs to go to the months that would suit the industry best.

**Mrs HALL:** The purpose of that question was to find out specifically whether that \$250 000 is new money or whether it is coming out of an existing marketing budget. If it is new money, where is it in the budget papers? I cannot see it. Is it coming off the marketing budget?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** No, it is an allocation from the \$2 million, which is new money.

**Mrs HALL:** I am conscious of the time, so I will ask the omnibus questions now:

1. Did SATC, AEC and ACC meet all required budget savings targets for 2003-04 and 2004-05 set for them in the 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 budgets? If not, what specific proposed project and program cuts were not implemented?

2. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown of expenditure on consultants in 2004-05 for SATC, AEC and ACC, listing the name of the consultant, the cost, the work undertaken and the method of appointment?

3. For the SATC, AEC and ACC, how many surplus employees are there as at 30 June 2005; and for each surplus employee what is the title or classification of the employee and the total employment cost of the employee?

4. In the financial year 2003-04, for SATC, AEC and ACC, what underspending on projects and programs was not approved by cabinet for carryover expenditure in 2004-05?

5. For the SATC, AEC and ACC, what is the estimated level of under expenditure for 2004-05, and has cabinet already approved any carryover expenditure into 2005-06 and, if so, how much?

6. (1) What was the total number of employees with a total employment cost of \$100 000 or more per employee; and, also, as a sub-category, the total number of employees with a total employment cost of \$200 000 or more per employee for each of the SATC, AEC and ACC as at 30 June 2004; and

(2) what is the estimate for 30 June 2005?

(3) Between 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2005, will the minister list the job title and total employment cost of each position (with a total estimated cost of \$100 000 or more)—

(a) which has been abolished; and

(b) which has been created?

7. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown for each of the forward estimate years of the specific administration measures which will lead to a reduction in operating costs in the portfolio?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We will take those questions on notice because we are out of time to answer.

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

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Department of Education and Children's Services  
\$1 494 042 000

Administered items for the Department of Education and Children's Services \$133 773 000.



**Membership:**

Ms Chapman substituted for Mrs Hall.  
 Mr Scalzi substituted for Mr Brindal.  
 Mr Buckley substituted for Mr Goldsworthy.

**Additional Departmental Advisers:**

Mr S. Marshall, Chief Executive, Department of Education and Children's Services.  
 Mr G. De Gennaro, Executive Director, Business and Resource Management.  
 Ms J. Riedstra, Director, Infrastructure Management Services.  
 Mr G. Dodd, Manager, Information Services.  
 Mr P. Kilvert, Executive Director, Schools and Children's Services.  
 Mr R. Bos, Director, Financial Management Services.  
 Ms P. Winter, Assistant Director, Support and Intervention Services.  
 Ms S. Page, Executive Director, Early Childhood Services.  
 Ms M. Evans, Executive Director, Strategic Human Resources Development and Organisational Development.

**The CHAIR:** I declare the proposed payments open for examination and refer members to the Budget Statement, in particular appendix C, page C.2, and the Portfolio Statements, Volume 3, part 12.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I have an opening statement. The South Australian state budget for 2005-06 reflects the long-term strategic approach that the Rann government is taking across the whole of government to strengthen the education and care of young people and families in South Australia. Education is acknowledged as a major pillar in the state government's commitment to the social and economic development of the state. From the first budget under the Rann government in 2002-03 and subsequently in each year, we have invested significantly in education and children's services.

I do, however, take this opportunity to acknowledge the fundamental role that teachers, support staff and educational leaders play in delivering those services. Their work and commitment makes a significant difference to the lives and aspirations of young people, and I place on record my sincere thanks for their contribution. The government's significant investment over the past four years is achieving benefits across the whole spectrum of child care, junior primary, middle and senior secondary schooling. I am particularly pleased that progress is being made in specific areas and I will highlight briefly those areas, which include ongoing support in 2005-06.

We are delivering better care and protection for children and students, including a range of child protection strategies and support for children most at risk of dropping out of school. Those strategies are tailored to meet the needs of individual children, such as mentoring support and one-on-one assistance with literacy and numeracy. We are seeing improvements in literacy skills and a renewed focus on support in the early years, an area I have particular interest in because early intervention reaps significant rewards over a lifetime. Our smaller junior primary class sizes are supporting this commitment to give children the best start from an early age.

We are continuing to invest in measures that will increase retention, with the long-term strategic goal of ensuring all young people are in school, training or work. This is an

initiative that has a particular focus across a number of government agencies, including employment and training programs under the South Australia Works initiative and increasing numbers of young people involved in school-based new apprenticeships. We are making inroads into improving our schools and children's services infrastructure, with a specific focus on improving every school across the state through our successful School Pride program.

Overall in this 2005-06 budget, I am delighted that education spending for government students has been lifted to an average of \$9 614. This means that the government has increased per capita education spending by 26.5 per cent since the former Liberal government's 2001-02 budget. The government and, in particular, the Premier have consistently demonstrated support for education and children's services since coming into office. This is reflected, for instance, in our extremely successful Premier's Reading Challenge, which has engaged many thousands of young people, their schools and their families, in reading and in the development of literacy skills. Indeed, the Premier and I announced just this week that 80 per cent of all schools are taking up the challenge this year.

The budget confirms a number of our long-term commitments to ensure children achieve their full potential. For example, this year, funds of \$10 million will be allocated from our \$35 million Early Literacy program to assist in the delivery of literacy and numeracy programs. We are now entering our second year of this important four-year program. There are a number of new capital works allocations this year as part of our major investment, after years of neglect by the former Liberal government, in improving our school buildings through our capital works and asset management programs. There has been \$450 million invested in our capital works program over the past four years, including the \$25 million one-off allocation under our new School Pride program.

I note that a wide range of regional communities benefit from our capital works program and this will continue with the 2005-06 budget, which includes major redevelopments worth \$24.2 million in total taking place at nine schools in regional areas. I mention these improvements to our schools because it is not only about bricks and mortar, air-conditioning, reception areas, asbestos removal, and so on. It is about making sure students and staff are working and learning in safe and welcoming environments, and it is about sending a very clear message to the wider community that we can be proud of our schools and our preschools. We can be proud of the values and the skills and attributes that our education system is helping to instil in our children.

I have said that we are taking a whole of government approach to assist children because we all recognise that students in our schools and our child-care centres do not exist in isolation from other services and agencies and needs within the community. If we are to continue creating better opportunities for young people, we must also invest beyond our schools and children's services, so transport, physical and mental health, housing and family and Community services all impact on economic and social opportunities, and the capacity of our schools and children's services to educate and care for young people.

The overall state budget takes a whole of government approach and has injected more funds in areas such as disability services and services for mental health. For example, the government will inject an extra \$92 million into disability services, including \$67 million over four years, and

an immediate one-off injection of \$25 million to support people with disabilities. Within the education area, extra state funding of \$3.5 million over four years will assist students with disabilities through the Ministerial Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities. Similarly, we are acknowledging the increased enrolments in the number of students with additional and special needs, and this includes students with disabilities, Aboriginal students and students undertaking English as a second language program. Support totalling \$22.1 million over four years will help schools meet the special needs of these additional students.

Mental health also clearly impacts on the education and social opportunities of children and their families, and the budget provides an extra \$45 million over the next four years to support the delivery of mental health services. Measures such as the integration of child care, health and education, and broader support for young people with disabilities reflects our cross-agency approach. Indeed, just yesterday I released the report of our inquiry into the early childhood services in our state, which proposes greater cross-agency partnerships and integration and collocation of services.

While I am looking forward to working with our children's services and other agencies on how best we can develop our services, I am pleased that this budget is taking the first important steps to provide funding towards creating 10 pilot early childhood centres as part of an \$8.1 million initial response to this inquiry. This includes funding from the health budget and a funding of \$4.2 million over four years, starting with the 2005-06 budget to support five existing early intervention programs. The package will help bring together services that assist parents and children and create an additional 300 child-care places in disadvantaged areas of Adelaide.

I am pleased that this initiative also reflects the views that were expressed during community consultations that involve many hundreds of people across the state as part of the inquiry, and the views expressed during our own community forums in the department, while examining future directions for the education system as a whole. Our future directions for education and children's services will be in line with our State Strategic Plan and this government's commitment to work across government, to listen to the views of the community and to support the people who do the work and deliver education and children's services, so that all young South Australians have the opportunity to achieve their potential.

**The CHAIR:** Does the member for Bragg wish to make an opening statement?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I wish to cover two aspects in the opening: first, in relation to the operating expenses which have been presented in the 2005-06 budget by the Treasurer; and, secondly, in relation to their percentage representation. In media statements and in today's presentation the minister presents a rosy picture and one which, on the face of it, shows some confidence for areas of high need. The opposition welcomes statements by the government about funding areas in relation to children with special needs in particular and disability in schools. However, regrettably, the financial picture tells us a different story when the figures are examined—and they will be today.

I will outline some aspects which are clearly obvious and which one would have hoped would be obvious to the minister. If they are not, perhaps the Treasurer has succeeded in being able to convince the minister and her department of the less than rosy position which is the reality. If the minister

is familiar with the real position, her representation today does not provide the full picture. The operating expenses as published in this budget for the 2004-05 budget year totalled \$10.285 billion, and the budget for the 2005-06 year estimate is \$10.67 billion. They are uncontroversial.

However, the operating expenses for education and training in the following four categories are as follows. In government schools and preschools, \$1 732.4 million in 2004-05, and \$1 725 million in 2005-06. For non-government schools for 2004-05, \$104.6 million and for 2005-06, \$107.1 million. For 'other' (which covers things such as the Senior Secondary Assessment Board and transport concessions and which goes across as benefits to both) for 2004-05, it is \$24.2 million and for 2005-06, \$25.8 million. For vocational education and training, it is \$405.3 million and \$407.8 million respectively. That is a total of \$2.66 billion in round figures. Then we look at the percentage of the share of the total state operating expenditure, which gives us a clue as to the actual contribution being made by South Australia to these areas in its budget. For government schools and preschools in the 2004-05 budget it is \$18.1 million, and in 2005-06 it is \$17.4 million. In VET, in 2004-05 it is \$3.9 million, and in 2005-06 it is \$3.8 million.

That tells us that the percentage of the total state operating expense for the budget in this current year is 22 per cent, and for 2005-06 it is 21.2 per cent. That is a far cry from the graph representations presented in the budget overview papers and, indeed, the presentation by the Treasurer to the parliament, which puts it at around 25 per cent. There is probably good reason to attempt to flesh out a contribution at a level of 25 per cent. For good reason, education has enjoyed, and deservedly so, a 25 per cent share (or thereabouts) of the state budget for decades. However, the reality is that there has been a plummeting in the direct contribution by this state in this year's budget.

If the department has not picked up that, then it has been hoodwinked. If the minister has not picked up that, then she ought to have some serious discussions with the Treasurer. How is this concealed in the budget papers? It has been done in a number of ways, some of which are obvious when we look at the source of education and training funding.

In 2004-05, the state has contributed \$1.9805 million (74.3 per cent); and in 2005-06, \$1.989 million (73.9 per cent). In 2004-05, the commonwealth contributed \$685 million (25.7 per cent) and in 2005-06 it contributed \$703.2 million (26.1 per cent). For the total source funding, we have a change in relation to the state and commonwealth contribution to keeping education alive in this state. Some of that will be reflected in the fact that there has been and continues to be a significant decline in student numbers in our public school system for which our government is responsible, and a near corresponding increase in the independent sector for which the Australian government takes some responsibility.

It is not surprising that we would see a variation in that. However, the other significant factors in this year's budget (which covers the current financial year and the forthcoming financial year) is the introduction of school-based revenue and expenditure for the first time. That is not concealed in the budget. That is new and it is identified. When you add it up, it is \$114 million which comes in and goes out and which essentially is parents' money. I think it is important that it is in the budget. In fact, I asked the previous minister to include it in the budget and to bring it to account so that we had some capacity to understand what happens.

I recall the current minister indicating that she would be attending to that, and it is reflected this year in the budget. A second and important one is in relation to the non-disclosure for obvious and fair reasons of the amount that is allowed for an increase in provision for teacher salaries and benefits, because the enterprise bargaining agreement is currently under way. Quite properly, the government would not wish to be in a position where it had to disclose its hand in that regard, and we totally accept that.

The third area is that there has been a massive decline in the capital expenditure by this government in two ways: one is the total amount and the second is that we now have some interesting additions into what is capital expenditure which have not been shown before. I will come to those in due course, but I will make a comment in relation to this. We have a situation where not only have we had a slippage of \$12.4 million in the preceding year's capital budget—that is, 2003-04 into this financial year—but we also have a staggering cut in capital program costs from \$97.4 million in the 2001-02 year to \$47.6 million in the 2005-06 year. So, not only has there been a staggering cut in that, but slippages have happened in the past and clearly continue to happen.

Here is the extraordinary thing: the government has announced the School Pride program, where some \$25 million will be provided to schools for a compulsorily imposed program of upgrades. That is, funding is provided conditionally upon how it is spent in that area. Each school has to have a new sign with the state government logo on it. Each school is not allowed to publish its own logo on its own sign. If it has a good sign already it still has to have a new one, which is all under the branding program. Schools are now being given funding for the clean-up of the fence and front entrance to their school, which might well be welcomed if the rest of the school were not falling into disrepair and decay.

There has been an alarming inconsistency between schools that have asked permission to spend funds on more urgent programs and been denied. The extraordinary thing in this budget is that the application of this \$25 million for the School Pride program is actually published as an excuse for cutting, indeed, slashing, the capital fund program for the forthcoming financial year. It is important for the minister to note this for the purposes of her future discussions and hopefully effectiveness in the cabinet because, obviously, there are other portfolio interests and ministerial priorities in the cabinet room; whether that comes to extra hospitals or opening bridges, they have their priorities which they present.

If the minister is to be effective in understanding the significance of this portfolio and prevent the lost opportunities we now clearly see in the dive in real allocated funding, she needs to appreciate that this South Australian budget has actually resulted in a decrease of 0.4 per cent in government school expenditure. The non-government school increase of 2.4 per cent, as we have explained, is understandable, given the exodus of students from one sector to another. That is 2.4 per cent, but it is still lower than the CPI, as assessed by the Treasurer's in the budget papers at 2.5 per cent. So, that also results in a real decrease in state funding of non-government schools.

So, who is the winner in this budget? Some schools—an ever diminishing number—will get some capital programs, most of which will involve having only \$100 000 or \$200 000 spent in this forthcoming financial year, so it will be 2007-08 before they see any real progress. Nevertheless, there will be some beneficiaries. Hopefully, when the money comes through to the undefined group that will receive it in the

disability and special need area, that will also be of some benefit. The overwhelming majority of students in our public schools in South Australia will suffer a diminution of funding in their provision for teaching services within their school and a shattering blow in relation to any expectation that they will have a redevelopment in their schools.

In relation to that, I point out where the government seems to have been quite prepared to spend a lot of money. We have a situation where, on its own records, one in 10 children cannot read at a satisfactory level, yet about \$6.5 million in this and the next financial years is to be spent on the Premier's Reading Challenge. That is the priority of this government in children learning to read: Mike Rann rather than being able to pass a literacy test. That is not acceptable to the opposition. We place on the record that, whatever personal promotional campaigns the Premier wants, including his next announcement, which I understand will be the Premier's mathematics challenge, he ought to be addressing the real priority to the benefit of children who cannot read or add up and not on a self-promotional campaign which just sucks money out of the education budget.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Is that a question?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Opening statements do not include a question. I am happy to be given an opportunity to ask questions.

**THE CHAIR:** Would you like to ask a question?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** For the next four hours I assure you I will be asking a number of questions. In relation to the capital works shown in Budget Paper 5, page 36, in addition to the works published in the 2005-06 investment program, are any other investment program works proposed for that financial year? If so, for what and for how much?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I have listened to some extraordinary accounts. If the member's introductory speech had been more coherent, I might have said it was jaundiced, but it was quite confusing, because she obviously confuses millions and billions. The gist of what she has said is that we have actually cut funding for maintenance and capital and we have cut funding per capita. I think that that is the most extraordinary misrepresentation I have ever heard. The state education system has increased by 26.5 per cent the per capita funding since coming into government. That is \$2 000 extra per child. I think there is not a single teacher or parent in the whole of South Australia who would be even slightly offended by an increase in \$2 000 per capita, but the member for Bragg thinks that that is an outrage. Well, I am not quite sure what she would prefer. Would she perhaps prefer us to reduce the per capita funding? We have increased per capita funding and she has excoriated us for it.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I take a point of order. I raised the question of capital works. I expect that, if the minister wished to seek permission of the committee to give a response to opening statements, then she may do so. But I have asked a question in relation to capital works and, accordingly, I ask the minister to address the question.

**The CHAIR:** I am sure the minister is moving to answer that question.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Yes. It is worth putting the facts on the record, because I think that what has been said has been extraordinarily misleading. Indeed, when the commonwealth does increase funding to South Australia, it can increase it by 5 per cent and it means a \$73 per capita increase to the state's school children. Whereas, when we increase it by a similar amount, we are talking about almost \$400. To imply that any increase is coming from the

commonwealth is a sheer nonsense. Clearly, putting \$25 million into the maintenance backlog left by the last government in our schools is something that offends the member for Bragg. Every other school community, every parent and every teacher is delighted by the investment. They are delighted to have the opportunity, not the compulsion, to put up a sign. In fact, if the sign was not what a school wanted, they could just use directional bollards and retain their existing sign. So, we have had a series of misinformation put to us.

I am quite surprised that the member for Bragg should then attack our record on capital investment. She might like to ask the member for Light what was put into school maintenance in his time. From memory, it was \$10 million a year. Last year we increased that to 400 per cent of that value. There was \$40 million in maintenance work that was done not on whim, as the member for Bragg suggests. It was done on needs, requirements and asset management assessment and on the requests of the schools. It was \$40 million up from \$10 million in the previous government's time, and she thinks that that is a poor achievement. It is extraordinary. Perhaps she would like to speak to the schools in her electorate which, I presume, were not happy to get this money.

In terms of the projects being funded, the other piece of extraordinary misinformation—I love this one—a criticism of the year 2001-02 being much higher than the current year's funding. The member for Bragg might like to ask her colleague. He clearly does not wish to tell her that, in those days, there were two departments combined—DETE—and it is quite unreasonable to even contemplate suggesting that the number has fallen, because in those days there were TAFE expenditures as well. So, the member for Bragg needs to get the facts right. I know that she is confused, but it is an embarrassment to listen to this sort of question.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I am waiting for an answer to my question, actually, on the further capital works. The minister has obviously forgotten. Do you want me to repeat the question?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think that the member for Bragg is again asking for an investment payment summary. I understand that this has been something of a fetish for her for many years. I wrote to her on 9.8.04 and explained that, whilst she wanted this print-out of information, it required substantial additional work, and it was not regarded as a format that the department or the Treasury required and, therefore, we would not be providing an investment payment summary merely to accommodate her wishes, because it was not part of our normal program delivery.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I will repeat the question for the benefit of the minister. In addition to the works published in the 2005-06 budget (investment program, that is), are there any other investment program works proposed in that financial year, and if so, for what and how much?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have a small projects category, but we do not intend to produce an investment catalogue of the type that you request every year. I would like to make it clear that we will not be giving that information in the format you require, because it is not a format that we usually use. However, if you are asking about the small projects within the \$8.073 million budget line, those funds will go to a targeted asset program of \$4.458 million: Ascot Park Primary School, \$0.2 million; Mylor Primary School, \$0.185 million; rural child care expansion,

\$0.530 million; Salisbury High School, \$0.519 million; Salisbury East High School, \$0.193 million; Marie Dunstan Preschool, \$0.468 million; Smithfield Plains Preschool, \$0.55 million; Elizabeth Grove Preschool, \$0.67 million; and Gepps Cross High School, \$0.3 million.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Thank you. Will the minister identify what major feasibility studies will be undertaken at a cost of \$433 000 and, in particular, which capital projects, and how much is allocated for the same?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Bragg for her question. Usually that information is released at the beginning of July when it has been finalised by the department. This is a budget allocation, not a specific piece of information that is released in the budget papers.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Will the minister provide that information on 2 July?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I would be very happy to do that.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** My third question is in relation to who is paying for certain staff, and I particularly raise the question of Education Adelaide to which a contribution is made by the state government. Earlier this week, there was an allegation that a member of the Tourism Commission had been sacked, and the minister's response, effectively, was that a marketing position had been outsourced—I think you described it as outposted—from Tourism to Education Adelaide. How long has that person been outposted to Education Adelaide? Will the DECS budget cover that person's expenses, or will Tourism still cover it?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** This is a funny place to ask about Education Adelaide since Education Adelaide is managed by DFEEST. It is not part of my portfolio responsibilities. In addition, this is not the tourism estimates meeting.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** In other words, you do not know.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I know perfectly well, but this is the wrong forum in which to ask the question.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I am happy to ask the other minister; that is not a problem.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I move:

That the sitting of the committee be extended beyond 1 p.m.

Motion carried.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** How is the government progressing with its funded commitment to ensure that criminal history checks on all the state's registered teachers is done by the end of term 2, 2005?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The honourable member knows that the role of providing criminal history checks on all 35 700 of the state's teachers has been going ahead in the past few months, and it is actually ahead of schedule. Immediate clearances have been given to 80 per cent of South Australian teachers, who have no criminal history or adverse findings and require no further examination by the board. The remaining 20 per cent were found to have a police record or name match with others interstate who have a record of some sort. The majority of those have been cleared because the offences, such as traffic offences, were deemed to be minor, and some of the crosschecks revealed that the person simply had the same name.

Overall, the results show that, of the 91 per cent of teachers vetted completely to date, not a single teacher has been required to undergo a formal TRB investigation to determine their suitability to work in our schools. The remaining 9 per cent of teachers will be vetted over the next

three weeks. It is expected that the vast majority, if not all, of those who require final vetting will also have minor offences, which will not affect their continued registration as a teacher. However, any teacher with a significant criminal record will be investigated fully by the Teachers Registration Board.

As I have made clear, these fully government funded checks were seen as a pivotal part of our legislation to tighten up child protection mechanisms in our registration processes. It is the first time in our state's history that the criminal history of each and every teacher in our government, independent and Catholic schools has been checked. The passing of this legislation, and the \$700 000 provided by the government, has allowed us to clean up a mess that was left previously by the Liberal government, which introduced police checks only for teachers who started practising after 1997 and did not allow for checks to be done on the renewal of registration.

The Liberals' efforts meant that two-thirds of teachers were never police checked and, while the Liberals ignored repeated calls for checks to be extended to all teachers, it has taken this government to listen and act. The process has allowed us to clean up the situation and to provide a baseline for going forward; and it has shown that the overwhelming majority of our teachers are considered suitable, based on past records, to work with children. This is a firm basis for future confidence in the implementation of the firmer protective measures in the legislation.

Obviously, teachers have been our first priority because they work unsupervised with children. This year we have also implemented criminal police checks for student teachers and families who billet students on sporting carnivals, and we will soon introduce legislation to allow checks to be carried out on all out-of-school hours school staff. We are also tackling other people who work and volunteer with children. A joint cross-sector policy on the screening of non-teaching employees and volunteers is being developed with the agreement of all three school sectors, and we are working across government to develop child-safe environments with the 'keeping them safe' bill, introduced to parliament this year. Each of these measures reflect a united approach across all schools in South Australia to ensure that our children are as safe as possible from abuse of any kind.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.6, 'Highlights 2004-05'. What support will be provided to assist schools to develop strategies to reduce the incidence of bullying?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** This government takes the issue of bullying and its impact on learning and the protection of children seriously. This is reflected in a practical sense by the provision we make for school counsellors and staff training in schools. For example, staffing support for schools to manage bullying, and support the wellbeing of children, is provided through 390 school counsellor salaries and 36 behaviour specialists in the student inclusion and wellbeing teams across the department's 18 districts. I take this opportunity, however, to draw attention to the reality that schools are a microcosm of our society, where bullying can occur in the workplace, the home and on the sports field.

However, from an educational perspective, bullying is not tolerated in our schools because it is both directly harmful to children and gets in the way of having a safe learning environment for students and staff. Parents rightly expect their children to be able to get on safely with the job of

learning when they are in the classroom or school yard. Teasing, name calling, standover tactics, demanding lunch money, racist remarks and cyber bullying prevent children from developing their skills and abilities and enjoying school.

Bullying in schools may take several forms, ranging from actual or threatened violence, harassment or exclusion from a peer group, or creating rumours. Unfortunately, it is often not reported and can be difficult to detect. Our schools already work within the framework of the school discipline policy, which requires schools to develop strategies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff. Established clear consequences for bullying involve the whole school community in defining appropriate standards of student behaviour and developing partnerships between home and school.

In addition to delivering additional counsellors for schools, the department supports the school discipline policy with an investment in a professional development package for staff and school communities. The program, which is called 'Reducing bullying in schools—a professional development resource', was sent to all schools and preschools late last year. It includes a book *Stop the bullying* by Ken Rigby and a parent brochure to help parents detect the signs of bullying. It is designed to assist schools in developing a policy to manage issues related to bullying, and it provides opportunities for workshops on issues such as bystander behaviour, cyber bullying, and racial and sexual harassment.

I am pleased that this approach is in line with the National Safe Schools Framework which also accompanies the DECS package. Approximately 130 counsellors and student wellbeing personnel were trained in the DECS bullying package and the National Safe Schools Framework during term four of last year. Each district has received a cash grant of \$5 000 to \$7 000 in 2005 from the Australian government Quality Teacher Program to support the implementation of the National Safe Schools Framework in their district.

I am pleased that Professor Donna Cross, the leader of the Friendly Schools and Families Program, which has helped Western Australian primary schools implement strategies to improve student social skills and reduce bullying, will visit South Australia in August to train key DECS staff in this initiative. Meanwhile, a number of other strategies address bullying in schools, including teaching proactive social skills such as conflict resolution and peer mediation skills through peer support and pastoral care programs, strengthening student decision-making forums to empower students to address issues concerning their safety and welfare at school, and raising awareness of this issue within the school community. The department's School Care Centre also provides schools with training tools and resources to support school safety, including issues surrounding bullying.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** My third question, again, is from Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.6. What is the government doing to increase the focus on science and mathematics in schools as part of the science and mathematics strategy?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** This government recognised, from the outset, the need to inspire in students a passion and interest in science and mathematics and to keep students engaged by making sure that teachers have up-to-date training in these important disciplines. Science and innovation are vital cornerstones for our state's future growth and prosperity, as reflected in the South Australian strategic plan which has, at its core, the need to improve connections between educational institutions and industry to enhance creativity and innovation.

To meet this aim, the training and development of science and mathematics teachers has been given high priority under the science and mathematics strategy 2003-2006. This \$2.1 million strategy, funded jointly by DECS and DFEEST, is a major state government initiative running for three years. It includes 14 key projects aimed at engaging more students in science and maths, ensuring that the latest technology is being taught and that teachers in these areas are being attracted, retained and offered ongoing development. The broader community, including the business, industry and tertiary sectors, has been a key player in getting the strategy working.

Already well underway is the Premier's Industry Awards for teachers of science and mathematics, which is proving highly effective and popular with teachers. Last month, I announced the latest group of 19 teachers, building on the previous 36 award winners, to leave their classrooms to take up 10-day placements with local business and industry to learn how science and mathematics is applied in the workplace. The teachers are provided with an induction before taking up their position with industry hosts, which have included chemistry departments within universities, forensic science units, the Royal Australian Navy, the Centre for Plant Functional Genomics and the Monarto Zoo.

We have already seen strong returns through the strategy with many schools reporting increased interest in science and technology. However, we realise that this needs to be an ongoing process so that we have an assured supply of trained people to work in industries such as IT and electronics, engineering and biosciences. Our strategy is helping schools to incorporate practical and real-life activities into science and mathematics lessons to make them not only relevant but also fun.

The state government's science and mathematics strategy also includes a raft of initiatives which are being rolled out over the next year, such as the \$5 000 Bright Ideas grants for schools to come up with creative new ways of teaching science and maths, scholarships for students and teachers, and mentoring and coaching for teachers. In addition, programs have come out of the initiative resulting from the Thinker in Residence visit by Susan Greenfield and, in our second year, the science and maths strategy is making headway to provide sufficient graduates for local industry and contribute to the government's plans for a skilled and innovative work force.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Minister, I direct you to the investment program and that of small projects. Could you advise the committee of the breakdown of the sites entitled 'Land for new schools' at a total of \$1 million in the forthcoming financial year? To which schools is it proposed that it be attached?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I believe that no site has been identified but, from experience over the past year, very small parcels of land have changed hands to accommodate requirements and the needs of schools around the state. From memory, in the past year, a couple of schools have acquired very small areas of land (less than 500 square metres) that have been required for specific needs. This is the contingency fund that will be used should an opportunity arise or a good cause be found, but we have not yet identified sites.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Minister, you might have provided this last week, but this question is about the list of the schools that will receive new buses. You may have put that out already but, if you have not, the bus replacement

program is at \$1 million. Could you supply us with a list of those schools or routes that will receive new buses?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think that we have decided on the regions that need the buses, but I do not know whether they have been allocated to specific schools because, of course, many of the buses go to many schools. I will pass over to Ms Riedstra. Do we know which schools will get them?

**Ms RIEDSTRA:** We do in respect of the School Pride buses. Of the 17 School Pride buses, 12 are being allocated to Eyre Peninsula, two to the Mid North, one to the South-East and two to the Riverland.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We do not know the actual schools, though.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** As a supplementary to that, Budget Paper 3 of the 2003-04 Budget Statement, at page 2.24, disclosed a revenue initiative estimate for 2005-06 of \$200 000 from the proceeds of the sale of replaced school buses and a further \$200 000 in the 2006-07 year. Minister, you answered a question about this last year in which you indicated that these proceeds were additional to those already incorporated in the departmental budget. Is it still expected that \$200 000 will be received in each of those years?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I have just learnt that, even though we are replacing more buses, because we are replacing the oldest in the fleet, we will not make a greater sum of money by selling them.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** So is the \$200 000 figure correct?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I understand that it is correct and that it will not be larger because of the extra numbers.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Again in relation to the investment program and school bus replacement program, the contribution for school bus replacement refers to a transport service for eligible students. Given the minister's claim of the government's commitment to early education, will there be provision for students attending kindergarten, namely, four year olds, who will also have this service by right during the 2005-06 year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think the member for Light knows the problems involved in school buses. Clearly, it is a resource that is garnered in order to make the best use of the availability of spaces and, where there is room on buses for preschool children, they may travel on them. But it is a particular risk because of the times of the day when preschool operates and it is quite difficult to coordinate the movements. So they are not given full eligibility because they generally travel only one or two days a week and they can occupy a seat that would be better given to a full-time, five day a week school child.

Having said that, the last review of eligibility was carried out during the term of the previous government, and we have no intention at this stage of reviewing that process. But, clearly, it is a difficult area and it is always contentious when people want to go to a different school from their school of right. The member would appreciate more than anyone the difficulty in managing those requests.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** As part of the state government's social inclusion student retention strategy, what local community action is being taken to assist young people at risk of leaving school before they complete year 12?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Norwood for her question. There is clearly an increased awareness in the community that students who drop out of

school and are neither in work nor training are more at risk of falling into crime, drugs or poverty, not to mention homelessness and low employment status. However, I am pleased that there has been a strong commitment supported by the work of the Social Inclusion Board and a number of regional communities across the state to develop locally-based, meaningful programs that can assist young people to stay engaged with education and training. Across a range of education, employment and training areas the state government is investing millions of dollars in educational and support programs.

These programs and initiatives come under the umbrella of our South Australian Youth Engagement Strategy which aims to see all 15 to 19 year olds in school, work or training within the next decade. As part of this commitment, our state's strategic plan has targets that include increasing the school leaving age to 17 years by 2010, and increasing the percentage of young people completing year 12 or its equivalent to 90 per cent within a decade. This is a state plan which requires the support of South Australians across all fields of endeavour to succeed, so I am pleased that there is strong support from school communities, local business, industry and local government to encourage young people to stay engaged in learning and gaining the skills they will need in the future.

One of the initiatives which reflects this collaborative approach is the Innovative Community Action Network (ICAN) scheme. The ICAN programs are part of the state government's \$28.4 million social inclusion student retention action plan. The government has provided \$300 000 a year over three years to four regions in the state where there are high numbers of young people who leave school early. I have been involved with a number of my parliamentary colleagues and school communities in launching programs in these regional areas, including the Upper Spencer area (with programs in Whyalla, Port Pirie and Port Augusta), the metropolitan north and the metropolitan north-west. I am looking forward shortly to launching ICAN programs in metro south.

A key to the success of the ICAN program so far is the active participation of local communities, including young people themselves. The ICAN approach has been to listen to people. Under the ICAN strategy, there has been extensive consultation involving education, local government, business and community groups and young people themselves, all working cooperatively to create programs that support young people in staying connected with learning. Local networks have recommended support for locally driven programs to address locally identified barriers to successful engagement and retention in schools and learning programs. This approach is supported by a cross-agency innovative technique whereby programs are supported that foster partnerships and listen to what young people, parents and community members believe will connect the young to education and training.

The ICAN program identifies groups of students at risk of leaving school early and structures programs to suit their needs. These include young people struggling to deal with the transition from primary school to high school, those with low literacy and numeracy skills, indigenous young people and young mothers. I have seen, for example, how young mothers are more able to stay at school because they have been encouraged to connect with education through a program called Young Mums on the Move. This involves young women getting the support of a peer support worker and a minibus to collect them and their babies to get them to school.

There are similar programs that connect young indigenous children with taster courses at TAFE or, for example, a gallery cafe at the Edward John Eyre High School in Whyalla, which has young people running a cafe and gaining business and hospitality skills while also staying at the school.

These initiatives are a credit to the local communities and local government, and I take this opportunity to thank them for their contribution to creating better opportunities for young people through the ICAN programs. We will continue to support the development of the ICAN programs during 2005-06 as part of our social inclusion strategy to keep young people engaged in learning with a funding allocation of \$2.1 million for ICAN initiatives in these key four areas of the state.

*[Sitting suspended from 1.15 to 2.15 p.m.]*

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.25. How is the state government attracting and retaining quality teachers to meet demand?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** This government is committed to supporting our teachers in their vital role in educating our children and, unlike the opposition, we do not denigrate teachers by constantly saying that they are of low quality, boring—

**Mr SCALZI:** On a point of order, I take offence to the minister's remarks that the opposition denigrates teachers. I have continually, in my 12 years in this place, talked up the profession and as a member of the Australian Education Union I find it offensive and I ask the minister to withdraw the comment.

**The CHAIR:** There is no point of order. There has been no use of unparliamentary language.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I support the honourable member who has only acted with good grace towards teachers. I refer to the member for Bragg who said that the qualifications required to get into teaching were so low that the profession was dumbed down. If the member would like to see a transcript, I am very happy to provide it to him because he will understand exactly what I am talking about. One certainly cannot attract teachers into the profession when they are constantly denigrated and talked down by the opposition. I encourage the honourable member to use his good endeavours to educate his parliamentary colleagues.

There are now 7 698 teachers seeking employment in South Australian government schools. While it would appear there are sufficient numbers of qualified applicants for jobs available, filling available vacancies is highly problematic due to teachers' stated preferences for locations. For example, 2 239 of the 7 698 are seeking work as only temporary relief teachers. A large proportion of those seeking permanent contract positions are willing to accept employment in the metropolitan area only. In the 2002-03 budget we committed \$1 million per year for four years for attraction and retention of quality teachers. The second year of the strategy was focused on the following measures: orientation kits for new teachers being developed for our six regional areas, giving information about local facilities and amenities and contact numbers.

We have held three workshops for beginning teachers to help them become orientated and enable them to form relationships and be mentored by older teachers. These conferences are focused on addressing specific issues, such as behaviour management, teacher wellness and student

wellness and engagement issues. It is particularly worth noting that we have a mentoring system. This will be news to the member for Bragg, because she suggested we implement it in order to bring state schools up to the standard of private schools. She might like to know (and I know she is not aware of many things in the education system) that we have been doing this for several years. We have also been supporting professional standards for teachers, consistent with the National Institute of Quality Teaching and School Leadership Framework. Standards are being finalised and are based on the knowledge, relationships, values and practices required of teachers at four levels: beginning, established, accomplished and teacher leader. The purpose of the standards is to guide professional learning for teachers and provide a framework to support career progression from beginning teacher to a leadership position.

Programs are also in place for aspiring new leaders, supported by a leaders' learning framework, having been developed and launched in January 2005. In addition, we recognise that there are specific areas of expertise where there are shortages of teachers and our science and maths strategy comprises 14 specific projects to attract and retain maths-science teachers, including mentoring for beginning teachers, graduate certificates in maths-science, the Premier's industry award (which provides non-teaching time and has had 36 teachers involved in the program in the last year), as well as a career expo and professional development for schools.

In addition, system-wide strategies have been developed to support the attraction and retention of quality teachers. One is to make sure we employ la crème de la crème before they are poached from teacher training into other states, so we have an early graduate recruitment scheme available for final year teacher students in targeted subject areas. This scheme guarantees students a job with DECS before they complete their degree. In 2004, 31 teachers were recruited in this scheme and this is particularly successful where we know there are shortages in specialist areas. In addition, our country teaching scholarships provide up to \$10 000 to students from country locations who are completing a teacher education course in South Australia and again guarantees a teaching position in a country school, confirmed as permanent, after the satisfactory completion of two years' teaching service.

Fifty scholarship holders were appointed to DECS country schools using this program in 2005. In addition there are country incentives, including additional payments of up to \$30 000 for teachers in their first five years of appointment, and in specific country locations additional leave of up to four terms after 10 years. Relocation and other allowances and access to subsidised housing are also provided. In addition there is a new 'perspectives on teaching and learning program'—a four-day program that aims to improve teacher performance and retain experienced teachers in the system. The program allocates teacher mentors to work with participants at their schools. In addition, there is a program to support beginning teachers experiencing difficulties and this is a development that will focus on behaviour management and other issues identified by beginning teachers and their line managers as being problematic.

This comprehensive list of programs and initiatives clearly outlines the commitment we have to supporting our teachers right across South Australia and the importance we place on attracting and retaining quality teachers. We have also embarked on a joint program with DFEEST looking at major work force planning issues that relate to the age profiles and the need for future leadership and retention programs, which

we are working actively upon. I would encourage all members of the opposition to distance themselves from some of the divisive comments of the member for Bragg.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** My third question is from Budget Paper 4, Volume, 3 page 12.5. How will the budget assist the state government to improve the educational outcomes for Aboriginal students in South Australian schools?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Norwood again for her question. This government is committed to improving the outcomes for indigenous students in our schools and children's services. On 1 June I unveiled the state government's latest five-year strategy for the education and employment of Aboriginal South Australians in state schools and preschools. At the launch, I was told by many of the people who had worked on the strategy that they had been working to get a focus on Aboriginal educational and employment for the last 20 years. This strategy reflects this government's commitment to giving the highest priority to bringing about significant improvements in Aboriginal education and employment.

The key targets, as outlined in the strategy for Aboriginal education, are to improve staffing ratios in preschools with significant numbers of Aboriginal children from one-in-10 to one-in-eight. This will impact significantly on the support for the three-year olds who enter the programs. It will also increase the attendance of Aboriginal children in preschools to the state average of 87 per cent. We intend to improve cross-agency care in rural and remote areas, providing add-on services with DECS, Health and Families and Communities through collaborative practices.

In addition, we will increase the active engagement of Aboriginal communities in planning and delivering programs through Yurrekaityarindi forums in schools and preschools with Aboriginal enrolments. In addition, we aim to increase the retention rate of students in year 12 or equivalent from 33 per cent to 70 per cent by 2010, and we aim to increase participation by Aboriginal students in structured workplace learning, increased participation of Aboriginal young people in school-based apprenticeships from 4 per cent to 10 per cent by 2006 and to 40 per cent by 2010 through the support of VET in schools and workplace initiatives.

We also aim to achieve a 15 per cent improvement in the year 3 and year 5 literacy and numeracy results by 2010 through the development of relevant and challenging programs for Aboriginal learners, and specifically through the implementation of the Literacy Scaffolding program in all Aboriginal schools and preschools. We intend to include Aboriginal studies, reconciliation and Aboriginal perspectives in the curriculum in all schools, and to improve access to specialist services in rural and remote areas for Aboriginal students with special needs.

In relation to employment, which is important in delivering role models to young Aboriginal children, we intend to improve the recruitment and training of Aboriginal teachers through the introduction of 25 Aboriginal trainee teachers during the life of the plan. This will raise the percentage of Aboriginal teachers in the South Australian teaching force to 0.71 per cent by 2010. We intend to recruit over five years an additional 50 early childhood workers who are Aboriginal, with these workers specifically aimed at early years education programs. We will increase the number of Aboriginal education workers in the newly aligned districts to deliver services directly to school sites and to support Aboriginal students across DECS sectors.



We will include Aboriginal representatives in all DECS committees. We will ensure the development of future leaders in the DECS Aboriginal strategy through increased administrative officer presence for Aboriginal employees. We will include local training and employment opportunities in the construction contracts on Aboriginal lands for schools wherever that is feasible. We will increase the number of hourly-paid instructors and cultural and language specialists delivering training and development. In addition, we will create 17 new leadership positions in district offices to facilitate Aboriginal support services for schools.

This is yet another example of this government acting in an area that had been neglected for many years by the former government. Unfortunately, the Howard government does not have the same level of commitment to Aboriginal education as this state government. The learning progress for Aboriginal children in South Australian schools will be severely jeopardised under the new four-year commonwealth funding arrangements. Changes to indigenous education funding from the Howard government for 2005 to 2008 will mean an overall cut in learning assistance for many Aboriginal children in South Australia.

With this new commonwealth funding mechanism, there will be a detrimental consequence for many children of Aboriginal extraction across our state. This will mean hundreds of South Australian Aboriginal students will miss out on critical commonwealth support for their learning, with no justification except based on the post code of where their school of attendance happens to be. It would be nice to think that the opposition would join me in protesting to their federal Liberal colleagues to ensure that South Australian Aboriginal students are not disadvantaged because of the political ideology of Brendan Nelson and John Howard. In the meantime, the South Australian government is committed to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal students. It would be nice to see the same level of commitment from the opposition and from the Prime Minister.

**Mr SCALZI:** I have a supplementary question. The minister has clearly outlined some of the budget implications for the Howard federal government. What funds has the state government put in this year and next year to achieve those commendable goals with regard to Aboriginal education?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I did not really clearly outline the cuts in federal funding.

**Mr SCALZI:** You gave an example.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** From memory, because the funding will be based on school of attendance, if a child moves from the Pit lands to Port Augusta, there will be a cut, and if they move into Adelaide, there will be a further cut, and also no child will be funded for assistance unless they fail a year 3 benchmark. Previously they were supported in the early years of their education to prevent failure. Now they will only be funded on failure, which is really a retrogressive step. The figure I was told was that we were likely to face a 20 per cent cut in funding from these federal decisions, but I will ask Mr De Gennaro to discuss the funding for the next four years, and the increase in funding for disadvantaged children.

**Mr De GENNARO:** As indicated by the minister, through our single funding model of schools and preschools, we have, through this budget, secured funding to reflect the growing categories of student needs. Those students include Aboriginal students, so the growing number of Aboriginal students is attracting additional resources to schools, so the

school funding model does reflect and indeed continues to fund the Aboriginal students needs in that category.

**Mr SCALZI:** The minister almost gave a ministerial statement on how well the Aboriginal education sector will do under this government. I would like some figures to support that policy.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We now have targets that have never been delivered, desired or required of the department. I believe that good HR practices in terms of targets for Aboriginal employment are core business and they should not require additional funding.

**Mr SCALZI:** According to the 2004 DECS annual report (page 93), there was adjustment to the capital program by a reduction of \$12.4 million. Further, this was offset by a \$2.2 million increase for the Premier's reading challenge. The report states that revenue from the South Australian government was approximately \$9.3 million lower than the original budget. Could the minister explain the \$12.4 million decrease? Further, is there any estimated decrease for the 2004-05 year and, if so, how much?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I would be very happy to answer the question if the honourable member could relate it to the budget papers.

**Mr SCALZI:** It is in investment programs, capital works. I did mention page 93 of the DECS annual report. It is up to the minister whether she wants to answer that question.

**The CHAIR:** The member for Hartley is required to identify where his question relates to the budget papers. That is the instruction that is given at the beginning of each day.

**Mr SCALZI:** It is to do with revenue from the South Australian government, which is approximately \$9.3 million lower than the original budget.

**The CHAIR:** Is the member for Hartley able to identify the reference in the budget papers?

**Mr SCALZI:** Is the minister prepared to take that question on notice since it refers to the DECS annual report?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am happy to take the question on notice about the annual report.

**Mr SCALZI:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.2, under the heading 'Work force' and the subject 'Teachers'. In respect of the 2004-05 estimated result for full-time equivalent employees in the Department of Education and Children's Services, how many of those are in each of the categories of teachers, SSOs and principals?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Can the honourable member repeat whether he wanted a breakdown of the estimated result or the actual?

**Mr SCALZI:** The estimated result for full-time equivalent employees for 2004-05.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is 11 712 FTEs, of teachers within schools, and 4 387 are others; children's services teachers, 548; and others 544. I understand that comes to 19 692. There is also the state office with 2 501.

**Mr SCALZI:** Again I refer to page 12.2 with regard to the work force. The minister had nine full-time equivalent ministerial staff in 2003-04. This has now increased to 12.6 full-time equivalents. How much is paid to each member of the ministerial staff and which positions have been added since the 2003-04 financial year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think we would have to take that on notice. Is it 2003-04?

**Mr SCALZI:** Since 2003-04.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The 2003-04 issue would be explicable on the basis that I have two portfolios.

**Mr SCALZI:** Now it has increased to 12.6 full-time equivalents.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** There are two portfolios.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I have a supplementary question in relation to the figures that were given of full-time equivalents for teachers, SSOs and principals. Were they for the 2004-05 year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** For 2004-05. Does the honourable member have a specific question?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** My supplementary is: can we have the same figures for 2005-06, which is the 19 518 figure?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think that is rather difficult to predict because it depends on school enrolments.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I understand that, but the minister has a budget estimate at page 12.2 of 19 518.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is an estimate.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Based on estimates of what the teachers and other staff are?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is an estimate.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Does the minister have a breakdown of what those are to calculate the estimate, or is it just a stab in the dark?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is an estimate.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** What programs through the minister's advisory committee for students with disabilities does the government fund to address the needs of students with disabilities in our schools?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The state government is committed to ensuring every South Australian child has the best possible start in life. As a government, we understand that there are students in our community who need extra assistance in order to achieve their best possible outcomes at school. The ministerial advisory committee for students with disability administers both state and federal funds to organisations which provide support and intervention for students with disabilities. One of these programs is the access assistance program.

This program is one of a kind and is seen as a lighthouse initiative by the private sector and government agencies across Australia. The program provides an essential service to some of the most needy and physically disadvantaged kids in South Australia. This program enables many of our most needy children to attend their local school or pre-school and provides them with social and educational opportunities outside hospital.

The Access Assistant program supports children in all three educational sectors and is an essential part of both social and educational inclusion for many students with disabilities. The program is uniquely located at the interface between disability services, health care and education across both government and non-government services. Most importantly, it enables children and students with severe multiple disabilities and/or complex health needs to attend their local preschool and school with the support of an access assistant worker. These support staff are credentialled to undertake complex and invasive health care procedures to meet individual needs. Many of these needs include complex procedures such as gastrostomies, tracheostomies and drug and physical therapy. In the 2005-06 budget this government has provided an extra \$3.5 million over four years to the ministerial advisory committee for the Access Assistant program. This government recognises the importance of programs such as this in providing essential services to the children of South Australia.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.2. How is the government supporting arts education in South Australian schools and pre-schools?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I believe that our schools do a fabulous job in developing skills and cultural understanding through the arts and arts education. I know that the member for Norwood is a great supporter of arts activities and recognises how important it is to involve children in order to develop schools and expertise as well as confidence. Indeed, events such as the Come Out Youth Arts Festival reflect just how successful we are in this regard.

The government's support for fostering creativity and learning through the arts is another great example of how we are working across government to make sure young people get the best possible start in life. We now have a major strategy called ARTSsmart, which was developed by the Department of Education and Children's Services in association with Arts SA. This brings arts and education expertise together to deliver an arts education strategy for schools and pre-schools. This is the first comprehensive initiative in Australia and is specifically designed to secure a central role for the arts in the intellectual and cultural development of young people.

Young people are learning through the arts, but there is also an educational spin-off in that the strategy is also being harnessed to engage children who might drop out of school by keeping them connected, because they find the arts relevant and creative to the way they learn. The strategy was first established in late 2003 to confirm the government's commitment to education and the arts over the longer term. Each year over the three years from 2003 to 2006 DECS is contributing \$140 000 and Arts SA \$100 000, bringing the total contribution over three years to \$720 000.

Some 14 disadvantaged schools have been identified, seven in the northern metropolitan area and seven in the southern metropolitan and rural areas, and these have been provided with additional resources. They are currently working with the help of a coordinator employed for each of the two groups to enrich their arts programs and engage professional artists to work with the children. The funding through this strategy has already helped children to complete two major arts projects, which were showcased during the Come Out Youth Arts Festival this year. One of them, called *Making it Peachy*, involves students aged 12 to 16 in the northern metropolitan area who are disengaged with education and allows them to get involved in a theatre based project. This collaborative project has involved a number of organisations, including Playford City Council, the Social Inclusion Unit and Carclew Youth Arts. I understand that it has been highly successful and has secured new funding to enable work in this field to expand in 2006.

Similarly, a project called The Social Life of Butterflies has engaged young people in dealing with some of the issues surrounding the transition from primary to secondary schools. This project has had the support of the Southern Youth Theatre and the Come Out Youth Arts Festival. It is now being used as a model for future collaboration between arts and schools. Again, we have looked across agencies in government to maximise the benefits, in this case, for arts education. ARTSsmart, for instance, successfully engaged the recent Adelaide Thinker in Residence Peter Wintonick, a film maker, and involved him in forums and projects to help identify priorities that will support student engagement with media literacy and digital and documentary film.

In keeping with the government's commitment to the early years of education and care, the ARTSsmart strategy is also the first state wide arts initiative to include Children's Services as active participants. For example, ARTSsmart is continuing its support for the Windmill Performing Arts children's voices research project, which is examining the impact of live theatre on young children. A backdrop to the ARTSsmart strategy is the overarching objective of fostering creativity and reinforcing South Australia as a place that thrives on creativity and innovation. This was outlined as one of our state strategic plan targets. Arts education plays a significant role in that regard, and I applaud the collaborative approach being taken by educators, the arts industry and other organisations that are contributing to the success of the strategy and the creativity of our young people.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** How are funds distributed by the government to improve our state school infrastructure, and what process is used to allocate funds for major capital projects in schools?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The state government is investing tens of millions of dollars to upgrade schools across South Australia. Over four years this government has invested more than \$450 million into our capital program, which includes the provision of new buses, asset maintenance and major capital projects. As indicated in the Budget Paper, a capital works program has been prepared for 2005-06 and includes 13 new capital works projects across South Australia. The new projects for 2005-06 include major redevelopments for the Para Hills High School Special Education Unit, Bellevue Heights Primary, McLaren Flat Primary, Linden Park Primary, Birdwood schools, Pipalyatjara Anangu School, McDonald Park Primary, Nuriootpa High and Aldgate Preschool. This list of projects was prepared using the agreed process for prioritising and selecting capital works projects according to need.

The government is committed to ensuring that the money spent to improve our school facilities is spent in a way that benefits the most needy schools in the state in order to improve educational opportunities for all South Australians. All our capital works projects include a requirement to address ecologically sustainable design features which, much like our \$1.25 million schools initiative, highlights our ongoing commitment to providing sustainable energy for the state's future.

In addition to these capital works projects, 19 sites have been identified for major feasibility studies in preparation for the 2006-07 capital program. Feasibility studies are prepared annually, and need to be undertaken as the first stage of a proposed redevelopment. The feasibility studies will be undertaken in a range of schools across the state over the coming year. The commitment to school infrastructure in 2005-06 will complement the \$25 million School Pride Program, the biggest one-off injection into school maintenance in more than a decade. This major injection of funds, thanks to the government's stellar financial management, increased our maintenance budget to \$40 million in 2004-05. That is a 400 per cent increase compared with the previous Liberal government's school maintenance budget. This state government is committed to investing funds to provide better schools and preschools for South Australian children, and since being elected there have been 62 major upgrades to schools and preschools across South Australia.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, pages 12.11, 12.16 and 12.18. Students in years 6 and 7 record an average rate of attendance at school of 94 per cent

and 93 per cent respectively, and in years 8 and 9 at 90 per cent and 89 per cent respectively. Why is there no published rate of attendance for years 10, 11 and 12?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We do collect data beyond the age of compulsion, apparently, although it is not perhaps as relevant as in other years. We do have a range of strategies for attendance improvement, absentee reduction and a reduction in unexplained absences. The information you require is not published in these documents, but we are happy to get it.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** That is for years 10, 11 and 12. The attendance rate I note, minister, is calculated as using full-time students, students enrolled in only one subject for an entire term, and students who are enrolled at the term 3 census and whole day absences. All of that formula could equally apply to years 10, 11 and 12, which I note you are going to get. My question in relation to that formula is: how many hours or minutes is a student required to be at school in any one day to be excluded from a recording as absent? Do you have any data on the rates of attendance of part-time students?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will ask Mr Kilvert to answer that question.

**Mr KILVERT:** Thank you. The issue of attendance for students in years 10 to 12 relates to the programs in which they study. Students in the senior years will be undertaking programs at school, through negotiated pathways with other training institutions or on a part-time basis. When students attend they are usually required to report to a home group teacher and record their presence throughout the day. Then, if they leave during the day, they also record that. That occurs at the beginning, or when the student first attends if they are a part-time student, and there are teachers who are then responsible for recording that presence. All secondary schools have a process for ensuring that, when students leave during the day, they have a leave pass system.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** They are recorded when they first attend, is that right? It is recorded in their home group, or when they are first at school, and you say that throughout the day there is some recording. What is that about?

**Mr KILVERT:** Schools usually have a process in place whereby the subject teacher will record the student's presence during that day, and have a reconciliation process with the home group teacher. It relies upon that internal communication within the school.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Is that in each of the schools?

**Mr KILVERT:** It is our expected practice within our schools.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** How many hours or minutes is a student required to be at the school in order to be excluded from recording as absent, because of the formula published in the book? It is a double negative minister, because that is not a formula that is here. The ones counted here—

**The CHAIR:** Order! The member for Bragg has asked the question. Please allow Mr Kilvert to answer it, as deputised by the minister.

**Mr KILVERT:** The process is not recorded so much in hours and minutes, but, rather, in terms of the student's proportion of time for their enrolment within the school. For school students, that is usually the equivalent of subjects or their equivalent. In terms of the timetable, it would depend on whether the school has a six or seven line timetable. Some schools have an eight line timetable. The proportion of the student being a part-time or full-time student relates to the actual overall study, according to their timetable. Schools

then translate that into whether a student, say, is a full-time or part-time student, anything up to, say, 0.8 or 0.6. They would equate that in terms of the subjects they are studying. It is not feasible to collect it in terms of accurate or detailed hours and minutes, as such.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Hence, Madam Chair, why it was necessary to explain. The senior officer has just answered a question that I did not ask. I will clarify the question. The definition as published in the budget papers for determining attendance states:

The attendance rates are calculated using full-time students, students enrolled in only one school for the entire term, students who are enrolled at the term 3 census, and whole day absences.

I am reading that as being that, if a child is away for only half a day, it is still treated as a child in attendance at the school.

**The CHAIR:** Minister, do you require Mr Kilvert to provide any further information?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not think we will get closer to what the honourable member wants.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to pages 12.11, 12.16 and 12.18. Pursuant to the DECS annual report, student enrolments at term 3, 2004, were 169 078.6 FTE. According to the estimates published in the budget papers, commencing at page 12.11, the estimated enrolments for term 3, 2005, will be 166 528 FTEs. As there is a corresponding significant increase in children attending non-government schools, what action, if any, is the minister taking in relation to this drift of students; and how much funding is allocated in the forthcoming 2005-06 year for the same? I am referring to page 12.11. The addition of all the estimated enrolments in each of the sub-programs is 166 528 FTEs, which is a significant drop from what was published in last year's annual report of 169 000-odd. I am giving you that information. Clearly, there is a significant drop in the number of children in government schools, and my question is—

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** That is not true. There has been a less significant drop in government enrolments.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I am not sure that it is any more significant than any other year. I am just giving you the two years.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** There has been a lesser drop in government school enrolments, and that is why we have received additional appropriation from Treasury. In fact, the enrolment decline has slowed to the extent that we have adjusted our forward estimates up to 2008-09 to bring in an extra \$19.1 million.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I did not ask that.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** That is right; I am not sure what the question is. I am struggling to understand what you are asking.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Your annual report tells us that as at August last year 169 078.6 FTE students enrolled in schools. The enrolment totals in this budget are 166 528 as at August this year. It is identifying the date in the budget as the date at which you are taking it.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We are not at August this year, so we cannot identify—

**Ms CHAPMAN:** You published the estimates—

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** To paraphrase your question: what are we doing to arrest the decline in the number of government enrolments? Is that what you are trying to ask, in a circuitous manner?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** What action, if any, is the minister taking in relation to the drift of students, and how much

funding is allocated in the forthcoming 2004-05 year? What are you doing about it?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have gained extra appropriation to cope with the extra students who have enrolled in our schools. We have instituted a program of school pride to invest in the appearance of our schools—a program which you have denigrated and undermined at every opportunity.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** And which I will continue to do.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Clearly, you are the only person in South Australia who does not like public schools to look good—but that is your choice. We have also invested in public education, with school retention programs and literacy programs. We have invested in a review of the SACE system. We have worked on an early years inquiry to look at ways in which to intervene earlier with young children. We do everything possible to support the public education system. Unlike the opposition, we do not denigrate teachers. We do not undermine them and constantly talk about their being 'dumbed down and boring', as I have heard you say today. We do not spend a lot of time welcoming the decline of infrastructure in our schools. We have arrested the decline of infrastructure, because we invested \$40 million in maintenance last year, compared with the last government's budget, which was \$10 million.

The school pride initiative, which the member for Bragg likes to denigrate, has engendered a significant amount of confidence in schools, and parents and teachers, because it has made a substantial difference to the appearance of schools. The welfare of buildings has been significantly affected in terms of occupational health and safety, asbestos, roofs, heating, carpets and appearance. The member for Bragg does not like public schools to look good. She does not like them to be painted, to have good branding and signs, but I can tell you that if you get out more and go to schools, you might find out that it is very popular amongst schools.

**Ms BEDFORD:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.5, Targets and Highlights. What sort of training is being provided to school staff as part of the government's Keeping Them Safe child protection program?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is a good question. I have already informed members today of the significant progress that has been made with the screening of all the state's registered teachers and the roll-out of criminal history checking for other employees and volunteers in the education system. It is important that the significant inroads made into the police checking and screening are put into the context of the broader action taken by the government in ensuring that child protection in all its complexity is given the highest priority. In this broad area of child protection and in meeting the government's Keeping Them Safe program, I am pleased to advise of other initiatives that have been accomplished or are well under way in this portfolio. A survey of counsellors and stakeholders undertaken last year has resulted in the development of an extensive training program currently being delivered to 700 counsellors and other student welfare staff across the state. This training will be completed in June, and modified training for staff working with Aboriginal students will occur during term 3.

In 2004, an individual education plan for children under the guardianship of the minister was developed and trialled with students, teachers and CYFS. These plans were created with individual students and their caregivers, teachers and relevant CYFS staff, and outlined support for each child's educational, emotional and social development. All children

will have an operational plan by mid-2006 which identifies and monitors responses to student needs. The government and non-government sectors have collaborated to establish new agreed standards for the content, frequency, delivery and recording of mandatory notification training. Registered trainers will deliver training resulting in improved quality of training, and records of staff training will be kept centrally through the Valeo system. Volunteers will receive consistent induction on their mandatory notification responsibilities and this will be recorded at the site.

For the first time in 20 years, the protective behaviours curriculum in our schools has been overhauled and revised. Building on international and local research and the expertise of educators, a new draft curriculum has been developed. It has been trialled in a cluster of nine DECS schools and preschools from July to October 2004, in five Catholic schools from October to December 2004 and six independent schools from January to April 2005. The materials are now being piloted in 54 schools and preschools in 17 districts across the state. The pilot has been preceded by a professional learning program for district and pilot site leaders delivered from March to April 2005. Additional training for teaching and district staff is being delivered in all districts this term and information sessions for parents have been prepared. The process is also under way for introducing the materials to the Anangu lands in March to December 2005 and for developing support materials for indigenous students. Materials are also being developed to meet the needs of students with disabilities.

All school sectors have collaborated on the development of draft agreed procedures to be followed when responding to allegations. These procedures include comprehensive documentation and record keeping and meeting duty of care obligations to all persons. Procedures are underpinned by a set of 12 agreed principles. Guidelines for schools and children's services to use to manage incidence of sexual assault between children and students are also planned for completion in December 2005. These projects demonstrate the extensive commitment of this government over the last three years to provide safe environments and extensive protective measures for all our children and young people during their education.

**Ms BEDFORD:** Following on from that, minister, what has the government been doing to address the education related recommendations from the Layton report on child protection and subsequent Keeping Them Safe reform program?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** In the broad area of child protection, and in meeting the Keeping Them Safe program, we have tried to keep members advised of initiatives that have been accomplished or are well under way in the portfolio. The most recent program to be put into action by the government is part of the \$2.1 million program of funding over four years provided for training and development of school counsellors and staff. This investment recognises the crucial role played by educators and school staff in child protection prevention, identification and intervention. The training is well under way and is being delivered to approximately 700 school counsellors and welfare staff in all government schools across the whole of the state. Eleven districts have been covered to date with the next phase of the program concluding in term 4. A similar training program is being planned for delivery to preschool and children's services personnel in 2007-08. The specialist child protection training program is being delivered by

experts from both the education sector and the Department for Families and Communities, and it is an excellent example of whole of government communication.

The CYFS personnel are co-presenters in the training and the Children's Guardian, Pam Simmons, is also attending each session providing a profile for children under guardianship and the role of her office. The program is being adapted for use on the APY lands and this component of the training is planned for later this year. The training builds on that provided to staff earlier in the year as part of the development of the new child protection curriculum. Prior to the broader piloting of the updated curriculum materials this year, a professional learning program was delivered to district and school leaders who were involved in the pilot. This training was conducted between March and April. The education sector has a great deal of responsibility in ensuring that environments for our young people are safe and that all students are afforded the greatest protection from harm. The government takes this responsibility seriously and is committed to supporting those who work in education and lead or deliver programs to students by offering up-to-date and comprehensive training.

**Ms BEDFORD:** My final question is from the same area of the budget paper. I understand that a crime prevention curriculum program has been developed for years 6 and 7 students. What benefits will this program provide to South Australian students?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I again thank the member for Florey. The crime prevention education program in the state's schools produces a greater focus on safer communities. In 2005, South Australia's primary schools are teaching years 6 and 7 students about the consequences of crime and anti-social behaviour as part of a new crime prevention program for schools. The new curriculum material is called Learning for Safer Communities—a part of the state's first school-based crime prevention program for children. The teaching and learning modules were developed in collaboration with the police in 2004, and Learning for Safer Communities includes modules on acceptable community behaviours, behaviour in public space, crime reporting strategies, harassment, assault, bullying, stealing, shoplifting, property damage and graffiti.

Our 11 to 12 year olds are being taught sound community values and behaviours, and the impact of crime on their own lives and the lives of others. This is done through role-playing and the teaching of consequences and peer motivation. We want them to make the right choices in situations that might confront them, and this program teaches them how to express their views in peer pressure circumstances and helps them to make positive decisions that reinforce respect and reject anti-social behaviour.

An information pamphlet has also been produced for parents to reiterate the positive messages about crime prevention at home. An evaluation of seven schools trialing the modules is currently being undertaken in partnership with the Office of Crime Statistics and Research within the Attorney-General's Department. Initial feedback from the evaluation process and comments received from teachers and parents has been very favourable. Copies of the curriculum modules have been purchased by a number of independent schools and Catholic schools.

We have anti-bullying programs, drug education, anti-gambling programs and now an unprecedented focus on crime prevention in our schools. We are one of the first education jurisdictions in the world to take a proactive

approach to crime prevention through the school system. This crime prevention program supports our target in South Australia's strategic plan to reduce crime rates to the lowest in Australia within 10 years.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** In Budget Paper 1 at page 13 under the heading Disability and the subject of New Funds, the Treasurer has announced \$22.1 million to support students with special needs or high needs, and \$5.358 million is to be spent in 2005-06. What areas of special need or high need are to receive these funds, and for what purpose or programs in each category?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We may take that on notice. It is broken down. We think approximately 60 per cent is disability funding and the rest is broken down between Aboriginal students and students from non-English speaking backgrounds.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.12 under the heading Disability and the subject of Funding Per Student. In last year's budget, the sub-program information included the dollars per child spent for per capita funding, index of disadvantage, Aboriginal disability, language isolation, etc. Why has this been excluded in this year's budget, and will the minister table that information? Last year it was a statement at page 11.9.

**The CHAIR:** I remind the minister and the member for Light that tabling is not possible during estimates committees. The minister may circulate information if she wants.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Can I clarify that, because there is provision for the tabling of statistical information?

**The CHAIR:** There is provision for the incorporation of statistical information in *Hansard*, which is different from tabling.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Tabling for the purposes of incorporation in *Hansard* as statistical information.

**The CHAIR:** It is not necessarily available to members of the committee at the time. It goes to *Hansard*.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not understand it. Previously it referred to global budgets and, since we have a single funding model, the entire underpinning of funding per capita has changed. I think we can get the numbers, but essentially it goes from \$1 000 up to \$33 500, depending on needs. It is the same scale.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** If the minister could get those figures, I would appreciate that. At page 12.13, again under the heading Disability, I refer to the subject Literacy Test. Information in respect of literacy and numeracy tests is included for students by gender, aboriginality and ESL. Why are children with disability not included?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think that situation would not have changed in the past three years. I would have thought the answer would be the same, but I will pass over to Ms Winter.

**Ms WINTER:** Students with disabilities, depending on the type of disability they have, are sometimes excluded and sometimes not excluded from the literacy and numeracy test—and, of course, that would not change once they have been excluded. They are always excluded with parental permission and professional advice.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** I have a supplementary question. Is the minister aware that some schools do exclude children with a disability from undertaking the test because it may have an effect on their results? In my term as minister I recall that, if the parents made a request of the principal that their child not undertake the basic skills test, the principal could agree to that. However, there was not ever a policy that

actually allowed the principal to exclude those children from the test. It was always up to the parent.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think the issue the member raises is one that is relevant in league tables for results because, for many schools with a high index of disability, a high index of disadvantage, and a high number of children from non-English speaking backgrounds, an improvement is a great achievement. Sometimes being benchmarked against the average of the state underestimates the huge achievements that occur in those schools, so it is very difficult having a system that will audit and encourage evasive action. Pushing for uniformity and compliance is not always effective if you can find there are ways to avoid compliance.

We have to be very careful in not making the system so rigid that there is a tendency to circumnavigate the rules. The issue that arises is that this government has put a focus on literacy—one that has not arisen until previously—in that we have implemented significant change with our \$35 million literacy strategy, which begins in kindergarten, involves training for all kindergarten and junior primary teachers, has trebled the number of reading recovery trained staff and allowed the capacity for early intervention, so many children who would have had learning difficulties or disadvantage have been advantaged by this process and, hopefully, would be increasing their attainments in all benchmarks.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Is any action undertaken these days to facilitate a literacy and numeracy test for those who were absent on the day of the test but who wish to take it?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I believe we comply with the usual regulations because they are national tests, but Mr Marshall can elucidate.

**Mr MARSHALL:** The procedures required for testing in South Australia that correlate to national testing occur on a specific date and time. Therefore, those tests are not used after that date that count in those statistics, but teachers use those types of tests in their formative work. They are not lost totally, but they are not counted as part of the statistics.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** What benefit is the Futures Connect strategy having on South Australian students?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The purpose of the Futures Connect strategy is to develop the capacities of young people and strengthen their transition into a range of post-school options, including tertiary education, training, higher education and employment. Futures Connect provides students with more learning choices by assisting schools to work closely with employers, institutes of TAFE, registered training organisations and other agencies to implement ways of providing vocational education and training within the school curriculum. State government funding of \$4.5 million under the long-term Futures Connect initiative will support career development programs for students, including those involved in vocational education. Under Futures Connect a range of career and transition services is provided to students across 17 clusters, including improving VET and other curriculum delivery, developing individual learning and transition plans with young people and making better connections between young people in need and relevant service providers.

One of the achievements of the Futures Connect Strategy has been the collaborative action between schools and with their local communities and industries to develop improved education and vocational orientated studies, engaging more young people in learning. Community and industry support

for the strategy has been essential. These stakeholders participate in the cluster steering committees and provide support for young people through their knowledge of local services, work placement, career information and networks that contribute to regional development. Collaborative action by school clusters developing in regions across the state means that a total of more than 16 000 students can now choose from 19 industry areas in which to undertake vocational education training courses. The number of students taking up a new apprenticeship while studying years 11 and 12 at school has tripled in three years, with 2 500 students undertaking a school-based new apprenticeship in 2004.

More young people are staying engaged in education and VET studies, with strong support from schools, industry and regional communities. In 2004, the state achieved its highest full-time equivalent school retention rate in eight years. These achievements were in line with the State Strategic Plan to have 90 per cent of students completing year 12 or its equivalent within 10 years. The South Australian Youth Engagement Strategy aims to engage all 15 to 19-year olds in school, training or work within a decade.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.5, relating to the early childhood services inquiry. What is the government doing to improve the quality of life for families and their young children?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As a government we want services that give all children, including those most vulnerable in our society, the best possible start in life. We are working to make a real difference with children, their families and the future of South Australia. The early childhood services inquiry was established in June 2004. This is the first in-depth examination of early childhood services in South Australia for 20 years. The inquiry heard the views of over 2 000 parents, carers, early childhood services staff and community and government agencies across the state. Research and best practice, both international and national, were reviewed, allowing a comparative assessment of local early childhood service provision.

As a result of the inquiry recommendations the government announced that 10 pilot early childhood service centres would be established as part of an \$8.1 million package of family friendly measures designed to improve services for young children and families. The package of measures announced includes \$1.9 million, which includes funding from the health budget to create two centres in metropolitan Adelaide, offering a one-stop shop of child care, pre-school, child health and family support services, with \$2 million to integrate preschool and child care services at eight locations around the state, providing continuity of care for children and their parents, and \$4.2 million over four years to support five existing early intervention programs delivering expert help for parents and young children at risk.

The centres will accommodate an extra 300 child care places in disadvantaged areas of Adelaide. The package complements other universal child development initiatives across government in health and families and communities. These include the existing \$16 million Every Chance for Every Child, which offers a home visit by a nurse to every South Australian family with a newborn child, as well as the \$9.2 million package Strong Families Safe Babies program. Those are all part of the Rann government's commitment and the 2005-06 state budget to support the education and care of young people, and to provide additional support for South Australia gaining the status of a family-friendly state.

Getting it right in the early years is critical to a child's chance of future success. We know that, if we get children off to the best possible start in life through good care and education, we build a community of creative, caring and responsible citizens. This early childhood services package is the first step in a long-term strategy to make South Australia the nation's leading family-friendly state. We want to build on our reputation as a state that cares for families, because this not only helps support our children and parents but encourages more families to live and work in South Australia.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** Minister, you have already alluded a little bit to the issue of early years literacy, and in that regard I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.5. How is the state government helping schools to improve literacy outcomes for students in the early years of their education?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I again thank the member for Norwood. I know she is a keen user of libraries and a great reader and a librarian, and I know that she understands the importance of literacy in a child's life. We want children to have the best chance of success, and certainly getting them to read successfully is the way to start a successful career and a life-long learning experience. Certainly intervention and assistance for children in their early years is critical to the successful achievement of this goal.

In the 2004-05 budget, the state allocated an additional \$35 million over four years for a South Australian Early Years Literacy program, an action that was taken because we recognised the need to lift literacy levels and move in an area that the previous government had neglected. In 2004, South Australian students achieved their highest ever results in the state literacy tests. In this budget, funds of \$10 million have been allocated from the \$35 million Early Years Literacy program to assist schools to build on this achievement. Through these funds we are targeting children from preschool to year 3.

The Early Years Literacy program provides the equivalent of an extra 125 staff to strengthen learning opportunities for those children. The program is providing the equivalent of 60 extra teachers for one-on-one help for year 1 children who are having difficulties at school. All schools with year 1 children receive some funding, and the program is providing intensive—year life—long professional training for 120 existing teachers to develop reading recovery skills, which can fast-track learning, as well as three days of literacy-focused professional development per year for every preschool to year 3 teacher in the state.

One hundred and twenty eight schools have employed the equivalent of 30 skilled teachers to mentor and work alongside classroom teachers, to model and guide effective literacy teaching practices. Eighteen extra early childhood initiative coordinators have been appointed to implement the new program in preschools and schools. The equivalent of 13.5 extra teachers are being employed in preschools to provide nearly 1 000 Aboriginal three and four-year olds with greater learning and literacy support. Every preschool and school with young children in years reception to 3 has an early years literacy plan to guide and monitor the improvement in literacy outcomes for their children.

This financial year, the state government is continuing to support schools to work towards the state strategic plan of reaching or exceeding the national average in literacy test results by 2008. It is important to mention that the program is extensive and involves a whole range of different and

unusual activities. The member for Bragg likes to denigrate the Premier's Reading Challenge. She regards it as a substandard, unattractive and unpopular program. She could not be further from the views of other ordinary Australians. In fact, as I have said before, she should get out more and visit more schools, more teachers and more parents, because parents certainly love this program. Students love this program and every school I visit tells me stories of how boys have been engaged in reading, how boys and girls have doubled their usage of not only the school library but they have inundated public libraries with requests for books, in numbers that have been unprecedented.

If the member for Bragg wants to denigrate a program that has been taken up by 80 per cent of schools in South Australia, she does so at her peril, because it shows just how out of step she is with the views of South Australians. Our Early Years Literacy program is holistic, it is extensive, it is funded and it is a program that will affect young children's futures. I am just sorry that the member for Bragg does not support literacy learning in this state.

**Mr SCALZI:** I refer to the Premier's Reading Challenge and Budget Paper 1, page 13 and Budget Paper 3, page 242. The Treasurer has announced \$1.2 million to expand the Premier's Reading Challenge, and \$291 000 is to be spent in the 2005-06 year. What will this money be spent on?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am glad you asked that question, because clearly you can read the budget papers better than the member for Bragg, who I think quoted \$6.1 million for this program. The reality is that I think you have the numbers correct. The initial year's program included choosing books, having a Premier's Reading Challenge list, having age-specific books and, at the end of the first year, each completing child received a signed certificate from the Premier at a very moving ceremony in the State Library. Many parents and teachers came up to both of us and told us how successful and popular this program that the member for Bragg has denigrated is in the community.

The program is widely accepted and has been an extraordinary success in that we had not predicted that so many schools and so many children would complete the program. In order to keep children on track, it is quite clear that we need to have additional awards in subsequent years and, now that we have 80 per cent of schools participating and expect even more to join in coming years, we need to have additional challenges and goals for young people involved in the program.

This year, each completing participant will receive a bronze medal—and a small medal is the sort of token that small children enjoy. It will be a fun way of keeping them on track, making them reach the targets each year. Next year there will be a silver medal; and for the fourth year of completion, a gold medal. On top of that, we have introduced a number of challenges like the number of books read by Port or Crows supporters, and all these means add to the sense of competition and fun.

As I say, the member for Bragg does not like a program that she did not start, invent or was not her idea. She wants to denigrate the program and clearly does not want to support literacy programs, which I think are very popular. Parents love them; teachers love them; children love them. The only person who does not support literacy programs in South Australia is the member for Bragg.

**Mr SCALZI:** I have a supplementary question. Given the importance of role models for children in reading, does the minister not think it would be appropriate to have, say, a

woman minister involved in reading programs, as well as the Premier, given that it should be a matter of having both sexes as role models?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am not sure whether the honourable member is trying to question my gender, but I would ask him to withdraw that comment. I find the honourable member's question offensive.

**Mr SCALZI:** I do not think it is offensive.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I'm offended.

**Mr SCALZI:** We need to have male role models in schools, as well as female role models, and in reading challenges we should have both genders.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Clearly the member for Hartley is confused because I am female and I am the minister. In addition, we have a range of ambassadors who are female and male.

**Mr SCALZI:** Then I am pleased that that is the case. Again I refer to Budget Paper 1, page 13, in relation to the Premier's Reading Challenge. How much was spent on the Premier's Reading Challenge in each of the 2003-04 and 2004-05 financial years?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is true to say the initial start-up costs were absorbed within budget, but initially we only had the list to be compiled and paper certificates. There will be more cost involved in maintaining the program.

**Mr SCALZI:** I am happy for the minister to take that on notice.

**The CHAIR:** I need to clarify what was being taken on notice. The table officers have to keep track of matters that are on notice.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I gave the answer.

**Mr SCALZI:** The amount spent.

**The CHAIR:** Would the minister like to clarify her answer? I thought the minister had answered that.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is approximate because it is an internal work.

**Mr SCALZI:** Approximately what? I am happy to take that on notice, if that is what the minister wants.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As part of a \$35 million literacy program, I would have thought it was a major focus of our government and it is another prong.

**Mr SCALZI:** Continuing with that part of the question, how were the funds applied; and will the minister detail the cost of printing certificates, the issuing of letters and publicity costs for the program? I am quite happy to take that on notice as well.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am very happy to acknowledge the honourable member's opposition to this program and take it on notice.

**Mr SCALZI:** No, it is not opposition: it is just stating facts.

**The CHAIR:** Order! The member for Norwood.

**Mr SCALZI:** I have—

**The CHAIR:** The member has had three questions and a supplementary.

**Mr SCALZI:** No, that was part of that—

**The CHAIR:** The member for Hartley has had three questions and a supplementary.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Madam Chair, I ask that be clarified because my note is that only two questions and a supplementary question have been asked.

**The CHAIR:** My interpretation is that three questions and a supplementary have been asked.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I would ask for that to be clarified because I can indicate that—



**The CHAIR:** The member for Norwood.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Madam Chair, I disagree with your ruling in that regard. We had a question on the \$1.2 million—

**The CHAIR:** Member for Bragg, you have no capacity to question that.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I move to dissent from your ruling.

**The CHAIR:** The table officer to my left has indicated that he also records three questions and a supplementary. The table officer to my right also records three questions.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I seek clarification as to what they were. If you refuse to give it, I will note that.

**The CHAIR:** I will have to wait for *Hansard*, as I do not keep track of the nature of the questions. I keep track of questions being asked and answered. The member for Norwood.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** Thank you, Madam Chair. As I indicated earlier, as a librarian in a former life, I feel that the Premier's Reading Challenge certainly is a very worthwhile thing, and presenting certificates and awards to students is a very positive thing. We at the State Library used to do that on a regular basis and it certainly encouraged students to continue with their reading and their love of literature. My question relates to *EduConnect*, Budget Paper 4 Volume 3, page 12.5. How is the *EduConnect* program improving the information and communication technology capabilities of our schools and preschools?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** This is a very important program that was launched to replace the sa.edu internet access system in our schools. The \$25.8 million *EduConnect* program is providing improved internet speed, new tools for building web sites and audio and multimedia conferencing capabilities to government schools and preschools across South Australia. As at 31 May 2005, a total of 149 546 users in 774 preschools and schools have now been hooked up to *EduConnect*.

This number is increasing daily, and we anticipate that the roll-out will be completed this month. *EduConnect* is bringing a new era of learning to our students and teachers. *EduConnect* is providing significant increases in internet bandwidth to schools and pre-schools therefore improving their access to the internet as a valuable educational tool. Bandwidth to all primary and secondary schools has been increased by a factor of up to eight. Internet access has been provided to all pre-schools. *EduConnect* has the capability to provide every teacher and student in the state with an email address, and it provides high quality filtering of emails and internet web sites. *EduConnect* is providing our students and staff across the state the opportunity to learn together in virtual classrooms, to participate in seminars and engage in face to face dialogue with others who may be hundreds of kilometres apart. It is bringing online professional development within reach of thousands of teachers throughout the state through live and archived seminars, workshops and keynote speakers.

This is particularly useful as a resource for teachers in country regions, as it means they will be able to take part in regular training without the need to travel hundreds of kilometres, saving money and time. *EduConnect* would not have been possible without a new procurement regime that allowed us to have not a one size fits all internet provider but services provided by AAPT, Centra, CSM, Electroboard, Internode, Saul Patinson Telecommunications, Telstra and Vectra. This has meant equity of access across our vast state and has meant each site has an internet provider that best suits its circumstances. *EduConnect* is taking our schools and pre-

schools right into the technological age and revolutionising learning across South Australia.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** My next question relates to gambling education. Will the minister indicate what resources are being targeted to educate young people about the risks of gambling?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Norwood. I know she has an interest in the teaching and education of young people and all the harm prevention strategies we have implemented in government. This project has had an allocation of \$800 000 over four years between 2002 and 2006 to develop a strategy to educate young people about the risks of gambling. The responsible gambling education strategy is named 'Dicey Dealings' and uses a multi-pronged approach to enhance the capacity of school communities to minimising the harm related to gambling.

Some 12 country and metropolitan primary and secondary schools were selected to pilot the program in 2004. 'Don't Bet On It!' and 'Gambling: Reducing the Risks' are curriculum resources used by 38 schools across most districts of the state. Teachers must attend a professional learning program before using the curriculum packages, and to date 150 educators have attended. Parents are given information about the goals of the strategy, and parental consent must be obtained prior to students participating in the program.

Parents have overwhelmingly supported the pilot programs, with only four students not being permitted by parents to participate. Pilot and comparison schools were surveyed before and after the intervention, and data collected on changes to students' knowledge and attitudes about gambling. Evidence demonstrated that students in pilot schools became more conservative in their views after completing the program, with a significantly increased understanding of poker machines.

Students in pilot schools gained a greater appreciation of the possible negative consequences of problem gambling, such as mood swings, neglecting other activities and borrowing funds and schools have made submissions for these projects which aim to raise young peoples awareness that gambling can and does result in harm to undertake these projects. An innovative local response, projects set up are the focus for the pilot in 2005, and schools have made submissions for these projects, which aim to raise young people's awareness that gambling can and does result in harm. Under the scheme, eight schools receive up to \$10 000 to undertake these projects.

The projects involve a range of media and cross curricula activities and aimed at getting messages about the risks of gambling through to youth. The projects include the production of a short film, theatre posters, pamphlets and studies of the social impacts of gambling. Some school communities are developing materials in the languages of their multicultural groups. This work is modelled on successful initiatives undertaken by school communities in Canada, and the outcomes of the projects will be showcased at an event in mid November 2005, with the results of the pilot being use to build an evidence base for a model of effective responsible gambling education across the state.

This comprehensive strategy is of national and international significance, being a first for an Australian education department. 'Dicey Dealings' has been the subject of international conference presentations, international journal articles, national gambling and education conference papers and state across-government newsletter articles. Samples of the curriculum materials have been purchased interstate and

exchanged with Canadian, UK and New Zealand responsible gambling institutions. There has been very strong endorsement from staff, governing councils, parents and the enthusiastic engagement with the program on the part of students. I commend all those involved in developing and implementing this program.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** My third question relates to Kangaroo Island, which should be of interest to the member for Bragg. What is the government doing to improve the delivery of education and children's services on Kangaroo Island?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The government is about improvement and doing it better. For the children and families on Kangaroo Island the establishment of KI Community Education means greater choices and improved learning outcomes. Kangaroo Island Community Education is a birth to year 12 organisation that brings together professional and support staff in Education and Children's Services with their communities into a whole of island learning organisation. This enriched integration service has a governing council which will provide joint governance for three school campuses at Kingscote, Parndana and Penneshaw as well as children's services encompassing the Kangaroo Island Children's Centre at Kingscote and Penneshaw Preschool. KICE has a principal and heads of each campus which, in addition to being responsible for some aspects of their site management and leadership, provide curriculum and staff leadership and ensure training and development across the whole island in the early, primary, middle and senior years respectively.

The benefits of this exciting improvement were identified by the community in a review of education services undertaken in 2002-03. This new method of delivering services will ensure better coordination, cooperation and continuity. It will ensure a more targeted approach to the use of resources and provide a seamless service for families across care, preschool and schooling. Students will have greater access to wider ranges of curriculum in both academic and vocational paths, with KICE able to have island-wide access to programs such as marine studies and aquaculture which have previously been available only at a single site.

The new arrangements also provide greater choices for our quality employees to work flexibly across sites, and enable greater mutual support and enriched exchange of ideas between employees and staff. The improved and coordinated facilities and financial management will reduce duplication and ensure the optimum use of local government funding. There will be better use of both DECS and community transport services across the campuses. KICE will be able to respond flexibly to changes in the needs for students in the community and the island's demographics. Construction of a \$4.95 million capital works program to provide new facilities at the Kingscote campus is due to begin early in 2006 and will support this innovative, multi campus learning initiative.

The three campuses have received more than \$28 160 in School Pride funding, and I have to say they have not requested that we keep the money. Our funding for the capital works and the School Pride improvements are in addition to nearly \$390 000 targeted asset program funding for both Kingscote and Penneshaw in recent years.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Is there any provision, minister, in the 2004-05 budget for the Premier's Mathematics Challenge and, if so, how much, where is it disclosed and when will the program commence?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I don't know which budget line or page you refer to.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** That is why I am asking you.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** You want me to find it?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Yes. That was the question: how much, where is it disclosed and when will the program commence?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am not aware of the page you are speaking to.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Well, in that case, I ask you: where is it?

**The CHAIR:** Member for Bragg, if you recall the instructions that are read each day, it does say that questions must be based on lines of expenditure in the budget papers and must be identifiable or referenced. If the minister is not readily able to answer the question, we will move on.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I am happy to put it, then, at page 12.12 under the sub-program Years 3 to 7. The total cost that you are intending to spend on years 3 to 7 in government schools, budgeted for 2005-06, is \$476.530 million.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** And does that relate to your Mathematics Challenge?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** That is what I am asking you. I said: is there any provision in the 2004-05 budget for the Premier's Mathematics Challenge and, if so, how much? Where is it disclosed, and when will the program commence?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think this question is like: have you finished beating your wife? It is a fabrication of a question; it does not exist.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Well, if the minister says we are not having it and it doesn't exist, that's fine.

**Mr SCALZI:** Where does the money come from?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** How can you describe the money? It is an extraordinary question. We have had letters suggesting programs, but just because we have received a letter it does not mean that it is in the budget papers.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** That's fine. So there is nothing in this budget, then, for the provision of it.

**Mr SCALZI:** The policies don't add up, that's all.

**The CHAIR:** Minister, any further comment?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** No.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to page 12.25. Has anyone been employed or contracted by the Department of Education and Children's Services, or by the minister, in respect of any public relations or advertising during the year 2003-04, the year 2004-05, and proposed for 2005-06, and, if so, whom, and how much have they been or are proposed to be paid respectively?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will pass that over to the department. I have no knowledge of the issue.

**Mr MARSHALL:** If I can clarify: the question is whether the department has appointed any employees for the specific purpose—

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Employed or contracted.

**Mr MARSHALL:** —or contracted—to do what?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Public relations or advertising during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and proposed for the 2005-06 year, and, if so, whom, and how much has been paid or is proposed to be paid?

**Mr MARSHALL:** I will just mention generally that, in a number of productions of materials such as curriculum materials, quite often the department will contract people to produce those materials. That could be construed as some form of public relations or marketing, and so forth. We do

seek advice about promotions and communications for major conferences and so forth. However, we have not employed anyone with a specific task to do that other than the normal employment arrangement that we have. A department of our size and complexity does have staff and always have had staff in public relations and they are maintained.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I have a supplementary question to that. I appreciate that internally obviously you do that, and you may for the launch of a particular curriculum, or the like, but has there been any public relations company or agency employed in those years?

**Mr MARSHALL:** Not to my knowledge, no.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to page 12.25. How much has Graham Foreman been paid to undertake the school fees review in the 2003-04 and 2004-05 years?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We may have to take that on notice. The officer can give you a ballpark figure, but—

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I am happy for that to be taken on notice. If that is the case, minister, could it be clarified, as you have announced, that he will continue to be retained for the purpose of that review, if any amount has been provided in the 2005-06 budget?

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.5. How is the government supporting parents of very young children to improve their literacy learning?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The honourable member shows her interest in literacy and reading. The one program that we support in this area is the Learning Together project, which aims to improve early literacy learning for children from birth to three years in the context of their families. Learning Together programs have been established at Enfield Primary School, Fraser Park CPC to year 7 school, Murray Bridge, Para West adult re-entry campus, Davoren Park, Carlton Aboriginal School at Port Augusta, Christie Downs and O'Sullivan Beach preschools and schools. An additional \$4.2 million over four years has been allocated in the 2005-06 state budget to support the five existing Learning Together programs, as part of building a family friendly South Australia. This funding will strengthen efforts in Learning Together to connect with the hardest to reach families. It supports their involvement in children's services and schools and continues to build networks of support for families through interagency collaboration.

Each program has been developed with a range of activities for families, in collaboration with other agencies such as Child and Youth Health, Community Health, and Child, Youth and Family Services. Activities include facilitated playgroups, home visits, the development of take-home literacy packs, parents' study groups, library visits and the use of digital technology to make books for and about children.

Some 355 families have been involved in the Learning Together programs to date. Many of these families attend more than one Learning Together activity each week. About 20 per cent of the families are from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island backgrounds; 85 per cent of families are receiving a pension or benefit; and 97 per cent of children enrolled are not attending any other children's service. Learning Together has helped some parents re-engage with their own learning. Eight young parents completed a SACE certificate at Enfield, based on their work in the Learning Together program in 2004. In 2005, 11 parents have enrolled in SACE at Enfield and 14 at Christie Downs. Parents in Learning Together report improved understanding about

children's early learning and ways to support children's early literacy development, increased confidence in their own abilities, increased awareness of the different services available and improved social networks.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I refer to page 12.5 in relation to school care and security. What is being done to ensure schools and preschools are safe and secure environments for students and communities?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The government has established a school care policy package of 10 significant strategies to improve school security and safety. The School Care Council, established as part of the strategy, consists of the minister, representatives of the judiciary, senior government officials and the heads of non-government schooling sectors. The council, which next meets at the beginning of August, considers strategic matters as required. It deals with cross-agency issues, with a focus on improvement in security at schools, including effective ways of handling incidents. Under the school care strategy, important improvements undertaken include:

- The commencement in January 2003 of regulations that provide authorised persons with increased powers to control those who trespass or misbehave on school premises.
- The enactment of teachers' registration and standards in 2004. This established a baseline check on teachers currently registered in South Australia, and requires subsequent police checks and proof of mandatory notification training when teachers apply for and renew their registration.
- The upgrading of the School Watch initiative (with the first \$3 million of a \$4 million four year program) to improve security arrangements in school grounds, with guards regularly patrolling schools at high risk of arson and vandalism attacks, both during the school holidays and throughout the school year.
- The establishment of a successful mediation and dispute resolution unit within DECS. This unit assists in the resolution of disputes between schools and families that have escalated to a point where outside assistance is required.
- The drafting of revised and improved guidelines for schools and preschools about duty of care. These consolidate all information available, including case law, and they provide practical step-by-step guidelines.
- A review of the child protection standards, instructions and guidelines. The release of the Layton report and the subsequent 'Keeping them safe' response has resulted in a widely-scoped child protection reform program within DECS and across the school sectors.
- The drafting of a policy document about parents and volunteers at schools will include guidelines for principals and preschool directors that support the use of a range of screening steps when considering the use of any volunteer in schools. The development of key sections of the policy, including the selection, screening and supervision of volunteers has been informed and impacted upon by the public sector volunteering initiative and the proposed amendments to the Children's Protection Act.
- Since March this year, 1 500 individuals have offered to host billets for school sporting carnivals, and these have been screened by DECS and a further 500 criminal checks of billets will be undertaken shortly. Checks will also be undertaken on people who volunteer for the community mentoring program.

- The intervening matters—drugs in schools statewide policy has been printed and distributed to all sites. Additional familiarisation sessions are now being run across the state.
- A crisis response team has been established that assists sites in managing emergency situations.

The strategy has been an overwhelming success and the school care centre, established as part of the initiative, continues to provide support and advice to schools and preschools and monitor the need for further improvements.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** In relation to school retention, what has the government done to improve the school retention rate in South Australia?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The honourable member will know that this has been a major initiative of this government, in an area that had been sadly neglected by the previous government. The South Australian strategic plan has a key target to increase the percentage of students completing year 12, or its equivalent, to 90 per cent within 10 years. The state government has allocated \$28.4 million over four years for strategies to increase retention through the social inclusion school retention action plan. Following on from this initiative, the Premier and I announced the South Australian youth engagement strategy in January 2005. Under the strategy, retention is defined as students under the age of 19 being in school, training or meaningful employment.

Key reforms under the South Australian youth engagement strategy, which go beyond the school retention action plan and which will impact directly on South Australia's school retention levels, include SA works and youth works, which is a joint project between DECS and DFEEST; Futures Connect, which is a \$4.5 million strategy; the vocation education training packages; the school attendance improvement package; student mentoring programs (\$5.6 million); and a review of the South Australian Certificate of Education.

As part of the government's social inclusion program, the school retention action plan is based on clear research that shows the quality life chances of young people, and their long-term employment prospects, are enhanced when they complete 12 years of education or its equivalent. The action plan is based on partnerships between young people, their families, schools, government agencies and communities. The action plan has seven major initiatives and DECS is the lead agency for an Innovative Community Action Network (ICAN), the inclusive schooling structures and practices, the schools and community capacity building programs and the program to support Aboriginal communities' education initiatives. In addition, DECS is lead agency for eight programs including advocacy and support for learners at risk, and these programs target those students most at risk of being disengaged from education.

It is pleasing to see that these initiatives are beginning to have an impact on the school retention measures for South Australia. Years 8 to 12 apparent retention rates for full-time students rose from 56.8 per cent in 2003 to 58 per cent in 2004. The figure for full-time equivalent students rose from 68.2 per cent to 70 per cent. We are making progress in this area.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** I refer the minister to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.5 under the heading of Targets and, particularly, the section relating to primary class sizes. The budget discloses the target to 'continue to reduce junior primary class sizes'. Apart from a reduction in population for children in public schools in junior primary classes, is there

any program budgeted for the year 2005-06? If so, how much to activate this target?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** You would realise that we are involved in an enterprise bargaining stage that relates partly to this. I will ask Mr Marshall to answer.

**Mr MARSHALL:** The funding that has been provided previously with the 160 JP program has reduced class sizes significantly, and we are starting to see the improvements in the literacy results as a consequence. When it comes to the future planning that you are asking for, clearly, that is before the government and the union at the moment for discussion, so I am not at liberty to talk about it other than to say that it is clearly stated as a government priority; it is in our plans.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** As a supplementary to that, could the minister provide us with the figures of how many junior primary school teachers were employed in schools—I refer to full-time equivalents—by the department during the year 2004 and how many are employed this year in 2005?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The difference?

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** No; the totals for both years.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We will take that on notice.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** On page 12.5, again, under Targets 2005-06, a point relates to the completion of year 12. I might have missed this in the answer to the member for Norwood and, if so, I apologise. The target is to 'increase the percentage of students completing year 12 or its equivalent to 90 per cent within 10 years'. Can the minister define 'or its equivalent'?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As you know well, there is a problem with the apparent retention data, because we have a very high percentage of young people in vocational training, part-time schooling and apprenticeships. Having said that, we know that there are people out of school, out of work and out of training. We have a commitment to increasing the number of young people involved in training, whether it is in SACE certification, more mainstream VET courses or an apprenticeship and, so, any of those activities would be counted as equivalent.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** For the year 12 figures, will students who are completing year 12 on a part-time basis continue to be included in future publicised statistics?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have been very clear about using the same statistics all the way along, because we recognise the anomalies that can occur if you try to use a different measuring tool. However, we are involved with MCEETYA in looking at better measures because we recognise the difficulty in cross-jurisdiction and meaningful understanding of the figures. The definitions we use are currently used across MCEETYA. I think Mr Marshall will help to answer this question.

**Mr MARSHALL:** For the first time, the ABS figures include part-time students, so we can now understand the figures from across the nation according to that; however, there are discrepancies between different jurisdictions and, because of that, it has been agreed by MCEETYA that South Australia will lead a special project which will give definition to what retention means across the jurisdictions so that it can be measured appropriately. Currently, we are using apples for apples-type measures. For example, if you use the years 10 to 12 retention rates, you will find that there has been a 1.1 per cent increase in retention, which is remarkable and quite a wonderful achievement given that the variance around those figures has generally been about 0.1 of a per cent over the past six or seven years. We are finding that we are making

some improvements in these areas, but we need to get clarity across the nation, and South Australia is leading that work.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Would that 1.1 per cent be anything to do with the school leaving age going up to 16 years?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The other issue that I think is relevant that we have not discussed in this matter is the need for a unique identifier because, as you would appreciate, it is a very blunt instrument to compare the number of children in year 10, or even year 8, with year 12. Some schools register 110 per cent retention because you can actually have 100 per cent retention but have completely different children all of whom have dropped out while others have been recruited.

So, having a unique identifier that will follow children throughout their schooling will allow us to see where intervention has occurred and if it has worked; it will allow us to intervene where there are signs of a child stumbling by the wayside; and it will produce useful data that will really allow us to drill down into the retention and engagement statistics. It will be a very useful tool.

People have spoken about it at great length but we are the first state that has done significant work in the area. The work has been done across departments and involved DFEEST, because you will appreciate that the issue relates to apprenticeships and training. I think the unique identifier will be a very significant tool in order to be able to understand the numbers, because the member rightly points out that it is a statistical analysis that is open to a series of misinterpretations.

As well as the social inclusion retention strategy, we are involved in a whole range of activities such as the Futures Connect strategy; we have senior secondary reform of the SACE system, which I think will be a tool by which we can improve youth engagement and flexibility; and, also, we have had a significant input in mentoring programs throughout our schools. All those issues will help retention programs.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** I refer to page 12.5 under the heading Highlights 2004-05 and Out of School Hours Care. The budget papers indicate a licensing and regulatory regime for OSHC services and, in particular, that 'legislation will be introduced in 2005'. Has the legislation been drafted, and when does the minister propose that this will be introduced?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is very important that we regulate this area. It is an area that has not been regulated previously and we do, I think, need to be involved in regulation across all of the sectors. I think Ms Page has the data on this.

**Ms PAGE:** Could I ask you to repeat the question, please?

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Under the highlights of 2004 at page 12.5 it says that budget papers indicate a licensing and regulatory regime for OSHC services and, in particular, 'legislation will be introduced in 2005'. The question is: has the legislation been drafted and, if it has, when is it to be introduced?

**Ms PAGE:** A statewide consultation process in November of last year identified very strong support from parents, service providers and community groups for the introduction of a system of regulation for outside school hours care. You would probably be aware that Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia and the ACT already regulate outside school hours care. The Northern Territory has drafted legislation to enable the regulation of services, and New South Wales has commissioned a regulatory impact assessment in relation to proposed licensing. So, we are in a

situation where we need to change, in a minor way, the Children's Services Act 1985 in order to enable the introduction of a licensing requirement, and we are in the process of doing that now.

The regulation of outside school hours care services will be implemented through a licensing system that requires compliance consistent with the current processes for other child-care services such as child-care centres, baby-sitting agencies and family day care. We propose to base those regulations on the nationally agreed standards that have been in place for some time, and they will address essential areas such as staffing ratios, qualifications, children's bases and facilities, health and safety, programs, activities, and also administration and management functions. I am sure you would be aware that 70 per cent of the 360 services operate in DECS sites, and they already meet those national standards. However, there are 30 per cent of outside school hours care programs that operate in non-government schools, community groups and private providers, so, until we introduce regulations, we have no formal requirement to meet those national standards. So, we are in the process of drafting those now.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Do you have any idea when that might be completed?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** As soon as possible.

**Ms PAGE:** Yes, as soon as possible.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I have a supplementary question in response to the answer given by Ms Page, because the budget papers indicate that is a matter that will be dealt with as a highlight of 2004-05 and there is less than two weeks before that period expires. Will it be in this financial year and will it be introduced in the next two weeks; or does that really mean that it will be dealt with some time in the next financial year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think we are working on it. As Ms Page said, there has been extensive consultation. This is an agenda that was not set by the previous government. It made no attempt to legislate or properly regulate this sector, and it is only government schools that meet nationally agreed standards. This is an initiative of this government, and we are in the process of moving towards legislation. I think there is some initial drafting and I would like to introduce it as soon as possible but, clearly, it will depend on the legislative agenda and timetable. I think we have quite a considerable amount of legislation waiting to go through. I would argue this is one of the most important, but it would be foolhardy for me to tell the member that we could get it through in the next month. I ask permission to read into *Hansard* some of the responses to questions asked earlier in the afternoon.

**Mr MARSHALL:** One of the questions related to materials and services charges and Graham Foreman and the contracting amount. We have been able to clarify that. The total cost of Graham Foreman's contract was \$30 000. However, no further work is to be undertaken by Mr Foreman with regard to that contract, which has been completed. Should we wish to again undertake his services we would have to do that through proper contracting processes.

With the issue of the Premier's Reading Challenge, a question was asked about the breakdown of those funds. We can advise that in 2003-04 approximately \$140 000 was spent on that challenge, and the breakdown is around a range of areas such as setting up a database with the student names and so forth, creating a web page and the promotion related to that. There were the awards and ceremonies costs, as well

as the project officer involved, so there are a number of items that led to the \$140 000. In the 2004-05 year it has risen to \$160 000, and those areas are exactly the same in terms of the cost items and the categories. In 2004, 49 700 students completed the Premier's Reading Challenge, but 118 900 are projected to complete it this year, so the uptake has been quite staggering. The costs have gone up only marginally, but they will increase in future because of the change of the award ceremony and the materials we are producing.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Did you give us the 2005-06 amount?

**Mr MARSHALL:** We are working on 2004-05 currently and 2005-06 will be what is in the budget papers, which is \$275 000. A breakdown was requested for amounts relating to students with particular needs and the additional money put into the budget. The ESL students' figure is \$1.86 million, students with disabilities is \$3.22 million and Aboriginal students is \$270 000, totalling \$5.35 million.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** And the programs?

**Mr MARSHALL:** They relate to ESL programs, and the funding goes directly to schools so they can use it to support their traditional and normal curriculum programs.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Part of the original question was the breakdown of areas and the programs.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We just answered that.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I made a note that on ESL it was to go direct to schools.

**Mr MARSHALL:** All of them.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have one further comment for a question that was taken on notice.

**Mr MARSHALL:** The question was asked about the number of teachers in the early years, and what I can advise is that the department does not keep specific records of each year level of employees of the early years, for a number of reasons. For example, there are many composite classes. If you define the early years the way we do, it is birth to eight, but you will find that in primary years quite often there are classes that are years 2 and 3, some years 3 and 4. If you take into account enrolment changes and patterns, also you will find there are fluctuations. So when you take into account enrolments and the number of teachers that move through, and also within that, the prerogative is for schools to determine exactly the nature of their class sizes. What we can say though, is that, within the government's program, and we do keep accurate records of that particular targeted program to reduce class sizes, 170.5 teachers were provided in 2004, because that needs to occur in a calendar year, as you would reasonably expect, and in 2005 it is 172.7, so that program continues to reduce class sizes.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** Minister, again from Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.5 Targets and Highlights, what funding is directed to general school maintenance across the state, and what process is used to allocate this funding—the asset funding, School Pride.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Norwood for her question, and I know that she, like many members of parliament, has been astounded by the impact of School Pride and maintenance funding in the last year across our state. The government's commitment to improving school maintenance is evident with our increased funding, compared to the last Liberal government's \$10 million, bringing it up to \$40 million in the just completed year. This was a tribute to our AAA rating and allowed us to attack the huge backlog of work left by the previous Liberal government, where there had been a significant neglect in maintaining our public schools.

Since being elected, we have lifted annual maintenance funding to \$12 million per year, which is an extra \$2 million per year, and then used our AAA credit rating for a one-off injection in school maintenance of \$25 million. We spent \$40 million last year, and in 12 months schools and preschools from Mount Gambier to Ceduna all received opportunities, where required, to have major facelifts. Any school that was greater than five years old had a chance to have external paintwork and repairs, and many schools chose to have new signs as well as bollards directing visitors to offices and administration blocks. The School Pride initiative invested money in every school and every preschool across the state, and I have to say that all school communities and school groups, families and teachers, were delighted by the impact and the generation of self-esteem and pride created within our schools.

Contrary to the opposition's claims, because it always denigrates moneys spent on public education and public schools, this program has been very well received within the community and has had extraordinary acclaim. If I could quote from a young man called Sean Lonergan, aged 12, from Coorabee, in a letter to the editor:

I am writing in response to the article about School Pride signs being erected at the Coorabee Rural School within *The Sentinel* May 26. While I am aware of the money spent, as one of the last students to attend the school, I would like to say that I don't think the sign was a waste of money. It wasn't a waste of money because myself and the other former students still experience a sense of school pride. I think I can safely say that many of our senior community members would be saddened that their proud memories of their time at this rural school have been tarnished by attempts at political point scoring. No amount of political point scoring by one person can ever erase the pride that members and former members of a small community has in its school, and the part that the school has played in the identity of the town. 104 years of education plus 550 students plus 65 students equals school pride.

That sense of pride in a community is one that we wanted to generate by having proper branding and recognition of our fine, high quality public schools; an area of acclaim that the opposition clearly does not support. As I said, every school of more than five years received funds for external painting and repairs. Another significant portion of the funds was distributed to schools for asbestos removal, general school maintenance and science laboratory upgrades.

Although on a number of occasions the opposition has tried to claim that this money was directed to schools according to their electoral standing, this is a false accusation. The money was directed to schools according to need, based on priorities outlined in the school's asset management plans. The School Pride initiative has made a difference to schools across South Australia. Unlike the member for Bragg, who does not support increased funding into school maintenance, principals, teachers, parents and students have praised this initiative. As a government, we will work hard to continue to ensure that our school facilities are of world-class quality and reflect the good work done within them by our fine teachers.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I am sure the people from Singapore would like to hear the member for Bragg's comments. Minister, my next question is in relation to solar schools. How is the state government encouraging our schools and preschools to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank the member for Norwood. I know she has a keen interest in sustainability, both in terms of water conservation and electricity-saving devices. We have committed to continuously improve the

environmental management of our government schools and preschools. Our Solar Schools program and Water Conservation Incentive Scheme demonstrate this commitment. We have committed \$1.25 million to the Solar Schools program, with this program supporting the aim of the State Government Energy Efficiency Action Plan to reduce building energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent across all government departments within the next 10 years. The installation of solar panels was completed in 25 schools during July and August 2004, with 19 schools currently having their systems installed, and we are now expanding this program to a further 30 schools and preschools. This will bring the total number of school sites to receive solar power to 74, and we move closer towards the target in the South Australian State Strategic Plan of 250 schools within 10 years.

In December 2004, the Premier and I launched South Australia's first solar schools. These schools are already harnessing the sun's energy and returning excess power generated on weekends and during holidays to the national grid. Through the solar schools program, students are also learning about the way in which solar energy works and the benefits for the environment, further heightening their awareness of environmental issues. The solar schools program complements our \$1 million water conservation scheme. It is imperative that the Department of Education and Children's Services continuously improves the environmental management of our government schools and preschools. We have allocated \$1 million to 270 projects in 254 locations to assist schools and preschools to reduce their water consumption. This is vital, given that permanent water conservation measures were introduced in South Australia in October 2003.

Specifically, funding has been allocated to schools and preschools for initiatives that improve irrigation efficiency or develop environments that conserve water. Benefits of the \$1 million water conservation scheme include: minimum water savings of 10 per cent, strong educational links to environmental curriculum and ongoing development of improved water management strategies. The solar schools program and the water conservation incentive scheme demonstrate the commitment this state government has to encouraging our schools and preschools to adopt more environmentally sustainable practices.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** Again, from the same budget line, page 12.5: what is the government doing to address the issue of drugs in our schools?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The state government is committed to improving school safety, and the school drug strategy has been implemented to assist schools to develop effective practices in relation to drugs. While there is absolutely no place for drugs of any kind in our schools, it is inevitable there will be incidents in schools because drugs are so prevalent in society. Schools have a very important role to play in educating young people about the harm that drugs can cause and the consequences of their poor life decisions. A range of training programs and resources support school communities across the three education sectors to develop whole school approaches to wellbeing and drugs, addressing the school environment, partnerships, policies and procedures. This includes strategies to address the needs of students most vulnerable to drug related harm.

Currently, 540 government schools are engaged with the drug strategy, with the remaining 70 schools expected to do so by the end of 2005; and 67 Catholic and 21 independent

schools are also involved in this drug strategy program. The state government funded the \$1.1 million to support the strategy, along with \$230 000 of Australian government funding. Staff, students, parents and community members have developed their own drug strategy action plans relevant to the local context. These include strategies for raising awareness about drug issues and the review and continuous improvement of the approaches in response to emerging issues and trends.

We have introduced a training program for school personnel called 'Keeping connected' about how to support students experiencing drug issues, with over 650 school personnel having participated in this training program since 2003. We have also introduced a guide and checklist called 'Intervention matters' to help schools manage drug related incidents, ensuring that students and teachers are kept safe and drug cases are dealt with appropriately. The state government is committed to reducing drug related incidents in our schools and preliminary DECS data indicates significant reductions in drug related suspensions and exclusions from 2002 to 2004. The percentage of total suspensions that were drug related decreased from 3.1 per cent in 2002 to 1 per cent in 2004; that is, 139 events to 49. The percentage of exclusions that were drug related decreased from 17.9 per cent in 2002 to 5 per cent in 2004; that is, 40 events down to 12.

**Mr SCALZI:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.25. The subject is school fees. Last year, the chief executive officer estimated the cost of administration at school level and department for schools fees at \$4.5 million. What is the estimate for the 2004-05 and 2005-06 years?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** That is a technical question, which I will refer to the chief executive.

**Mr MARSHALL:** The total amount for materials and service charges invoiced to all students attending government schools for 2004 was \$31.9 million; and, in 2003, it was \$30.1 million. The amount of the School Card grant and the social inclusion supplement provided to the approved School Card holders in government schools for the 2004 year was \$10.3 million; and, in 2003, it was \$9.9 million. After deducting School Card amounts that schools receive from the government, the revenue for materials and service charges for the 2004 school year was \$21.6 million. In 2003, it was \$20.2 million. The cost of collection, including the time of school services officers and the cost of using debt collectors, is estimated at about 5.5, which was the same previously.

Deducting School Card amounts and the collection cost as the net revenue from the materials and service charges for the 2004 school year was approximately \$16.1; and, in 2003, it was approximately \$14.7. Of the possible \$16.1 collectable, there was \$2.7 of reported bad debts. In 2003, of the possible collection of \$14.7, there was also \$2.7. All this basically tells you that it is fundamentally the same.

**Mr SCALZI:** Is that the same for the 2005-06 year?

**Mr MARSHALL:** At this point, we do not anticipate that there will be much variance between the out years.

**Mr SCALZI:** The same projection basically.

**Mr MARSHALL:** At this point.

**Mr SCALZI:** I refer to Budget Paper 3, pages 3.22 and 3.23, again with regard to school revenue. The budget paper discloses that revenues and expenses of schools are now being recognised in budget estimates for the first time in 2004-05. Not surprisingly, there is a major increase in the estimated result for the 2004-05 year over the previously published budget for that year. Some \$61.5 million is

described as sales of goods and services, including materials and service charge, excursion fees, computer levies and camp fees. Does the materials and service charge revenue include all voluntary school fees paid above the compulsory level, and will the minister table a schedule of the revenue raised from each of these specific areas?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think this is a presentational issue only; it does not have any effect. It is money in and money out, but it does not affect the bottom line in the same way as appropriation does. I will ask Mr De Gennaro to comment further.

**Mr De GENNARO:** To add to what the minister has said, as many other jurisdictions do, South Australia now includes school based figures in budget estimates for both expenditure and revenue solely for presentation purposes. So, the revenue and expenditure are assumed to be the same amount. The figures that have been raised are in the revenue and expenditure side and have no net effect on the budget bottom line at all. We do not actually make an estimate of what schools will raise: we merely make assumptions about its growing with inflation and being added into the budget figures. It has only a presentational effect, with no net effect on the budget at all.

**Mr SCALZI:** So, you just assume the CPI and put it in there?

**Mr De GENNARO:** Broadly, that is the only basis on which we make those assumptions.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Whilst I appreciate that funds are coming in and going out and there are no net funds there, in relation to the breakdown of money received, however, don't you receive a statement from each of the school sites as to the amount of money they have received and the amount they have expended, so you would have categories of what they might be?

**Mr De GENNARO:** Each year the schools provide annual accounts and an annual report on a calendar year basis. So, school year 2004 would have been reported in March 2005, and that goes into our consolidated financial statements each year, which are audited by the Auditor-General. We publish as a department in September or so. So, the schools' actual expenditures—their actual financial statements—are consolidated and reported in the Auditor-General's Report. But that is separate from the budget figures.

**Mr SCALZI:** Again, I refer to Budget Paper 3, page 3.23 on the subject of school revenue. There is an extra \$52 million of other revenues from canteen revenues, fundraising and hire of facilities. Will you provide a breakdown and table a schedule of all revenues received in these specific areas?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I do not believe we can provide that detail.

**Mr SCALZI:** Not even on notice?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will ask Mr Marshall to respond, but it does not come through to us. We do not take that degree of control over schools.

**Mr MARSHALL:** Within a locally managed environment, we ask our councils to apply probity through the auditing process, but many schools with their fundraising need to acquit as far as the auditing process. From an aggregated point of view we know that, but we do not actually ask individual schools and sites to itemise their fundraising and separate that out. So, we have an aggregated result, but we could not break that down for you; we do not have the capacity to break down that data.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.2. In support of quality human resource management, what is being done to ensure that women participate equally in the management, governance and delivery of education and children's services?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** South Australia has had a proud history of achievement with regard to women's participation in the social, political and economic life of this state. There has been significant improvement in the representation of women in leadership positions across all levels and areas of the Department of Education and Children's Services, with currently 50 per cent of leadership positions being held by women. There are strong statistics and a strong sense of pride in these numbers. However, women do not progress to leadership positions at the same rate as their male counterparts. For example, only 11.7 per cent of women employed in DECS are represented in leadership positions, compared with 25.9 per cent of men. Put starkly, this means you have perhaps a one-in-10 chance of being in a leadership position if you are a woman and a one-in-four chance if you are a man. Women are also congregated in positions that are at the lower classification levels, and they form the majority of those occupational groups that have high levels of casual employment.

To ensure continuous improvement, further inquiry is being undertaken into work force practices and organisational culture, identifying needs to develop responses to establish DECS as an employer of choice for women. Different responses are required to meet the needs of women who are Aboriginal, who are from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, who are supporting parents, have disabilities, who live in rural and isolated areas or who are of different ages. A women's charter has been developed that outlines the commitments and priority actions that DECS will undertake to build a work environment and culture where all women are valued and able to participate and achieve to their full potential, for the benefit of both the individual and the organisation. The priority actions include undertaking a statewide consultation, building on the Office of Public Employment's What Women Want project to gather information directly from women to inform the development of a women's strategy for the next decade.

We will establish a high profile women's board within the department to advise on and advance strategic issues for women in DECS and establish a scholarship program inquiring into issues related to women in DECS, requiring the implementation of specific strategies to promote the representation, participation and voices of women in DECS, and we will market the benefits of flexible and family friendly work practices and review the reporting of the uptake of these across DECS. We would expect participation in an across government pilot on the use of gender analysis of data to inform policy development in other areas.

We especially will develop a score card to report on progress. Rightly, we can expect to see a continuing high participation rate by women in the paid work force, but action is required to ensure that this participation does not continue to be segmented by gender with women concentrated in administrative, support and teaching roles. We need to ensure that our female students at school have wide career choices, and we need to explore how women's participation in our children's services and schools contributes to the good of the community and assists in developing skills and knowledge to support women's social and economic participation in society. This work, along with other initiatives of this



government, will build a gender inclusive, family friendly culture in our schools, preschools and work units and, undoubtedly, a better future for South Australians.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I wonder whether all that is necessary since you and 50 per cent of your team sitting there, I observe, are women? The only disappointing aspect is that, apart from yourself, all the rest are sitting in the back row. Perhaps I should just congratulate you for having achieved the 50 per cent.

**Ms CICCARELLO:** Perhaps a little indulgence on my part, Madam Chair. I only have one more question to ask and, again, it relates to the Premier's Reading Challenge. Minister, you outlined a couple of things that the government was doing with regard to the Premier's Reading Challenge, and that was with regard to providing the bronze and silver medals and certificates. Is the government doing anything else to ensure that the reading challenge continues to be an outstanding success?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I again thank the member for Norwood. There is no secret that the reading challenge has been a resounding success in its first year. Our original target in the State Strategic Plan was to have 50 per cent of government and non-government schools participating in the reading challenge by 2006. Despite the views of the opposition, this target has had to be increased to 80 per cent due to the popularity of the challenge and the ease with which we reached the target. In May 2005, this revised target of 80 per cent was reached one year ahead of time, with 638 schools and an estimated 118 026 students now participating in the challenge.

I am pleased that schools have continued to show interest in the second year of the Premier's Reading Challenge. By building on the success of the challenge, the government has decided to allocate \$1.2 million to the project over the next four years to secure its future through to 2008-09. To cater for the huge interest from schools, the number of ambassadors has increased from five to 15, with ambassadors including sport, media personalities and children's book authors. They are doing a great job cheering on the state's children to encourage them to read more books.

To keep the momentum going we introduced a footy challenge when the Adelaide Crows played Port Power. Over 3 500 students voted on the challenge web site in the five days prior to the match, with the results being amazingly close. Fortunately, Port Power won the supporter's vote by 15 votes, and the Adelaide Crows voters had read 52 more books at the time of the challenge. This mini challenge will be repeated later in the season when the next Showdown takes place. Schools are reporting that the Premier's Reading Challenge is having a huge impact on motivating students to read at least 12 books a year. I understand that the opposition does not support this program, and does not want this to continue. However, many schools have reported that students are challenging themselves to read many more books than this.

It is particularly pleasing to hear reports that the challenge is positively impacting on boys and their reading. We want as many schools as possible to come on board, and home school students also have the opportunity to take part. Students in their second year will be reading for a bronze medallion. Children taking part for the first time this year will qualify for a certificate if they read 12 books before 9 September 2005. The Premier's Reading Challenge has been a wonderful project started by the Premier and, together with our \$35 million strategy for literacy and our \$2.1 million

investment in extra library books, we have found it a fantastic way to encourage young people to read and improve literacy outcomes, an outcome obviously not supported by the opposition.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I indicate that I will be asking some omnibus questions which the minister may or may not wish to take on notice.

1. Did all departments and agencies reporting to the minister meet all required budget saving targets for 2003-04 and 2004-05 set for them in the 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 budgets? If not, what specific proposed project and program cuts were not implemented?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have complied with all requirements, but I am happy to take all your omnibus questions on notice.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Then I will quickly read them. They continue:

2. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown on expenditure on consultants for 2004-05 for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, listing the name of the consultants, the cost, the work undertaken and the method of appointment?

3. For each department and agency reporting to the minister, how many surplus employees are there as at 30 June 2005? What is the type or classification of each surplus employee and the total employment cost of the employee?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I had exactly the same questions in tourism this morning; these questions relate to every agency—

**The CHAIR:** They do need to be read into *Hansard* under this portfolio for the future.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** They continue:

4. In the 2003-04 financial year, for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, what underspending on projects and programs are not approved by cabinet for carryover expenditure in 2004-05?

5. For all departments and agencies reporting to the minister, what is the estimated level of under-expenditure for 2004-05, and has the cabinet already approved any carryover expenditure into 2005-06? If so, how much?

6. What was the total number of employees with a total employment cost of \$100 000 or more per employee? As a subcategory, what is the total number of employees with a total employment cost of \$200 000 or more per employee for all departments and agencies reporting to the minister as at 30 June 2004? What is the estimate as at 30 June 2005? Between 30 June 2004 and 30 June 2005, will the minister list the job title and total employment cost of each position with a total estimate of \$100 000 or more which has either been abolished or created?

7. Will the minister provide a detailed breakdown for each of the forward estimate years of the specific administrative measures that will lead to a reduction of operating costs in the portfolio?

I note that the minister has indicated she will take all those omnibus questions on notice, and I thank her for that. The SAMIS program, which has now replaced the Building Land Asset Management System (BLAMS), is a significant system which has been effected through the DAIS agency and which will, according to page 34 of Budget Paper 5, 'improve decision-making in the management of government assets.' A significant aspect of this, of course, is the \$1.6 billion worth of assets in the Department of Education and Children's Services. Can the minister identify what additional functionality this system will provide, and will she ensure

that all government schools and members of parliament have access to the information provided under this fabulous system?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I can assure the member for Bragg that the public will not have access to this system, and I think she has been told this before. The member will realise that the decision to replace BLAMS with a new system was made by the previous government. The information provided on the BLAMS web site has always been rudimentary and serves the purpose of allowing government to make decisions and authorise work. In effect, BLAMS was a storage system for raw data that could be misinterpreted, and it has certainly become realigned in its new form because of the changes that DAIS has made.

The member for Bragg rightly understands that this is a DAIS web site, not one that belongs to DECS. The site does not appear to have contained enough information for the member in the past, and she has struggled to understand the information available on it; however, the new system will contain additional and more sensitive information about children, school communities and facilities which has not been accessible to the public in the past and could make schools and individuals vulnerable should the information be made public.

Any argument about this material being publicly accessible is irresponsible. An annual report is presented to the parliament as a regulatory necessity and details expenditure on school information. It would be quite inappropriate for the information on SAMIS to be available to the general public. I will ask Ms Riedstra to comment on SAMIS, because she has more information that might assist you.

**Ms RIEDSTRA:** The BLAMS system had raw data on it. It did not contain information in relation to security, for example, or individual site asset management plans. This information was kept in separate databases that are held corporately. That information will form part of SAMIS and is one of the reasons why security access will be increased for SAMIS.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to page 12.26. Will the minister explain why the department has nearly \$138 million in cash and deposits at call at the end of this financial year, than was budgeted, and why this will increase by a further \$35 million in the forthcoming financial year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think this is an accrual account, but I will ask Mr De Gennaro to comment.

**Mr De GENNARO:** If I understand the question correctly: why are we holding funds in accrual provisions?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** No; you always do that. I am asking why it is nearly \$138 million in cash and deposits at the end of the financial year than was budgeted, and why this will increase a further \$35 million in the forthcoming year.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Are you on page 12.26? The numbers do not relate to the numbers you gave us.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** At page 12.26, we have budget 2004-05 at \$107.807 million, with an estimate of result of \$245.491 million—an extra \$138 million—and then another \$35 million.

**Mr De GENNARO:** First, school-based figures are in the 2005-06/2004-05 estimated result numbers in that document. That is the accounting presentation treatment we discussed earlier. In relation to the department's number in the 2004-05 budget of \$107.8 million, a very large proportion of that represents the accrual provisions; so under accounting arrangements with Treasury—and this is common to most

departments—there is a separate Treasury account reflecting accrual provisions. That is the reserving for long service leave and those sorts of accrual entries. Our actual operating amount of cash is, clearly, a lot lower. It is under a separate Treasury accounting arrangement that that value appears in our financial statements.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** In relation to family day care, which is at page 12.21, I refer to the reduction in funding for family day care administration and monitoring from \$1.492 million to \$1.457 million. Page 14 of the children's services annual report discloses a drop in care providers from 1 323 in 2003 to 1 102 in 2004. How many providers are operating in 2005 and how many are estimated for 2006?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think that you are referring to page 12.21. There are figures in the table. The targets and estimated results, are they not the figures you wish? The figures at the top. The question is: what are the numbers? The honourable member wants these numbers, but I think they are those in the chart, are they not?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I cannot see them.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** You want the number of family day care children.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Providers, not children. The question is about providers.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We can get that information and respond.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** My question relates to page 36, capital works, and the subject is 'new schools'. Will the minister confirm whether any new schools are to be built as an initiative of this government other than the Sturt Street Community School and, if so, when and where?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** Indeed, we have opened one new school. We are replacing Port Elliot Primary School. That is a replacement. We have not shut 65 schools as occurred in the previous government's time.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** I will not be drawn into that argument. I could go to the number that were closed prior to our government. I will not have that argument with you. In respect of the departmental Statement of Directions 2005-10, how much has been provided in the year 2005-06 for the funding of 750 extra school counsellor and child protection experts to be employed by 2005? That is under the heading 'DECS Statement of Directions—Funding of Targets' on page 12.25. An amount is allocated in the budget paper. The question is: how much funding is provided for the 750 extra school counsellor and child protection experts in 2005?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am not sure where this is coming from. Can you help us again?

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Your Statement of Directions 2005-10 states that there are 750 extra school counsellor and child protection experts to be employed in the year 2005.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is not in the estimates; I do not think that we can comment on it.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Given that the statement says that it is to be undertaken in 2005, is there a figure in your budget that allows for the employment of those counsellors and child protection experts?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is not in the budget documents or estimates.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** It is in your Statement of Directions, page 8, target four.

**Mr MARSHALL:** Yes, I can see it. What it actually says is 'train'. It does not say 'appoint'. The difference is about training.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** My apologies.

**Mr MARSHALL:** It states:

... train an additional 750 school counsellors.

As you know, there are a considerable number of school counsellors in both primary and secondary. The target is about the training, not the appointment.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Is there an allocation of funding for that? Has an amount been identified?

**Mr MARSHALL:** Yes. Funding was provided in the budget last year. I will need to check the actual details, but I think that \$2 million was provided for training as part of the Layton review. As a consequence, that money is being used to train staff currently and into the future.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Could you confirm that figure?

**Mr MARSHALL:** Yes; I will.

**The Hon. M.R. BUCKBY:** Minister, I refer you to page 12.25, to the DECS statement of directions and the funding of these directions. In respect of the DECS statement of directions, how much has been provided in the year 2005-06 for the training of personnel in the National Safe Schools Framework?

**Mr MARSHALL:** Firstly, as a generic thing, the statement of direction applies to the funding for all of the items to the total budget of the department—that is \$1.8 billion. So, it is incumbent upon my officers and me to arrange the professional development to support all of the implementation of these issues. To that end, a range of things are occurring. For example, we have \$10 million over three years for early literacy, just on the professional development component; we have \$23 million on the training and professional development support strategy of that. Learning to Learn, a program that incorporates values and social issues, has been allocated \$1.3 million. We have allocated \$1 million on supporting the Education Development Centre—in other words, on leadership programs coming from there. Training and development grants to schools worth \$1 million go directly to schools for their use. We have \$0.75 million allocated to the Technology School of the Future for technology training; and \$0.6 million goes to the South Australian Centre for Leaders, which is a more specialised leadership support program.

We have allocated \$0.5 million to accredited training for school services officers, early childhood workers and Aboriginal education workers as well as \$0.5 million over three years to training maths and science teachers. We use a range of other programs. Clearly, we are funded for some of these programs and, in addition to this, some additional programs are funded by the commonwealth, and we account to the commonwealth for the expenditure of those resources. We do not want to be a troglodyte in this: we want to respond. As to the Keeping Them Safe program, a considerable amount of resources go into providing professional development and counselling money. That is all connected to Keeping Them Safe, values education, and so forth.

**Mr SCALZI:** I refer to Budget Paper 4, Volume 3, page 12.25 under the heading 'DECS Statement of Direction—Funding of Targets'. Minister, in respect of the DECS statement of directions 2005-2010, how much has been provided in the year 2005-06 for improvements to occupational health and safety standards by 2006 and, in particular, the target to have on all sites an injury management system that focuses on continuous improvement by the end of 2006?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am bemused by the inference that on page 12.25 it mentions 'Statement of directions'.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It does not.

*Ms Chapman interjecting:*

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It does not mention statement of directions.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The question is not in reference to the DECS statement of directions 2005-2010, as stated in the budget. The question is: given certain expectations outlined in the paper, what provision or allocation is then made in the expenditure (which is set out on page 12.25 of the budget) for that target?

**The CHAIR:** I thank the member for Bragg for that interpretation, but the member for Hartley is asking the question. Does the member for Hartley have any extra information to give?

**Mr SCALZI:** If the minister has those targets, I want to know what has been provided to achieve them? Surely that is a budget matter.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is not listed on the page quoted, that is all.

**Mr SCALZI:** Occupational health and safety is an important issue. Although I might have made a mistake with the page reference, I am sure that people would want to know how we are going to fund those very important initiatives.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We are very happy to help you, and I will ask Ms Evans to respond.

**Ms EVANS:** The projected funding provided for occupational health and safety in the coming year will be the same as it was in the previous year, and it covered our costs. The total cost of workers' compensation claims reported in the DECS annual report totalled \$18.93 million in 2003-04 and \$19.01 million in 2002-03. We will continue to fund that liability from within budget.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** In addition to the workers' compensation claims that have been identified, how much has been allocated for improvements to occupational health and safety standards, as set out in the target for 2006?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will again refer that question to Ms Evans. However, I point out that, for the first time, we have achieved a level 3 ranking, which is something which was never achieved in WorkCover terms by the previous government, and that is something for which we should commend the staff.

**Ms EVANS:** The Premier has clearly outlined his commitment to zero harm vision for the South Australian public sector, where every injury is preventable, and has taken responsibility to set a best practice example in safety performance to influence and encourage others. Clearly, DECS is committed to this vision and has been implementing strategies to achieve safe and injury-free working and learning environments.

Some of the particular strategies we have been implementing in line with the requirements of the current 1998 WorkCover performance standards are as follows. We have been conducting OH&S audits of DECS sites against the performance standards, and there has been comprehensive training in place around the business manager, which is an integrated planning tool which assists managers to meet the requirements of the WorkCover standards. There has been training for health and safety reps in schools and technology teachers in particular safety standards for machine guarding as part of a comprehensive OH&S training program.

**Mr SCALZI:** Minister, in relation to the DECS statement of directions 2005-2010, how much has been provided in 2005-06 for the development and implementation of the defined teachers standards by 2007?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will refer the question to Ms Evans.

**Ms EVANS:** The figures at this stage are only approximate. I can get the exact figures. Approximately \$200 000 has been allocated to the development of teachers' standards over the past year, and there is an expectation that we will put approximately another \$60 000 into that project.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Correspondence has been sent to you by concerned parents at the Robertstown preschool, play group and primary school, and also to me and a number of other representatives. They are concerned about the decision that their facilities are to be relocated—in particular, their preschool and play group, which has been operating for 20 years in the school house that adjoins the current school. Further, and I summarise their concern, whilst there had been a reduced number of students at the primary school, there were anticipated increased numbers at the preschool and play group level. Nevertheless, the local community, in their words, reluctantly agreed to move, as they were told they had no choice.

Negotiations for the relocation, in summary, have been extended—through no fault of anyone but, in particular, the DAIS representative apparently had left and there had been changeover and the like, causing some significant delay. In the meantime, the community was advised that legislation now requires that they install an inside toilet and a further kitchen, even though there was one already on the premises. They have raised specific concerns about the merit of proceeding with this requirement when they have an increasing number of students coming into the compulsory school age, and they have requested that the minister review that position. Can the minister indicate whether there is any provision in the 2005-06 budget to enable this situation to be reviewed?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am happy to respond to the inquiry from the parents from Robertstown, and I will do so when I receive it.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The information I have is that this was forwarded to you in April—on 8 April, in fact. There were copies to me, and I can confirm that at around that date I received a copy, and the local member (Hon. Graham Gunn) received a copy. There has been no response, and he has asked specifically that this issue be addressed and, if the minister has not addressed it, as it appears to date, my request is that she does so.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am very happy to respond to the concerned parents and to the member concerned.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Supplementary to that, is there any chance that that will happen in the next month or so?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I am very happy to speak to the member for the area, the member for Robertstown, and I am very happy to follow up on the matter.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to page 12.26 of Budget Paper 4, Volume 3. On page 95, the 2004 DECS annual report discloses a net value of assets, with an increase of \$177.7 million, which takes into account the \$233.763 million extra as a result of the financial data of government schools being consolidated with the central office for the first time in 2004. The total assets disclose an increase from budget to estimate in 2004-05 of \$407 million plus.

However, the land and improvement from the 2004-05 to 2005-06 budget discloses a reduction of \$16.3 million. When were the non-current assets revalued, and when is it proposed that they will be valued again?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** There is a technical response to this, and it is better given to you by Mr De Gennaro

**Mr De GENNARO:** Can I ensure that I understand the question? In the 2004-05 budget column on page 12.26, there is a value for land and improvements of \$1 558 million.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** What was the question?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It was the member for Bragg's question, not ours.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I think that Mr De Gennaro was inquiring about the reference.

**Mr De GENNARO:** I want to be clear that we are talking about the figure of \$1 558 million on page 12.26 in the 2004-05 budget column, which increases to \$1 789 million and \$1.773 million. Are we talking about that line?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Yes.

**Mr De GENNARO:** In terms of annual accounting, the figure of \$1 558 million in the 2004-05 column increased by \$231 million to \$1 789 million, and that is as a result of the revaluation of land that occurred in 2003-04. The most significant part of the change was the revaluation of land in that period. The difference of \$16 million referred to in the question—namely, from the estimated result in 2004-05 of \$1 789 million to this year's budget figure of \$1 773 million—is, essentially, the net result of various changes, including depreciation and also some growth in the value of assets. Minor movements up and down were dominated by depreciation on an annual basis. So, it is accounting depreciation brought to book.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** You have answered part of my question—that is, when it was valued. Do you have a month?

**Mr De GENNARO:** I do not have a particular date. I think that the accounting date would be 30 June 2004.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I understand that, and that is why I am asking the question, because all we have is the accounting record. When were the assets last valued, and when will they be revalued? It may have been over a time frame, and it may have been over a six-month period.

**Mr De GENNARO:** The revaluation would have occurred in the first half of 2004, the latter part of the 2003 financial year. I have been advised that our accounting policy—and I would have to check our accounting policy and our annual accounts—is that we do revaluations every three years. My memory tells me that, under accounting conventions, that is a fairly standard revaluation cycle.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** So that I understand this correctly, which department undertakes the valuation?

**Mr De GENNARO:** We would use Valuer-General's information through DAIS.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have a response for Robertstown, since it was a matter of major concern for seven children.

**Mr MARSHALL:** There are seven children in the centre playgroup referred to. The district director Naomi Young has been in contact with the parents and advice has been provided to them that no further action will be taken until further discussions take place with that group. That adds to the fact that we will be responsive to hearing more about their needs.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to page 12.26, the statement of financial position, where it appears that \$8.594 million has

been invested in the 2004-05 year and it is proposed to continue in 2005-06. Where is it invested and why?

**Mr De GENNARO:** The figure of \$8 594 000 is the result of including school based figures. They are figures that have come into the presentation of the budget. They are investments made by schools through their governing councils. That information is about the investments schools have made under their accounting records and would be disclosed in each school's annual financial statements.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Do we assume that, because you do not know what information there is in 2005-06, you have repeated what is currently there?

**Mr De GENNARO:** Yes, I think we have made a simplified assumption. We get information on a regular basis from schools with their financial statements and ask school principals to sign various documents which detail the holding of investments. We get that on a regular basis. We have made an assumption that there is no growth in those investments in those figures.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Do you have any information on where that is invested? Does it include the investment that schools often have back in the department or Treasury accounts, or is it all private investments?

**Mr De GENNARO:** I understand they would be investments, funds held in the school investment accounts other than those managed through SAFA. Each school has a SASIF or SAFA account and would earn a commercial rate of interest on those funds.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to page 12.25 of the statement of financial performance on reduced appropriations. Expenses for ordinary activities plummet by \$8.892 million. The revenue from sources other than the SA government reduces by \$5.986 million. How can the state government claim that it is spending more money on our public schools in the 2005-06 year?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is a nonsense to suggest that we have not spent more on public schools. This is a comment the member for Bragg has made ceaselessly. It speaks for itself: a 26.5 per cent increase over the time we have been in government—\$2 000 per capita more—increased employment and increased programs. The numbers are quite specific. In terms of her suggestion, it is clear that she is completely unable to interpret good news or respect the quality of education in our schools because all she talks about is reductions.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I have another question in relation to disability funding in that regard, on page 12.12. This is on a question of dollars per student, and for this question I have used this illustration of the subprogram from years 3 to 7. That provides a 2005-06 budget of \$476.53 million with an estimated number of students at 65 321. This equals \$7 295.20 per student. At page 12.14, funding is recorded as \$9 114 per student. This is 20 per cent greater, and each of the subprograms similarly records a figure 20 per cent greater than the footnote formula, which is on page 12.15. Last year, the portfolio subprogram percentage increases in the calculations were approximately 14 per cent. Will the minister explain what this inflated amount represents and, in particular, if there are any specific expenses that are attributed to this calculation; and further, why there has been a substantial increase in the percentage add-on from 14 to 20 per cent?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I take it the honourable member is trying to describe Aboriginal students, or all students?

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The whole subprogram.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The whole subprogram from year 3 to year 7? I am not sure what the honourable member means by 'inflation'.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** If you look at page 12.12, at the top there is a net cost of subprogram of \$476.53 million. At the commencement of the performance indicators, there is a total number of students, 65 321 for the 2005-06 year. Over the page, on 12.15, at the end of the subprogram there is a little (j), which is the footnote to identify the calculation of the dollar per student, and that says 'derived from total subprogram costs, divided by the number of enrolments.' The figure identified at the bottom of page 12.14 is 'Total 3-7 funding (government schools) per student (j)', which relates to the explanatory note, which for 2005-06 is \$9 114. That is what is published there.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** My understanding is that the honourable member is confusing gross and net costs, but I will ask Mr Bos to explain that properly. It is a misreading of the data, as one would expect.

**Mr BOS:** The footnote (j) talks about the subprogram cost divided by the number of enrolments. That is actually the total subprogram cost. The number published on page 12.12 is the net cost.

**The CHAIR:** It had been agreed to change to SSABSA at 5.45. I have been very indulgent to the member for Bragg's continuing. Is that still the arrangement?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think it would be proper, because Ms Keightley has been waiting for some time, and I think it would be courteous for us to move on now.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Perhaps while the change is taking place I will seek one further clarification. The minister took on notice, because of unidentified information, the feasibility studies that are to be outlined in the forthcoming financial year, I think to the effect that they will not be decided upon until the end of the financial year.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I think the department has made recommendations about the likely schools, but I do not think it has completed the exact scope of the feasibility studies, and, until the exact scopes have been finalised and the schools have been informed, we will not be releasing the data. We will certainly let the honourable member know as soon as we can.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I let the minister know that we have had advice from one school that they had advice that they are having that feasibility study.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will ask Ms Riedstra to explain that, but I understand that we communicate very extensively and try to negotiate the scopes so that people are in agreement with the general scope. We do not manage it from the top down; we tend to collaborate. Maybe Ms Riedstra could explain how that could have occurred.

**Ms RIEDSTRA:** Without knowing the specific school, I would say that they have probably been contacted and asked about their assets and about possible scopes of work for a feasibility study.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I will look forward to that; thank you very much.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, Mr Marshall and everyone else. Welcome to the new advisers.

#### Additional Departmental Adviser:

Dr J. Keightley, Chief Executive Officer, Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia

**Ms CICCARELLO:** I move:

That the time for the sitting of the committee be extended beyond 6 p.m.

Motion carried.

**The CHAIR:** Minister, do you have a statement to make on this area?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** No, Madam Chair.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Bragg, do you have a statement?

**Ms CHAPMAN** No, Madam Chair. I refer to Budget Paper 5, page 40. What is the program for the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of SA to incur proposed expenditure of \$94 000 in the 2005-06 year; and why is it listed in the investment program, otherwise known as capital works?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will pass that over to Dr Keightley.

**Dr KEIGHTLEY:** SSABSA has a small capital budget of \$94 000 which covers an information technology replacement project. As you would understand, our organisation is highly dependent on contemporary information technology. We have a three-year rolling program of replacement, upgrading and updating. This year it has been increased by \$2 000; that is, from \$92 000 to \$94 000.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Perhaps the minister can explain why this is now in the investment program and not in the operating costs?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** It is an investment in infrastructure.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Is there some reason why when it was \$92 000 it was under operational costs and now, when it is \$94 000, it is in investment as a capital works? It has never been reflected in that way from my reading of the records.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I will check that assertion. We believe that it has always been in the capital budget, but we can check. There may have been a change, but I see no covert reason to have moved it. Certainly, as far as SSABSA knows, it has always been in that budget line.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Can I clarify that? Has it always been in SSABSA's own budget as a capital item of request? I am talking about the Treasurer's budget papers now which we are examining and which records it as a capital works investment program, as distinct from operational costs.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I see no evidence to reflect that assertion, but I am happy to check.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to Budget Paper 4 Volume 3 (page 12.6). If the SACE review report is awaiting cabinet consideration, why has funding been allocated for the SACE review for 2005-06?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We expect to have an office of senior secondary renewal, which will develop a response to the SACE report and begin work on implementation and training. It is quite clear that there will also be an ongoing SSABSA system because any introduction of reform which may involve years earlier than year 12 will require implementation, with the earliest year to be altered first. It will flow through over four to five years, and the present system will stay in place until any changes are implemented. It is quite clear that any reform will be a massive process requiring curriculum development and teacher training and support from the three educational school sectors and universities. The reforms will have to be implemented with extraordinary care and sensitivity, and the level of consultation required to make that successful will be significant.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** So, essentially that funding is part of the implementation of whatever is to happen, as distinct from continuing the review?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We have finished the review and we have a report, but the highlight for 2004-05 is the SACE report and in the future we will implement those findings. However, before we implement them we will produce a response and coordinate and consult. It is most important that we recognise that the SSABSA system is working effectively. There is a fairly extensive level of flexibility, and we have to run both systems in parallel. We cannot just close one door and open another. We have to have a gradation of actions across both systems, and this is going to be quite a complicated procedure.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** How much was spent in each of the 2003-04 and 2004-05 years on this review?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** We will take that question on notice. It is not part of the SSABSA budget, and we have sent the relevant staff away because it comes out of DECS funding.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** In relation to any proposed changes as a result of the review—and I appreciate that the review may well be awaiting cabinet consideration—has there been any provision in the 2005-06 budget for changes as distinct from the SACE review?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** The proposal is to have an office of senior secondary renewal that will lead the response and the changes, and \$500 000 has been set aside for that in 2005-06, and \$1.5 million will be added from existing state funds which would have been used for curriculum development normally. So, there will be \$2 million available.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** The only other question I have relates to the non-government school sector.

#### **Additional Departmental Adviser:**

Ms J. Foot, Executive Officer, Non-government Schools Secretariat.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I refer to Budget Paper 1, page 13 and Budget Paper 2, page 9, in relation to disability funding. The non-government school sector has some 1 200 students with defined disabilities and 4 500 students with learning disabilities. Will any of the new special need funding be available for these children and, if not, why not?

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** This is a matter that the member has raised before. I think the member for Bragg wants more money allocated to private schools. Would she perhaps be able to tell us which public schools and programs she wants us to take money away from? We all know what the Liberal agenda was, and we have had plenty of public school closures, but I am not sure whether that is the current strategy. Our agenda is to provide the best possible opportunities to all South Australian schoolchildren. We allocate funds to both public and private schools. Public schools receive in excess of \$100 million. In addition, the commonwealth government provides funds to private schools. We decide what the priorities are for spending public funds on public schools, and these include smaller class sizes, literacy programs and children with special needs. I would be very happy for the private school sector to direct the public funds it receives into similar priorities.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** I take that as a no.

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I responded.

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

**The Hon. J.D. LOMAX-SMITH:** I thank you, Madam Chair, for your leadership this afternoon. I also thank all officers in the room and the members of the committee on both sides.

**Ms CHAPMAN:** Madam Chair, on behalf of the opposition, I thank the attendants, other members of the committee and the representatives from the department who have given their time today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6.03 p.m. the committee adjourned until Monday 20 June at 11 a.m.